



**Bieler School of Environment (Graduate)**  
**Programs, Courses and University Regulations**  
**2022-2023**



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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

**1 .** McGill University reserves the right to mak

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## 1 Dean's Welcome

Welcome to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) at McGill. You are joining a community of world-class researchers and more than 10,000 graduate students in over 400 programs. GPS is here to support you from admissions through to graduation and beyond. McGill's approach to graduate education emphasizes skills development; we cultivate your academic and professional growth through a variety of workshops, events and experiential learning opportunities. I invite you to consult the [GPS website](#) for information on the range of resources available to graduate students at McGill.

I would like to wish you all the best in your studies at McGill. We are here to make sure that you have the best possible experience.

*Josephine Nalbantoglu, Ph.D.*

*Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

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## 2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

### 2.1 Administrative Officers

#### Administrative Officers

Josephine Nalbantoglu; B.Sc., Ph.D.(McG.)

**Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Lorraine Chalifour; B.Sc., Ph.D. (Manit.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Nathan Hall; B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (Manit.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Russell Steele; B.S., M.S. (Carn. Mell), Ph.D. (Wash.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

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### 2.2 Location

James Administration Building, Room 400

845 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal QC H3A 0G4

Website: [mcgill.ca/gps](http://mcgill.ca/gps)



**Note:** For inquiries regarding specific graduate programs, please contact the appropriate department.

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### 2.3 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' Mission

The mission of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is to promote university-wide academic excellence for graduate and postdoctoral education at McGill. GPS provides leadership and strategic direction across the university in close collaboration with the academic and administrative units, and the graduate and postdoctoral community.

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## 3 Important Dates

For all dates relating to the academic year, consult [mcgill.ca/importantdates](http://mcgill.ca/importantdates).

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## 4 Graduate Studies at a Glance

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Graduate Studies at a Glance](#) for a list of all graduate departments and degrees currently being offered.

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## 5 Program Requirements

Refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > Regulations > : Program Requirements](#) for graduate program requirements for the following:

- Master's Degrees
- Doctoral Degrees
- Coursework for Graduate Programs, Diplomas, and Certificates

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## 6 Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures](#) for information on:

- Application for Admission
- Admission Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Competency in English

and other important information regarding admissions and application procedures for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

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## 7 Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships](#) for information and contact information regarding fellowships, awards, and assistantships in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

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## 8 Postdoctoral Research

Students must inform themselves of University rules and regulations and keep abreast of any changes that may occur. The *Postdoctoral Research* section of this publication contains important details postdoctoral scholars will require during their studies at McGill and should be periodically consulted, along with other sections and related publications.

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### 8.1 Postdocs

Postdocs are recent graduates with a Ph.D. or equivalent (i.e., Medical Specialist Diploma) engaged by a member of the University's academic staff, including Adjunct Professors, to assist them in research.

Postdocs must be appointed by their department and registered with Enrolment Services in order to have access to University facilities (library, computer, etc.).



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## 8.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education

Every unit hosting postdocs should apply institutional policies and procedures for the provision of postdoctoral education and have established means for informing postdocs of policies, procedures, and privileges (available at [mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs](http://mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs)), as well as mechanisms for addressing complaints. For their part, postdocs are responsible for informing themselves of such policies, procedures, and privileges.

### 1. Definition and Status

- i. Postdoctoral status will be recognized by the University in accordance with Quebec provincial regulations as may be modified from time to time. The eligibility period for postdoctoral status is up to five years from the date when the Ph.D. or equivalent degree was awarded. A : *leave of absence* for parental or health reasons may extend the eligibility period. Leaves for other reasons, including vacation, do not impact the eligibility period.
- ii. Some McGill postdocs have dual status as both students and employees (unionized or non-unionized). Consult the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website](#) for definitions of Postdoctoral Fellows, Postdoctoral Scholars and Postdoctoral Researchers.
- iii. Postdocs must conduct research under the supervision of a McGill professor (including Adjunct Professors), qualified in the discipline in which training is being provided and with the ability to fulfil supervisory responsibilities and act as a mentor for career development. Postdocs are expected to engage primarily in research with minimal teaching or other responsibilities.

### 2. Registration

- i. Postdocs must *register* annually with the University through Enrolment Services. Registration will be limited to postdocs who fulfil the definition above, and who meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated on the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website](#).
- ii. Upon registration, postdocs will be eligible for a University identity card issued by Enrolment Services.
- iii. Leaves of absence must comply with the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Policies for Vacation, Parental/Familial, and Health Leave (see [section 8.3: Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs](#) and [University Regulations & Resources](#) > Graduate > Regulations > Categories of Students > : *Leave of Absence Status*).

### 3. Appointment, Funding, Letter of Agreement

- i. Postdoctoral appointments may not exceed the registration eligibility period as defined above.
- ii. In order to be registered, the postdoc must be assured of financial support other than from personal means during their stay at McGill University. This amount must be equivalent to the minimal stipend requirement set by the University in accordance with guidelines issued by federal and provincial research granting agencies or the collective agreement, as applicable. Funding during parental leave is subject to the conditions of the funding agency or the collective agreement, as applicable.
- iii. Postdocs require a [Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education](#) signed by the postdoc, the supervisor, and the department/unit head or delegate.
- iv. Postdocs with full responsibility for teaching a course should be compensated over and above their postdoctoral funding as course lecturers. This applies to all postdocs, except those for whom teaching is part of the award.
- v. The amount of research, teaching, or other tasks that postdocs engage in over and above postdoctoral activities should conform to the regulations for postdocs specified by the Canadian research council of their discipline or the collective agreement. This applies to all postdocs, including those whose funding does not come from the Canadian research councils.

### 4. Privileges

- i. Postdocs have the same pertinent rights as the ones granted to McGill students under [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr), and those granted by the policies listed at [mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations](http://mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations).
- ii. Postdocs have full graduate student borrowing privileges in McGill libraries through their identity card.
- iii. As a general rule, postdocs may take courses for credit as Special Students following the admissions procedures outlined at [mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply/prepare/visiting](http://mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply/prepare/visiting). *Tuition and other charges* will apply.
- iv. Postdocs may be listed in the McGill directory.
- v. Access to sports facilities may be purchased on a monthly basis through McGill Athletics and Recreation.
- vi. Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars are mandatory members of the Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) and an annual association fee is automatically charged.
- vii. Postdocs are permitted membership in the Faculty Club; an annual fee will be charged for this membership.
- viii. Postdocs are encouraged to participate in Professional Development Workshops provided by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Teaching and Learning services. These sessions are usually free of charge.
- ix. Postdocs have access to the services provided by the Ombudsperson.
- x. Postdocs may enrol as part-time students in the second language written and spoken English/French courses offered by the School of Continuing Studies/French Language Centre. Postdocs will be char

- i. Postdocs are subject to the responsibilities outlined at [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr) and must abide by the policies listed at [mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations](http://mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations).
- ii. Each academic unit hosting postdocs should clearly identify postdocs' needs and the means by which they will be met by the unit.
- iii. Each academic unit should assess the availability of research supervision facilities, office space, and research funding before recruiting postdocs.
- iv. Some examples of the responsibilities of the academic unit are:
- to verify the postdoc's eligibility period for registration;
  - to provide postdocs with departmental policy and procedures that pertain to them;
  - to facilitate the registration and appointment of postdocs;
  - to assign departmental personnel the responsibility for postdoctoral affairs in the unit;
  - to oversee and sign off on the Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
  - to ensure that each postdoc has a supervisor, lab and/or office space, access to research operating costs and necessary equipment;
  - to include postdocs in departmental career and placement opportunities;
  - to refer postdocs to the appropriate University policies and personnel for the resolution of conflict that may arise between a postdoc and a supervisor.
- v. Some examples of the responsibilities of the supervisor are:
- to uphold and transmit to their postdocs the highest professional standards of research and/or scholarship;
  - to provide research guidance;
  - to meet regularly with their postdocs;
  - to provide feedback on research submitted by the postdocs;
  - to clarify expectations regarding intellectual property rights in accordance with the University's policy;
  - to provide mentorship for career development;
  - to prepare, sign, and adhere to a Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education.
- vi. Some examples of the responsibilities of postdocs are:
- to inform themselves of and adhere to the University's policies and/or regulations for postdocs as outlined at [mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs](http://mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs), [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr) and the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies [University Regulations and Resources](#);
  - to submit a complete file for registration to Enrolment Services;
  - to sign and adhere to their Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
  - to communicate regularly with their supervisor;
  - to inform their supervisor of their absences.
- vii. Some examples of the responsibilities of the University are:
- to register postdocs;
  - to provide an appeal mechanism in cases of conflict;
  - to provide documented policies and procedures to postdocs;
  - to provide postdocs with the necessary information on McGill University student services (Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars) and HR policies and guidelines (Postdoctoral Researchers).

*Approved by Senate, April 2000; revised Maw000; r*

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## 8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees

### Eligibility

If your situation does not conform to the Government of Quebec's definition of a Postdoctoral Fellow, you may be eligible to attend McGill as a Postdoctoral Research Trainee. While at McGill, you can perform research only (you may not register for courses or engage in clinical practice). Medical specialists who will have clinical exposure and require a training card must register through Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences—not Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The category of Postdoctoral Research Trainee is for:

**Category 1:** An individual who has completed requirements for the Doctoral degree or medical specialty, but whose degree/certification has not yet been awarded. An individual in this category will subsequently be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Category 2:** An individual who is not eligible for Postdoctoral Registration according to the Government of Quebec's definition, but is a recipient of an e

- Service Point
  - Student Rights & Responsibilities
  - Student Services – Downtown & Macdonald Campuses
  - Residential Facilities
  - Athletics and Recreation
  - Ombudsperson for Students
  - Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities
  - Bookstore
  - Computer Store
  - Day Care
-

Website: [mcgill.ca/environment](http://mcgill.ca/environment)

Graduate Option website: [mcgill.ca/environment/envroption](http://mcgill.ca/environment/envroption)

## 12.1.2 About Environment

Resolving environmental issues requires a dialogue between pure and applied sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. The degradation of the biological and biophysical environment has roots in the structure of human societies while solutions to environmental problems have an impact on human livelihoods.

A number of academic departments and institutes at McGill promote graduate-level research and training on environmental topics and have faculty members whose main research interest falls in this domain. As such, environmental research is widespread throughout the McGill community. The Environment option provides a vehicle whereby discipline-based graduate programs can easily and effectively incorporate collaborations from at least one other discipline into their research.

### Goals of the Option

- To provide thesis or non-thesis students in existing graduate programs with an understanding of how knowledge is transferred into action with regard to the environment;
- To develop an appreciation of the role of scientific, political, socioeconomic, and ethical judgments in influencing that process;
- To provide a forum whereby graduate students in environment throughout the University bring their disciplinary perspectives together and enrich each other's learning through structured courses, formal seminars, and informal discussions and networking.

Students admitted into the Environment option will be supervised or co-supervised by either a Bieler School of Environment appointed faculty member or an Bieler School of Environment associate member. Their advisory committee will include at least one individual from outside the home department. It is expected that the thesis, dissertation, or project, as well as the final seminar presentation, will contain an environmental component and will include a discussion of the applied implications of the research findings. Together with the courses common to the Environment option, specific course requirements for each program are given within the departmental listings cited below.

### Program List

The Environment option is currently available with the following graduate programs:

#### ***: Anthropology***

*: Master of Arts (M.A.) Anthropology (Thesis): Environment (45 credits) ( [Arts](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Anthropology)*

#### ***: Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences***

*: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences: Environment ( [Science](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences)*

#### ***: Biology***

*: Master of Science (M.Sc.) Biology (Thesis): Environment (45 credits) ( [Science](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Biology)*

*: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Biology: Environment ( [Science](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Biology)*

#### ***: Bioresource Engineering***

*: Master of Science (M.Sc.) Bioresource Engineering (Thesis): Environment (45 credits) ( [Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Bioresource Engineering)*

*: Master of Science, Applied (M.Sc.A.) Bioresource Engineering (Non-Thesis): Environmental Engineering (45 credits) ( [Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Bioresource Engineering)*

*: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Bioresource Engineering: Environment ( [Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Bioresource Engineering)*

#### **Entomology (under *: Natural Resource Sciences*)**

*: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Entomology: Environment ( [Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Natural Resource Sciences)*

#### ***: Geography***

*: Master of Arts (M.A.) Geography (Thesis): Environment (45 credits) ( [Science](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Geography)*

*: Master of Science (M.Sc.) Geography (Thesis): Environment (45 credits) ( [Science](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Geography)*

*: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Geography: Environment ( [Arts](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Geography)*

**: Law**

: *Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Environment (45 credits)* ( **Law** > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Law)

**: Medicine, Experimental**

: *Master of Science (M.Sc.) Experimental Medicine (Thesis): Environment (45 credits)* ( **Medicine** > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Medicine, Experimental)

: *Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Experimental Medicine: Environment* ( **Medicine** > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Medicine, Experimental)

**: Philosophy**

: *Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Philosophy: Environment* ( **Arts** > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Philosophy) **Arts**

### Associate Professors

Madhav Badami; Christopher Barrington-Leigh; Jeffrey Cardille; Sylvie de Blois; Frédéric Fabry; Nicolas Kosoy; Brian Leung; Kevin Manaugh; Raja Sengupta; Renée Sieber; Ismael Vaccaro.

### Assistant Professor

Fiona Soper

### Faculty Lecturers

Julia Freeman, Kathryn Roulet.

### Associate Members

*Anthropology:* John Galaty

*Architecture, School of:* Nik Luka

*Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences:* Parisa Ariya

*Biology:* Lauren Chapman, Andrew Gonzalez, Catherine Potvin

*Bioresource Engineering:* Jan Adamowski, Grant Clark, Mark Lefsrud, Chandra Madramootoo

*Chemical Engineering:* Nathalie Tufenkji, Viviane Yargeau

*Chemistry:* Christopher Barrett

*Civil Engineering:* Susan Gaskin, Van-Thanh-Van Nguyen, Jim Nicell

*Earth and Planetary Sciences:* Nagissa Mahmoudi

*Economics:* Chris Green, Tom Naylor

*Electrical and Computer Engineering:* Geza Joos

*Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health:* Jonathan Chevrier, Mark Goldberg

*Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry:* Saji George

*Geography:* Graham MacDonald, Thom Meredith, Tim Moore, Wayne H. Pollard, Brian Robinson, Nigel Roulet

*History and Classical Studies:* Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert

*Human Nutrition, School of:* Niladri Basu

*Integrated Studies in Education:* Blane Harvey

*Languages, Literatures, and Cultures:* Stephanie Posthumus

*Law, Faculty of:* Richard Gold, Richard Janda, Sebastien Jodoin

*Management, Desautels Faculty of:* Dror Etzion

*Natural Resource Sciences:* Christopher Buddle, Benoît Côté, Brian Driscoll, Gordon Hickey, Cynthia Kallenbach, Ian Strachan, Paul Thomassin

*Parasitology, Institute of:* Marilyn Scott

*Plant Science:* Caroline Begg, Pierre Dutilleul, Jaswinder Singh, Don Smith

*Redpath Museum:* David M. Green

*Urban Planning, School of:* Nik Luka

