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Office of International
Affairs

McMaster Global Bulletin

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: FEATURED NEWS

Fall 2023

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

International Initiatives Micro Fund (IIMF)

The Office of International Affairs will announce the fifth round of the [International Initiatives Micro Fund \(IIMF\)](#) in December 2023.

The IIMF is intended to provide small investments to faculty members aiming at initiating and expanding their international collaborations. It is meant to reduce the threshold for international collaborations and serve as seed funding, ideally leading to joint projects and international partnerships. Individual investments normally are limited to \$5K each, and OIA expects to make up to 20 such investments in this round. Faculties may provide matching grants to successful applicants.

Details of the application processes will be announced in December.

Canada-Europe Research Collaboration Funding Opportunities Information Session, hosted by

In-person: McMaster University, L.R. Wilson Hall, Concert Hall (please register [here](#))

Virtual: Zoom details located within the registration confirmation email (please register [here](#))

Thursday October 19, 2023, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (EST)

McMaster faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate research students across the disciplinary spectrum are invited to attend an information session on Thursday, October 19th that will provide an overview of the German research landscape and details on opportunities & funding programs in support of research collaborations with Germany.

The event will also include presentations on opportunities for Canadian researchers in Europe more broadly, including details on engaging with the Horizon Europe programme, particularly considering current negotiations that might allow Canada to expand its scope of collaboration and participate as an Associated Country.

The first hour of this session will be given over to three presentations with the remaining time available for questions and consultation. This event will be offered in a hybrid format: in-person and online. A recording of the presentations will be available to those unable to attend in real time.

Speakers:

- John Paul Kleiner, Senior Manager, University Relations, DAAD Information Point Toronto, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
- Luigi Scarpa de Masellis, Advisor, Trade and Economic Section, Delegation of the European Union to Canada
- Jackson Howard, Regional Coordinator, Euraxess North America or Derya Büyüktanir Karacan, Program Manager, EURAXESS North America

Format:

The first hour of this session will be given over to three presentations with the remaining time available for questions and consultation.

This event will be offered in a hybrid format: in-person and online.

Please note, this session will be recorded. A recording of the presentations will be available to those unable to attend in real time.

Registration:

Once registered, those who wish to participate virtually will find the Zoom details within the registration confirmation email under the Additional Information section.

If you have questions about the session, please contact Melissa Martins at martm14@mcmaster.ca.

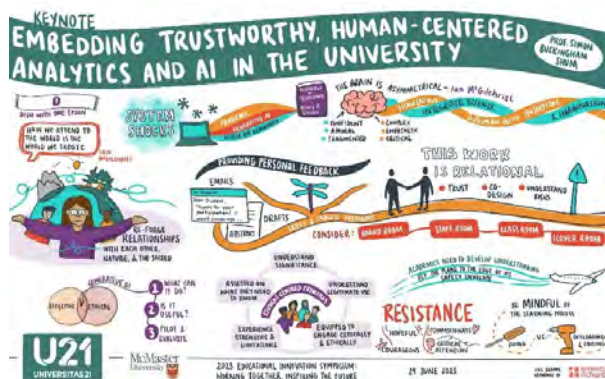
RECENT EVENTS

U21 Educational Innovation Symposium

From June 28th to 30th, McMaster University's Office of International Affairs hosted the 2023 U21 Educational Innovation Symposium. More than fifty attendees from twenty universities across the globe gathered to collaborate and update one another on their clusters' work for the first time in four years.

The symposium executed its theme, "Scoping the Future in Higher Education: Transition or Transformation?" over three days of panels and discussions.

Simon Buckingham Shum of the University of Technology Sydney delivered a keynote titled "Embedding Trustworthy, Human-Centered Analytics and AI in the University." Below is a graphic summary of the keynote:



Read more about Shum's keynote [here](#) and watch it [here](#).

The first panel, "Transition or Transformation? Student Assessment, Academic Integrity & Learning Analytics" featured discussion by Prof. Shum, Prof. Joaquin Guerra Achem, Jovan Popovic and Zachary Gan. Below is a graphic summary:



The second panel, “Transition or Transformation? Curriculum Design, Career Development & Future Employability” featured discussion by Jim Lowe, Dr. Adrienne Xavier, Dr. Lehana Thabane, and Will Hopwood. Below is a graphic summary:



To conclude the symposium, delegates gathered to discuss educational innovation moving forward in conversation with Jenny Dixon and Moira Fischbacher-Smith. Below is a graphic summary:



The Office of International Affairs offers its sincerest gratitude to the team at U21, the MacPherson Institute, and everyone at McMaster who so willingly offered a helping hand to ensure that the symposium ran smoothly and provided value to our guests.

Delegates’ feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive. 100% of the international delegates strongly agreed that the U21 Education Innovation

better connected with EI colleagues and are more familiar with work by other clusters.

Find the symposium directory [here](#).

Summer Programs



Summer English program group photo.

The Office of International Affairs resumed its in-person Summer Programs for international students during the months of July and August. Despite post-pandemic travel difficulties, we welcomed a cohort of about 80 students from China (Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Fudan Shanghai Medical College, and Shanghai International Studies University) and Japan (Meiji University) to attend our Summer English, eHealth, Strategy and Communication, and the Summer Research Internship programs.

The Office of International Affairs received scholarships from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and arranged five excellent undergraduate students nominated by McMaster Science and Engineering faculties to participate in USTC's Future Scientist Exchange Program in July.

To read more about the Summer Programs, visit [McMaster Global](#).

NAFSA 2023



Marisa Bachetti (Student Success Centre), Dr. Amira El Masri (OIA, Director) and Sarah Slasor (OIA, Project Officer) at NAFSA in Washington, DC.

Members of the Office of International Affairs and the Student Success Centre attended the NAFSA 2023 Annual Conference and Expo in Washington, DC at the end of May.

At NAFSA, Amira, Marisa, and Sarah met with various institutional partners over the course of four days to discuss longstanding relationships and establish new ones.



Image of the NAFSA 2023 opening plenary in Washington, DC.

Daughters for Life Scholar Sara Saad Graduates



Image of Sara with her degree from McMaster University.

In collaboration with the Daughters for Life Foundation, McMaster's Office of International Affairs offers a full undergraduate scholarship to female students from the Middle East. This year, McMaster student Sara Saad graduated with a major in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

McMaster Ohneganos Project Welcomes the Royal Society



Group photo from the Royal Society's visit to McMaster to learn about the Ohneganos Project.

On May 25, the Office of International Affairs and the Ohneganos project team welcomed Dr. Dame Julie Maxton, Executive Director of the Royal Society in London, Ian Wiggins, Director of International Affairs, and Luke Clarke, Head of

Colleagues at McMaster University and the [Royal Society in London](#) gathered to celebrate and recognize a profound and novel approach to impactful research that is interdisciplinary in nature and interconnects Indigenous knowledge with Western Science to address the complex, real-world problem of water insecurity experienced by Indigenous communities within and beyond Canada.

Led by Professor Dawn Martin Hill at McMaster University, the Ohneganos project is an exemplary interdisciplinary project that brings together a team of academics, scientists, elders, biologists, engineers, local experts, students, and project partners working together to adopt an interdisciplinary and holistic approach that involves a balanced consideration of Indigenous knowledge and Western science. This process of co-creation has enabled the development of appropriate, place-based and sustainable solutions to the water crisis impacting partner communities and other Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.



Dawn Martin-Hill speaking to the group.

This project is an exemplar for all those motivated to address complex human problems through an approach that incorporates Indigenous knowledge and Western science, with an appreciative grounding and understanding of different ways of knowing and doing.

Six Nations is the most populous Indigenous reserve in Canada with over 25,000 members and is home to the Cayuga, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, and Tuscarora. This physical, intellectual and collaborative relationship between Six Nations and McMaster is one of the main strengths of this project as it impacts future generations in terms of capacity building, sustainable partnerships, and clean water – all of which speak to the United Nations Sustainable Goals (SDGs) 4, 6, and 17.

McMaster Welcomes Mme. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Mme. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf delivering her convocation address. Image courtesy of McMaster University Advancement.

During the week of June 12, 2023, the Office of International Affairs worked with University Advancement and the Faculty of Humanities to facilitate the visit of Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

On Tuesday, June 13, the Office of International Affairs was pleased to host Mme. Johnson Sirleaf in their boardroom, alongside members of the African-Caribbean Faculty Association of McMaster University ([ACFAM](#)) and the Black Student Success Centre ([BSSC](#)). During this meeting, Mme. Johnson Sirleaf sat down with Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Vice-Provost (International), and ACFAM faculty members to discuss McMaster University's initiatives to empower Black students.



Mme. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf discussing ACFAM initiatives in the OIA Executive Boardroom. Image courtesy of McMaster University Advancement.

importance of recognition while maintaining culture and tradition. She cited McMaster's work in [Indigenous Studies](#) and direct work with Six Nations of the Grand River as an example, alongside international initiatives in Africa and the Caribbean and collaboration with [Empowerment Squared](#).



Mme. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf with members of ACFAM and the Office of International Affairs. Image Courtesy of McMaster University Advancement.

Mme. Johnson Sirleaf went on to tour the Black Student Success Centre and meet with students to discuss BSSC's initiatives. She then attended a luncheon hosted by ACFAM and the Office of International Affairs, where she was joined by Dr. Pamela Appelt and Jean Augustine before delivering her keynote speech at LIUNA Station.

Read more on [McMaster Global](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

COP28

From November 30 to December 12, the world will come together in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for the climate change negotiations at [COP28](#). COP28 will focus on four paradigm shifts:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030;
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance;

and

- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP ever.

McMaster community members who are participating in this event are kindly requested to connect with Dr. Amira El Masri, Director of the Office of International Affairs (amira.elmasri@mcmaster.ca).

Register for the Empowerment, Displacement and Connection Conference



McMaster University
Saturday October 21, 2023
9:00AM - 4:30PM EST

The conference focuses on the experiences and futures of forcibly displaced people with scholarly or practical humanities and social sciences expertise from multiple locations around the world who have had their hopes for freedom devastated in their home countries, and who are seeking ways to preserve and mobilize the knowledge and expertise that they bring. The conference will be accompanied by an art exhibition.

Funding for the conference provided by the following is gratefully acknowledged:
 At McMaster University: Gender and Social Justice Program; the Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition; the Office of International Affairs; and the Department of Political Science.
 Hamilton: The Immigrant Culture and Art Association.

Register at bit.ly/empowerment_conference
 For more information email edconnect@mcmaster.ca

Panel #1
 Merhan Alipcu, Muzghan Hamraz, Shabnam Baheji, Erfan Erza, and Sher Jan Takat
 Moderated by Alina Sajed, Department of Political Science, McMaster University

Panel #2
 Oshani Amarastunga, Tahani Lit Canada, Geoffrey Cameron, Department of Political Science, McMaster University
 Sonal Gillmeier, Program Manager, National Chuchu Karm, Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University
 Nandini Ramanujam, Faculty of Law, McGill University and Co-Director McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
 Moderated by Alysa Urbever, Global Peace and Social Justice, McMaster University

Panel #3
 Bree Akesson, Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University
 Mirna Garza, School of Social Work, McMaster University
 Christina Clark Kozak, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa
 Christopher Kymabodes, Department of Sociology and Centre for Refugee Studies, York University
 Moderated by Alissa Al-Debe, Communication Studies & Media Arts, McMaster University



SCAN ME

ART by IMMIGRANT CULTURE (SART)

BRIGHTER WORLD

McMaster University

Image of the information poster for Empowerment, Displacement and Connection.

The Empowerment, Displacement and Connection Conference will take place from 9AM to 4:30PM on Saturday, October 21 at McMaster University. The conference focuses on the experiences and futures of forcibly displaced people with scholarly or practical humanities and social sciences expertise from multiple locations around the world who have had their hopes for freedom

includes three panels as well as opportunities for roundtable discussions among all conference participants. Reserve a spot [here](#).

More information on the purpose of this conference is available on the Eventbrite registration page.

“Reset, Reimagine, Reframe”: U21 Mid-Career Research Programme

The Office of International Affairs offers its congratulations to 6 McMaster researchers who are participating in the [U21 Mid-Career Research Programme 'Reset, Reimagine, Reframe'](#). The program is intended for researchers at the level of senior lecturer/associate professor (or equivalent), from any discipline, who aim to enhance the quality and reach of their research through expanding their global research networks.

- Celia Rothenberg, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Renae Watchman, Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Tara La Rose, Chair, McMaster Research Ethics Board, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Abel Chikanda, Associate Professor, School of Earth Environment, Faculty of Science
- Nick Bock, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, Faculty of Science
- Gita Ljubicic, Professor, School of Earth Environment and Society, Faculty of Science

McMaster is a member of the [U21 Consortia](#) which is a global network that brings together 28 world-leading, research-intensive universities who share a common belief in the value of collaboration and internationalization. The initiatives and programs of U21 are designed to benefit staff, students, and member institutions, through sharing resources, learning together, and co-designing solutions to our common challenges.

DELEGATION VISITS

Minister of Tourism in Jamaica visits McMaster University Library and the Miss Lou Archives

The McMaster University Library and the Office of International Affairs welcomed the Honourable Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, Jamaica, on September 20 to meet with senior colleagues involved in supporting Caribbean culture and development.



Left to right: Donovan White, Director of Tourism (left); Vivian Lewis, University Librarian; Younna Bailey Magalhães, Consul, Consulate-General of Jamaica in Toronto; David Farrar, President and Vice-Chancellor at McMaster University; Honourable Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism of Jamaica; Kurt Davis, Consul-General of Jamaica in Toronto; Angella Bennett, Regional Director of Tourism; and Fiona Fennell, Communications Director at Jamaica Tourist Board can be seen posing for a photo at the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

The Office of International Affairs extends its gratitude to McMaster University Library for its work in organizing this event.

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay Visits McMaster

Susan Tighe and faculty members from Engineering. They then toured the nuclear reactor, McMaster Automotive Research Centre, and the Canadian Centre for Electron Microscopy (CCEM).



Image of the delegation with McMaster OIA and faculty in the OIA boardroom.

The Office of International Affairs hopes to arrange a networking session for faculty members from both institutions focused on the following areas of common interests:

- eHealth
- Aging
- Health Sciences
- Engineering Physics
- eMobility
- Sustainability

If you have any questions about the visit, please email oia@mcmaster.ca.

DFG and UDIF-HAW Visit McMaster to Discuss International Collaboration in Materials Science



Group photo of McMaster faculty and the Office of International Affairs with the DFG and UDIF-HAW delegates on September 20, 2023.

On September 20, the German Research Group (DFG) and German Universities of Applied Science and Researchers (UDIF-HAW) visited McMaster's Office of International Affairs and Faculty of Engineering to discuss international collaborations in Materials Science.

The delegates met with faculty members from Materials Sciences and Engineering to share updates on their recent research, followed by a networking lunch and a presentation on funding opportunities from both Canadian and German agencies to support potential collaborative initiatives.

Dean of Engineering Visits European Partners

Heather Sheardown, Dean of Engineering, and Associate Dean Sarah Dickson-Anderson joined our partners at the University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA) for a discussion surrounding mobility and degree collaborations: particularly, the design of a new master's program in nuclear leadership.

Heather and Sarah came from a visit to Munich with our partners there, Technical University of Munich (TUM). This portion of the visit included meeting several graduate and PhD students who are currently spending time at McMaster working on various projects related to the nuclear reactor.

Sarah returned to Grenoble later over the summer as a Visiting Professor participating in the delivery of a very successful geology summer school program, which was delivered in the stunning Alpes surrounding Grenoble.



In the photograph, Christian Reiter, who is from TUM, but has an adjunct appointment at McMaster is second from the left, Sarah third from the left, and Heather is sixth from the left.

Please expect to hear more about the international nuclear initiative in the coming months.

CALDO

On July 11, the Office of International Affairs coordinated a meeting between representatives from [CALDO](#) and McMaster Faculties/departments that are focused on graduate recruitment and internships.

Through its membership in CALDO, McMaster has access to the following services:

Graduate student recruitment and internships

- Graduate student (MA and PhD) recruitment in Latin America, including the recruitment of both graduate government-sponsored and non-sponsored students, as well as access to participation in subsidized recruitment missions organized by CALDO
- Research internship opportunities

Commercial services

- Language training opportunities for public, private and higher education sectors
- Professional training for public, private and higher education sectors
- Capacity-building projects for higher education sectors
- Coordination of 'commercial' subsidized missions to LATAM countries

Dean of Science Meets Colleagues at Grenoble and the University of Liverpool

Dean Maureen MacDonald visited colleagues and collaborators at the University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA) and the following week the University of Liverpool.

The Faculty of Science at McMaster has for many years enjoyed a strong partnership with UGA, which has expanded from an initial math research collaboration. Several other disciplines are now starting to discuss opportunities, including several student opportunities.

At the University of Liverpool, Dean MacDonald enjoyed a series of introductory meetings and the discussion of the forthcoming seed fund call that will be launched in the coming months. The seed fund is aimed at having researchers at both schools self-identify and develop new research ties between our two universities.



This photograph was taken during the visit to UGA and shows Dean Maureen MacDonald third from the right.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

Below is a list of recent agreements:

- Student Exchange Agreement, **Universidade Federal de Campina Grande (UFCG)**, Brazil
- Memorandum of Agreement, **Meiji University**, Japan
- Memorandum of Understanding, **Meiji University**, Japan
- Memorandum of Understanding, **University of Gondar**, Ethiopia
- Memorandum of Understanding, **Tilburg University**, Netherlands
- Student Exchange Agreement, **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**, Netherlands
- Memorandum of Understanding, **National Academy of Sciences**, Ukraine

NEWS

McMaster Experts on International Education and the Housing Crisis

There has been significant media coverage in recent news on the housing crisis in Canada and its relationship with international education and students. In a [recent article by the Hill Times](#), McMaster's Dean of Graduate Studies, Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost International, Bonny Ibhawoh, and Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett, address these claims and highlight the value of international students and education to academia and the McMaster community.

Bonny Ibhawoh and Sean Van Koughnett also contributed an op-ed in [the Hamilton Spectator](#) about the issue, noting McMaster's efforts to counter limited off-campus housing with the construction of numerous new residences to house domestic and international students, both of whom greatly benefit McMaster and its surrounding communities, especially through placements working in local healthcare settings.

The Director of the Office of International Affairs, Amira El Masri, spoke with The Pie News about similar issues. Commenting on the impact of negative

students' acceptance letters. To read the article with Amira El Masri's comments, click [here](#).

Launch of International Strategy Advisory Committee (ISAC)

The Office of International Affairs is convening the International Strategy Advisory Committee, which will be chaired by Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Vice-Provost, International, to collaboratively provide strategic direction and coordination of McMaster's global engagement initiatives. It will provide advice and support to reflect McMaster's Model for Global Engagement in the development and implementation of the University's internationalization strategy as well as global engagement strategic priorities and initiatives. The Committee is scheduled to meet for the first time in October and aims to advise the Provost and the President and Vice-Presidents group (PVP).

ISAC membership consists of the Deputy Provost, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, Associate Vice President (Research), Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students, Associate Vice-President, Global Health (Faculty of Health Rep), VP University Advancement, VP Communications, University Librarian, Vice-Provost of Equity and Inclusion, Chief Risk Officer, and all Faculty Deans.



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