



● GLOBAL HAMILTON

International Grad Guide to Thriving in Hamilton



Hey Hamiltonian.

You are building your future in the City of Hamilton - a city with plenty to offer.

This guide highlights the opportunities, resources, and connections available to help you navigate the city and move forward with confidence.

Each page is divided into themes designed to address your interests and needs, including employment support, wellness, and community. Let this be a resource for you as you explore, work, and engage in the city!

*Please note that the resources and services listed in this booklet are accessible to international graduates; however, changes may have occurred. If you have trouble accessing any service in this booklet, please get in touch with us so we can make the necessary change.

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Make Hamilton Home

Came to Hamilton for school? Staying after graduation brings plenty of rewards. Beyond strong career and education options, the city offers calming green spaces, fun things to do, and a warm community that makes it easy to settle in and grow.



A city of abundant natural beauty with over 3,480 acres of pristine parks and an extensive trail system that allows you to explore and get lost in nature.



Hamilton offers you world-class health care, cutting-edge expertise, top-tier medical care, and some of the most talented medical professionals in Canada.



Enjoy your best life in Hamilton! Hamilton's overall cost of living is 25% lower than living in larger cities such as Toronto.



Create lasting, memorable experiences as you explore events and activations, including the Hamilton Fringe Festival, Super Crawl, Victoria Day Fireworks, Hamilton Winterfest, the Winona Peach Festival, and more!



Hamilton is a city with a lot on the go! From new transit to large-scale projects along the waterfront, this city continues to innovate, create and grow.

Find your Base

Finding a place to call home isn't always easy, but you don't have to do it alone. There are people and organizations ready to help!

Newcomer Housing Guide

This guide will help you get started on your housing search and find a place that fits your needs. If you need more information about resources or settlement services, help is available.

[Guide](#)

Tenant Toolkit

The Tenant Toolkit equips renters with practical guidance on navigating housing platforms, preparing for unit viewings, understanding credit, and building strong communication with landlords.

[Toolkit](#)

Service: Housing Help Centre

The Housing Help Centre is a non-profit social service agency that provides access to housing, housing stabilization, and eviction prevention.

Living in Hamilton

Living in Hamilton brings together vibrant city living and a strong sense of community. The city features incredible recreational options, exciting events, and 12 distinct commercial districts- like International Village, Ottawa Street and Hess Village. Visiting these areas lets you experience shopping, dining, and local events all in one place, each with its own distinct charm and history. Hamilton truly combines urban energy with the welcoming feel of tight-knit neighbourhoods.

Check out [Tourism Hamilton's calendar](#) or stop by the [Visitor Experience Centre](#) for an overview of cool activities and events happening in the city, including festivals, museum exhibitions and holiday specials!

Resources you should save

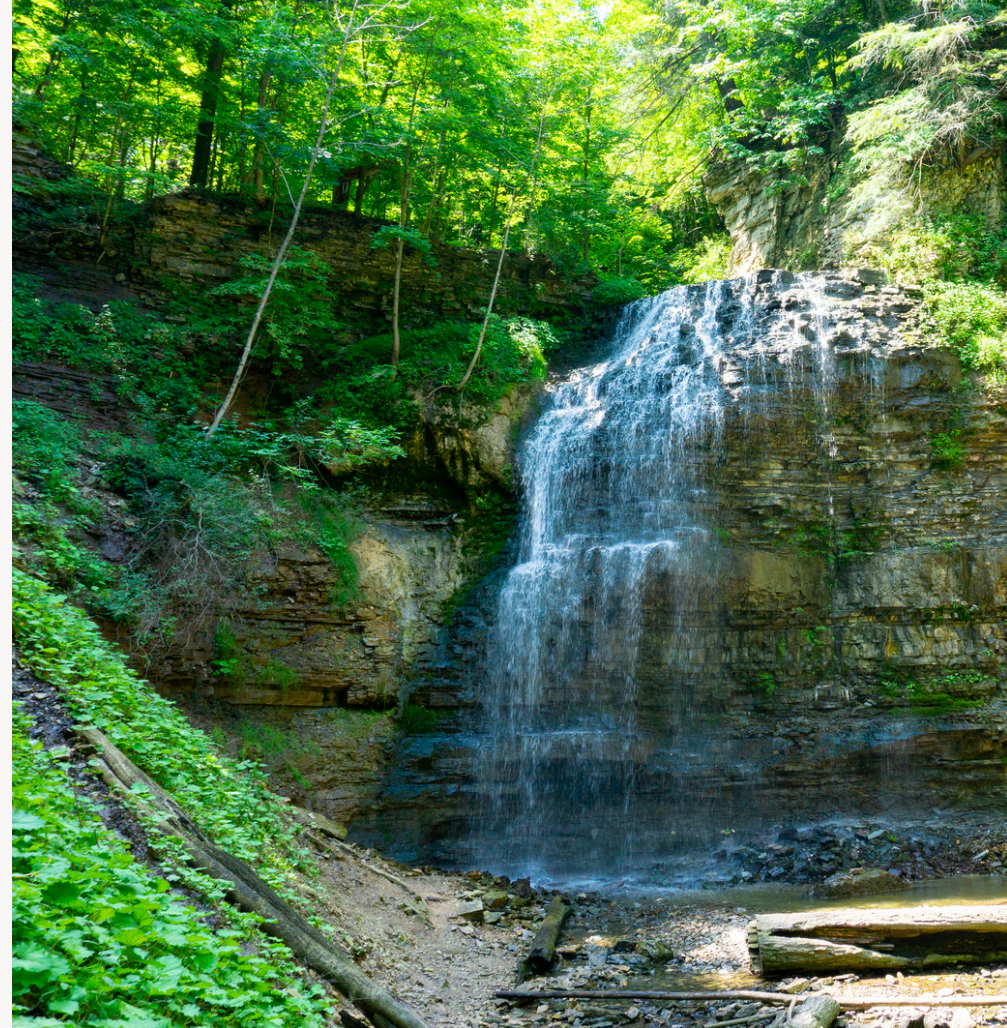
[Blogs and Guides of Things to do in Hamilton](#)

[Hamilton's Event Calendar](#)

[Neighbourhood Guides](#)

[Commercial Districts in Hamilton](#)

[Hamilton Civic Museums](#)



Honouring the Land

The City of Hamilton is situated on the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas and is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

The City of Hamilton provides a [dedicated page](#) that highlights its approach to reconciliation, including its Indigenous strategy, community resources, and land acknowledgment.

Explore the threads of this diverse cultural fabric by visiting the city for art exhibits, events, shopping, and dining.

Experiences

Diversity is our Strength

Hamilton is a truly welcoming community. Over 145,000 immigrants and 100 ethnic groups call our city home!

Did you know?

33%

Hamiltonians born outside of Canada

20,000

Immigrants arrived in Hamilton between 2016 and 2021

65+

First languages reported in Hamilton

French Connection



Hamilton is one of **Canada’s select welcoming Francophone communities** that go above and beyond to provide services to French-speaking newcomers, helping them build their lives in Canada. Connect with Réseau en immigration francophone du Centre Sud Ouest de l’Ontario (RIFCSO) for settlement resources.

The city has over 50,000 French speakers! Check out Centre Francophone Hamilton for activities, including French language circles, volunteering opportunities, and community events.

FrancoFest

FrancoFEST Hamilton is the largest Francophone arts and culture festival in the Niagara Peninsula. Combining musical performances, outdoor shows, family activities, and artistic explorations — there is something for everyone.



The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) operates within Hamilton Economic Development. HIPC is a community table that seeks to create a seamless settlement experience for immigrants in Hamilton.

Newcomer Day

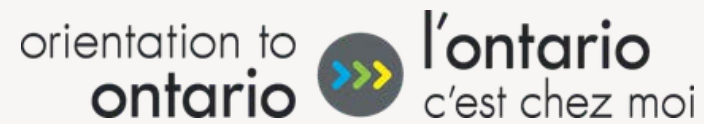
Newcomer Day is an annual event that welcomes and celebrates newcomers while bringing the community together. The day typically features a citizenship ceremony, an information fair with local services, and cultural performances that highlight Hamilton’s diversity.

ImmPress

Make sure to subscribe to HIPC’s newsletter, ImmPress, to stay updated on all newcomer activities in the city!



The Building Blocks – Orientation to Ontario and International Student Connects

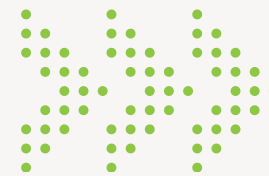


Settling in Ontario and wondering where to start?

Many newcomers and international graduates arrive with the same questions: “Where can I find trusted information? How do I connect with the right services?”



Through versatile multilingual digital resources:



PODCASTS



WEBINARS



TRANSITION PLAN

Websites

Orientation to Ontario (O2O) and International Students Connect (ISC) offer practical tools to help navigate life in Ontario.

E-Publications

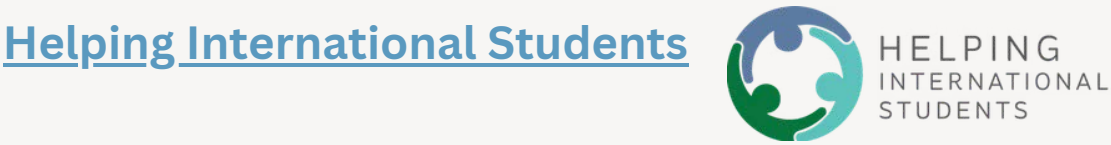
- O2O Factsheets, O2O Workbook
- ISC Factsheets, ISC Handbooks
- Mental Health Guide

Interactive Tools

- ArriveON App and O2O Chatbot
- Your First Steps in Ontario, Canada
- O2O Workshops & ISC Sessions

Leverage Community Organizations

Community organizations play a vital role in supporting international graduates by offering holistic opportunities that go beyond the workplace. Through volunteering, cultural experiences, and community events, you can build professional skills, expand your networks, and engage with the community.



Peer & Community Connection

Organize family-style dinners that support networking and connection among peers.

Cultural Experiences

Coordinate holiday meals that allow students to celebrate festive occasions and become familiar with Canadian culture.

Events & Professional Networking

Offer a variety of community events, such as sports tournaments and career networking dinners with local professionals, to help students build relationships and explore opportunities.



Welcome Inn Community Centre

Peer to Peer Support Groups

Welcome Inn offers peer-to-peer support groups where recent immigrants can connect, share experiences, explore local resources, and participate in activities together.

Settlement Services and ESL

With English conversation circles, translation services, and interpreter support at programs like the food bank, recent immigrants can access the resources they need to survive.



Rafiki Hamilton Centre

Cultural & Community Connection

Community Kitchen gatherings create welcoming spaces to share culture, build relationships, and foster a sense of belonging.

Immigration Support and Skills

Provides culturally responsive immigration intake services with a bilingual lawyer fluent in French, English, Swahili, and Lingala. They also offer G1 Class Preparations, Basic French Classes and Computer Classes.

Housing Support

Connects clients with trusted community landlords to help secure suitable housing and establish stability.



Chat with Najay: Finding Community and Giving Back



Community Support for Black International Students

CSBIS is a dedicated initiative designed to help Black international students feel at home while studying abroad. They support students adjust to a new country; navigate cultural differences, build connections, and find the right support system.

Najay, a Mohawk College graduate, accessed the Community Supports for Black International Students during his time at school and has remained actively involved since graduating. Here, he shares his experience and why he pays it forward.

Q: What kind of support did CSBIS offer while you were in school?

It wasn't just about resources; it was about community. Through CSBIS, people opened their homes for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners. They shared meals including Caribbean dishes, African dishes, and created a space to laugh, hang out, and feel at home. They also helped me with questions about school, life in Canada, and connecting with the right people when I needed guidance. It's advice, guidance, and having someone to talk to. That matters more than anything.

Q: What happened after you graduated?

Even after graduation, I stayed involved-mentoring students, giving advice, and helping organize events. CSBIS also helped me connect with professionals and other graduates. One of my favourite experiences was their graduation celebrations, which felt like family gatherings. There were tables set up for networking, and I even gained a business opportunity just from being there.



Q: What's special about the CSBIS graduation events?

CSBIS events are innovative. Students help cook, organize, and contribute. There's networking, mentoring, and multicultural meals. It's not just about receiving a diploma; it's also about celebrating your journey and connecting with people who can support your next steps.

"It's all about paying it forward. I got help when I needed it, and now I get to help others."



Directory of Local Services

Explore Hamilton with ease! The [Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council Service Directory](#) is your go-to guide for finding support with employment, language skills, education, transportation, and civic engagement. It's also a great tool to connect with cultural groups, helping you feel right at home in your new community.

Please be aware of the eligibility requirements - not all programs in the Services Directory are open to international students and graduates.



The [Xperience Annex](#)

The Xperience Annex is a youth support and referral service serving individuals aged 16-29 with programs in employment, education, mental health, and community engagement.

Tap into the Xperience Annex for curated guidance, resources, and support!

Drop off or make an appointment with the Youth Navigator at:
HPL Central Library – 4th Floor (55 York Blvd., Hamilton)
Tuesday, 9 am-5 pm*
Thursday, 9 am-5 pm*

Services in Hamilton for Newcomers

Find assistance with employment, language skills, education, transportation, and civic life to feel at home in Hamilton.

Search for help with...

Immigration Process

Settlement

Language Instruction

Housing

Healthcare

Employment

Chat with Kunle: A Mindset Shift



Helping International Students

Helping International Students (HIS) is a national charity, founded in Hamilton, that supports international graduates in building meaningful community beyond campus. Through mentorship, cultural experiences, and professional networking, we help you turn your degree into lasting roots in Canada.

From building meaningful connections during community events to gaining confidence about his career prospects, Kunle, a local student, highlights how Helping International Students played a key role in both his personal and professional journey.

Q: What was your first experience with Helping International Students (HIS)?

My first experience with HIS was a winter hike. What stood out to me was that, though the hike was fun, there were people from the community who genuinely wanted to get to know me and help me settle into Canada. It was a great time, being outdoors, learning in that setting, and feeling part of a community like that made it really special.

Q: How did the HIS community help prepare you for life after graduating?

HIS also organized career dinners, and those were really helpful. I got to connect with people who openly shared their career journeys, and hearing their stories made me realize that landing a job in Canada isn't impossible, even with just one year of Canadian studies. Hearing about other people's career journeys shifted my mindset to a more positive one, which was really helpful.



Tough, mind-boggling questions were welcomed and answered

Q: Can you share one lesson learned?

One major lesson I learned is that your problems aren't unique to you. Someone has faced them before, and someone else will face them after you. So there's no point in sitting around feeling sorry for yourself. Keep moving. Keep pushing.

Focus on Health and Wellness

Good health and well-being are essential. Your success in Canada depends not only on your credentials, but also on your ability to stay balanced, resilient, and supported.

Hamilton Public Health

Provides routine vaccinations through school programs and community clinics, as well as respiratory virus vaccines such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV, for eligible individuals. Also manages vaccine record reporting and provides immunization consultation services.

Canadian Mental Health Association

Offers resources specifically tailored for child and youth mental health, including information on signs and symptoms of mental health issues, as well as strategies for early identification and intervention.

ConnexOntario

Offers confidential phone, chat, texting and email service that helps people who need support find information about mental health, gambling and addiction services in their community.

Distress Centre Halton

Offers telephone support and friendly social connections to individuals experiencing isolation and emotional and mental health concerns. This service is completely confidential. The Hamilton phone number is 905-561-5800.



Refuge Newcomer Health



- Primary Care
- Mental Health Counselling and Supports
- On-site Specialty Services
- Newcomer Referral and Coordination Hub:
 - Employment/Related Supports
 - Financial Support
 - Legal/Immigration
 - Housing/Shelter
 - Other settlement-related services

Resource to Check out!

International Student Connect - Mental Health Guide

This guide describes different types of mental health concerns and how to stay healthy and get help when you need it. Available in 14 languages.

[Access](#)



Build your career here

Hamilton’s workforce is strengthened by skilled graduates like you from the city's universities and colleges! Visit the [Invest in Hamilton website](#) for insights on key sectors, employment, and business trends, and explore the supports and platforms below to help you navigate the job market.

Access to Resources and Local Service Providers

Fedcap Canada

is the Service System Manager for employment services in the Hamilton, Niagara, and Halton regions of Ontario. They oversee a network of 45 providers who deliver employment services to job seekers, helping them to achieve sustainable employment.



Their free services for *International Graduates* include:

Career Development: Discover your strengths, interests, and goals to align your job search with your aspirations.

Skill Building: Access training programs to boost your employability and meet industry standards.

Job Search Assistance: Resume building, interview prep, and strategies to land the right job.

Financial Support: Help with work-related costs so you can focus on success.

Orientation to Ontario (O2O) - Job Search Assistance

Resume building, interview prep, and strategies to land the right job. Explore O2O digital resources to learn about job searching in Ontario, including the [Working in Ontario](#) and [Working and Business](#) for step-by-step guidance and practical tools.



Job Boards you should know

[Workforce Planning Hamilton](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Magnet](#)

[Workopolis](#)

[Employment Hamilton Job Board](#)

[Job Bank](#)

[BReady](#) (connects newcomers with startups and small businesses across Ontario)



Power up your job skills

If you feel like you need to brush up on some of your skillsets then make sure to check out what your alma mater offers under their alumni services (pages 13-16). Some post-secondary institutions offer perks, programs, mentorships up to 5 years after graduation!

Starting your own business?

Entrepreneurial experience can elevate your profile — it shows leadership, creativity, and drive - all valuable assets for your long-term career.

If you're in Canada on a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), you can start a business - it's an open work permit. However, keep in mind: self-employment generally does not count as eligible Canadian work experience under certain permanent residence (PR) programs. Before launching your venture, make sure you understand how it may impact your PR pathway.

The logo for the Hamilton Business Centre, featuring the words "HAMILTON BUSINESS CENTRE." in a blue and green color scheme.

The Hamilton Business Centre provides information, tools, and resources that entrepreneurs need to start and grow their businesses. Located on the first floor of City Hall, the Centre is your one-stop source for business information, guidance and professional advice on starting and running a successful business. Offering a host of workshops, entrepreneurial mentoring and coaching, networking, and even the Ontario Summer Company Program for young entrepreneurs, they truly have something to support every aspect of your entrepreneurial journey.

The logo for TenSteps, featuring the word "TENSTEPS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a blue rectangular box.

Ten Steps is a free, award-winning resource which provides a comprehensive overview of starting a company in Canada. It is available 24/7 in more than 120 languages, covering:

- Conducting Market Research
- Preparing a Business Plan
- Choosing a Business Structure
- Registering your Business
- Licensing Requirements
- Zoning Regulations
- Additional Regulations
- Financing your Business

Startup Supports

Innovation Factory

Helping entrepreneurs build businesses around their products and services and guiding small and medium-sized enterprises to scale through workshops, programming, and mentoring.



The Forge

Tech start-up incubator affiliated with McMaster University, providing seed funding, workspace, prototyping equipment, and mentorship.



Mohawk Centre for Entrepreneurship

Provides one-on-one mentorship to current students or alumni of Mohawk College who are entrepreneurs or who want to become entrepreneurs.



Are you a post-secondary student?

Your own venture may count as off-campus work hours if you're authorized to work off-campus under your study permit.

McMaster Alumni Network

When international students graduate from McMaster, they join a supportive alumni community, which includes access to career services for up to five years after graduation. International graduates can access alumni career counselling, immigration advising, alumni mentoring, and entrepreneurial resources.

Career & Employment Support

Alumni Career Services (up to 5 years post-graduation)

Career coaching, job search strategy, further education, interview preparation, and career decision-making, delivered in partnership by the Student Success Centre and the Office of Alumni Engagement.

Career Access Professional Services (CAPS)

Specialized career support for alumni who identify as having a disability or who have been forcibly displaced.

<https://alumni-careerservices.mcmaster.ca/alumni-events/>

Career Events & Employer Connections

International graduates can continue to access OSCARplus job postings and attend employer information sessions, career fairs, and professional development workshops, many offered virtually for flexible access.

Immigration & Staying in Canada

Immigration & Mobility Advising (PGWP & PR Pathways)

International alumni can book one-on-one appointments with McMaster's Immigration and Mobility Advisor for guidance on: Post-Graduation Work Permits (PGWP); working in Canada after graduation; and, planning next steps toward permanent residency



Did you know?

The Fall Career Fair hosted at McMaster University each September is open to McMaster alumni.

McMaster Alumni Network

Staying Connected as Alumni

McMaster Office of Alumni Engagement

The Office of Alumni Engagement supports graduates through alumni-led programming, networking events, and lifelong engagement opportunities. Many events are hosted online, helping international graduates remain connected while building professional networks in Canada and abroad.

McMaster Email Forwarding

Graduates can maintain a McMaster email presence through email forwarding, supporting continuity when applying for jobs, staying connected to alumni services, and managing professional communications.

Alumni Mentorship & Global Networks

MacConnect – Alumni Mentorship Network

A global alumni platform that connects you with McMaster graduates willing to: share career insights; provide job search tips; and, help explore working in Canada or abroad.

Global Engagement & Careers Abroad

International alumni interested in working abroad can access curated global career tools, including GoingGlobal and MyWorldAbroad—databases offering country-specific job market insights, cultural guidance, and practical advice for living and working internationally. Attend employer information sessions, career fairs, and professional development workshops, many offered virtually for flexible access.



Mohawk Alumni Network

Congratulations on completing your studies at Mohawk College! As you transition to graduate, we encourage you to stay connected to the Mohawk community and the City of Hamilton. Explore alumni benefits and career services designed to support your growth, expand your network, and help you build a meaningful career. Let's continue building your future together!

Welcome to the Career Centre at Mohawk College

If you're a Mohawk College international alumni, you have access to a range of career resources to support your next steps.

Support for new graduates

The Career Centre offers personalized services for up to one year after you complete your final term. Whether you're preparing for interviews, updating your resume, or exploring career options, we are here to help you get ready for work.

Graduated more than a year ago?

You can still explore full-time, part-time and seasonal job postings by signing into the CareerReady Portal with your Alumni Login.

Ready to get started?

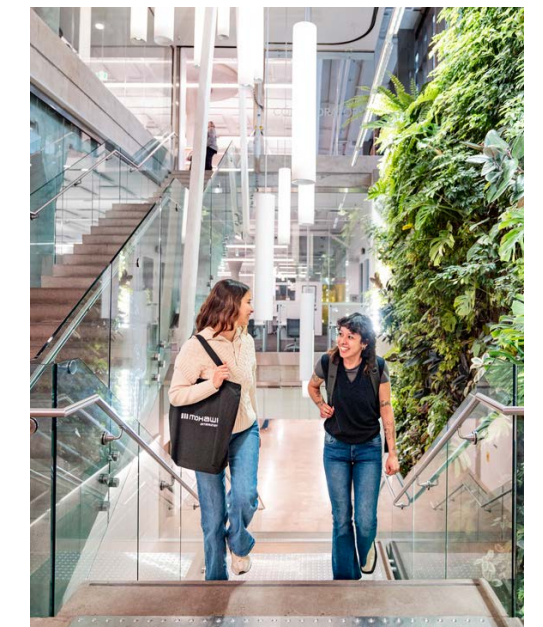
Book an meeting with a Career Advisor or explore job opportunities through the CareerReady Portal.

More resources

Alumni: mohawkcollege.ca/Alumni | International: mohawkcollege.ca/International-Students

Did you know ?

As a Mohawk College Alumni you can access programs and other benefits throughout your life!



Connect with us!

We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca to stay involved on campus, share your story or get support on career or continuing education resources.

Redeemer Alumni Network

Career support for graduates

Connect with Marian Vanderwoude, Career Advisor, for up to three years after graduation for help with:

- Grad school: Explore options and navigate applications.
- Job search: Support with resumes, cover letters, interviews and offers.
- Career exploration: Explore paths and plan next steps.

Career resources for graduates

Getting ready for your career after graduation? Explore our collection of self-help career tools, including resources on resumes, cover letters, interview prep and networking. While these resources are accessible post-graduation, some are exclusively located on the Redeemer App and must be requested once your profile is no longer active.

Hire Redeemer

As a graduate, you have continued access to our dedicated job board Hire Redeemer. Redeemer alumni are valued by many organizations, and hundreds of job postings are added each term. Email careers@redeemer.ca for access.

Get job ready

Launch your career by investing in yourself! These free, limited-time, self-paced modules will help you articulate your unique value proposition, master effective job search strategies, build interview confidence and more. Email careers@redeemer.ca for access.

Did you know ?

Redeemer University alumni can enjoy discounts at a variety of popular attractions, sporting events and home and auto services and more!



Connect with us!

We want to stay in touch! Reach out to alumni@redeemer.ca to stay connected, and join the Redeemer Alumni group on LinkedIn for more career opportunities.

Get around with HSR



The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) encompasses all local transit (buses) and can take you all around Hamilton, allowing you to explore all the city has to offer! You can use a PRESTO card to pre-load funds or tap a credit card to pay your fare.

Everything you need to know about fares, photo IDs, tickets and transfers.

Fares

Check the schedule and route tools.

Route Tools



Rate your ride!

Tell us how we did today and be entered into the monthly \$50 PRESTO card giveaway!

Take the survey today at:
hamilton.ca/HSRsurvey



The new interactive HSR Alert Map puts real-time service alerts at your fingertips - including detours and unexpected service disruptions, all in one convenient place.

Planning a trip? Use your favourite third-party trip-planning app to check for alerts and see real-time bus arrival times. Powered by the City of Hamilton's general transit data, these tools deliver accurate, up-to-date information so you can travel with confidence - no guesswork required.

Are you a local post-secondary student?

As part of your student fees, you can travel freely on the HSR all year by loading your unique redemption code onto a PRESTO Card.

Pro Tips:

- **Save Using PRESTO!** Use your PRESTO card to save with discounts on events, entertainment, attractions and brands in Hamilton, Niagara & the GTA
- **Heading to a TiCats game?** Take the HSR for FREE!
- **Route 99 Waterfront Shuttle:** Ride for FREE to visit Hamilton's waterfront attractions like Bayfront Park and Hamilton Harbour. Shuttles run seven (7) days a week, every 30 minutes between 10 am and 9 pm (Operates from the last Sunday in June to Labour Day)

Access the Library



Library cards are free to anyone living, working or studying in Hamilton. You can use any Library branch to borrow books, CDs, movies, magazines, video games and more.

Get your [Library Card online now](#) or visit any [HPL branch](#) to [fill out an application form](#).

Do it Yourself

- Access [learning resources](#), including language proficiency test prep, skill-building courses, and driving test prep.
- The [Makerspace](#) is a self-serve creative space where you can bring your 3D printing, crafting, gaming, or other interests to life using a wide range of tools and technology. Make sure to book the makerspace in advance.



Newcomer Resources

- Learn English at an upcoming drop-in English Newcomer Conversation Circle!
- HPL partners with the YWCA to hold citizenship preparation meetings. These one-on-one information sessions help newcomers make informed decisions about settlement in Canada.

Print, Copy and Scan

- HPL offers wireless printing, photocopying, and scanning services at all branches. Library Members receive \$0.40 in free printing credit each day!

Lendporium

- Your Hamilton Public Library card lets you borrow anything from the Lendporium, including parks passes, kits and devices. Explore and borrow away.

Access Hamilton Museums Free!

A physical or digital Hamilton Public Library card gives you free access to Hamilton's eight city-owned museums.

Access

Interested in visiting the Art Gallery of Hamilton, too? Borrow a 14-day AGH Pass with your Hamilton Public Library card for free admission (for up to four adults) through the Lendporium.

Bookmobile

The Bookmobile is HPL's branch on wheels. It makes stops throughout the city to ensure everyone can enjoy library materials and services. Check out the next stops:

Schedule

What's New at the Library?

The Hamilton Public Library is always adding new events, programs and services. Follow HPL News to keep up with what's happening at HPL.

News

Engage with your City

Participating in youth initiatives and urban community activities is a meaningful way to connect, contribute, and grow. Whether through volunteering, mentorship, local events, or advocacy, getting involved helps you build networks, develop leadership skills, and give back to the community you now call home.

Youth Steering Committee

The HamOntYouth Steering Committee brings together youth aged 14–29 to make a real impact in Hamilton. Members meet in a safe, welcoming space to share ideas, plan events, and run projects.

Youth complete a brief HamOntYouth orientation before their first meeting, and from there, they work directly with City staff to organize activities, provide input on local programs, and help shape opportunities that benefit young people across the city.



Youth Engagers

Youth Engagers work with the City of Hamilton's Youth Team to connect with youth across the city, identify their needs, lead engagement activities, and create social media content. The city hires Youth Engagers for a 10-month contract.

Subscribe



Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion - Black Youth Mentorship Program (BYMP)

Drop-In Sessions (Monthly) – Sessions focused on capacity building, civic engagement, and the creation of safe spaces for Black youth.

One-on-One Mentorship Program – Pairings for Black youth aged 13–18 with mentors whose background, experience, and interests offer significant learning opportunities.

BYMP Youth Council

A leadership and engagement opportunity for Black youth (aged 13–25) to contribute to BYMP Programming in a supportive environment that fosters leadership, teamwork, and creativity.

Are you a post-secondary student?

CityLAB Hamilton is an innovation partnership between the City of Hamilton, Mohawk College, McMaster University, and Redeemer University.

It connects students and faculty with City staff to co-develop innovative solutions to municipal projects aligned with the City's strategic priorities.

Get involved!



Explore your Downtown

Downtown Hamilton is the heart of the city - the place where people gather to shop, eat, access services, take in culture and it is where many Hamiltonians live.

Guide to Downtown Hamilton - Tourism Hamilton

Check out this downtown experience guide, which outlines the various nooks and corners of downtown from coffee shops to street art.

Walking Tours

- Street Art Tour - Create your own self-guided tour for a street-level gallery experience
- Downtown Hamilton BIA Memory Lane tour with scannable QR codes reveals incredible stories and vintage photos of the downtown core.
- A self-guided architecture crawl will guide you to some of downtown's most noteworthy and inspiring buildings.

A Guide to Hamilton’s West Harbour

Make your way to the harbour to experience some of Hamilton’s best parks, walking paths and events! There is always something happening on the waterfront from rollerskating to boat tours!



Did you know?

The Hamilton Farmer’s Market was established in 1837 and has over 50 vendors, including cheeses, meats, baked goods, and international foods.

The market also hosts community events ranging from workshops to music! Check out their event calendar here.

Events



Move, Explore, Create!

The City of Hamilton offers a wide range of recreation opportunities, from sports facilities to structured seasonal programming. Whether you’re looking to stay active, learn something new, or have fun, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

Seasonal Programming

The city offers a wide range of seasonal programs for children and adults, including weekly classes and drop-in sessions, from pottery to basketball. Registration opens each season, so be sure to create an account in advance to secure a spot in your preferred activity!

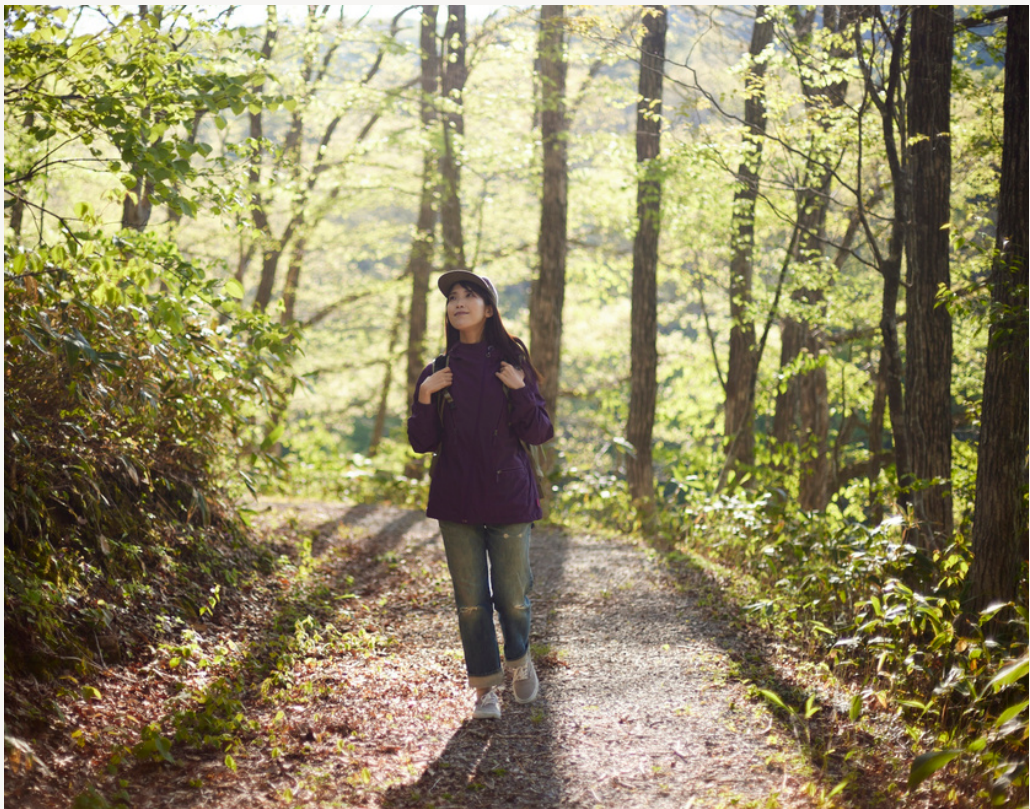
Explore Hamilton’s Trails

Hamilton offers a variety of beautiful trails suited for both avid hikers and those looking for a relaxing afternoon outdoors. Explore information on local trails, along with links to longer routes such as the Bruce Trail and the Trans-Canada Trail.

Use the RecFinder Tool

An easy-to-use interactive web map that shows recreation facilities across the city and provides links to information such as addresses, amenities ad programs!

RecFinder

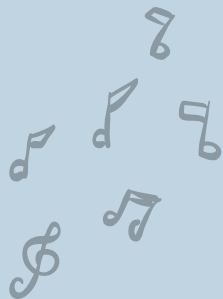


Did you know?

Hamilton is a proud City of Music, with a live music scene that’s helped shape Canada’s sound. From the start of the Arkells to jam sessions hosted downtown, music is everywhere.

Check out some of the upcoming musical events.

Events



Tips and Tricks from Recent Alumni

- **Learn French (even if you don't think you need it):** It can open up additional job opportunities and provide you with extra immigration pathways.
- **Give back to your community:** Volunteer regularly at a community organization or look for one-off opportunities at festivals or events. This is also something you can include on your resume.
- **Speak with your employer:** Be open about your Post-Graduate Work Permit requirements - don't wait until the last minute to talk about what you may require from your employer and when.
- **Leverage your alma mater:** Each institution offers alumni services and opportunities to give back and reconnect with new students.
- **Be aware of immigration matters:** pay attention to announcements and updates from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and be mindful of your visa timelines and requirements. Do not wait until the last moment!
- **People want to help:** Reach out to professionals, colleagues and community leaders to ask questions, and learn. Most people are happy to provide advice and direction.
- **Experiences won't find you:** Actively seek out opportunities to engage with the city, experience the culture and try new things.
- **Add more skills to the toolkit:** Even after recent graduation, there are still many opportunities to learn. Think about some certifications that may help you with your job or job search. Some post-secondary institutions offer micro-credentials and continuing education opportunities in areas like marketing and project management.



Contact Us.



Stefa Sokolowski
Business Development and
Global Hamilton Officer

[Connect with me here!](#)

If you have questions about using these resources, or if you'd like to recommend a resource or propose an update, please reach out to us.

For more information about city resources for international students and graduates please visit the dedicated webpage [here.](#)

- Hamilton Welcomes the World
- Hamilton International GradRoots Table
- Monthly Opportunity Roundup
- [Hiring resources for Hamilton Employers](#)