



The School of Graduate Studies

GUIDE for NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS



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WELCOME

From the Dean of Graduate Studies

Thank you for choosing Memorial University for your graduate education. I, along with the School of Graduate Studies staff, wish you a warm welcome. This guide provides useful information to help you navigate through registration and orient you to Memorial University and to St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador.

The School of Graduate Studies provides a focus for graduate activity across the University and supports you as an active member of a large and energetic community of scholars. Memorial's graduate programs emphasize close student-faculty ties, rigorous research and scholarship, and excellence in teaching. We strive to promote excellence in all aspects of graduate education in order to assist you to fulfil your personal goals and to help prepare you for a productive career.

Your decision to complete a graduate degree will provide you with a unique opportunity to pursue your chosen field of study in depth and will shape and enrich your life in many ways. Graduate study is not only about work and I urge you to take time to "smell the roses" and to participate in the full range of social, cultural and recreational activities that Memorial has to offer.

I look forward to meeting you and wish you every success in achieving your goals.

Dr. Noreen Golfman, Dean of Graduate Studies

From the Graduate Students' Union (GSU)

It gives us great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to incoming graduate students. The GSU is committed to ensuring that your time at MUN is an enriching and worthwhile experience.

The GSU offices, Bitters Restaurant and Lounge, a computer lab, graduate student office space, and a 29-room residence for graduate students, all located in Feild Hall, are operated by the GSU. One entire floor of office space is available to assist graduate students whose departments have a lack of working space.

There are many ways to get involved with the GSU and even more ways to benefit from our services. For information, please contact the GSU by visiting our website at www.gsumun.ca, by calling 709-864-4395 or by dropping by GH-2007 in Feild Hall.

We hope you avail yourself of the opportunities the GSU has to offer.

Sincerely,
Graduate Students' Union

INTRODUCTION

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Memorial University was established in remembrance of Newfoundlanders killed in World War I. Memorial College opened in 1925 and became a full degree-granting university shortly after Newfoundland's confederation with Canada in 1949. Today, with an enrolment of over 14,000 undergraduate students and over 3,200 graduate students, Memorial is the largest and most comprehensive university in Atlantic Canada.

The university has four campuses: the Elizabeth Avenue campus and the Marine Institute in St. John's, the Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook (on Newfoundland's west coast) and the Harlow Campus in England. The School of Graduate Studies is located on the central 544-hectare Elizabeth Avenue Campus.

The School of Graduate Studies

Memorial University's graduate programs have developed in scope since the university first offered graduate degrees in 1954. Memorial is home to graduate students from more than 50 countries pursuing degrees in over 40 academic fields. The School of Graduate Studies, established in 1974, facilitates the development of graduate education at Memorial, ensures the quality of graduate programs, assists in the financial support of students and coordinates graduate studies and research at Memorial.

The School of Graduate Studies is located on the second floor of the **Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation**. The General Office is in Room IIC 2012. In addition to the Dean, Dr. Noreen Golfman, and Associate Dean, Dr. Faye Murrin, there are a number of staff members who are ready to answer your questions and assist you throughout the course of your program.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Registration for the Fall semester begins in late August; for the Winter semester, it begins in early December; and for the Spring semester, in early April.

Please refer to the Graduate Registration Booklet, available online at www.mun.ca/regoff on the Registrar's Office website for exact dates. The Graduate Registration Booklet provides the graduate course offerings for the upcoming semester, detailed instructions on how to register, and information on fees payment. **Be sure to make note of the deadline dates listed.**

All graduate students must have a 9000 (Medicine 9900) registration that is specific to your academic unit. For example as a student in Anthropology, your registration would be ANTH 9000, Education: ED 9000, Medicine: MED 9900, etc. This registration identifies you as a graduate student. You will need to register for 9000 upon entry to your graduate program. This

9000 (9900) registration should occur automatically for all subsequent semesters of your program. If you are granted a leave of absence, you will need to register for the 9000 specific to your academic unit upon your return.

If you are an international student, you must provide your *Study Permit* (or for permanent residents your *Record of Landing* or *Confirmation of Permanent Residence*) to the School of Graduate Studies before registering for courses. When you arrive on campus, bring the necessary documentation to the School and you will be given registration instructions.

Online registration

New graduate students and students returning from leaves of absence must initially register via the Memorial Self-Service (www.mun.ca/regoff). Detailed instructions are listed in the *Graduate Registration Booklet*. If you have any difficulty, contact the School of Graduate Studies or the Registrar's Office for help.

Personal and academic information

You will receive an email from the Registrar's Office that confirms your eligibility to register. You should review the personal and academic program information to confirm its accuracy. You can make changes to your personal information via the Self-Service. Any changes in your academic program (program of required courses) should be made on the appropriate form at your academic unit (school, department or faculty) and submitted to the School of Graduate Studies at least one week before you register. You should verify your registration via Self-Service (www.mun.ca/regoff).

It is important that you update any address changes immediately. Most correspondence from the School of Graduate Studies and Office of the Registrar, such as your *Permission to Register* email, confirmation of registration, and grade reports are sent to your Memorial University email address or your mailing address. Your local address is our way of contacting you during the semester. You can update your address (es) via the Self-Service (www.mun.ca/regoff).

Dropping and adding courses

A "Drop and Add" period at the start of each semester gives you time to change your course schedule without academic penalties. Most changes can be done through Memorial Self-Service. In some instances, you may have to use a *Course Change Form*, which can be picked up at your academic unit general office, Registrar's Office, or the School of Graduate Studies.

Students wishing to register for program courses outside their academic unit (including undergraduate courses) must do so with a *Course Change Form*. A *Change of Program Form* must be completed if any such courses are to become part of your graduate program. Please see the *University Calendar* (www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar) for specific course change regulations and deadlines.

Fees

Tuition and mandatory fees are due at the time of registration. The final date to pay fees, without incurring a late payment penalty, is specified in the *Graduate Registration Booklet* and the current *University Diary*. Payroll deductions are available for students receiving university graduate funding.

For a detailed listing of all financial regulations and fees, please see Fees and Charges in the University Regulations section of the current *University Calendar*. All graduate students must pay fees for each semester they are registered and must be registered for every semester during their graduate programs unless a leave of absence has been granted.

At the time of first registration, each master's candidate selects a payment plan based on the number of semesters of study. The plan remains in effect for the duration of the student's program and cannot be changed after the first semester. There is only one payment plan for graduate diploma and doctoral students.

If you complete your program ahead of time you will, in the final semester, be required to pay the total number of semester fees owing. If your program extends beyond the period covered by the selected payment plan, you will be charged a continuance fee for each additional semester of registration.

The GSU provides health and dental plans that are mandatory for all full-time Canadian students. Canadian students can withdraw from either the health or dental plans on condition that they provide proof of alternate coverage and complete the necessary opt-out forms. For further information regarding the health dental plan contact the GSU.

Information regarding health and dental plans for international students can be found in the following section.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Advising Office

The International Student Advising Office is the resource office for all international students, offering guidance on compulsory health coverage, study permits, and other aspects of academic and non-academic life at Memorial University. **All international students must report to the international student advisor upon their arrival at the University.** Be sure to bring your passport and study permit.

Study permit and visitor's visa (temporary resident visa)

For information regarding study permits, study permit renewals, and visa please contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp>.

International students wishing to study in Canada must obtain a study permit before coming to Canada. You should apply for a study permit as soon as you receive your acceptance letter. If the program of study is less than six months, a study permit is not required. Applications and information on fees and requirements may be obtained from your nearest Canadian immigration authority. If you come from a country that requires a visitor's visa (also known as a temporary resident visa (TRV)), it will be issued at the same time as your study permit.

While the majority of people must apply for a study permit before coming to Canada, the following people may apply from within Canada:

- dependants of athletes, media representatives, members of the clergy, or military personnel on assignment in Canada;
- dependants of officials of foreign governments working in Canada with a federal or provincial agency under an exchange agreement;
- dependants of a person with a valid study permit or employment authorization;
- a holder of a minister's permit and his or her dependants.

The following may apply for a study permit at a Canadian port of entry:

- citizens and permanent residents of the United States of America;
- citizens of Greenland;
- citizens of France and residents of St-Pierre and Miquelon.

Your spouse and children

If your family is accompanying you to Canada, or joining you at a later date, they will have to obtain a visitor's visa (or a study permit, work permit as appropriate). Information on medical

and other requirements of visitors to Canada may be obtained at your nearest Canadian immigration authority.

The Canadian port of entry

You **must** present all study permit and/or visa documents to the immigration officer at the airport or other point of entry. If your documents are not processed at this time, you may experience difficulties later.

Expiry date of study permits

You should pay special attention to the expiry date on your study permit. Though you may extend your period of study once you are in Canada, **you must renew your study permit before it expires**. Renewal for a period longer than one year may be obtained, but only on the recommendation of your department and with the approval of the immigration authorities.

Failure to renew your study permit can result in your having to leave Canada to re-apply for entry.

Renewing your study permit

To renew your study permit, fill out a *Student Letter Request Form* (available from the School of Graduate Studies). Please allow at least two days for processing and keep in mind that the form must have the appropriate departmental signature to be processed. A letter to verify your status (namely, that you are registered full-time, are in good standing and have adequate financial support) will then be prepared to accompany your application. Since all immigration documents are sent to the Immigration Department's Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta, you should start the process for renewal at **least two months** before the expiry of your current permit.

An extension of your study permit **does not affect your visitor's visa or temporary resident visa (TRV)**. To obtain a new visitor's visa, you must apply from either inside or outside of Canada. If you plan to leave and re-enter Canada, it is your responsibility to ensure your visitor's visa remains valid.

Reporting changes

Changes in address and marital status must also be reported within two months of the change. If you fail to report changes, you can be found in violation of Canada's immigration laws and, as a result, deported from Canada. To contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada, telephone 1-888-242-2100.

Leaving and returning to Canada

Travel is permitted while you possess a valid visitor's visa. However, if it expires while you are out of the country, you may not be allowed to return to Canada, and if your study permit expires, you will not be allowed to continue your studies, unless you successfully re-apply for these documents. An immigration officer will decide if you still meet the criteria for admission. You can obtain a letter to accompany your request for a visitor's visa to another country from the School of Graduate Studies.

English Language Placement Test

If your first language is not English and you have not completed a degree at a recognized university where the sole language of instruction was English, you will be required to take the English Language Placement Test upon arrival. The test has both a written and an oral component, and is administered **once a semester only**. You will be notified of the test dates and times.

Based on the results of this test, some students will be enrolled in a course of study designed to improve their ability to speak, understand and write in English. Please note that some students who pass the test, or who are technically exempt, may be required by their department to complete a part (or parts) of the English as a Second Language (ESL) course. Your department has three semesters in which to make this decision. After this time, ESL courses may be recommended, but not required. Students who fulfill the ESL requirements will have this noted on their transcript.

Procedures for students who miss the test

Students who miss the test can often be accommodated in the speaking and listening component of the ESL course, though they cannot be assigned to reading/writing classes. Though they cannot fulfill the ESL requirement without passing the test, students can make a start on their oral skills while waiting for the next test sitting. If you miss the test, contact the Director, English as a Second Language Programs, Department of English Language and Literature.

English as a Second Language courses

The English language requirement for graduate students whose first language is not English and who have not previously completed a degree at a recognized university where the sole language of instruction was English, consists of three parts: **ESL I**, **ESL II** and **ESL III**. Some or all of these courses may be required/offered for graduate students. There is no additional charge for these ESL courses.

Writing courses

ESL I is a 13-week basic writing course covering organizational patterns of academic writing and problem areas of English grammar. **ESL II** is an advanced academic writing course. It covers usage, style, organization, and documentation of sources. Evaluation of both these courses is based on weekly writing assignments and a final examination.

Academic speaking course

ESL III is a 10-week academic speaking and listening program led by graduate assistants. Students are given instruction and practice in preparing and delivering academic oral presentations, classroom style discussion, and asking and answering questions. Students are divided into groups of three to six according to discipline. As well, students are assigned a pronunciation tutor who provides weekly lessons. Students are evaluated on a formal presentation in their field of study that they give at the end of the semester.

Optional offerings

- **Pronunciation tutorials:** In addition to pronunciation training required in conjunction with the academic speaking course, pronunciation tutorials can be arranged for graduate students who make a request for further practice.
- **Conversation groups:** English-speaking students lead two to four hours of conversation/discussion groups weekly in the fall and winter semesters. Conversation groups aim to promote greater fluency and naturalness of speech.
- **Conversation partners:** Conversation partners may be arranged (subject to availability of volunteers) for graduate students who wish more opportunities for practicing everyday English.

Employment

Non-Canadian graduate students are permitted to work in Canada, both on and off campus. For off-campus employment, eligible foreign students must apply for and obtain an off-campus work permit. The work permit is generally valid for the duration of their study permit. The agreements allow eligible international students to work off-campus for up to 20 hours a week during the school year and full-time during study breaks. Students will have to obtain a social insurance number (SIN) in order to be paid.

Any restrictions that you have are to be stated on your study permit.

Social Insurance Number

All international students who will be receiving a graduate assistantship or working off campus are required to obtain a Canadian social insurance number (SIN). You should apply for your social insurance number in person at the Human Resources Centre of Canada in St. John's (223 Churchill Ave., Pleasantville, St. John's, NL; Tel: 1-800-206-7218). You must provide a primary document that proves your identity and status in Canada, as well as a supporting document, if the name on your primary document is different from the one you are currently using. It is important that documents are originals and that they are written in English or French. You will also need to obtain a contract of employment, signed by both you and your employer, from your academic unit to submit with your application. While you may apply by mail, the in-person process is more convenient as it does not require you to part with your valuable identity documents or pay for getting photocopies of documents notarized.

Your SIN will expire at the same time as your study permit. If you require an extension to your study permit, please be aware that you will need to reapply for a social insurance number.

Employment for spouses

Spouses of international students may be employed on or off campus if they apply for employment authorization. To apply for a work permit, obtain an application from the International Student Advising Office.

Employment after graduation

International graduate students may work in Canada after graduation with proper authorization. Contact the International Student Advising Office or the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for more information. (Tel: 1-888-242-2100).

Canadian income tax

International students must file a Canadian income tax form for every year they live in Canada. Forms are available at post offices and must be submitted to the Canadian government by April 30 (for income received in the preceding calendar year). A representative of Revenue Canada comes to campus each spring for an Income Tax Information Session. The session provides information you need to complete your tax forms and answers to your questions. For more information about the Income Tax Information Session for international students, contact the International Student Advising Office.

Medical Care Plan and Health and Dental Insurance

All international students with a study permit valid for 12 months or longer and who are students at a post secondary institution in the province must apply for the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Care Plan. International students are also required to purchase drug and health insurance, contact the International Student Advising Office for more information. The Graduate Students' Union (GSU) dental plan is also mandatory for all full-time international students. For more information on the GSU dental plan, please contact the GSU.

Converting money to Canadian funds

Be sure to have some funds converted to Canadian currency before arriving. You will most likely need coins for telephone calls (25 cents per local call) and bus fares. You may also have to provide for yourself until your graduate support commences. Depending on when you arrive, **this waiting period could be as long as one month.**

GETTING ORIENTED: YOUR FIRST WEEK ON CAMPUS

Orientation activities

The School of Graduate Studies with the support of other academic and service units at Memorial organizes a Graduate Orientation for new graduate students. The event has an academic focus and is normally held in September of each academic year. For more information, please contact the School of Graduate Studies.

The GSU organizes GradFest in September and WinterFest in January of each year. GradFest activities usually include a social boat trip or city bus tour, a campus tour, seminars to help you learn more about graduate student life at Memorial, and a Brass Lunch where you can meet senior university administrators, the GSU executive and other graduate students.

The International Student Advising Office hosts an International Student Orientation, which begins the week before classes start. Seminars and discussions include information regarding services and resources, health, culture and academics. This orientation has been developed to alleviate the initial problems faced by international students, so it is very important that international students attempt to arrive on campus in time to attend.

The MUNnel System campus map

Memorial University may have a large campus, but the MUNnel System makes access to everything easier. Blue, yellow, green and orange lines on walls indicate entrances to tunnels and

skywalks, and are designed to help pedestrians find their way around campus,
http://www.mun.ca/campus_map/stjohns/munnel.php

Glenn Roy Blundon Centre for Students with Disabilities

The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre co-ordinates on-campus services for students with disabilities and those with short-term illnesses and injuries. Services include: orientation for students with disabilities; assistance arranging alternative accommodations for tests, exams and assignments (medical and/or psycho-educational documentation is required); access to adaptive technology and software; note-taking assistance; and the provision of keys to wheelchair elevators and lifts on campus. The Centre also provides a liaison between students, faculty, staff and community organizations. Students can contact the Blundon Centre to request a copy of its student resource book.

University Bookstore

The Bookstore is located on the second floor of the Smallwood Centre (UC-2006). Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday to Friday, with extended hours at the start of each semester. In addition to course books, the Bookstore sells stationery, magazines, clothing and other supplies. The Bookstore also buys and sells selected textbooks.

Computing services

Memorial's campus computer network, MUNet, is among the most advanced of any educational institution in the world. More than 10,000 access points across campus provide e-mail and Internet access to all members of the University community. General access computer labs are located in the Queen Elizabeth II Library, the Henrietta Harvey Building, the Chemistry-Physics Building and the Computer Services Building.

Most academic units have computer facilities for the use of their students, including Internet access, printing and word-processing. For more information about computing facilities, contact Computing and Communications Help Centre in the Henrietta Harvey Building.

If you are interested in buying a computer system or software, inquire at the Computer Purchasing Centre, which offers reduced prices for students. It is located in Room CS-1000 of the Computing Services Building.

Computer and e-mail accounts

Every incoming student is given a free MUNet e-mail account for life. Memorial University communicates officially with students exclusively through their @mun.ca email address, so it is very important that you activate and monitor your email account as soon as possible. To set up

your account, or to receive information on how to use it, drop by Computing and Communications (HH 2012) or contact the Help Centre.

Lockers

Lockers may be acquired at the Answers office in the Smallwood Centre (UC-3005) before classes start or within the first week of classes. The cost is \$20 for the year, with a refund when the lock is returned - \$10 after one semester, \$7.50 after two semesters, and \$5 after three semesters.

Parking

Full-time, registered graduate students are eligible to apply for permits to park on campus in the designated student area 16A. Graduate students may apply for parking permits at any time during the period of May 1 to August 31. Normally, graduate students will purchase an annual permit at this time. A limited number of parking spaces will be held for late admissions and late arrivals for Fall semester. These will be allocated by the School of Graduate Studies on a first-come, first-serve basis and unused spaces will be returned to Campus Enforcement and Patrol for the second lottery. Because of limited space, no spaces will be held for Winter semester. Graduate students who do not obtain a permit through the above process are eligible to enter the lotteries in September, January and April. All graduate students will be considered to have 48 credit hours of eligibility for the lottery. Further information is available on *my.mun.ca*. Students with disabilities or medical problems will be considered on an individual basis at the time of application. All students are subject to parking regulations.

Campus card

The Campus Card is your student identification card, library card and debit card for photocopying. Campus Cards should be obtained from the Answers office (UC-3005) as soon as possible upon arrival to the university. You must be registered as a graduate student in order to receive a Campus Card.

Library carrels

Sixty-eight research rooms are available in the Queen Elizabeth II Library for use by graduate students. All full-time and part-time graduate students are eligible to apply for a carrel. Priority will be given to students who do not have access to appropriate work space within their own academic units or who are in the thesis-writing stage of their program. For information about obtaining a research carrel, contact the Circulation Desk at the Queen Elizabeth II Library.

Daycare for children

The MUNSU/Memorial Childcare Centre is located centrally on campus. Within one building are four self-contained child care centres, each staffed with qualified, experienced and caring professionals.

Programs are available for toddlers (age 2), full and part-time pre-schoolers (3-6), and school children (5-10). Registration is ongoing.

A listing of other daycare centres and nurseries is available in the Yellow Pages section of the telephone directory. Local daycare centres charge between \$20-\$40 per day, depending on your child's age and the type of care required. We recommend you research several daycare centres to compare the fees and reputation.

Schools for children

To enroll your child in school, contact the Eastern School District of Newfoundland and Labrador office. The School District will refer you to the principal of a school in your area. For your interview with the principal, you will need to bring your child's school records and medical information or a health certificate. You should contact the school board as soon as possible so that you can place your child in a school close to your home before the classes are full.

CANADIAN LAW AND YOU

All students (international and Canadian) studying in Newfoundland and Labrador have the same rights, privileges and freedoms that all Canadians enjoy under the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. With these rights and privileges come the responsibilities of abiding by Canadian law. International students face the same consequences as their Canadian counterparts if they break the law. Additionally, they risk deportation from Canada. It is up to every individual to become familiar with the laws of Canada. Ignorance of the law is not a defence in a Canadian criminal court.

As a graduate student of Memorial University, the GSU will provide you with one (1) hour of Legal Aid through a local law firm free of charge. If you have been accused of a crime, or you feel you have been wronged, contact the GSU office. If it is deemed appropriate to consult with the GSU lawyer, the GSU will pay for one (1) hour of consultation. All legal related inquiries are kept in the strictest confidence as governed by the GSU Constitution.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Historical background

The first people to settle North America crossed a land link from Asia during prehistoric times and, over a 5,000-year period, traveled from west to east across the continent. Aboriginal peoples have lived in what is now Newfoundland and Labrador for at least 9,000 years. The Inuit, Innu and Mi'kmaq people who live here today are the descendants of these first peoples.

The earliest Europeans to discover North America were Viking seafarers who landed at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, around the year 1000 CE. The Vikings set up dwellings, workshops and an iron-working smithy, but apparently decided against permanent settlement. In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian explorer, was commissioned by King Henry VII of England to set sail for the newly discovered lands of the west. He landed in present-day Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland, and laid claim to the "new found land" on behalf of England.

In the years following Cabot's discovery, Newfoundland was frequented by the Basques, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish — all of whom vied for control of the region's rich cod fishing grounds. However, it was not until the second half of the 18th century that a considerable population (consisting chiefly of English, Irish and French settlers) came to live permanently in Newfoundland. Today, about half of Newfoundland's island population lives in outports along the shoreline of the province. Although the place names recall the settlements' histories (Portugal Cove, Bay d'Espoir, Port aux Basques), the majority of Newfoundlanders have their ancestral roots in England and Ireland.

England granted Newfoundland representative government in 1832, and complete self-government in 1855. In 1934, Newfoundland converted to a commission government, administered by Newfoundland and English commissioners working under an English governor. Newfoundland and Labrador became Canada's tenth province in 1949.

St. John's: Then and now

St. John's, the capital of Canada's newest province and North America's oldest city, is a small safe city with a population of approximately 200,000. Located on the rocky coastline of the Avalon Peninsula, St. John's is surrounded by boreal forest and subarctic barrens, with beautiful and unpolluted rivers, lakes, and shorelines only minutes away. Recreational opportunities for fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing are plentiful in and around the city.

Downtown St. John's contains many colourful row houses, mostly built on steep hills sloping toward the harbour. Overlooking the harbour's entrance is Signal Hill, atop which stands Cabot

Tower. The tower, perhaps the city's most famous historic landmark, was built in 1897 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland, and was the site of the reception of the first transatlantic telegraph message in 1901. Other distinctive landmarks are scattered throughout the downtown area. The gothic-style Anglican Cathedral, the beautiful Roman Catholic Basilica, and the Colonial Building on Military Road (once the home of the Newfoundland government, now the Provincial Archives) are well worth visiting.

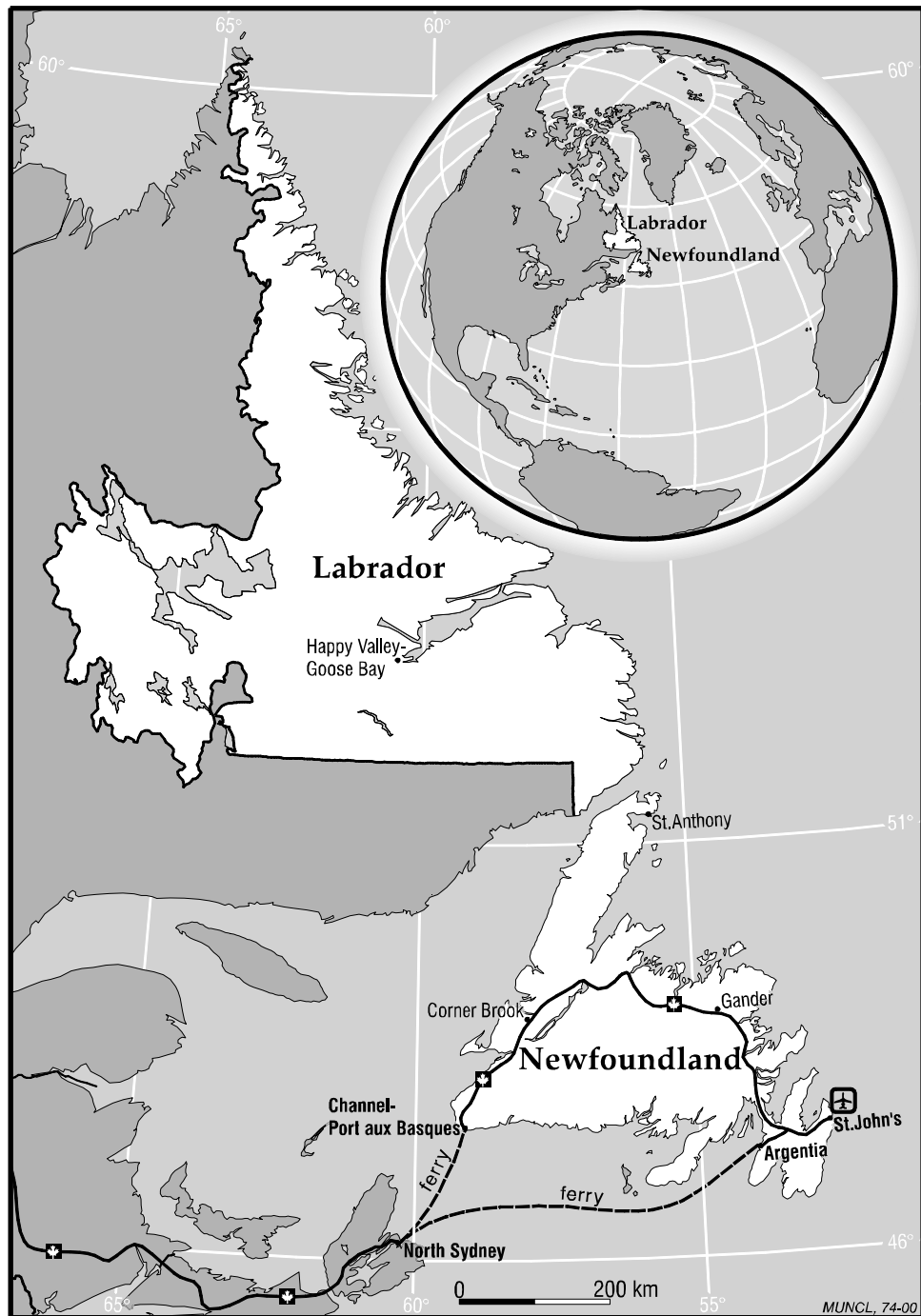
St. John's celebrates its cultural history through annual events such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival, a week-long outdoor music event held every August, and the St. John's Regatta, a rowing race that has been held every year since 1826. Newer "traditions" are the Christmas craft fair (held early December), the annual George Street Festival (five nights of

outdoor concerts in August), the St. John's International Women's Film and Video Festival (held every October) and the International Sound Symposium, held every second year in July.

MOVING TO ST. JOHN'S

Flying is generally the most convenient way to get to St. John's. Most international flights to St. John's arrive via Halifax, Toronto, Montreal and/or Vancouver. Be sure to compare prices between diverse routes before deciding, and book your flight at least one month in advance to get the best price. Avoid flights that arrive too late if you do not have assured accommodations. Many of the smaller hotels have arrival time deadlines, and even the on-campus residence offices close at 5 p.m.

Do not book your ticket for Toronto, Montreal or any other Canadian city and expect to buy a one-way ticket to St. John's once you reach Canada. It may be expensive if booked on short notice! When you buy your ticket, double check that you are booked to arrive in St. John's, Newfoundland, not Saint John, New Brunswick. The airport code for St. John's is YYT.



On arrival

St. John's International Airport is located about 5 km from the St. John's campus, and taxi service is available at a cost of approximately \$15 to \$20. If you wish to be met on arrival, notify your supervisor, the GSU, or, if applicable, the International Student Advising Office at least 14 days beforehand. Be sure to give your flight number and date and time of arrival.

Emergency funding

In the case of a financial emergency, graduate students may be eligible to receive an emergency loan upon arrival. The maximum amount available is \$500 and the money must be paid back within the current semester. You may apply for an emergency loan at any time during your graduate program.

Amenities

St. John's offers all the amenities of a modern city. Several major shopping centres are located close to campus. The Avalon Mall on Kenmount Road (20 minute walk from campus), the Village Mall on Topsail Road, and Water Street in the downtown core (a 20-30 minute walk from campus) offer a wide variety of food, clothing, and household stores. Churchill Square, only a 10-minute walk from Memorial University, offers a number of stores and services, including a drug store, several restaurants, and banks. In addition to these major centres, there are many restaurants and strip malls throughout the city.

While nearly everything you will need is available in St. John's, you may want to bring some supplies from home. Some students bring food items such as rice, wheat, salt, sugar, etc. from their home countries. This is quite unnecessary, as these things are available here at reasonable prices. There are a variety of ethnic shops, and nearly all supermarkets in St. John's sell a wide selection of cooking spices and supplies.

Climate

It is said that you can experience four seasons in one day in Newfoundland and Labrador. The local weather is governed chiefly by two ocean currents: the Labrador Current from the north and the Gulf Stream from the south. Depending on the temperature of the currents and the direction of the wind, the weather may be cool or warm, wet or clear or foggy. Although we have much precipitation, our sunny days are bright and smog-free.

The maritime climate makes Newfoundland temperatures less extreme than other regions in the country. In the summer, afternoon highs are in the low twenties, while evenings remain cool, especially in open areas. St. John's winters are also among the country's most moderate, with an average temperature of 0°C. Throughout the winter months of December, January, February and

March, mild days punctuate periods of snow and/or freezing rain, often with icy results. High winds and blowing snow are common and with the wind chill factor the temperature can at times be uncomfortably cold. The spring months of April and May are usually cool and rainy; the autumn months are generally crisp and sunny.

Average Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highs (°C)	-1	-3	2	4	11	21	20	24	16	11	4	-2
Rain (cm)	4.04	6.48	9.04	4.90	6.60	8.66	1.42	9.19	8.38	12.3	20.7	5.08
Snow (cm)	43.9	73.9	65.0	53.6	30.5	—	—	—	—	—	41.9	67.6

Chart compiled by the GSU

Recommended clothing

Bring (or be prepared to buy) warm, water-resistant clothing. The fall and winter months call for a heavy winter coat, thick sweaters, lined boots, mittens (or warm, windproof gloves), scarves and hats. Winter coats should be well-insulated or lined. Suitable coats range in price from \$60 to \$400, and are available locally. If you are arriving in St. John's during the winter months, however, you should bring a coat and other warm clothes with you.

Since St. John's winters are usually wet, it is best to buy waterproof boots. If you buy leather boots, you should waterproof them with a silicon treatment (available at most shoe stores). Boots with thick treads provide a good grip on slippery sidewalks. In the spring and fall, a windbreaker (or water-proof jacket) and rain pants are recommended for walkers. Umbrellas are no match for the Newfoundland and Labrador wind, so make sure your jackets have hoods.

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

On campus

Memorial University provides a number of residences and apartment buildings for single and married students, but you must be registered as a full-time student to be eligible for residence.

Burton's Pond Apartments

The Burton's Pond Apartment complex, located on the eastern edge of the campus, houses 512 single students in four apartment buildings: Guy, Gilbert, Cartier and Cabot. A block of these

apartments are reserved for graduate students. Fifteen two-bedroom family units are contained in a fifth building, Baltimore Court. A service building, Corte Real, contains a laundry centre, mail boxes and the International Student Advising Office.

Each single student apartment can accommodate four students, each with a private bedroom, sharing a kitchen, living/dining room and bathroom. All apartments are fully furnished with the following:

Kitchen: refrigerator, stove, cutting board, fire extinguisher, kitchen table and four chairs

Bedrooms: mattress, built-in bed, built-in desk, shelves, study chair, study lamp, set of window curtains or vinyl blinds, closet

Household items: broom, dust pan, wet mop, mop bucket, toilet brush, shower curtain, plunger

Furniture: two tables 24" x 24", two two-seat chesterfields; two table lamps, one set of vinyl blinds.

Apartments are allotted by the date of application. You must submit an application for each semester and be registered as a full-time student for the entire period of occupancy.

Family accommodation in Baltimore Court is assigned according to a priority system. Check with the supervisor of Burton's Pond Apartments for more information.

Field Hall Residence

Field Hall is designed to meet the particular needs of graduate students. It is located on the north side of campus by Long Pond and Pippy Park. The building consists of four floors. The first level houses Bitters Restaurant and Lounge, which is owned and operated by the GSU. The second floor contains the GSU offices and departmental offices for students.

The top two floors contain 29 single rooms for graduate students. Each room measures about 18' x 12', and contains a single bed, a large desk, a dresser, a large book shelf, a two-seat chesterfield, a coffee table and a refrigerator. There is a large closet and ample storage space. Telephone, cable television and computer network hook-ups are available in each room.

The kitchen on each floor is equipped with two stoves, two sinks, a microwave and plenty of communal cupboard space. There are men's and women's washrooms and showers on each floor, as well as a TV room and a dining room. Laundry facilities are located in the basement, along with extra storage space for bikes, boxes and furniture.

Paton College

Paton College is the primary undergraduate residence on campus, and consists of men's, women's and co-ed houses. Paton College is no longer available to graduate students.

Off campus

The Off-Campus Housing (OCH) division of Memorial University provides information, web resources and programming to students of Memorial University who secure off-campus housing through their website.

Students can find regularly updated listings of rental accommodations in St. John's on the Off-Campus Housing website. Listings can be searched by proximity to campus, rental types and price.

Choosing a place to rent

You may want to secure temporary lodgings for your arrival. Your department, the GSU, or the International Student Advising Office may be able to assist you to find you a place or suggest where to look. Rent in St. John's is reasonable, but remember that heat costs can be high in winter and rent prices tend to increase close to campus. Newfoundland Power will provide information to prospective tenants on the previous year's heating costs for a given address.

Things to know before you rent:

- How much is the rent? Are heat, electricity, hot water and cable television included?
- Is it furnished? What appliances are provided? Do they work?
- What parking facilities are there?
- Is it insulated?
- Is a deposit required? How much?
- Is a lease required?
- Are there door and window locks?
- Are there smoke detectors and fire extinguishers?
- Are there any bugs or rodents?
- Is there enough heat in each room?

For boarders:

- Are meals included?
- What are the kitchen privileges?
- Are there any visitor restrictions?
- Are there any curfews?

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