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UQ Program: Bachelors of Arts/Laws

When I first started organizing my exchange to McGill University I had no idea it would end up being one of the best decisions of my life. As a 3rd year Arts/Law student majoring in Psychology, I was looking to do something a little different in my degree, and exchange seemed the perfect solution. Whether I was enjoying the local music at TamTams on Mont Royal, strolling through the street markets near St Laurent or sampling the many different restaurants and bars scattered across the Plateau, it was impossible to get bored in a city as vibrant and multicultural as Montreal.

While it can be daunting choosing which university to go to, and which subjects to enroll in, I can't stress enough how much it's worth it in the end. I chose McGill because of the large psychology department and amazing student life, but the courses can fill up very quickly, so try and sign up online as soon as you can. Saving your electives for exchange also allows you much more flexibility and usually means you can pick up courses in Canadian History or French (always helpful when living in the second largest French-speaking city in the world).

Top 5 Tips for exchange in Montreal:

1. Live close to university! You may end up paying a little more in rent, but most McGill students live in suburbs such as the McGill Ghetto and the Plateau, and the convenience is definitely worth the extra price.
2. Shop around for mobile phone plans. I wasted a lot of money using pre-paid SIM cards with Rogers before I found a much cheaper student plan on Fido.
3. Join the international student society (MISN). It's a great way to meet other exchange students through pub-crawls, BBQ's, club and movie nights as well as trips away to the US and other parts of Canada.
4. Explore the city – Montreal is a great place for concerts, community events and festivals, so there's no excuse not to get out and experience everything that is on offer. The summer Jazz and Comedy Festivals are some of the best in the world and are also a good reason to visit Montreal in the summer as well.
5. Just go! The places you'll see and the people you'll meet are guaranteed to make exchange an unforgettable experience.

Apple picking just outside Montreal

