



Office of Community Engagement: Student Guide



BRIGHTER WORLD

PATHS TO COLLABORATION: A STUDENT GUIDE TO WORKING WITH MCMaster'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This guide has been created to provide clarity on the role that McMaster's Office of Community Engagement plays to connect the McMaster and Hamilton community as we learn how to work together to contribute to the public good.

This guide is for you if you are a **McMaster student** interested in learning how you can get involved with the Hamilton community during your time at McMaster.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Community engagement at McMaster University values the expert knowledge and passion that members of the community (from local to global) have about their communities and issues affecting them; it fosters ongoing collaboration between University and community partners on how to better understand and consider the issues identified as priorities by local and global communities. Community engagement at McMaster involves performing research, teaching and service for or with community members and partners for the public good.

WHAT DOES THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DO?

With a wide range of expertise, our staff are a resource for making connections in the McMaster and Hamilton communities and offer research, education, and service opportunities.

If you have ideas about a specific project or initiative, we can help you move them into action by creating opportunities to build relationships, share knowledge, and to ultimately make a difference through your work. We also support programs that enable experiential education both on- and off-campus to help you develop your network, skills, and learning outside the classroom.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED WITH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Whether through a volunteer opportunity, course, practicum placement, service learning opportunity, or otherwise, there are many ways that students can get involved in and learn about community engagement while studying at McMaster.

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Action-oriented principles of community engagement were co-developed between community and campus partners to provide a framework for how to work together. The principles include: **Relationships, Reciprocity, Equity, Continuity, Openness to Learning, & Commitment to Act**. The primary goal of McMaster's community engagement strategy is to establish these principles as the foundation of community-campus partnerships. Embedding these principles in your work and volunteer activities will help you strive to ensure your partnerships benefit the communities you are working with.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

YOU CAN PURSUE THE MINOR IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TAKE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Designed to provide a foundation of knowledge and skills for participation in communities regardless of one's primary field of study, the **Interdisciplinary Minor in Community Engagement** allows you to deepen and expand your understanding of communities and develop skills for principled and effective engagement. You are required to take **CMTYENGA 2A03** and 21 additional units from the three course lists that include theory, experiential, and capstone courses. With over 110 courses from all six Faculties, you can learn about diverse disciplines related to community engagement and focus on any area that is of interest to you or relevant to your future career. Learn more about the minor online: https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/preview_program.php?catoid=38&poiid=20885&returnto=8072

YOU CAN APPLY TO CITYLAB SEMESTER IN RESIDENCE

Offered each fall semester, CityLAB Semester in Residence is a 15-unit course designed for passionate, motivated, and enthusiastic students. If you want to learn from the community, apply your studies to make change, and expand your personal and professional networks then this course is for you! Students and staff from the City of Hamilton co-create and design an innovative real-world project to address the problem, gaining valuable insight and data that can be shared and potentially scaled up. Students in any faculty from McMaster are welcome to apply. Learn more about CityLAB and past student projects at www.citylabhamilton.com.

We recommend that you speak with an academic advisor as soon as possible to see how you can incorporate the CityLAB courses into your program requirements. Applications are due online each year on May 15.

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITH THE MCMASTER RESEARCH SHOP

The McMaster Research Shop works with public, non-profit, and community organizations in Hamilton to provide plain-language answers to research questions.

Want to learn new research skills or apply what you know to a community-identified question or need? Volunteer with the Research Shop! You will have the opportunity to work in a small team over the course of the semester (typically for 5 hours/week).

¹ Students can also participate in CityLAB through 3- or 6-unit courses offered at McMaster. Please reach out to Jay Carter at cartej5@mcmaster.ca to find out more.

WHY VOLUNTEER WITH THE RESEARCH SHOP?

- Work with colleagues from across disciplines
- Make connections with community organizations in Hamilton
- Learn firsthand about the challenges facing today's public and non-profit organizations
- Translate your academic training to solve practical, pressing issues
- Build your CV and portfolio
- Receive a statement of professional learning in the form of a reference letter or certificate.

Graduate students or senior level undergraduates (level 3 or 4) are eligible to apply. Find out more information or fill out an application online: <https://community.mcmaster.ca/research/research-shop/#tab-content-volunteering>

YOU CAN EXPLORE OTHER CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Check out our website (<https://community.mcmaster.ca/students/>) for other programs available for students including MacChangers, McMaster Child & Youth University, and Community Volunteer Circles.

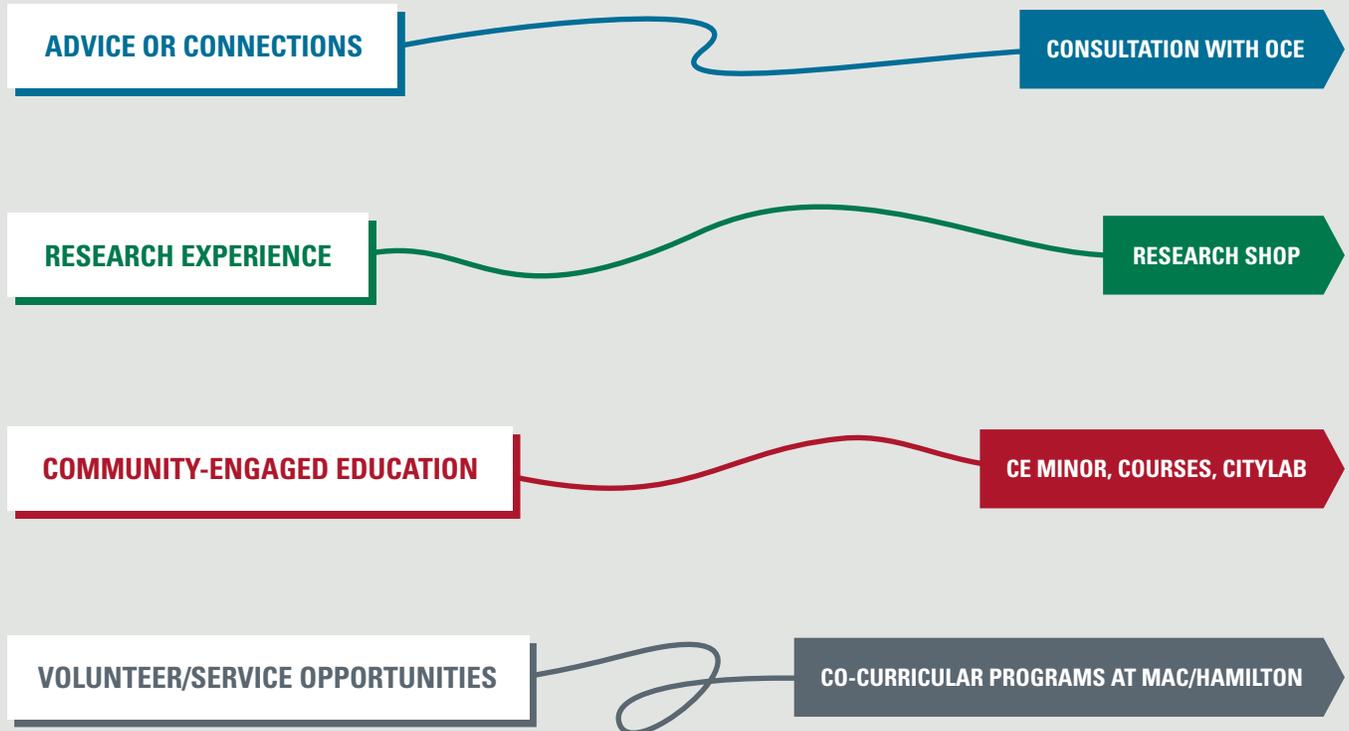
HOW CAN I CONNECT?

If you'd like to talk to someone about the CE Minor or undergraduate courses, you can email Jay Carter (cartej5@mcmaster.ca). If you are interested in volunteering with the Research Shop, please connect with rshop@mcmaster.ca.

DAILY NEWS EVENT CALENDAR

McMaster's Daily News event calendar is a great way to learn about upcoming events in the McMaster community. Learn more online: www.dailynews.mcmaster.ca/calendar

WHAT DO YOU NEED? HERE'S A PATH TO GET YOU THERE:



CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE

SOCIAL MEDIA & NEWSLETTER

We share updates about what's going on at McMaster and in the Hamilton community! To stay in the loop, follow us on social media (@McMasterCE) or visit our website (www.community.mcmaster.ca) to subscribe to our newsletter.



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