McMaster Fast Facts

OUR MISSION:
At McMaster, our purpose is the discovery, communication and preservation of knowledge. In our teaching, research and scholarship, we are committed to creativity, innovation and excellence. We value integrity, quality, inclusiveness and teamwork in everything we do. We inspire critical thinking, personal growth and a passion for lifelong learning. We serve the social, cultural and economic needs of our community and our society.

OUR HISTORY
• Founded in 1887 in Toronto through a bequest from Senator William McMaster, a member of the first senate after Confederation, founding president of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and chair of the Great Western Railway.
• Relocated from Toronto to Hamilton in 1930.
• Maroon and grey were adopted as the official colours in 1912.

OUR STRENGTHS
• A medical-doctoral, research-intensive university dedicated to teaching, research and service.
• Ranked in the world’s top 80 by the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022.
• Ranked 14th in the world in Times Higher Education’s University Impact Rankings 2021, based on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.
• Winner of the 2018 Global Teaching Excellence Award from the Higher Education Academy for our strengths in experiential learning and our commitment to global engagement.
• Named Canada’s most research-intensive university by Research Infosource four years in a row: 2017-2020.
• The McMaster Model, a problem-based, student-centred approach to learning, has been adopted worldwide.
• Home to more than 70 research centres and institutes.
• More than 70 international exchange agreements.
• The only North American host site of a United Nations University, the Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).
• World-class athletic facilities; National women’s basketball champions (2019) and national football champions (2011).

OUR STUDENTS
• 31,533 undergraduates and 4,917 graduate students, for a total student population of 36,450.
• In the 2019/2020 academic year, 16% of all McMaster students were international, up 3% from the previous year, from 120 countries.

OUR ALUMNI
• More than 200,000 alumni represent over 140 countries.
• Cabinet ministers, business leaders, scientists, university presidents, Hollywood actors, Olympians, astronauts.
• Nobel laureates: Bertram Brockhouse (professor emeritus), co-winner of the 1994 Nobel Prize for Physics; alumnus Myron Scholes, co-winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Economics; alumnus James Orbinski, then international president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), accepted the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize for MSF; alumna Donna Strickland, co-winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize for Physics.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF
• 1,050 full-time instructional faculty members (excluding clinical educators).
• Outpacing peers in research intensity, averaging $404,000 per faculty member — more than double the national average. ("Research intensity" measures research income per full-time faculty member.)
• 118 endowed chairs, 88 Canada Research Chairs, 13 endowed professorships, six Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Industrial Research Chairs, two Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chairs, two Ontario Research Chairs, and one Canada 150 Research Chair.
• Selected as a Hamilton-Niagara Top Employer for the past five years in a row.
• Recognized as one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers 2019, 2020 and 2021.
• Employing more than 11,500 people in 10 employee groups.

OUR CAMPUS AND LOCATION
• 300 acres of scenic property with 30 acres designated as a central core pedestrian campus.
• Explore the natural beauty in McMaster’s own backyard at mcmaster.ca/nature/.
• Four libraries, an athletics complex, a research reactor, a planetarium, and the McMaster Museum of Art.
• Regional campuses in Burlington, Kitchener-Waterloo, Niagara, and downtown Hamilton.