



**NEW**  
to **SMU**

**2023-2024**



**Saint Mary's  
University**

# Connect

with us at [smu.ca/newtosmu](https://smu.ca/newtosmu) or  
by emailing [welcome@smu.ca](mailto:welcome@smu.ca).




**Saint Mary's University** acknowledges that the university operates on the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq nation. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik peoples first signed with the British crown in 1725.

The Treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship.

# Index

<u>Welcome to Saint Mary's</u> .....	5
<u>New to SMU</u> .....	6
<u>The University Classroom</u> .....	8
<u>Student Checklist</u> .....	15
<u>Get Involved in Student Life</u> .....	16
<u>Looking Forward: Important Dates</u> .....	18
<u>Staying Connected</u> .....	21
<u>Your Campus</u> .....	22







# WELCOME

## to the Saint Mary's University!

You're about to embark on an exciting journey, joining the ranks of 53,000 alumni. Our entire community is here to support and cheer you on as you dive into your academic journey.

During your time at SMU you'll learn invaluable life lessons. You'll develop critical thinking skills, conquer challenges, embrace diverse perspectives, and make global connections. These skills will stay with you long after your university years.

This guide is your go-to resource for a successful university experience. It's filled with tips, advice, and resources that will accompany you throughout your time at SMU. From new learning methods to cutting-edge technologies, we encourage you to explore and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving world.

At SMU, we understand that your university experience goes beyond academics. That's why we offer a range of opportunities and support services to ensure your well-being and personal growth. Discover more at [smu.ca/studentlife](https://smu.ca/studentlife) and access the support you need.

As new students from around the world come together, we're privileged to have you contribute to our vibrant community. Enjoy this exciting experience, make lasting memories, and embrace the rich diversity around you. Welcome to Saint Mary's University! Get ready for an unforgettable journey, supported by a community that is thrilled to have you on board!



2023-24

# NEW to SMU

Becoming a student at Saint Mary's is a **big life** change.

**Register for  
Welcome Weeks  
events and activities!**

[smu.ca/newtosmu](https://smu.ca/newtosmu)

## **Make a great start.**

Becoming a student at Saint Mary's is a big moment of your life, with lots to explore and consider. The New to SMU program will help you to make friends, learn how to be a successful university student, get connected to campus, and have fun!

**Whether you live on or off-campus,** New to SMU welcome events and activities will help you learn how the university works, provide you with tips for academic success, and help you meet new people.

## **Transfer Students**

Students transferring to SMU for the first time from another university or college can also benefit from our New to SMU program. Learning about the specific resources at Saint Mary's will be helpful for your continued success in your studies. This is also a great opportunity to meet other transfer students and make friends. Transfer students can also connect with a Peer Success Coach for additional support and guidance.

## Peer Success Coaching Program

All new students are automatically assigned a Peer Success Coach, an upper-year student who is dedicated to guiding new students through their transition to university life. Peer Coaches offer a student perspective, helping you adjust to university life and academics, access campus resources, problem-solve and set goals, and get involved on campus. Just check your email or contact us at [peercoaching@smu.ca](mailto:peercoaching@smu.ca) to connect with your Coach.

### Program Details

- All new SMU students are assigned a Peer Success Coach automatically. No registration needed! Just check your email or contact us at [peercoaching@smu.ca](mailto:peercoaching@smu.ca) to connect with your Coach.
- Meet with your Coach anytime during the semester to check-in, discuss any questions or just to chat!
- Book appointments with your Coach anytime during the semester to discuss your questions and topics.
- Enjoy one-on-one sessions with your Coach for personalized support.

### Peer Success Coaches' Tips for Success

- Use the many campus resources available to support your academics including the Writing Centre, Learning Skills & Strategies workshops, and the academic advisors.
- Get involved on campus! There is something for everyone - societies, teams and events for diverse interests.
- Talk to your professors in their office hours for extra academic support.
- Surround yourself with motivating individuals who inspire you.
- Access on-campus supports for mental and physical well-being when you need it. Remember, it's okay to ask for help.
- Stay connected with your friends and family while taking time to introduce yourself and meet new people in your classes and on campus activities.



# The University Classroom

**A few things to know:**

## Self Service Banner

**YOUR A#**

This is your Banner Self-Service username and allows you to register for courses, view your schedule, and access your exam schedule. It begins with letter A and is followed by eight digits (ex. A12345678).

**YOUR S#**

This is your technology number used to access various online services like SMUport, Brightspace, Wi-Fi, and campus computers. It begins with the letter s and is followed by seven digits (ex. s1234567). You can get yours by visiting [activate.smu.ca](http://activate.smu.ca)

## Taking classes

Courses at university can move through topics very quickly. Be sure to attend class to help you stay on top of your work and what's happening in each course. For every hour of lecture, you can expect to do 2-3 hours of work outside of class - depending on the course.

### Brightspace

is the on-line learning management system (LMS) students use at Saint Mary's. You'll log in to Brightspace using your s# and see a module for each course. Within these modules, you can communicate with your classmates and professor, read the course outline, access course work, and submit your assignments and tests.

**Connect with your professors, TAs, and peers to engage with your learning!**



For **Brightspace** support visit [studio.smu.ca/sas](http://studio.smu.ca/sas)



# Support resources for your learning

## Learning Skills and Strategies Support

Build your skills and strategies to help you become a more effective student! Meet with a Learning Skills Strategist for one-on-one coaching, join a Learning Skills Workshop, or connect with academic supports and other students at Study Hall to explore approaches to boost your academic performance. Go to [smu.ca/studentsuccess](https://smu.ca/studentsuccess) or email [studentsuccess@smu.ca](mailto:studentsuccess@smu.ca)

## Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides support to students in all fields of study. We can help you understand assignment instructions, map out your paper, avoid academic integrity mistakes, master a variety of writing techniques and even work on your presentation skills. Visiting the writing centre will help you become a more confident and effective writer and communicator.

## Patrick Power Library | [smu.ca/library](https://smu.ca/library)

Using the Library is an important skill for every university student. SMU's friendly librarians and staff will help you find, use, and evaluate information effectively and ethically and help you build your research skills and write informed papers. SMU Students, faculty, and staff can access the Library research guides and most databases anytime day or night. As a new student, we highly recommend exploring [smu.ca/library](https://smu.ca/library) to learn about the Library's resources, services, and expert help. Using the library's services and resources early and often will improve your academic experience.

**SMUSA Tutor Database** provides a list of tutors for various subjects. Tutors have a minimum of an A- (80%) in the courses they are tutoring in. Tutoring rates vary between tutors. Visit [smusa.ca/services/tutor-database](https://smusa.ca/services/tutor-database) for more information and to find a tutor.

## The SNAP Centre (Science Numeracy and Academic Proficiency)

The SNAP Centre provides free peer-tutoring support for students enrolled in first-year Science courses, and some second-year Science courses too. Get help from students who have excelled in courses that you're taking right now. [snap@smu.ca](mailto:snap@smu.ca)



# Student Support and Student Life

**Need help but unsure where to start?**

## Academic Support

Connect with your **Academic Advisor!** Contact information for Advisors in each faculty can be found online at [smu.ca/academics/academic-advising](https://smu.ca/academics/academic-advising)

Develop your learning and study skills, with a Learning Skills Strategist! Located in the O'Donnell Hennesey Student Centre 301, contact [studentsuccess@smu.ca](mailto:studentsuccess@smu.ca) or visit [smu.ca/studentsuccess](https://smu.ca/studentsuccess)

## Services for Students

### Black Student Support

[studentservices@smu.ca](mailto:studentservices@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/blackstudent/welcome](https://smu.ca/blackstudent/welcome) |

Located in O'Donnell Hennesey Student Centre 301 | Black and African Descended Student Support | Saint Mary's University ([smu.ca](https://smu.ca))

The Black Student Advisor (BSA) is a support for students that provides guidance and connection to the larger Black and African Nova Scotian community. The BSA works with faculty, staff, and stakeholders within SMU, to ensure Black Students have effective supports, programs, activities, and resources, throughout their student experience.

### Indigenous Student Advisor

[indigenous.advisor@smu.ca](mailto:indigenous.advisor@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/indigenous-community](https://smu.ca/indigenous-community) |

Located in Burke 114 | Indigenous Community | Saint Mary's University ([smu.ca](https://smu.ca))

The Indigenous Student Advisor, supports and engages Indigenous students at Saint Mary's University. They help you understand the many supports and opportunities available to you as an Indigenous student.

## **International Student Centre**

**[international.centre@smu.ca](mailto:international.centre@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/international/the-international-centre](http://smu.ca/international/the-international-centre) | Located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre**

Whether you need an airport pick-up, help renewing your student permit, or someone to do your taxes, our International Student Centre can help you adjust to life on the east coast of Canada.

## **Career & Experiential Learning**

**[cel@smu.ca](mailto:cel@smu.ca) | Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre**

Saint Mary's Career and Experiential Learning provides all students and recent alumni with the ability to expand their understanding of self, academic direction, and career planning. This is achieved through professional career counselling, job search skill development, innovative programming, experiential opportunities, and industry and employer connectivity.

## **Fred Smithers Centre for Student Accessibility**

**[fredsmithers.centre@smu.ca](mailto:fredsmithers.centre@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/student-life/fred-smithers-centre](http://smu.ca/student-life/fred-smithers-centre) | Located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre**

Saint Mary's University provides accommodations to students with disabilities through the Fred Smithers Centre for Student Accessibility. Various services are available to help students achieve their academic and career goals.

## **Residence Life**

**About Us | [Housing & Residence](#) | Saint Mary's University ([smu.ca](http://smu.ca)) [residence.housing@smu.ca](mailto:residence.housing@smu.ca) | Located in Loyola 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

Residence life coordinates a variety of social and educational programs throughout the academic year to engage students in a shared residence community. These events promote inter-cultural sharing and help connect residents to build a sense of community.

## **Student Success Centre**

[studentsuccess@smu.ca](mailto:studentsuccess@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/newtosmu/student-success](http://smu.ca/newtosmu/student-success) |

Located in Student Centre 301

The Student Success Centre provides services and resources that help new and continuing students make the most of university experience to achieve their goals. Our programs include; New to SMU, Peer Success Coaching, Student Life and Leadership development, Learning skills support and much more. Come see us!

## **Health and Wellness**

### **Counselling Centre**

[smu.ca/student-life/the-counselling-centre](http://smu.ca/student-life/the-counselling-centre) | [counselling@smu.ca](mailto:counselling@smu.ca) |

Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

As a Saint Mary's student, you can access free confidential counselling, mental health services, and opportunities to support your wellbeing.

### **Student Health Services**

[smu.ca/healthclinic/index](http://smu.ca/healthclinic/index) | [student.services@smu.ca](mailto:student.services@smu.ca) |

Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

Our dedicated team offers family practice services to Canadian and international Saint Mary's students up to one year after graduation.

### **Student Health Plan Office**

[studentvip.ca/Default.aspx](http://studentvip.ca/Default.aspx) | [healthplan.smusa@smu.ca](mailto:healthplan.smusa@smu.ca) |

Located in O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre room 522

The SMUSA Health Plan office is here to help you with making claims, opting out of the plans, enrolling dependents, accessing your plan card, picking up prescriptions or cheques, and answering your questions about the plans!

### **Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness**

[smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/index](http://smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/index) | [info.athletics@smu.ca](mailto:info.athletics@smu.ca) |

Athletics and Recreation, Saint Mary's University

Students can participate in varsity athletics, club sports and intramurals, while the SMUfit fitness programs and facilities are open to students, faculty, staff and the community.



### **SMU Community Food Room**

**[food.room@smu.ca](mailto:food.room@smu.ca)** | Located in O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre 526

SMU's on-campus food bank offering safe, nutritious, personally acceptable food. Appointments available once per week.

### **Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA)**

**[smusa.ca](http://smusa.ca)** | **[karla.hodge@smu.ca](mailto:karla.hodge@smu.ca)** | O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **Husky Patrol**

Call: 902-496-8713 | Located at SMUSA Information Desk | 1st Floor O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

**Student ID is required.**

# Early Assist

Designed to support students who may encounter setbacks or challenges that could put their academic goals and success at risk, Early Assist connects students to resources when they need them the most.

## **What is Early Assist?**

Universities are big organizations, and knowing where to turn to for help is not always clear. The Early Assist program can tell you about campus resources, help you figure out which support works for you, and help you develop a plan for accessing help.

When a faculty member identifies concerns about your academic progress or wellbeing, they may submit an alert through Early Assist. An alert goes to the Early Assist team to contact you and connect you with the support you need.

## **Am I in trouble if I receive an alert?**

No, receiving an alert is not a punishment. At Saint Mary's University, we pay attention and when we see an opportunity to help, we will! An alert is submitted by a Professor/Instructor to Early Assist when there is an opportunity to offer you support.

## **What should I do if I receive an alert?**

Just respond to the Early Assist team member that reaches out to you! Book an appointment or connect through email to ensure you know about the campus resources available to you, including advising, support services, and academic skills coaching.

## **Will an alert impact my Academic Record?**

No, Early Assist is not a way for the University to track or keep information about you; it is a tool used to help you succeed. Early Assist is not connected to your academic record and your information is protected under Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP).

# NEW student checklists

Before

Classes

Begin

- ✓ **Get on the system!** Set up your SMU account by obtaining an “s number” and gain access to SMUport and Brightspace.
- ✓ **Join a society** based on your interests by checking out the list of active groups.
- ✓ **Contact your Academic Advisor** if you have questions about course options.
- ✓ **Apply for your student ID** by searching ‘ID’ on [smu.ca](http://smu.ca)
- ✓ **Visit the Campus Bookstore** to purchase your textbooks, great SMU clothing, and swag!
- ✓ **Get the low down on money** – connect with the Service Centre for scholarship, student loan, and other financial information.
- ✓ **Students with need of academic accommodations** are encouraged to contact the Fred Smithers Centre to discuss their needs.
- ✓ **International students should contact** the International Student Centre to complete additional tasks before your studies begin.
- ✓ **Be familiar** with the Code of Student Conduct and the Sexual Violence Policy.
- ✓ **Check the expiration date** on your provincial health card and renew it if needed.
- ✓ **Learn about the health plan** and download your plan card(s) on the Student VIP website. Students may be eligible to opt-out of the health plan during the opt-out period. Dependents can also be added to the plan(s) for an extra fee during this period. Contact [healthplan.smu@smu.ca](mailto:healthplan.smu@smu.ca) with questions or to learn more.
- ✓ **Be present in your classes!** Try introducing yourself to professors, TAs, and a few classmates.
- ✓ **Get organized and prepare you schedule** – find your class times and locations in Self Service Banner, and check your course syllabus for important dates and deadlines.
- ✓ **Pay your tuition fees** through the Service Centre.
- ✓ **Pick up your Halifax Transit U-Pass** through SMUSA. Students may be eligible to opt-out of the U-Pass and must opt-out during the opt-out period.
- ✓ **Register and attend** New to SMU events and activities
- ✓ **Book an appointment** with your Peer Success Coach.

Visit [smu.ca/newtosmu](http://smu.ca/newtosmu) for the full student checklists complete with links.

# ► Get Involved in Student Life

Learning is not restricted to classes or to a textbook. By joining a campus society, participating in extra-curricular activities or volunteering, you will learn new skills, improve self-esteem, meet other students with similar interests, and develop a more fulfilling, balanced student life.



**Here are some ways that you can get involved at SMU:**



## Societies

Round out your university experience by joining one of the many SMUSA student societies. By joining a group of students who share similar interests, you'll quickly make friends and connections with the potential to endure long after your university years. Visit the SMUSA website to see the list of active societies: [smusa.ca/smusasocieties/joinasociety](https://smusa.ca/smusasocieties/joinasociety)



## Leadership

Saint Mary's offers many events and opportunities to support students on their leadership journey including our Annual Leadership Conference. Learn more by visiting [smu.ca/student-life/gettinginvolved](https://smu.ca/student-life/gettinginvolved)



## Residence Life

Residence Life provides a home for students to participate in interactive events and build lifelong memories. Residence Life coordinates a variety of leadership opportunities such as Residence Assistants, and committees for social and educational programming. Find out ways to get involved with the residence community by visiting: [smu.ca/student-life/cl-residence-life](https://smu.ca/student-life/cl-residence-life)





## Student Employment

There are many different student employment positions on campus that provide valuable work experience and are paid positions that fit your schedule. Visit our job portal Career360 to see the latest job and volunteering opportunities available.



## Club Sports

The Club Sports program at Saint Mary's University is designed to provide additional opportunities for individuals interested in a specific sport to develop and improve their skills, by participating recreationally or competitively in league play on and off campus. Learn more by visiting [smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/student-club-sports](https://smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/student-club-sports)



## Events

SMU hosts many activities and events throughout the academic year. Students are encouraged to learn about the many things happening in the SMU community. You can check out the full calendar of events online by visiting [smu.ca/student-life/studentlifeeventscalendar](https://smu.ca/student-life/studentlifeeventscalendar)



## The Co-Curricular Record

The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) helps you record and verify out-of-class experiences and capture skills on an official university verified document, which can be used when applying for future involvement or job opportunities. You can also discover various co-curricular and volunteer opportunities by visiting [career360.smu.ca](https://career360.smu.ca)



# Looking forward

The Calendar of Events outlines upcoming important dates for the Saint Mary's University community. Here is a sample of the calendar of events for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. For a complete and up-to-date list, visit

[smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/calendar-events](https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/calendar-events)

## Important Dates

Here is a sample of some of the major dates for the winter semester. For a complete and up-to-date list, visit [smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/calendar-events](https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/calendar-events)

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **First Day** of Classes for Fall Term

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **Last day** for registering and changing courses in the Fall Term

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **Last day** for dropping courses in the Fall Term & Last day for final payment of Fall Term tuition fees.

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Course withdrawal partial refund dates  
[smu.ca/academics/course-withdrawal-dates-and-deadlines](https://smu.ca/academics/course-withdrawal-dates-and-deadlines)

**November 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Break

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Last day for withdrawing without academic penalty, from 3 credit hour or 6 credit hour courses taught only in the Fall Term & Last day for applying for Pass/No Credit

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Exams begin

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** - Exams end

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup>** - University Closed

**January  
8<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **First Day** of  
Classes for  
Fall Term

**January  
12<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **Last day** for  
registering  
and changing  
courses in the  
Winter Term

**January  
17<sup>th</sup>**

▶ **Last day** for dropping  
courses in the Winter  
Term & Last day for  
final payment of Winter  
Term tuition fees.

**January 17<sup>th</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Course withdrawal partial refund  
dates [smu.ca/academics/  
course-withdrawal-dates-  
and-deadlines](http://smu.ca/academics/course-withdrawal-dates-and-deadlines)

**February 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Winter Break

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Last day for withdrawing without  
academic penalty, from 3 credit  
hour or 6 credit hour courses  
taught only in the Winter Term &  
Last day for applying for Pass/No  
Credit

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Exams Begin

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Exams End



# WE CAN!



# Staying connected

Our student services and academic support are being delivered every day, and we are adding new tools and resources to meet your needs and help you overcome challenges. Our [smu.ca](http://smu.ca) website is home to all updates about operations and provides many answers to questions. Updated regularly, visit [smu.ca](http://smu.ca) for more information.

We encourage you to review our academic integrity regulations outlined in the academic calendar, [smu.ca/student-life/studentlifeeventscalendar](http://smu.ca/student-life/studentlifeeventscalendar)

## Follow the big 5 social media accounts

- › [SMU\\_studentlife](#)
  - › [SMUreshfx](#)
  - › [SMUHalifax](#)
  - › [SMUSAhfx](#)
  - › [Your Faculty](#)
  - › [SMUhfxfibrary](#)
- (SMArts\_SMU; SobeySchool\_SMU; SMUScience)

## Important Sites for New Students

**Student news** | [smu.ca/student-news](http://smu.ca/student-news)

**Student Life** | [smu.ca/student-life](http://smu.ca/student-life)

**Events on Campus** | [news.smu.ca/upcoming](http://news.smu.ca/upcoming)

**Parents and Supporters** | [smu.ca/newtosmu/information-for-parents-and-supporters](http://smu.ca/newtosmu/information-for-parents-and-supporters)

**Financial Aid and Awards** | [smu.ca/academics/financial-aid-and-awards](http://smu.ca/academics/financial-aid-and-awards)

**Alert Information** | [smu.ca/alert](http://smu.ca/alert)

**Parking on Campus** | [smu.ca/about/facilities-parking](http://smu.ca/about/facilities-parking)

# YOUR CAMPUS



*Get to know our buildings and spaces,*  
for when you come to campus!

- **AT** Atrium
- **AG** Art Gallery
- **B** Burke Building
- **C** Dockside Cafeteria
- **DC** Dauphinee Centre
- **EL** Extended Learning
- **HC** Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness
- **HS** Huskies Stadium-Turf
- **LA** Loyola Academic Complex
- **LC** Language Centre
- **LR** Loyola Residence



To access the campus map visit [smu.ca](http://smu.ca)

- **MM** McNally Main
- **MN** McNally North
- **MS** McNally South
- **PPL** Patrick Power Library
- **Q** Quad
- **RR** Rice Residence
- **S** Science Building
- **SB** Sobey Building
- **SC** O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre (Food Court & Gorsebrook)
- **VR** Vanier Residence



Gender Neutral Washrooms

welcome@smu.ca  
smu.ca/newtosmu



Saint Mary's  
University

**smusa**

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION