

How to get involved?

- Attending union assemblies
- Joining a committee or working group, check website for details
- Stand as a delegate for your department

Find out more about the union and meet other members at our upcoming events:

Aug 23: Delegates Council Meeting (RSVP online)

Join for discussion of issues affecting TAs and invigilators at McGill.

Aug 24: AGSEM table at the Grad Services Fair (Redpath Hall) and the PGSS Open House (Thomson House)

Come & chat to representatives from the union!

Aug 29: AGSEM table at the Mac Campus Open House

Come & chat to representatives from the union!

Aug 30: Back-to-School Rally, 11:00-13:00 corner of McTavish & Sherbrooke

Come celebrate the first day of school for what promises to be AGSEM's biggest term in years: No More Free Hours, TA bargaining, and more.

Sept 12: TA Assembly (RSVP online)

Join to hear reports from Bargaining Committee and Equity and Diversity Committee, and make important decisions for our negotiations for a new TA Collective Agreement. Location TBA

Want more Information?

Keep an eye on your McGill email, as this is where AGSEM will send updates about what the union has been working on and upcoming events

You can always reach out to the union delegate in your department if you ever have any questions

Other information can be found at our website agsem.ca



AGSEM Office Address:
3641 rue University, suite 207
Montréal, Québec H3A 2B3

**Please note that our office is unfortunately not wheelchair accessible.*

Email: mail@agsem-aedem.ca

Website: agsem.ca

Graduate Work at McGill and Your Rights as an International Student



The Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM)

L'Association des étudiant.e.s diplômé.e.s employé.e.s de McGill (AÉÉDEM)



Unions in Canada and Your Rights as an International Student



Unions are legal entities in Canada and anyone working in Canada is legally able to be covered by a union and sign a union card without fear of reprisal, **including international students at McGill working as a TA or Invigilator.**

The goal of a union is to help employees by empowering workers to come together to negotiate fair wages and benefits, safe workplaces, and decent work hours that are governed and protected by a collective bargaining agreement. Unions are governed by constitutions, bylaws, and other rules accessible to and changeable by the membership at regularly held meetings.

What is AGSEM?

Accredited in 1993, the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) is the oldest Teaching Assistant Union in the province of Quebec. As a labour union, AGSEM represents TAs and Invigilators at McGill. We are dedicated to improving the quality of education at McGill for both graduate and undergraduate students by advocating for increased teaching support and student services.



AGSEM is an autonomous union affiliated with the CSN, FNEEQ and CCMM. Unlike other labour organizations, these are not “parent unions”: all decision-making takes place at the local level. Our highest decision-making body is the General Assembly, where every member has an equal vote and right to speak.

Like McGill, AGSEM is an organization heavily comprised of international students. This is reflected by many positions in the union being held by international students.

Our Collective Agreements with McGill

A Collective Agreement (CA) is the shared work contract for all of the employees a Labour Union represents in a bargaining unit. The CA defines your rights as a worker, other than those contained in provincial and federal law.

AGSEM currently has two CAs:

- Unit 1: Teaching Assistants
- Unit 2: Invigilators

Our Unit 1 CA expired 31 July 2023 and we will be entering negotiations with McGill this term, while our Unit 2 CA was signed April 5 this year and will be in force until December 21, 2025.

In case of violation of the CA, you are entitled to file a grievance. A grievance is an official complaint and resolution process about a difference that arises between the Employer and the Union, an employee, or a group of employees out of the interpretation or application of a CA. It is the duty of Union representatives to assist employees in preparing and presenting a grievance

One example of a past case where AGSEM has helped its international student membership includes assisting with work and entry issues during the COVID-19 lockdowns.