

2021 WELCOME PACKAGE

**DEGROOTE'S
BLENDED
LEARNING
PART-TIME
MBA**

Welcome

Congratulations on your offer of acceptance to DeGroote's Blended Learning Part-Time (BLPT) MBA Program! We are excited that you will be joining our cohort starting in September 2021. You have selected an innovative program to further your education through a blended format that will provide you with the opportunity to immediately apply your in-class learnings to your career.

At DeGroote, we believe in more than just earning a degree. We believe in education with purpose.

As a member of the DeGroote family, you will take on the responsibility to work together to transform business and society. You will act with integrity and generosity and you will have the opportunity to think big and explore new possibilities. You will give willingly and go above and beyond.

During your MBA journey, you will also develop the skills, create the networks, and gain the experiences that you need to become a **true leader** who can make an impact.

Looking Ahead to the Next Few Months...

Use this guide to learn more about what to expect in the next few months, leading up to the start of classes, and to help answer any questions. Scroll through the entire guide or use the [**At a Glance**](#) on the next page to jump to a specific topic.



At a Glance

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Program Contacts

The Blended Learning Part-Time (BLPT) MBA program is part of a larger Student Experience team at DeGroot that you will get to know during your time in the program, however, below please find the contact information for the immediate BLPT team.



**Jennifer (Jenn)
Dunk**

Manager, BLPT
askblpt@mcmaster.ca



**Christine Porterfield*
Sarah Alizerig**

BLPT Recruitment and
Admissions Officer
blptinfo@mcmaster.ca

Contact for:

- Any document-related inquiries to clear your offer of admission.
- Questions regarding how to pay your tuition deposit.



**Anjeza (Anja)
Rexha**

BLPT Program Officer
askblpt@mcmaster.ca

Contact For:

- Transition support
- BLPT Program Info (including student webinars & Onboarding program)

**Christine will be starting maternity leave in April 2021.*



What Happens Next: March – August 2021

A series of webinars will be hosted prior to the start of the program. These webinars will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the program and address any questions you might have prior to the start of the program. **Attendance of these webinars is strongly encouraged.**

Save the Dates:

Please save the date for the below events (including mandatory Onboarding Weekend: August 28-29), and we will contact you with further registration information closer to the specific dates.

BLPT MBA Class of 2024 Question and Answer Webinar Tuesday, March 30 | 7 – 8 p.m. (Et)

Wondering about the next steps after accepting your offer of admission, including paying your deposit and clearing the conditions of your offer? Join us for a drop-in style Q&A session with BLPT Recruitment and Admissions Officer, Christine Porterfield (and Sarah Alizerig) and BLPT Program Officer, Anjeza Rexha. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, this is also a great opportunity to give it a try!

Program Information & Panel with Current BLPT Students Webinar

Monday, May 17 | 6:45 – 8 p.m. (ET)

Jennifer Dunk, BLPT Program Manager, and Anjeza Rexha will present a brief introduction to the BLPT program structure and curriculum. Following this, a panel of current BLPT students will share insights on their experience in the program, offer tips on maximizing the cohort experience, and provide strategies on how to balance program demands with work and life commitments.

Introduction to Course Registration, Tuition, and Program Requirements Webinar

Wednesday, June 23 | 7 – 8 pm (ET)

Anjeza Rexha will be present to answer any questions you may have about course registration, tuition billing, and payment. Jennifer Dunk will also be introducing you to the BLPT Program Handbook – a vital tool to help you understand program requirements and expectations.

Introduction to BLPT Course Technologies Webinar

Tuesday, July 20 (or 27) | 7 – 8 p.m. (ET)

Dr. Amy Pachai, Educational Developer, will provide you with an introduction and overview to the technologies you will use as a BLPT student, including Avenue2Learn, MS Teams, and Zoom. This webinar will give you the background you need to feel comfortable and prepared for your first term in the program.

Note: The date for this webinar will be firmed up in early June – for now, we kindly ask that you hold both dates in your calendar.

BLPT Program Onboarding Weekend

Sat, Aug. 28 and Sun, Aug. 2 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (each day)

Over the course of the weekend, you will meet your cohort, learn how to fully leverage your program experience, and receive essential information on academic and professional development preparation from faculty and staff.

Please note that attending the Program Onboarding is mandatory. For now, please save the date – further details will be sent over the summer. If you know you have a conflict, please email blptinfo@mcmaster.ca as soon as possible.

Connecting with Your Cohort & BLPT Student Ambassadors

Networking is an integral and important component of the BLPT MBA Program. To help facilitate creating connections we have created a [LinkedIn Group](#) specific to your cohort so you can connect with your peers prior to the start of the program. The group is not open to anyone outside of those students who have been admitted in the class of 2024.

BLPT Student Ambassadors

BLPT Student Ambassadors will be participating on the upcoming webinars and are available to connect with incoming students for anyone who is interested on doing so. If interested in connecting with an Ambassador, please send an email to Christine and/or Sarah at blptinfo@mcmaster.ca.

Course Enrolment

Due to the cohort nature of the BLPT program, you will be pre-enrolled in your first-year courses, which will occur in mid-July. No action is necessary on your part to enrol in your first-year courses.

Letters of Enrolment

Students can download various letters from their Mosaic Student Centre after they have been registered in courses. Letters confirming enrolment, specific course enrolment and financial invoice letters are available.

After August 6, please navigate to your [Mosaic Student Centre](#) and click on the pull-down menu under the **Academics** heading. Search for **Request Enrolment/Financial Letters**.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees will appear on your Student Account in your [Mosaic Student Centre](#) immediately following course registration.

What you need to know:

- The total tuition for the BLPT Program is CAD \$57,500* paid through:
 - A non-refundable \$2,000 (CAD) deposit upon acceptance of your offer of admission
 - Payments of \$6,388 (CAD), with the deposit applied towards the first instalment.
- Tuition includes:
 - Technology licenses
 - Some course materials
 - On-site parking costs during the residency weekends
 - Breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks during residencies
- Tuition does **not** cover:
 - Transportation to and from the residencies
 - Hotel accommodations
 - Textbooks
 - Other supplemental fees.

In addition to tuition, all BLPT MBA students are required to pay supplemental athletic and recreation fees. These fees are determined prior to the start of each term (for reference, the current athletic and recreation fee is: \$21.16 per term).

Tuition Schedule

*The below fees are estimated and are **subject to change**. The current athletic & recreation fee is \$21.16 per term; however, these fees change per term.

Instalment	Date	Fees (CAD)
Fall Term	August 1, 2021	\$6,388 + Athletic & Recreation fee <i>Your \$2,000 deposit will be applied to this first instalment.</i>

Winter Term	January 2, 2022	\$6,388 + Athletic & Recreation fee
Summer Term	April 1, 2022	\$6,388 + Athletic & Recreation fee

Further details on how to pay your tuition will be provided closer to August 1.

Overview of McMaster Student Accounts and Technologies

Below you will find a list of many of the student accounts that you will have access to and use during your time as a student at McMaster University. You will receive further information for each of these accounts as needed; however, prior to the start of the program we wanted to provide you with a quick overview of the different platforms.

All information related to student accounts and technologies can also be found on the [UTS webpage](#).

MACID	MACID is your unique, common identifier, single sign-on for a number of McMaster systems and applications. This is different than your student number, and you will receive further information prior to program start on how to activate and use your personal MACID.
McMaster Email	StudentMail is the McMaster-provided email account for undergraduate and graduate students. This is used to communicate with professors, peers and faculty. StudentMail is the only email where staff and faculty can communicate with students.
<u>Avenue to Learn</u>	Avenue to Learn is the primary learning, course delivery and assessment platform at McMaster. Avenue to Learn can be accessed in late July once you have activated your login information (prior to the start of the program).
<u>MOSAIC Student Centre</u>	Mosaic Student Centre allows you to enrol in classes, view your timetable, view and print tax forms and more! Mosaic access is based on the user's MACID, once again, upon activation later in the summer.
Zoom	All McMaster faculty, staff and active students now have access to licensed accounts that have the capability of hosting meetings of up to 300 participants. You will access the licensed account by signing in with your MACID email and password.

Office 365 – Students	As a student at the DeGroot School of Business you will have access to Microsoft Office 365 for Business (including MS Teams). This license is only applicable while you are enrolled as a student.
MS Teams	<p>MS Teams is an easy-to-use messaging service that can conveniently be accessed via a web portal or mobile app and is part of Office 365. In the BLPT Program, we have created a dedicated MS Teams page for your cohort as well as for other cohorts, as well as Channels for general discussions and networking opportunities among all student cohorts in the program. Teams also allows direct messaging, calls and group chats.</p> <p>Further details on how to access and utilize these channels will be provided during the July webinar. If you have not used MS Teams before, you can learn more here.</p>

Technology Requirements

McMaster's IT team has identified [the minimum technical recommendations to run key online learning tools](#).

The heaviest demand on your computer will likely be during web conferencing. We use web conferencing for webinars, virtual office hours and team meetings. We do not recommend using a Mac computer. If you do own a Mac, please contact askblpt@mcmaster.ca.

We also strongly encourage students to not use their work laptops as some students' work laptops have experienced firewall restrictions when attending on campus for the weekend residencies, as well as issues with accessing Wi-Fi and other important course materials. Students are recommended to purchase/utilize their own personal laptops while a student in the program.

Preparatory Courses / Videos

Currently, there are no preparatory courses that students who have been admitted in the BLPT program must complete prior to the start of the program. We are currently working with course instructors in the BLPT program to prepare and provide instructional videos that might prove beneficial prior to program start for our students. Any such materials would be provided to you if / when developed.

Textbooks/Course Outlines (Fall 2021 Term)

Course outlines for the Fall 2021 term will be made available to students on **Monday, August 16, 2021** on [Avenue to Learn](#). If textbooks are required for these courses this information will be provided in the course outlines.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the Avenue to Learn Overview webinar on August 17, as Dr. Pachai and Anjeza will review the outlines in detail and provide an overview for how to navigate through Avenue to Learn.

COVID-19 and Fall 2021

The dynamic nature of the pandemic means a decision about the Fall 2021 term has not yet been made, but McMaster experts and others from across the university are working to develop scenarios that will consider ways to allow as much activity on campus as possible come September.

At McMaster, and at DeGroote, the health and safety of our community is of the utmost importance. You will receive updates as decisions are communicated.

Visit [McMaster's COVID-19 Updates page](#) for more information.

McMaster University Campus Store

The Campus Store is your place to get textbooks, school supplies, computers, and most importantly your McMaster and DeGroot Swag! [Visit the online store](#) the latest merch and show your McMaster/DeGroot Pride!

Zoom Backgrounds

Show your DeGroot/McMaster pride! We've put together a gallery of DeGroot and McMaster-themed backdrops you can use on Zoom. [Download your favourite background](#) and follow the instructions to have it appear behind you in your next Zoom meeting!

Important Dates

BLPT Program Onboarding	August 28 – 29, 2021
Fall Term Begins	Week of September 13, 2021
Fall Residencies	September 18-19, 2021 October 16-17, 2021 November 13-14, 2021
Fall Term Ends	November 30, 2021

Winter Residencies	January 15-16, 2022 February 12-13, 2022 March 12-13, 2022
Winter Term Ends	March 31, 2022
Summer Residencies	May 14-15, 2022 June 11-12, 2022 July 16-17, 2022
Summer Term Ends	July 31, 2021

We are here to support you.

If you have a question or need support, check out [Who Should I Contact?](#)