

A Special Link

The Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow have long been considered McGill University's founding sister institutions. Thus, a special tie was fastened between McGill and these two eminent institutions that the ensuing centuries and strives for academic excellence have only strengthened.

The University of Edinburgh

The historic link between our McGill and Edinburgh Universities can be traced back to 1821, when the McGill Medical Institute, founded by four graduates of Edinburgh and teaching the world-leading Edinburgh medical curriculum, was incorporated into the then-fledgling McGill University as the first Faculty of Medicine in Canada. Simply put, McGill's medical school can be considered the direct descendant of the University of Edinburgh's program, fashioned as it was in its image. Those four Edinburgh graduates, namely William Robertson, John Stephenson, William Caldwell, and Andrew Holmes, were the founders of McGill's Medical Institute, serving as its earliest professors and lecturers. Moreover, two of McGill's Principals, Sir John William Dawson (the "man who made McGill") and Sir William Peterson, attended the University of Edinburgh. An important institutional heirloom at McGill exists in the form of the "University of Edinburgh Medical Theses Collection," a collection of late 18th- and early 19th-centuries medical theses from the university of Edinburgh that is housed at McGill's Osler Library.

The University of Glasgow

Historic, intellectual, and academic ties bind McGill University to the University of Glasgow and to its roots in the Scottish Enlightenment. McGill was founded on the bequest of James McGill, who was a Glaswegian and a graduate of the University of Glasgow. A memorial stone commemorating McGill University and James McGill is located in Glasgow City, honouring the latter as "student in arts of the University of Glasgow, trader soldier and statesman in Canada, and founder of McGill University, Montreal."

An active student exchange program exists between McGill and Glasgow with approximately 100 Canadian students currently enrolled at the University of Glasgow as International Students. The University of Glasgow also offers exchange and study abroad programmes in which McGill students frequently participate.

Over the years, McGill University and the University of Glasgow have maintained significant relationships and associations that are important to the international character of both institutions.