## **Worcester Polytechnic Institute**



# Plan and promote a WPI project center in Montreal II

Interactive Qualifying Project Submitted to the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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This report represents the work of one or more WPI undergraduate students submitted to the faculty as evidence of completion of a degree requirement. WPI routinely publishes these reports on the web without editorial or peer review.

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## **Abstract**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute's global project program has displayed tremendous range especially overseas with project centers in 30 international countries. Looking at this list of WPI international project center destinations you may notice our close neighbor, Canada, doesn't currently have any WPI project centers. However, there is a multicultural Canadian city, Montreal, that is only a day's drive away from Worcester and has a "great reputation as a world class study destination" (Icy Canada, 2022) as well as being regarded for its arts, diversity, and culture. Since many of WPI's existing global project centers are partnered with international universities, Montreal and its finest colleges for WPI to potentially collaborate with were examined for their suitability to host a global project center. By helping WPI see this strong educational opportunity in Montreal it could be at the top of the list of destinations to receive the next global project center destination.

## **Executive Summary**

The variety of international project opportunities offered by Worcester Polytechnic Institute's global project program is already impressive. WPI currently has an array of international project centers established in thirty different countries along with ten domestic project sites located right in the United States. However, zero of WPI's thirty international project centers are located in nearby Canada, a close neighbor to the US.

Well only about 300 miles northwest of Worcester is Montreal, Quebec, a bilingual Canadian city highly regarded by students for its "reputation as a world class study destination" (Icy Canada, 2022). Montreal is home to some of the top-ranked universities in Canada, along with twelve junior colleges. Montreal could be a good opportunity for WPI because the city is also diverse and bilingual, speaking mostly French.

First, gathering and comparing hospitality information regarding specifically the city of Montreal will enable it to be evaluated for suitability and potential excellence as a project destination of WPI's global project program. Information including population, health and safety protocols, culture, weather, city structure, and transportation options are all important aspects to investigate and consider. Some of the top-ranked universities in Montreal will also be studied in order to suggest viable universities for WPI to potentially partner with. By comparing poll statistics of four universities' along with strengths and weaknesses that could apply to hosting a project center we can assess their viability and in turn suggest the best candidate.

Since other WPI global project centers around the world have seen success partnering with local universities, determining a strong candidate school to partner with is a good approach

to successfully establish a new international project center. Although all the universities investigated do have some potential to be viable options for a partnership, assessment of the four universities concluded McGill University to be the overall most viable. Partnering with McGill University and establishing a project center in Montreal would strengthen the global project program's catalog by offering students an opportunity to experience their project in a truly bilingual city that is within driving distance of Worcester.

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1.1 Objective 1: Evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination.

The overall goal of this project series is to "plan and promote a project center in Montreal" so that WPI can ultimately establish a global project center in Montreal, Quebec.

Although the wording sounds simple it is much broader than expected and realized that is the end goal of all of this. The steps and process of this are the important things we need to be concerned about and what our project objective needs to be about. To work towards establishing a global project center in Montreal, our first objective is to evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination.

#### 1.2.1 Rationale

WPI's global project program has displayed nothing but growth when it comes to international partnership. Collaborating with foreign universities allows WPI to efficiently create project centers in different countries so that students are able to go abroad and work on their various projects. However, to think that they have a project center that could be two flights away but don't have one that's only 6 hours away by car is interesting. In terms of structure, culture and weather there are many similarities but you would certainly feel the difference between Worcester and Montreal since they are most commonly speaking French. The more and more the project started to reach new heights we realized that doing this work is important because Montreal was probably not brought to WPI's attention and even if it was it wasn't brought the right way. So, compiling this information on Montreal and evaluating it can kickstart the process

allowing WPI administration to be serious in regards to planning and installing a global project center in the city of Montreal.

#### 1.3.1 State-of-the-art

The first project in this overall project series was completed by Mitchell Jacobs. Our first objective was based upon Mitchell Jacob's project in which he had one objective discussing "Determine the viability of Montreal, QC as a new project site". This relates directly to our first objective "evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination". Jacobs also discussed in his project that it is an extensive process to establish any new WPI international project centers.

## 1.4.1 Approach

Because Mitchell stated that it is an extensive process to establish new project centers, we wanted to explore more aspects and go into much more depth for our objective similar to Mitchell's of "Determine the viability of Montreal, QC as a new project site". We wanted to investigate more than three things about Montreal so we looked into almost every aspect that would impact a project center such as weather, transportation, population and much more. Although WPI does have some project centers in places that are nothing like Worcester but are still a good and comfortable experience for the students, we wanted to basically compare and contrast Montreal with Worcester since it is a city that students are commonly familiar with. By finding the similarities that can equate to the comfort of the student but also seeing the differences that interest them could be a project that piques student's interest every year.

## 1.1.2 Objective 2: Suggesting universities in Montreal that are viable in receiving a WPI project center.

Exploring Montreal as the city was a lot as it's a lot bigger than Worcester so we realized we needed another objective in terms of the partners that would be viable with WPI. We also realized that putting another set of research behind universities would bring us one step closer to the ultimate goal of bringing a project center to Montreal. This led to our second objective of this project which is to suggest universities in Montreal that are viable to receive a WPI project center.

### 1.2.2 Rationale

Investigating the universities that can be potential partners with WPI would help understand which university would not only be up for the challenge but have the space and resources required to do so. Having a project center entails a significant amount of responsibility for the hosting school because regardless of how big the project center is it is something that you are adding on to your university. Having this information investigated is important because this can tell us how diverse each school is, what their health and safety protocols are particularly in terms of covid or if they even have enough space to dedicate to a project center building while not overcrowding their own university. Also having all this research done on the various universities can help us form rankings and determine which one would be the best option to suggest WPI to partner with.

### 1.3.2 State-of-the-art

Our second objective is related to Mitchell's findings as he researched "potential sponsors/partners" by investigating a few different universities such as Polytechnic of Montreal and École de Technologie Supérieure(ETS) by even briefly visiting these universities when he took a trip to Montreal. Ultimately, he did recommend ETS as the preferred school that he found and talked about the reason behind choosing ETS based on similarities with WPI and their importance. Mitchell mentioned similarities in engineering, culture, and history would make ETS a perfect school for WPI to partner with. In Mitchell's project he also mentions that a WPI Dean said partnering with local universities has been successful for project centers in the past.

## 1.4.2 Approach

Since partnering with local universities has been successful for project centers in the past we decided to analyze and compare potential partner universities in Montreal to show WPI the advantages and disadvantages of the universities that would be best to form a partnership with. Mitchell's findings for potential partner universities were intriguing, but we wanted to go into more depth exploring relevant aspects of each potential partner school. The big difference is the amount of research done and the number of universities investigated as we investigate double the amount of universities as well as discussing more than just similarities between WPI and the schools. We will however be researching both Polytechnic of Montreal and ETS as part of this objective, but we will also explore the differences between these schools and WPI as we want the students to still be able to experience something new that they can take with them when coming back to Worcester.

## 2.0 Methods

We continued developing the methods for this project as we did more research. The more and more research we did the more and more it connected with the objectives we had at hand. The first objective we have is to evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination. This is determined by researching and comparing information on the city of Montreal with Worcester. Through this process led to another objective that was important to assess which was suggesting universities in Montreal that are viable to receive a WPI project center. Here four of Montreal's top universities were investigated and compared to check how capable they would be to host a project center and suggest the best option. As research kept progressing, we grew closer to achieving the overall project's purpose, to plan and request a WPI global experience project center in Montreal.

## 2.1 Objective 1: Evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination.

Evaluating Montreal's suitability to be a project center destination wasn't quite as simple as it seems, however we both have backgrounds relating to the city of Montreal making the researching part of the project much more organic as we already had an idea of what we needed to look for and talk about when it came to the city.

### Topics we did intense web research on regarding Montreal:

- 1. Geography
- 2. Demographic
- 3. Transportation options
- 4. Weather
- 5. Sightseeing/Places to visit
- 6. Language
- 7. Government

Studying, discussing, and comparing these seven aspects with Worcester will help illustrate to WPI what Montreal is like and just how good the city could be for a project center and its students.

## 2.2 Objective 2: Suggesting universities in Montreal that are viable to receive a WPI project center.

There were too many universities and colleges in Canada for us to look upon them all, especially since the education system in Montreal is much different from the U.S. and most parts of Canada. They go a traditional route for schooling up until the 10th year where they will end their "high school" as they have homecoming, prom and graduation. However, after that they have two more years of mandatory schooling where they attend a college around the area. Those two years aren't really a standard U.S. college but more so a preparatory to college/university so even some students will attend prep schools in the U.S. to finish their required schooling. After that they can decide if they want to attend a university in Montreal or just start working. We will be researching the universities in Montreal and not colleges since in Montreal they are seen as two different things. In talking with various alumni and citizens of Montreal we found four of the best universities to conduct intense exploration on.

#### Identify 4 top-ranked universities:

- McGill University
- University of Montreal
- Polytechnical of Montreal
- ETS (École de Technologie Supérieure)

These four schools aren't necessarily the 4 best universities in Montreal but the top 4 universities that would fit perfectly with a WPI partnership.

## 3.0 Results

## 3.1 Montreal Comparison

In order to evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination the information in Table 1 was compiled to compare and contrast Montreal and Worcester.

Table 1: Montreal Comparison to Worcester

City	<u>Montreal</u>	<u>Worcester</u>	
Population	1,704,690 (Montréal Population 2016.)	206,000 (Worcester, Massachusetts Population 2022.)	
Geography	166.6 mi <sup>2</sup> (Montréal Population 2016.)	38.45 mi <sup>2</sup> (Worcester, Massachusetts Population 2022.)	
Location	Quebec, Canada	Massachusetts, USA	
Demographic	Multicultural 63% white/European 34% visible minorities (Montréal Population 2016.)	Multicultural 69.16% white/European 30.84% visible minorities (Worcester, Massachusetts Population 2022.)	
Transportation	Metro System, Bike trails/lanes, cars, and bike lanes, and cars (O'Meara, 2022)		
Weather	Seasonal (Weatherspark)	Seasonal	
Language	French	English	
Government	City Council and run by a mayor (Felteau, Cyrille. Montreal, 2022)	City Council, run by a mayor	

Overall, in terms of physical aspects they are similar, but Montreal is just a much bigger place with a bigger population which could be more comparable to Boston in terms of the population, however even Boston is not as big as Montreal. Another difference between the cities is Worcester is part of Massachusetts which was once a colony from the British while Montreal in Quebec was colonized by the French so there's a lot more cultural differences due to their origins. Weather between the cities is very similar as they both have seasonal weather dealing with cold snowy winters and very hot summers.

Montreal has a variety of affordable public transportation options including buses like the ones in Worcester, while also having the Metro System, a subway system covering the downtown area and extending into some nearby suburban neighborhoods. Cars in Montreal are similar to Worcester with cars driving on the right-hand side of the road and the steering wheels on the left-hand side of the car. A significant difference is the unit system varies from Worcester's as Montreal uses the international metric system, so they measure their vehicles speed in km/hour instead of miles/hour along with speed limit signs on the road being labeled in km/hour.

Montreal is also well respected for its variety and abundance of educational institutions similarly to how Worcester has many colleges covering a wide variety of disciplines and majors.

### 3.2 Potential Universities

There are a total of 6 universities in Montreal, after looking at various rankings across the internet we decided to only focus on four and investigate those specific schools.

### 3.2.1 Rankings and General Information

Table 2: Universities' rankings and ratings

University	World Rankings	Student Ratings	Engineering rank
McGill	#3 in Canada #44 in World (The World University Rankings)	4.5 /5.0 (University Guru) 4.3 /5.0 (StudyPortals)	#1 in Montreal #4 in Canada (EduRank)
Polytechnic al of Montreal	#26 in Canada #440 in the World (Scimago Institutions Rankings)	4.3 / 5.0 (University Guru)	#4 in Montreal #18 in Canada (EduRank)
ETS	#30 in Canada #1228 in the World (U.S. News and World Report)	World 4.5 / 5.0 (University Guru) #29 in Quebec	
University of Montreal	#5 in Canada #88 in the World (The World University Rankings)	8 in the World 4.3 / 5.0 (University Guru) #13 in Canada	

The comparison of rankings and ratings in Table 2 illustrates how strong each university is nationally and globally while also showing the personal opinions of students attending each. In Table 3 below, a lot of the information regarding demographic won't be seen especially if they are a public university as Montreal doesn't ask for race or gender on applications.

Table 3: University Statistics

University Name	Student Population	Location	Land Area	Demographic	Language
McGill (private)	39,267 students 26,765 undergraduates 10,411 graduates (McGill University Memorandum)	Downtown Montreal (Engage Mcgill)	0.965 square miles (Engage Mcgill)	59% females 41% males 58.4%: whites 41.6%: minorities 30% international (McGill University Memorandum)	English speaking
Polytechnical of Montreal	9,000 students 6,800 undergraduates 2,200 graduates (Polytechnic School of Montreal, Montreal Quebec.)	Downtown Montreal (Polytechnic School of Montreal, Montreal Quebec.)	0.2344 square miles (Polytechni c School of Montreal, Montreal Quebec.)	72% males 28% females 29% international No race statistics (Polytechnic School of Montreal, Montreal Quebec.)	French speaking
ETS	12,819 students 8,653 undergraduates 4,166 graduates/PhD (ÉTS in Figures: ÉTS: ÉTS Montréal.)	Montreal Griffintown neighborhood (ÉTS in Figures: ÉTS: ÉTS Montréal.)	Building size (ÉTS in Figures: ÉTS: ÉTS Montréal.)	No race, international or gender statistics (ÉTS in Figures: ÉTS: ÉTS Montréal.)	French speaking
University of Montreal	69,926 students 73% undergrad 27% graduate (Université de Montréal. In Figures)	Downtown Montreal (Université de Montréal. In Figures)	0.2344 square miles  (Université de Montréal. In Figures)	No race or gender statistics (Université de Montréal. In Figures)	French speaking

#### 3.2.2 Student Life

### 3.2.2.1 McGill University:

McGill offers housing if you prefer but you are allowed to live off campus if you decide to do so. They also provide many wellness programs from academic, Social, Emotional, Financial, Physical and Spiritual. Many different variations of food choices offered as the campus features 5 dining locations and 20+ food locations. They offer many sport teams that have open tryouts and a sports recreation center available to students. They also have student societies, departmental groups, clubs, student media, and a student body that you can talk to and University affiliated programs.

McGill students do not have to be vaccinated but the university is very strict when it comes to their rules and protocols requiring students to fill out a covid tracker sheet as well. Since Canada is a very high tax country, the in-state tuition cost is 2,391 CAD per semester which converts to 1,864.57 USD. For out of state tuition it is 7,402 CAD which converts to 5,772.31 USD per semester. However, for students paying international tuition it is significantly more expensive than others, costing 29,200 CAD equivalent to 22,771.05 USD per semester. (Engage Mcgill)

### 3.2.2.2 Polytechnic School of Montreal:

For housing they have on campus residence housing but based on their website they promote students to live off campus most of the time. They have more than forty Student Committees for students to join. Since Polytechnic School of Montreal is a shared campus with the University of Montreal, they share the same clinics relating to a person's health. They provide food to their students whether they are on or off campus. They also take pride in sports teams and provide open tryouts for them.

Since they share a campus with University of Montreal their covid guidelines are the same as they are very cautious but don't have a mandatory policy in place to have their students receive the vaccine. For each semester the tuition is around 8,506 USD for undergraduates and 9,569 USD for graduates. For international students enrolled at McGill it costs 9,175 USD per semester. (Polytechnic School of Montreal, Montreal Quebec.)

### 3.2.2.3 University of Montreal:

For housing the University of Montreal offers up to 1,120 studios to take part in the heart of the Montreal Campus. They also have a link/website that provides support in finding off campus housing. They have an international student office which helps international students integrate into the community at the University and in Montreal. In terms of Health, they have a dental and vision clinic as well as Kinesiology, Physiotherapy and Nutrition clinics that offer assessment of physical condition, nutritional assessment, design of training programs and nutritional programs, individual or group consultations, personalized follow-up. They also have their own media hub for students along with student activities and clubs that provides for the students' different interests.

In terms of Covid they are very cautious about it but not strict as kids don't have to be vaccinated if they don't want to. They also offer sports teams that have open tryouts for all students. The in-state tuition is 2,000 CAD per semester which converts to 1,559.66 USD. For out of state tuition it is 7,500 CAD per semester which converts to 5,458.81 USD. (Université de Montréal. In Figures)

3.2.2.4 ETS (École de Technologie Supérieure):

They offer up to 1,110 units for housing that are right in Downtown Montreal. They find

roommates and housing for their students to best suit them as ETS doesn't want their students

going through too much stress searching for housing arrangements. École de Technologie

Supérieure has more than 50 clubs and student groups. They also have a food service and food

marketplace that a lot of their students attend. They offer a variety of sports such as golf, tennis,

badminton and many more. For Health and Safety especially relating to covid students must be

vaccinated and wear a mask at any of their buildings.

<u>Tuition (per semester):</u>

Québec student: \$3,533

French or francophone Belgian student: \$9,314

Canadian student non-resident of Québec: \$9,314

International student: \$25,462

(ÉTS in Figures: ÉTS: ÉTS Montréal.)

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## 3.2.3 University Recommendation

We decided as a group to put forth the rankings displayed in Table 3 below with McGill University ranked the best. This table shows the suggestion of which universities we assessed to be the most viable for a WPI partnership.

Table 4: Recommendation Ranking

Ranking	<u>University Name</u>
1	McGill University
2	Polytechnical of Montreal
3	University of Montreal
4	ETS (École de Technologie Supérieure)

## 4.0 Discussion

The results were more than enough to come to an overall conclusion about our findings and justification regarding creating a global project center in Montreal. Over time as this project progresses in the future, we hope that actual plans will be put in place for WPI to establish a project center in Montreal.

## 4.1 Objective 1: Evaluate the suitability of Montreal to be a global project center destination

We were able to discover the findings behind Montreal culture, structure and landscape. This allowed us to have a good understanding of Montreal especially since we both have background knowledge regarding Montreal, so we can match what we documented with our time over at Montreal. Since we were able to compile so much information about Montreal we were led to be able to compare between Worcester and Montreal. We felt this was justified to do because this is something still very much up in the air and we would want the first batch of students who do travel over to Montreal for a project to feel comfortable and pleased. However, the cities having enough similarities but noticing big differences between the two can also do just that. We believe Montreal would also be fairly comfortable because weather is similar to Worcester's, just occasionally a bit colder and students on campus are at least somewhat familiar with Worcester's seasonal weather.

There also isn't a concern of struggling with driving if need be, since the cars are nearly structured the same way with the steering wheel on the left hand side. However, there are differences especially regarding culture that would interest the students from WPI as it is a French speaking country and is also connected to their French culture. Mitchell also talked about

the culture differences when he talked about his time in Montreal as his experience "was unlike any other I have had" and this was mainly due to the culture diversity that was present in Montreal. During research we also discovered that international students looking to study in Canada are required to apply for a study permit before arriving, however sometimes you are allowed to apply at a Canadian port of entry (Icy Canada. 2022.).

## 4.2 Objective 2: Suggesting universities in Montreal that are viable to receive a WPI project center.

Overall universities in Montreal are very capable of having their own project centers as most of them already take in a lot of international students yearly. However, we believe McGill University checked the most boxes making them the most viable for a project center. Firstly, McGill has the most international students which can infer they know how to deal with foregin students the best. From various rankings they are also number one in engineering when it comes to universities in Montreal so students would fit much better in their system as WPI is also an engineering school itself. They are also the only English-speaking university so students attending the project center wouldn't have too much trouble navigating on campus and if students do still want to feel the full Montreal experience they can as the university is right in Downtown Montreal. Even though we didn't travel to any of these universities like how Mitchell visited Polytechnical of Montreal and ETS while he was in Montreal, we do know that from student rankings it was ranked the best out of the four examined. Finally, McGill has the largest land mass out of the 4 schools so finding a place to have a project center building would be the least troubling out of all the schools.

## 5.0 Conclusion

- Montreal has all the tools and structure in place to be a destination for a global project center with the capability to provide the students a comfortable atmosphere but also a different and new experience.
- The cultural differences also would provide students a feel for a foreign environment as for the most part in public spaces Montreal is French speaking.
- Overall Canada has many good universities, but McGill University is the one that will most fit WPI's need for a project center as they are able to handle the pressure of hosting international students and have enough space where a building for the project center could be located. McGill University also is an English-speaking school which would really help students find their way around the campus plus being located in the heart of Montreal enables students to explore the city while they're there.
- We believe as a group that with the information and thought we have put into the project that WPI should consider this destination for their next international project center as they won't need to investigate too much around the topic and can actually start the process of planning the installment of a global project center in Montreal.

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## 7.0 Appendixes

Demographic: Montreal

https://www.britannica.com/place/Montreal

Population: 1,704,690 (2016)

White/European population: 1,052,430 which is 63.3% of the population

- French (26%)
- Italian (7%)
- Irish (6%)
- English (4%)
- Scottish (3%)
- Spanish (2%)
- Other (15%)

Visible Minorities: 568,570 which is 34.2 % of the population

- Black 171,385 (10.3%)
- Arab 122,185 (7.3%)
- Latin America 67,525 (4.1%)
- South Asian 55,595 (3.3%)
- Chinese 54,670 (3.3%)
- Southeast Asian 34,815 (2.1%)
- Filipino 23,500 (1.4%)
- West Asian 15,340 (0.9%)
- Korean 4,225 (0.3%)
- Japanese 2,505 (0.2%)
- Other 16,835 (1%)

### Demographic: McGill University

 $https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\_d20-59\_student\_demographic\_survey.pdf$ 

- White: 58.4%

- Chinese: 15.5%

- Arab: 7.3%

- South Asian: 6.4%

- Other: 5.9%

- Latin American: 4.7%

- Black: 4.6%

- West Asian: 2.6%

- Southeast Asian: 2.0%

- Korean: 1.5%

- Filipino: 1.2%

- Japanese: 0.9%