HEC Montréal defines itself as an “international business school whose exceptional teaching and research, combined with its relevance and drive for innovation, have allowed it to stand out from the pack since 1907”. It is in fact Canada’s largest and oldest business school, an autonomous publicly funded institution founded in 1907 and affiliated with the University of Montreal. It has nearly 250 professors and nearly 12,000 students registered in a broad range of programs: undergraduate, MBA, EMBA (joint with McGill University), M.Sc., graduate diplomas, Ph.D. (joint with Concordia, McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal). The school’s roots lie in the Quebec francophone milieu. Although most programs are offered in the French language, with increasing internationalization, the school now has a large English MBA program, a bilingual EMBA and Ph.D. and a popular trilingual (French/ English/ Spanish) bachelor’s program unique in the world. HEC Montréal holds accreditations from AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA.
Introducing Montreal

Relevant extracts from the Tourisme Montréal site below

North America

A gateway to the Americas, Montréal is a fascinating city. Its typically North American vitality is the perfect match for its European-inspired way of life. A Parisian New York, no! Montreal is a bold and complex mix of contrasts that completely defies comparison.

An island in the Saint Lawrence

With its expansive green spaces and European-styled neighborhoods, Montréal is attractive for so many reasons. It offers an exceptional quality of life combine with a relatively low cost of living compared with the world’s other great cities, which can be attributed to the reasonable cost of housing.

- The Island of Montréal has a population of 1.8 million, whereas the Greater Montréal Area is home to 3.5 million inhabitants.
- The island lies in the heart of an enchanting and majestic river, the Saint Lawrence.
- Mount Royal is the geographical heart of the city, an oasis combining green spaces, parks and nature preserves.
- The city is kept moving with the help of an effective public transit system that includes an easy-to-use and safe underground metro system. Montréal’s Underground City: a veritable city under the city featuring 30 km of underground walkways.
- Montréal was built on a legacy of heritage and culture with a European flair.

A business city

Montréal’s global outlook serves as magnet that has led many multinationals and organizations to set up their head offices here. The city is home to the head offices of over 65 international organizations.

- 120 international financial centers, including the Centre de commerce mondial, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), SITA (Société de télécommunications aériennes) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, which took up residence in HEC Montréal’s Decelles Building in November 2001.
- Aerospace capital of Canada.
- Montréal is the North American city that hosts the largest number of international meetings and conferences, ahead of New York City and Washington, D.C.¹

¹ Source: Montréal international
A cultural metropolis

With its four universities, Montréal ranks first in North America for the number of university students per capita and is among the country’s leading university research cities. In 2010, Montréal ranked first in Canada for funding dedicated to research.¹

- 15,000 international students at four English-speaking and French-speaking universities.
- Libraries in every community, including the Grande Bibliothèque du Québec.
- Some twenty classic museums to suit every taste, from fine arts to history to humor.
- Space for Life: Planetarium, Botanical Garden, Insectarium and Biodôme.
- Many theatres, both amateur and professional.
- Countless performance halls, including the Bell Centre and the Olympic Stadium, both of which can host crowds reaching into the tens of thousands of spectators.

A bilingual city

Montréal is not only a bilingual city where English and French live side by side and intermingle quite naturally, but it is also home to some 35 languages and at least as many well-established cultural communities, including the Italian, Chinese, Greek and Spanish-speaking communities.

A city of festivals

Montréal overflows with warmth year-round, thanks to a whirlwind of cultural and sporting activities that fill its busy calendar. A slew of bistrots, pubs, restaurants, night clubs and trendy dance clubs… Restaurants serving food from all over the planet, enough to satisfy every palate, appetite and budget, not to mention the home-grown specialties that have gained increasing renown.

A plethora of world-class events and festivals held throughout the year, including:

- Festival international de jazz de Montréal
- Just for Laughs
- FrancoFolies de Montréal
- World Film Festival
- Montréal High Lights Festival

¹ Attractiveness indicators, Source: Montréal international
For sports enthusiasts:

- Kilometres of bike trails
- Arenas, sports centres, parks and pools in every neighbourhood
- Major sporting events:
  - Canadian Open
  - Canadian Grand Prix – Formula 1
  - Tour du Grand Montréal cycling race
  - The Montreal Canadiens, arguably the world’s most famous hockey team

Distance between Montréal and...

- Québec City: 250 km
- Boston: 500 km
- Toronto: 550 km
- New York: 600 km

Other Montréal sites of interest

- Tourisme Montréal
- Old Montréal
- MADEINMTL
- Study in Montréal
Scenes of Montreal

Montreal skyline from the “mountain” (Mount Royal Park) with view of the St. Lawrence

St. Joseph’s Oratory, close to HEC Montreal/ University of Montreal campus

Old Montreal

Montreal International Jazz Festival 2008

Navigating the Lachine Rapids Old Port and St-Lawrence River

Montreal outside staircases (characteristic architectural feature)

Place Jacques-Cartier in Old Montreal

Olympic stadium tower and botanical garden

Montreal International Fireworks Festival Every Saturday in summer from mid-June