

NEW
to **SMU**

SMU Student Guide

2026-2027



**Saint Mary's
University**

Welcome

to Saint Mary's University!

You're on your way to joining a community of more than 60,000+ proud alumni around the world who are making an impact! During your time at SMU, you'll build new skills, make lifelong connections, and prepare for the future ahead. We can't wait to see what you will do!

This booklet is your quick guide to getting started, highlighting the many services and supports available to help you succeed. From student health and wellness, to academic and career supports; help is always close by!

Make the most of your SMU experience by getting involved in campus events and activities. Visit smu.ca/student-life to stay connected, create lasting memories, and make the most of every opportunity. Welcome to SMU!

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Saint Mary's University acknowledges that the university operates on the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq nation. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik peoples first signed with the British crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship.



Important Dates

Fall 2026

- **September 9th**
First Day of Classes for Fall Term
- **September 18th**
Last day for adding or dropping courses in the Fall Term
Last day Last day for final payment of Fall Term tuition fees
- **September 19th – October 16th**
Course withdrawal partial refund dates
smu.ca/academics/course-withdrawal-dates-and-deadlines
- **September 30th**
Truth and Reconciliation Day – No classes

Winter 2027

- **January 6th**
First Day of Classes for Winter Term
- **January 15th**
Last day for adding or dropping courses for Winter Term
Last day for final payment of Winter Term tuition fees
- **January 16th – February 12th**
Course withdrawal partial refund date
smu.ca/academics/course-withdrawal-dates-and-deadlines
- **February 15th – 21st**
Winter Break - No classes

Stay on top of important dates and deadlines throughout the academic year. For a complete and up-to-date list of dates, search (and bookmark!) “SMU Important Dates” or visit: smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/calendar-events

- **October 12th**
Thanksgiving Day – No classes
- **November 9th-15th**
Fall Break – No classes
- **December 10th – Last day of classes**
Last day for withdrawing without academic penalty, from 3-credit-hour or 6-credit-hour courses taught only in the Fall Term
- **December 12th – Exams Begin**
- **December 21st – End of final exams and end of Fall Term**
- **December 22nd – January 3rd**
University Closed

- **March 26th and 29th**
Good Friday and Easter Monday - No Classes
- **April 7th – Last day** for withdrawing without academic penalty, from 3-credit-hour or 6-credit-hour courses taught only in the Winter Term
- **April 10th**
Exams begin
- **April 21st**
End of final exams and end of Winter Term

NEW to SMU



Going to university is a
life changing
experience!

Register for **New to SMU**
events and activities!
smu.ca/newtosmu

Make a great start

The New to SMU program will help you to make friends, learn how to be a successful university student, get connected to campus, and have fun!

Whether you live on or off-campus, New to SMU events help you learn how the university works, provide you with tips for academic success, and help you meet new people.

Transfer Students

Students transferring to SMU from another university or college can also benefit from our New to SMU program. Learning about the specific resources at Saint Mary's will be helpful for your continued success in your studies. This is also a great opportunity to meet other transfer students and make friends. Transfer students can also connect with a Peer Success Coach for additional support and guidance.

Graduate Students

New to SMU is also for new graduate studies students! Look for workshops and info-sessions to help orient you to university resources and introduce you to the services available to you throughout your degree. Graduate students can also connect with a Peer Success Coach for individual support and guidance.

The New to SMU program includes events and activities taking place both online and in-person. Watch smu.ca/newtosmu for the full schedule and to register for these events. You can choose from information sessions, social events, or workshops interests you. We encourage you to select a variety of opportunities to participate in so that you get a well rounded experience.

Peer Success Coaching Program

All new students are automatically assigned a Peer Success Coach, an upper-year student who is dedicated to guiding you through your successful transition to university life. Peer coaches offer a friendly and knowledgeable peer perspective. They are there to help you adjust to student life, improve study skills, and to find campus resources. Check your email, or contact us at peercoaching@smu.ca to connect with your Coach.

Program Details

- All new SMU students are assigned a Peer Success Coach automatically. No registration needed! Just check your email or contact us at peercoaching@smu.ca to connect with your Coach.
- Meet with your Coach anytime during the term to check-in, ask questions or just to chat!
- Enjoy one-on-one meetings or email your coach for personalized support.

Peer Success Coaches' Tips for Success

- Use the many campus resources available to support your academics including the Writing Centre, Learning Skills & Strategies workshops, and your academic advisors.
- Get involved on campus! There is something for everyone - societies, teams and events for diverse interests.
- Talk to your professors during their office hours for extra academic support.
- Surround yourself with motivating individuals who inspire you.
- Access on-campus supports for mental and physical well-being when you need it. Remember, it's okay to ask for help.
- Stay connected with your friends and family while taking time to introduce yourself and meet new people in your classes and on campus activities.



“ I've had several questions and issues that I had trouble tackling until I started meeting with my Peer Success Coach which eased my university experience a lot. ”

- First Year Student



The University Classroom

A few things to know:



Self Service Banner

**YOUR
A#**



This is your **Student ID number** and your banner **Self-Service username**. It's 8 digits long and begins with #A00 (ex. A00123456). You will use it a lot so it's a good idea to memorize it or write it down someplace safe! Self-Serve Banner is the platform you'll use to register for classes, find your fees, update your profile and more.

**YOUR
@smu.ca
email**



This is your **official SMU email** to be used for any university communications, check your inbox regularly as this is SMU's primary communication channel. This also allows you to login and access on-campus computers and Wi-Fi, Self-Service Banner, Brightspace, and Office 365.

Taking classes

Did you know, for every hour of lecture, you can expect to do 2-3 hours of work outside of class - depending on the course. Ask your Peer Success Coach to show you how to make a weekly study plan.

Brightspace is the on-line learning management system (LMS) students use at Saint Mary's. You'll log in to Brightspace using your SMU email address and see a module for each course. Within these modules, you can communicate with your professor, read the course outline, access course content, and submit your assignments and tests.

Attendance matters! Courses at university tend to move through topics very quickly. Be sure to make attending class a priority. Consistent attendance will help you stay on top of your work and what's happening with each course.

Connect with your professors, TAs, and peers to talk about course content and enhance your learning!



For **Brightspace** support visit
studio.smu.ca/sas

Services for Students

Need help
but unsure
where to
start?



Academic Support

Academic Advising

For expert help with planning your degree, choosing courses or exploring your academic options, contact an Academic Advisor for your faculty;

smu.ca/academics/academic-advising

FACULTY OF ARTS - BAadvising@smu.ca | McNally Main 218

FACULTY OF SCIENCE - advisor.science@smu.ca | Atrium 301

SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS - bcomm.advising@smu.ca | Sobeys 252

Patrick Power Library

From study spaces to library resources to personalized assignment help, the Patrick Power Library has a lot to offer and will be essential to your student experience. With three floors featuring group study rooms, both social and silent study areas, there's space for everyone. Students have access to extensive research materials and information sources for free through the library. Online resources are available 24/7 on and off campus from the library website. smu.ca/library

Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides support to students in all fields of study. We can help you understand assignment instructions, map out your paper, avoid academic integrity mistakes, master a variety of writing techniques and work on your presentation skills. studio@smu.ca | Burke 115

SMUSA Tutor Database

Need a tutor to help with a particular course? SMUSA maintains a list of active tutors in the area. Tutors have a minimum of an A- (80%) in the courses they are tutoring in. There is a cost for this service and tutoring rates vary between tutors. Visit smusa.ca/services/tutor-database for more information and to find a tutor.
smusa.ca/tutor-database

The SNAP Centre (Science Numeracy and Academic Proficiency)

The SNAP Centre provides free peer-tutoring support for students enrolled in first-year Science courses, and some second-year Science courses too. Get help from students who have excelled in courses that you're taking right now.

snap@smu.ca | Atrium 304

BComm Peer Academic Support (PAS) Program

Support for BComm student academic success through free student to student support. The PAS program helps BComm students and gives you free weekly extra help in many of the core courses. bcomm.advising@smu.ca
See **BComm Advising Centre** for details.

Learning Skills and Strategies

Need a boost? Build your learning skills to help you become a more effective student! Meet with us for one-on-one coaching, join a Learning Skills Workshop, or come to the weekly Study Hall to explore approaches that really work and can help improve your academic performance. For help with study skills, time management, exam prep, effective reading, notetaking, procrastination and more, go to

smu.ca/studentsuccess or email studentsuccess@smu.ca | **Student Centre 301**

We encourage you to review the academic integrity regulations outlined in the academic calendar.

smu.ca/academicintegrity

Services for Students

Black Student Advisor

The Black Student Advisor, supports Black and African Nova Scotian students through advising, advocacy, and access to tailored programs and resources. You can also visit the Sankofa Black Excellence Commons in Loyola Academic 287, a welcoming space to build community and thrive.

blackstudent.advisor@smu.ca
Student Centre 301

Indigenous Student Advisor

The Indigenous Student Advisor, supports Indigenous students at Saint Mary's University. They help you understand the many services and opportunities available to you. You are welcome to spend time in the Qomuti Indigenous Student space in Loyola Academic room 286 a dedicated space for you!

indigenous.advisor@smu.ca
Advisor office | Burke 114

International Student Centre

Whether you need an airport pick-up, help renewing your student permit, or someone to do your taxes, our International Student Centre can help you adjust to life on the east coast of Canada.

international.centre@smu.ca
Student Centre 305

Career & Experiential Learning

Saint Mary's Career and Experiential Learning provides all students and recent alumni with the ability to expand their understanding of self, academic direction, and career planning. This is achieved through professional career counselling, job search skill development, innovative programming, experiential opportunities, and industry and employer connectivity.

cel@smu.ca
Student Centre 401

Fred Smithers Centre for Student Accessibility

The Fred Smithers Centre for Student Accessibility provides support for students with diagnosed and documented permanent disabilities. Fred Smithers Centre staff work with students to put in place recommended accommodations that will help students to succeed at SMU. Accommodations may include test and exam accommodations, note-taking support and assistive technology.

fredsmithers.centre@smu.ca

Student Centre 309

Residence Life

Residence life coordinates a variety of social and educational programs throughout the academic year to engage students in a shared residence community. These events promote inter-cultural sharing and help connect residents to build a sense of community.

residence.programming@smu.ca

Loyola Residence 108

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and resources that help new and continuing students make the most of university experience. Our programs include; New to SMU, Peer Success Coaching, Student Life and Leadership development, Learning skills support, Early Assist and much more. Come see us!

studentsuccess@smu.ca

Student Centre 301



Student Success Tip



"Don't wait to ask for help. From Academic Advising to Peer Success Coaching, SMU's support services are here to help you succeed in classes and on campus. Reaching out early can make all the difference."

- 3rd Year Computer Science Student

Health and Wellness

The Counselling Centre

As a Saint Mary's student, you can access free confidential counselling, mental health services, and opportunities to support your wellbeing.

Counselling@smu.ca

Student Centre 406

Student Health Services

Our dedicated team offers family practice services to Canadian and international Saint Mary's students up to one year after graduation.

Student.health@smu.ca

Student Centre 403

Student Health Plan Office

The SMUSA Health Plan office is here to help you with making claims, opting out of the plans, enrolling dependents, accessing your plan card, picking up prescriptions or cheques, and answering your questions about the plans!

Healthplan.smusa@smu.ca

Student Centre 522

SMU Community Food Room

SMU's on-campus food bank offering safe, nutritious food for any SMU student needing food support. Appointments available once per week.

Food.room@smu.ca | Student Centre 526

Sexual Violence Support Centre

The Saint Mary's University Sexual Violence Support Centre (SVSC) exists primarily to offer resources and support to students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence. SVSC also provides education, prevention and training for the SMU community at large.

Sexualviolence@smu.ca

Student Centre 409

Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness

SMU Athletics and Recreation has a lot to offer! All SMU Students receive a SMUfit membership with enrollment. Students have access to the Homburg Centre fitness facilities and can participate in SMUfit fitness classes, intramurals, varsity athletics, and club sports.

smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/info.athletics@smu.ca



"Take time to look after yourself. Use the numerous health and wellness resources to improve both your physical and mental wellbeing, taking care of yourself is part of being a student too"

– 4th Year Arts Student

Financial

Service Centre

The Service Centre offers combined services of the Registrar's office, Student Accounts and Financial Aid and Awards.

Service.Centre@smu.ca | McNally Main 108

Financial Aid & Awards

Financial Aid & Awards administers financial support programs that are based on merit and need for undergraduate students studying at Saint Mary's University. We provide students with access to a variety of financial resources, tools, and information. If you need help with your spending plan, applying for student loans, or have a special financial circumstances, come talk to us for support and advice.

financial.aid@smu.ca | McNally Main 108

SMUSA

Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA)

Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) provides services, support, advocacy, and representation to all of Saint Mary's University students

karla.hodge@smu.ca | Student Centre 5th Floor | smusa.ca

Husky Patrol

Call **902-496-8713** or visit the SMUSA Information Desk on the first Floor of the O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre for rides to and from campus. Student ID is required.



Early Assist

Designed to support students who may be experiencing a setback, Early Assist connects students to resources when they need them the most.

What is Early Assist?

Early Assist is our campus-wide pro-active advising program. We reach out to students who may be having difficulty (for example: missed assignments, low attendance or getting low scores on a test) and connect them with supports on campus to assist. We connect students with the right services and at the right time!

How it Works:

When an instructor identifies concerns about your academic progress or wellbeing, they may submit an alert through Early Assist. An alert goes to the Early Assist team to reach out to you and connect you with the support you need.

Am I in trouble if I receive an alert?

No, receiving an alert is not a punishment. In fact, it's good news! At Saint Mary's University, we pay attention and when we see an opportunity to help, we will! An alert is submitted by a professor to Early Assist when they notice an opportunity to connect a student with a campus support.

Will an alert impact my Academic Record?

No, Early Assist is not connected to your academic record and your information is protected under Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP).

What should I do if I receive an Early Alert message?

Just respond to the Early Assist team member that reaches out to you! Book an appointment or connect through email to ensure you get timely advice or support. Help could come from academic advising, support services, and academic skills coaching. earlyassist@smu.ca



New Student Checklists



Before

Classes

Begin

- ☐ **Get on the system!** Set up your SMU account by obtaining an “s number” and gain access to your **smu.ca** email address.
- ☐ **Pay your tuition fees** online through the Student Account Centre on Self Service Banner.
- ☐ **Contact your Academic Advisor** if you have questions about course planning and selection.
- ☐ **Apply for your student ID** by searching ‘ID’ on **smu.ca**
- ☐ **Visit the Campus Bookstore** to purchase your textbooks, great SMU clothing, and swag!
- ☐ **Get the low down on money** – connect with the Service Centre for scholarship, student loan, and other financial information.
- ☐ **Students with need of academic accommodations** are encouraged to contact the **Fred Smithers Centre** to discuss their needs.
- ☐ **International students should complete** the **International Student** checklist emailed to you by the International Student Centre.
- ☐ **Review** the **Code of Student Conduct** and the **Sexual Violence Policy**.
- ☐ **Check the expiration date** on your provincial health card and renew it if needed.
- ☐ **Learn about the health plan** and download your plan card(s) on the **smu.ca/healthplan**. Students may be eligible to opt-out of the health plan during the opt-out period. Dependents can also be added to the plan(s) for an extra fee during this period. Contact **healthplan.smu.ca** with questions or to learn more.
- ☐ **Attendance Matters**
Try introducing yourself to professors, TAs, and a few classmates.
- ☐ **Get organized and prepare your schedule** – find your class times and locations in Self Service Banner, and check your course syllabus for important dates and deadlines.
- ☐ **Join a society** based on your interests by checking out the list of active groups.
- ☐ **Pick up your Halifax Transit U-Pass** through SMUSA at the Information desk, main floor Student Centre. Students may be eligible to opt-out of the U-Pass and must opt-out during the opt-out period.
- ☐ **Attend New to SMU** events and activities!
- ☐ **Book an appointment** with your Peer Success Coach anytime this term!

Visit **smu.ca/newtosmu** for the full student checklists complete with links.



Get Involved in Student Life

By joining a campus society, participating in extra-curricular activities or volunteering, you will learn new skills, improve self-esteem, meet other students with similar interests, and develop a more fulfilling, balanced student life.

Here are few ways that you can get involved at SMU:



Learning doesn't
just happen in the
classroom.



Societies

Kick start your university experience by joining one of the many SMUSA student societies. By joining a group of students who share similar interests, you'll quickly make friends and connections with the potential to endure long after your university years. Visit the SMUSA website to see the list of active societies: smusa.ca/smusasocieties



Leadership

Saint Mary's offers many events and opportunities to support students on their leadership journey, including our Annual Leadership Conference. Learn more by visiting smu.ca/studentsuccess



Residence Life

Residence Life provides a home for students to participate in interactive events and build lifelong memories. Residence Life coordinates leadership opportunities such as Residence Assistants and committees for social and educational programming. Find out ways to get involved with the residence community by visiting: smu.ca/student-life/residence-life



"Join a club, attend events, volunteer, or cheer on the Huskies. Being

involved is one of the best ways to make friends, build skills, and feel at home at SMU."

- 3rd year Psychology Student



Student Employment

There are many different student jobs on campus that provide valuable work experience and are paid positions that fit your schedule. Visit the job portal **Career360** to see the latest job postings and volunteering opportunities. Talk to Career Services anytime for assistance with your job search. Visit the **Student Centre, room 401**.



The Co-Curricular Recognition

The CCR allows you to capture and record all of your out-of-class experiences, such as workshops, volunteer roles and involvements on one official university document. You can show your CCR when applying for jobs, volunteer roles or graduate school. You can also discover different jobs and co-curricular opportunities by visiting **career360.smu.ca**



Events

SMU hosts many activities and events throughout the academic year. Students are encouraged to learn about the many things happening in the SMU community. You can check out the full calendar of events online by visiting: **news.smu.ca/upcoming**



Club Sports

The Club Sports program at Saint Mary's University is designed to provide additional opportunities for individuals interested in a specific sport to develop and improve their skills, by participating recreationally or competitively in league play on and off campus. Learn more by visiting **smu.ca/athletics-and-recreation/student-club-sports.html**



The First 6 Weeks Challenge



Your first **six weeks** are all about finding your rhythm. Try new things, ask questions and connect with others. Celebrate the small wins – **they add up!**

WEEK 1

GET SET:

Start strong.

- ☐ Check your SMU email & get your SMU ID Card
- ☐ Explore Welcome Weeks events
- ☐ Connect about accessibility, if applicable

WEEK 2

GET

CONNECTED:

Find your people.

- ☐ Say hello to someone new in class
- ☐ Visit the Society and Partners' Expo
- ☐ Stop by your faculty's Academic Advising drop-ins

WEEK 3

GET

ORGANIZED:

Build your routine.

- ☐ Break down assignments into manageable tasks
- ☐ Discover Study Hall & build a study routine
- ☐ Meet with your Peer Success Coach

WEEK 4

GET

INVOLVED:

Find your place.

- ☐ Introduce yourself to someone new
- ☐ Cheer on the Huskies at a varsity game
- ☐ Connect with the Writing Centre or peer-led tutoring centres

WEEK 5

GET

BALANCED:

Make time for you.

- ☐ Explore the Homburg Centre
- ☐ Check the SMU Events Calendar
- ☐ Explore Career360 for job search & career support

WEEK 6

GET

REFLECTIVE:

Celebrate your progress.

- ☐ Reflect on your first six weeks; identify areas where you could use support
- ☐ Join the First 6 Weeks Challenge Check-In to connect with others
- ☐ Learn about mental health supports like the Counselling Centre

Goal Planner



My Goals this year:

New things I'd like to get involved in:

Strategies, tips or habits I plan to try:

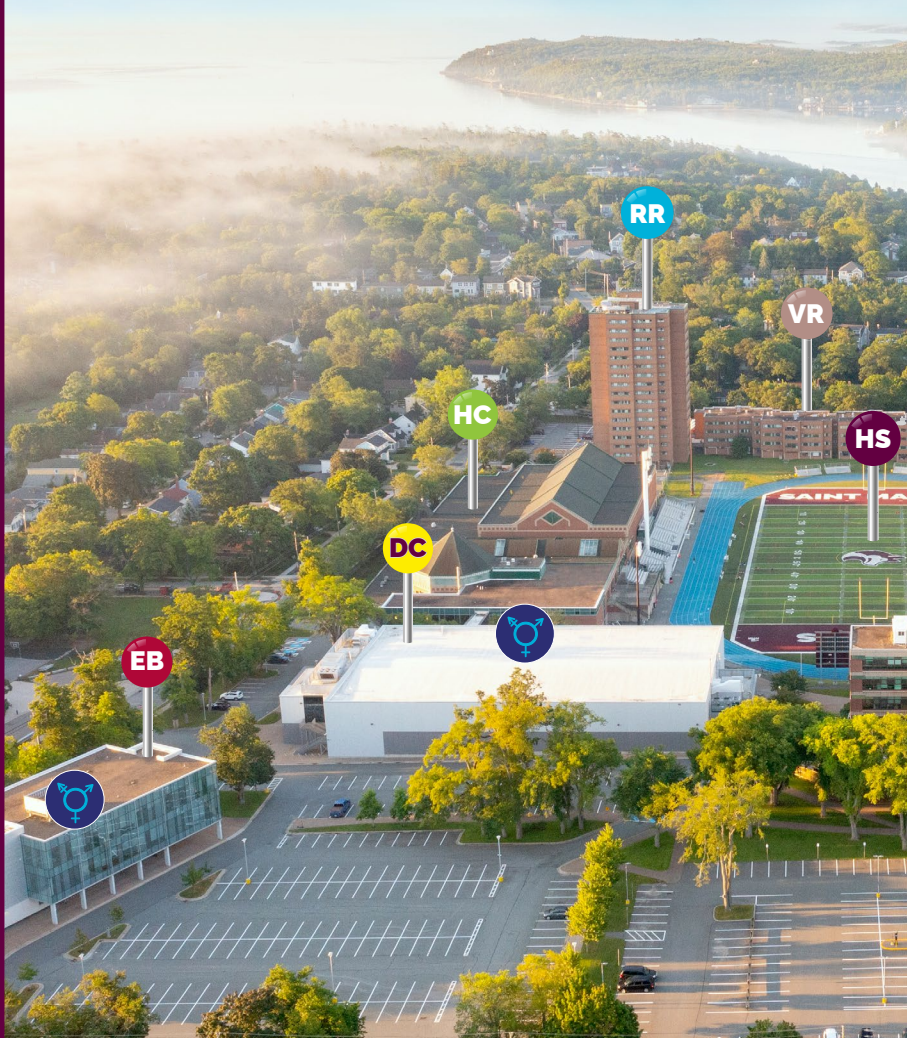
Actions I can take towards my goals:

Resources or Services that could support me:



"Some of my best friendships started by staying on campus between classes. Join an event, chat with classmates, or spend time in common spaces. You never know who you'll meet."
– 4th Year Commerce Student

YOUR CAMPUS



Get to know our buildings and spaces,
for when you come to campus!

- **AT** Atrium
- **AG** Art Gallery
- **B** Burke Building
- **C** Dockside Cafeteria
- **DC** Dauphinee Centre
- **EB** Engineering Building
(960 Tower Road)
- **EL** Extended Learning
- **HC** Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness
- **HS** Huskies Stadium-Turf
- **IC** Isaacs Commons
- **LA** Loyola Academic Complex
- **LR** Loyola Residence
- **MM** McNally Main
- **MN** McNally North
- **MS** McNally South



To access the campus map visit [smu.ca](https://www.smu.ca)

- | | |
|---|--|
|  PPL Patrick Power Library |  SH Sobeys Inspiration Hub |
|  Q Quad |  SC O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre (Food Court & Gorsebrook) |
|  RR Rice Residence | |
|  S Science Building | |
|  SB Sobeys Building |  VR Vanier Residence |



Gender Neutral Washrooms

Stay Connected

Stay on top of what's happening on campus including events, activities and opportunities.

Follow the big 5 social media accounts

✓ SMUHalifax

✓ SMU_Student Life

✓ smuhfxlibrary

✓ SMUSAhfx

✓ Your Faculty

(SMARTs_SMU; SobeySchool_SMU; SMUScience)

Important Sites for New Students

Student Life

smu.ca/student-life

Subscribe to the

Res Top 5 newsletter

to learn about upcoming events
eepurl.com/hio2VP

Financial Aid and Awards

smu.ca/academics/financial-aid-and-awards.html

Parking on Campus

smu.ca/about/facilities-parking

Download the SMU Safe App!



welcome@smu.ca
smu.ca/newtosmu



Saint Mary's
University