

WELCOME WEEKS WINTER 2026



January 5 – January 16

WELCOME WEEKS PARTNERS:

Student Success Centre

Saint Mary's University Students'
Association (SMUSA)

International Student Centre

Residence Life

The Studio for Teaching &
Learning

Black Student Advising

Patrick Power Library

Academic Faculties

Sexual Violence Support Centre

SMUfit & Athletics

Winter Welcome Weeks offer opportunities to connect with campus, hear tips from upper-year students, learn strategies for success, and get familiar with important student services. Below is the full schedule of events and activities, and all new students should plan to attend **Winter Welcome Day on Tuesday, January 6**. Be sure to sign up for as many activities that interest you throughout Welcome Weeks to start your term strong!

Week One Events and Activities

Monday, January 5th

Jumpstart

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Atrium 216

Start the new year with some refreshers, resources, and tools to set you on the right direction with your academic communication, meet SMU professors and learn about support services

Winter Welcome to Residence

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Loyola 171

Winter Welcome to Residence is a warm and inviting kickoff event designed to help new and returning students settle into campus life for the winter term. Students can expect friendly introductions, helpful resources, and opportunities to meet Residence Life staff and fellow residents.

Zumba

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Homburg Studio C

Get ready to move and groove during this Zumba Dance Party! This high-energy workout is the perfect way to kick off your SMU journey with music, lights, and fun vibes. Neon attire is highly recommended—let's light up the dance floor together!



Skill Building



Getting to Know SMU



Academic Session



Socializing & Games

Welcome Day - Tuesday, January 6th

International Student Welcome Session

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Sobey 260

Welcome to the SMU Community! All international students should plan to attend this important welcome and information session. Meet other new students, as well as the friendly staff and student leaders from the International Student Centre. Learn about the services the Centre provides and important information about your immigration documents, Nova Scotia ID cards, Social Insurance Numbers, and other campus services. A great introduction to SMU! **Welcome Lunch** will be provided for students following the international welcome.

Start Strong!

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Sobey 255

Get on track from day one. Student Success Advisors share their best tips and strategies for success and balance both in and outside the classroom in your first year at SMU. You'll find out what to expect, habits that can help, and the services and supports available to help you along the way. A **Welcome Lunch** will be provided for students following the session.

Service Expo

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Sobey Building

This is the first step to being a student at SMU! Visit the Service Expo to get your SMU ID, learn about the Homburg Centre, and other student services. You can get all your questions answered in this space.

New to SMU - Welcome Lunch

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Loyola Academic 290

Lunch will be provided for all new students. Get to know your new classmates, meet the SMU President and members of the SMU Community. All new students starting in January are welcome!

Santamarian Ceremony

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Loyola Academic 290

Your formal welcome to Saint Mary's University. New students will officially sign into the University during this traditional ceremony. Students will be joined by university leaders, alumni, faculty and staff. All those who attend will receive a Santamarian gift from the President.

Academic Welcome Session

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Sobey Hub 324

Get ready to meet your Academic Advisors from your faculty and fellow new students just like you! This fun, interactive session is your inside scoop on everything you need to know to thrive in your first term at Saint Mary's. You'll discover how to get involved in your academic program, where to find academic support, and what exciting opportunities await you.

Campus Tours

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Loyola Academic 290

Find your classes and the way around the Saint Mary's University campus, learn about campus services and find hidden gems on a tour led by student leaders.



**Saint Mary's
University**

First Day of Classes - Wednesday, January 7th

Welcome Hub

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Quad or Isaacs Commons (weather dependent)

Come check out the Student Success Centre's Welcome Hub to get some hot chocolate as you settle into the Winter term. You'll meet Student Affairs and Services staff to chat, answer questions, and show you all the fun and upcoming events we have to offer.

RecFest

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Homburg Gymnasium

Come check out the Open Gym Edition of RecFest! Drop in for a fun, casual afternoon of Badminton, Pickleball and Basketball, try something new, and meet other students! Comfortable clothing and shoes are encouraged.

Keep it Social Obstacle Course

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Sobey 4th Floor – Unilever Lounge

See if you stumble or strive in this obstacle course with a twist! Join the Keep it Social team for a course full of fun and challenging obstacles that test your ability to Keep it Social while using simulation alcohol and cannabis impairment goggles!

Thursday, January 8th

Welcome Hub

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Quad or Isaacs Commons (weather dependent)

Come check out the Student Success Centre's Welcome Hub as you settle into the Winter term. You'll meet Student Affairs and Services staff to chat, answer questions, and show you all the fun and upcoming events we have to offer.

Unlocking Your Course Syllabus

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Loyola 277

The Peer Success Coaches will show you how to unlock your course syllabus: one of your most important tools for success. It holds information and clues to what the term has in store for you. Identify important elements of a course syllabus and hear tips to stay on top of your courses and start building your plan for success!

Get to Know Your Library

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Patrick Power Library

The library is a key resource for first-year academic success. This session will introduce you to the services and support available to help you start strong, with time at the end to ask questions.

Speed Friending

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Sobey Hub 325

Join Residence Life for the perfect chance to meet new people, make quick connections, and expand your social circle in a fun, low-pressure environment. Students will rotate through short, engaging conversations designed to spark friendships and help them find common interests. Residence Life events are open to all students!

Friday, January 9th

Shopping Trip

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Depart from 1st Floor of O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

The International Student Centre is hosting a shopping trip to the Halifax Shopping Centre! Come to buy last-minute school supplies, residence/apartment necessities and personal items. Attendees will travel with SAGA (Students Acting for Global Awareness) volunteers via Halifax Transit, so don't forget your Student ID card.

ResLife Student Group Pop-Up 🏠

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Loyola Colonnade

Drop by the Residence Life Student Groups Pop-Up to learn about the diverse student-led groups within Residence Life. Students can expect to explore different committees, meet current members, and learn how to get involved in upcoming initiatives and events.

SMU Huskies Women's Varsity Hockey Game 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Dauphinee Centre

Kick off your weekend and come out to support the SMU Huskies in this thrilling varsity women's hockey game versus the UNB reds —come out and show your Huskies pride!

Please note: This event requires an additional ticket. Add your student number in the discount code box when placing your order for your free ticket at the [SMU Huskies website](#).

Saturday, January 10th

SMU Huskies Women's Varsity Hockey Game 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Dauphinee Centre

Come out to support the SMU Huskies in this thrilling varsity women's hockey game versus the St. Thomas Tommies —come out and show your Huskies pride!

Please note: This event requires an additional ticket. Add your student number in the discount code box at checkout for your free ticket at the [SMU Huskies website](#).



SMUSA Welcome to the Gorsebrook 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. | Gorsebrook Lounge

January may be freezing, but we're starting the semester with the hottest winter glow party on campus! Step into a cozy, glow-in-the-dark escape with a live DJ, free pizza, and all the winter vibes. Whether you're bundled up or rocking your best glow fit, this is your chance to meet new people and start the year with energy and fun.

Please note: this event requires an additional ticket through Bounce.

Week Two Events and Activities

Monday, January 12th

Welcome Hub 🏠

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Quad or Isaacs Commons (weather dependant)

Come check out the Student Success Centre's Welcome Hub as you settle into the Winter term. You'll meet Student Affairs and Services staff to chat, answer questions, and show you all the fun and upcoming events we have to offer.

Sexual Violence Support Centre Pop-Up 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Loyola Colonnade

Stop by and chat with Sexual Violence Support Centre team about on and off campus resources, educational opportunities, and ways to get involved in creating an empowering campus for all!

SMUSA Gift Card BINGO 🧑🧑🧑

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Gorsebrook Lounge

Who doesn't love free gift cards? Whether you're a bingo pro or it's your first time, join SMUSA for a cozy evening of Gift Card Bingo, an easygoing, high-reward event where every round is a chance to win. Bring a friend, grab your card, and get ready to yell "Bingo!"

Please note: The event requires additional registration and a ticket in Bounce.

Tuesday, January 13th

Ubuntu: Black Student Welcome Lunch 🏠

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Black Student Commons

Join the Black Student Advisor for a welcome lunch designed to bring together all new and returning Black-identifying students at SMU! Learn about the programs, resources and supports available to help you thrive. This gathering is an opportunity to connect, share experiences, learn about resources and programs and build a sense of belonging as we begin a new term!

Cardio Kickboxing 🧑🧑🧑

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Homburg Studio C

Come visit SMUfit at the Homburg Centre for this high-energy, music-driven workout that combines fast-paced kickboxing moves with upbeat choreography to boost your heart rate, burn calories, and leave you feeling strong and empowered. Get ready to punch, kick, and move to the beat in this fun and motivating full-body workout! All levels welcome!

SMUSA Cineplex Movie Night 🧑🧑🧑

6:30 p.m. - 9:00+ p.m. | Meet in 1st Floor of O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre or at Cineplex

Throw on your coziest hoodie because SMUSA is taking movie night off-campus this time! Join us for a free private movie screening at Cineplex Park Lane, topped with 30% off concessions and the full theatre experience. Whether you're here for the plot twists, the popcorn, or just a chill night out with friends, this is the perfect way to unwind during Winter Welcome Weeks.

Wednesday, January 14th

Society & Partners Expo 🏠

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Loyola Academic 290

Drop by the SMUSA Societies and Partners Expo to discover the diverse student societies at SMU. Students can explore academic, cultural, and social, connect directly with executive teams, and discover ways to get involved throughout the year. This expo is an excellent opportunity to build community, learn about upcoming SMUSA initiatives, and find meaningful ways to enrich your SMU experience.

Commuter Student Café 🏠

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Atrium 340 (CLARI)

Living off campus? Join the Student Success Centre for a quick introduction to key campus resources including lockers, transportation and parking, dining options, gym membership, and ways to get involved as a commuter student at SMU. Meet other off-campus students, connect with staff and student leaders, and start the term feeling informed and supported. Light refreshments provided.



Shopping Trip

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Meet in 1st Floor of O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

Travel by transit with our student leaders to Walmart and the Shopping Centre to pick up necessary items, or just get to know the transit system.

Thursday, January 15th

Table Tennis Tournament

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Homburg 2nd Floor

Come visit SMUfit at the Homburg Centre for this high-energy, music-driven workout that combines fast-paced kickboxing moves with upbeat choreography to boost your heart rate, burn calories, and leave you feeling strong and empowered. Get ready to punch, kick, and move to the beat in this fun and motivating full-body workout! All levels welcome!

Queer Board Games Social

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Loyola 296

New to SMU? New term? Queer Board Games Night is a great event to meet 2SLGBTQIA+ peers and allies on campus in a fun, inclusive environment, and de-stress from all the new semester anticipation. Swing by for some board games, music, snacks, and awesome people!

SMUSA Wonderland

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Loyola 290

Welcome to SMUSA Wonderland, your indoor winter arcade experience! Enjoy free arcade and carnival-style games, and all the fun you need to break up the winter blues. Grab some snacks, challenge your friends, or find your new favorite game. Whether you're here to play, compete, or just chill with friends, this is the perfect way to warm up the Winter Semester! Please note: The event requires additional registration and a ticket in Bounce.

Friday, January 16th

Science & Engineering Drop-In Welcome

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Loyola Academic 290

Drop by the Science Advising Centre to meet your Academic Science Advisors and have your questions answered!

SMU Huskies Varsity Women's Volleyball & Men's Hockey Games

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Homburg Gymnasium & Dauphinee Centre

Join your fellow students and community members for an eventful Friday evening with Women's Volleyball versus MUN and Men's Hockey versus UPEI both kicking off at 7pm! Chose one game or jump back and forth between the two—come out and show your Huskies pride!

Please note: This event requires an additional ticket. Add your student number in the discount code box when placing your order for your free ticket at the [SMU Huskies website](#).

How to Register:

All new Winter 2026 students should complete the [Welcome Weeks Registration Form](#)

All events, including descriptions and locations, are posted on [New to SMU – Events & Activities](#)



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