

A vibrant, multi-level indoor atrium, likely a shopping mall or public space. The central feature is a large, multi-tiered fountain with water spraying upwards, illuminated with bright pink and purple lights. To the left, a tall, grey concrete pillar stands with a grid of hexagonal cutouts. The ceiling is a complex, geometric structure with recessed lighting and hanging light fixtures. In the background, multiple levels of the atrium are visible, with glass railings and various shops and restaurants. A man in a dark shirt is looking up at the fountain in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is modern and lively.

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS'
LIFE IN
MONTREAL

PLUS DE 110 BOUTIQUES
ET RESTAURANTS

PAISE

Over the last decade, there has been an increase of approximately 68% in the number of foreign students in Québec. A Québec university in Montreal, such as McGill or Concordia, can have up to 11,100 international students as of this year, and this number has yet to decline anytime soon. And so, people begin to ask the question:

What is the reason for this upward tendency as international students flock to Montréal?

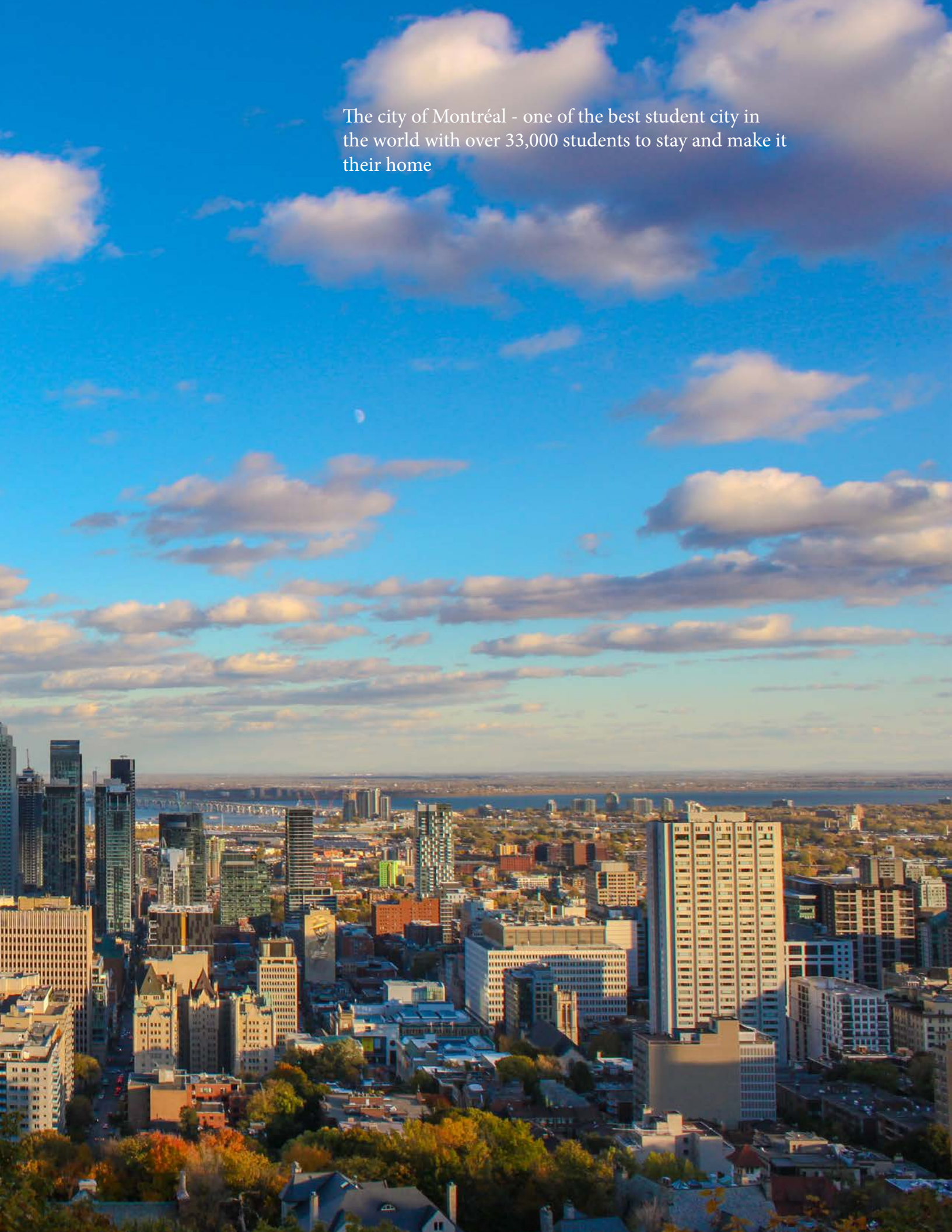


It can be seen that currently, international students are choosing Canada, especially Québec over countries famous for their education. There are several reasons for this, but the most notable ones are the following: easier procedure, more promising future prospects, and the international student's welfare.





The city of Montréal - one of the best student city in the world with over 33,000 students to stay and make it their home



As of 2018, the Canadian government has established bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries that generated a platform for students to come to Montreal for studying.

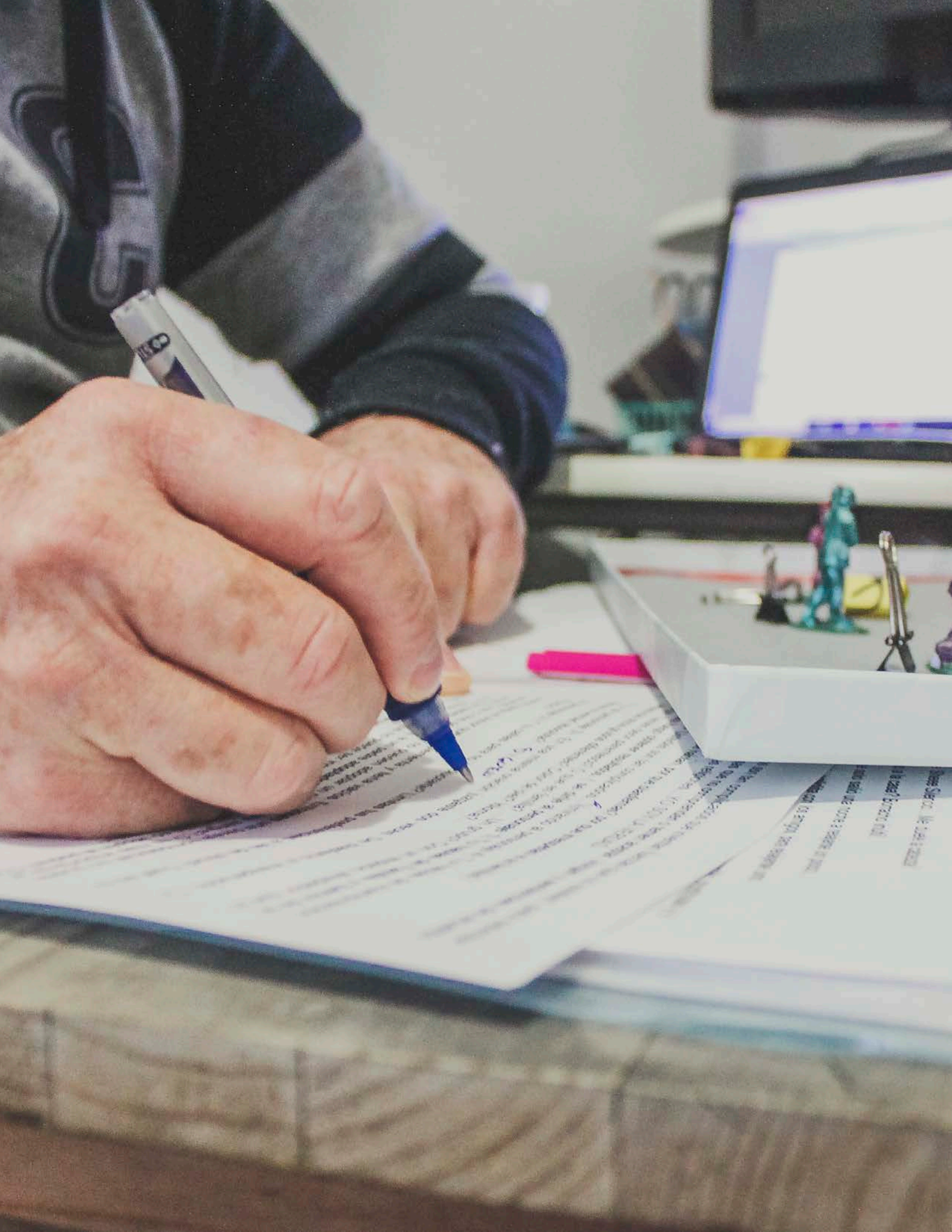
Its recent program [Study Direct Stream \(SDS\)](#) for example, allows students from four countries: China, India, Philippines and Vietnam to get a study permit within 30 days without going through the time-consuming process of making a proof of financial stability. The only requirements for this program are that the students have to put a 10,000 CAD deposit as a guaranteed investment, which they can take out in full within the first 12 months in Canada; an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of minimum 6.0; proof of payment for the first year's tuition fee; and some other minor paperwork. Prior to these agreements, applying for a study permit in Canada can take up to three months, which makes the alternative options of Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom sound better.

“I got my visa in less than a week from the day I applied” - shared Quang Nhat Nguyen - “I never thought that it would be that fast, to the point that I even had to check whether they got the wrong person, or the notification was a scam of some sort”.

**SIMPLER
PAPERWORK
CAN BE A
WONDERFUL
ATTRACTION**

But for international students enrolled full-time in Canada, they are inherently granted the right to work part-time 20 hours per week, which makes a huge difference in comparison to the United States, where part-time jobs off-campus can grant you jail time instead of financial support for their studies.









The crucial difference between Canada and other countries that attract international student, however, lies in the immigration program proposed by the government.

The Canadian government does encourage international students to immigrate and work here. The [PGWP](#) (Post-Graduate Work Permit) allows students completing a DEC or any degree program of over 1800 hours of training to remain in Canada for another three years. And apart from Federal Immigration programs, international students can also benefit from the [Provincial Nominee](#) program - notably Quebec's Immigration program with only two conditions: the students have achieved a college degree or above in Canada, and possess French skills of advanced intermediate level.

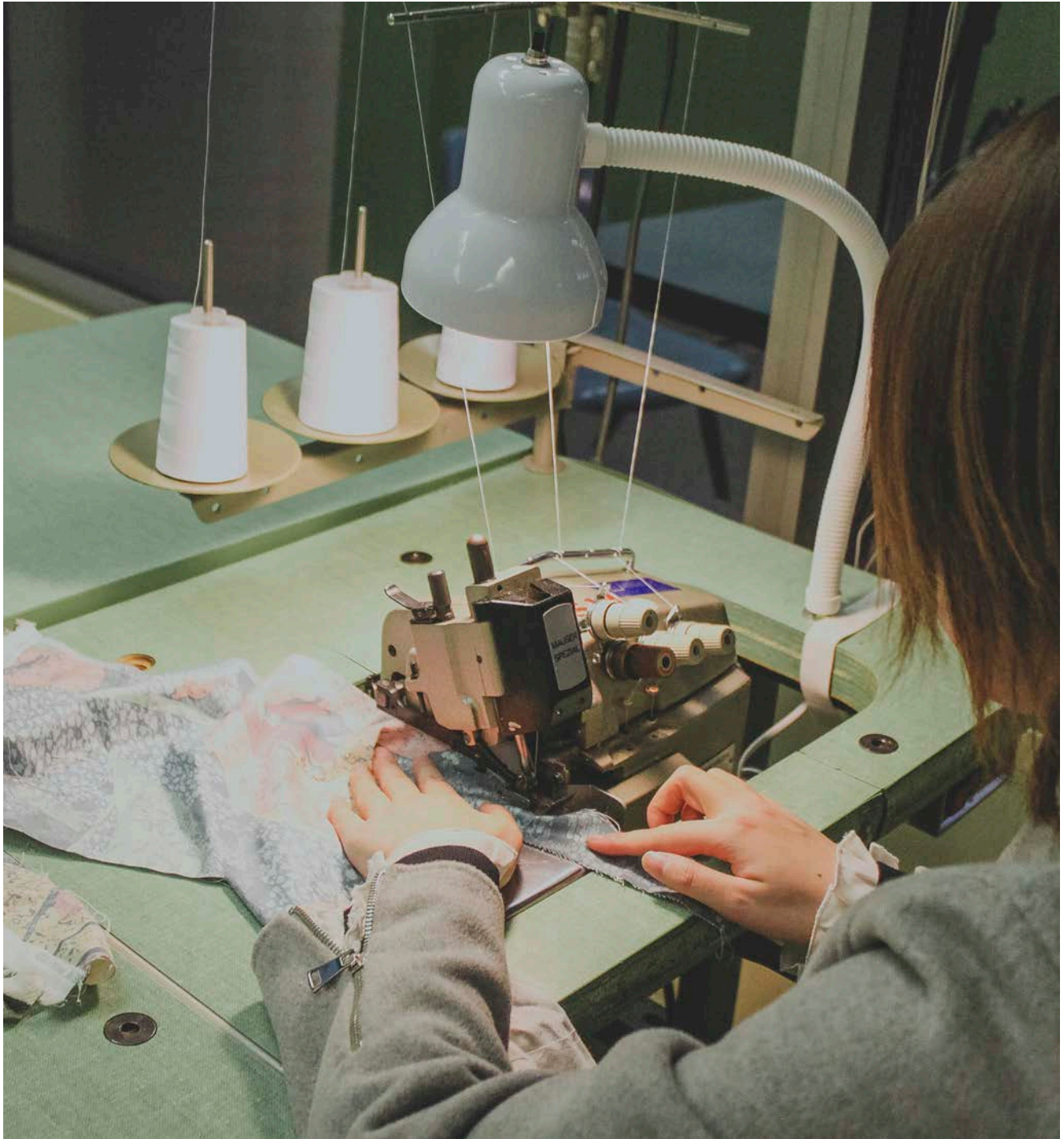
Meanwhile, in the United States, president Donald Trump, with his "American First" policy, is closing the gate for students to immigrate into this country. And also, socio-politically speaking, life in Montreal is comparatively more stable in light of the current politics of the United Kingdom after Brexit or the frequent mass gun shootings within the territory of Canada's southern neighbour.

**THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO STAY**



“I finished my Bachelor degree in China, but life in China can be uncomfortable, you know? Then I went to the United Kingdom to get my Master degree. Life was good in the United Kingdom, but after finishing the program, they didn’t let me stay there to work after

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I finished my program. So in the end, I chose to get a College degree in Montreal in order to immigrate here after another three academic years. It's a long term plan, but I'm sure I can do it."

My biggest worry is not about life over here. I'm worried about my beloved ones who are still living in the chaotic Brazil even as we speak.

-Moises Boff





The fact is, studying in Montreal is evidently more affordable than in Europe and North America with the same level of education or even better. With regards to the cost of living, you would need around 8,913.33 CAD (6,660.37USD) in Brooklyn, NY to maintain the same standard of life that you can have with 4,600 CAD in Montreal (assuming you rent in both cities) according to statistics from [Numbeo](#).

In general, less international students and racial discriminations on average in segregated cities in the US. This is one of the characteristics of the multicultural city of Montreal, which also has some of the highest rankings in the world, such as McGill University (ranked 44th in the world), or the University of Montreal.



Rodrigo Kiko, a Brazilian student who came to Montreal with a view to study, is admiring one of the many artworks that are displayed in the space.

STUDENTS' WELFARE IN MONTREAL

Students suffer from hate crimes at a higher average in Montreal than in most other cities, as attributed to the cosmopolitan and multicultural city of Montreal. Montreal ranks among the top universities that Canada has, with Concordia University (third rank in Canada) and the University of Montreal (fifth rank in

Canada, 90th in the world). It witnesses waves of international students flocking to study in these prestigious universities annually, especially at the start of the fall semester.

Although there are, of course, challenges for international students to integrate into life in Montreal; these are some of the most charming reasons why Montreal is now ranked as one of the best student cities in the world.



Studying in the prestigious Faculty of Art in Concordia University someday can be seen all around this cosmopolitan city.

THANKS FOR READING
AND DON'T FORGET TO SMILE!

