

Cover Letter

Dear Members of the hiring committee,

I am writing to apply for the Lecturer position in Computer Science at McGill University. Currently, I am a postdoctoral fellow at University College London, where my research explores category-theoretic approaches to programming language semantics. My academic journey began at McGill University, where I earned a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Computer Science between 2016 and 2019, followed by a master's degree (2019-2021) and a doctorate in Theoretical Computer Science (2021-2024) from ENS de Lyon. In September 2024, I successfully defended my thesis on quantitative algebraic theories supervised by Matteo Mio and Valeria Vignudelli. I am now eager to return to McGill and contribute to its academic community as both an educator and a researcher. I believe that my extensive teaching experience, my significant research contributions, and my active participation in outreach programs are valuable assets I can bring to your School of Computer Science.

Throughout my career, I have cultivated a passion for teaching and research that is grounded in a deep commitment to student engagement and innovative pedagogy. I have designed and taught a wide range of courses spanning pure mathematics and theoretical computer science, including automata theory, lambda calculus, and category theory. At ENS de Lyon, I developed and delivered my own course on category theory, accompanied by a comprehensive set of lecture notes, which enhanced students' understanding of abstract mathematical concepts. At McGill, I am particularly excited to contribute to the School of Computer Science's offerings in theoretical computer science, especially in areas such as algorithm design and theory of computation (priority areas i and ii the posting).

My international education and teaching experiences in Canada and France, coupled with my fluency in English and French, have equipped me to effectively navigate diverse academic and cultural contexts. These experiences will enable me to connect with McGill's vibrant and multicultural student body, tailoring my teaching to their varied backgrounds and learning needs. At McGill, I aim to build upon these efforts by fostering an engaging and equitable learning environment that reflects the university's commitment to diversity and academic excellence.

In addition to my teaching, I am dedicated to outreach programs that make mathematics and computer science more accessible, especially to younger audiences. I volunteered to supervise internships initiating lycée (CÉGEP) students to research, led guided tours and workshops for high school groups, and took part in school visits aiming to explain the world of scientific research. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to McGill's outreach program.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss in more detail how my background, skills, and experiences align with the goals of your department. Returning to McGill would be a privilege, and I am enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing to its academic community.

Kind regards,
Ralph Sarkis