



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT

HANDBOOK

2027
2028

FIND YOURSELF HERE



Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Haudenosaunee, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit and many others whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

Aerial view of U of A North Campus.

Which Campus Fits You Best?

The U of A is made up of three campuses; all offering unique locations, program types and student experiences. Where do you see yourself studying?

Many of the Cree translations of the waterways were sourced via Cree Online Dictionary when language speakers were unavailable.

If you'd like to provide feedback, please email indigenous@ualberta.ca



NORTH CAMPUS

Located in the heart of amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) in Treaty 6 Territory, our North Campus is a hub for Indigenous Peoples on the northwest prairie. Steps away from campus is our breathtaking river valley, a traditional meeting place for Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.



CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN

Nestled in the middle of a vibrant francophone community along the east bank of Mill Creek in Edmonton's Bonnie Doon neighbourhood. Here, French language and culture is at the forefront.



AUGUSTANA CAMPUS

Situated along the asiniskaw sipis (Stoney Creek) in the heart of The Rose City: Camrose, Alberta, is our Augustana Campus. Just minutes from the Four Bands of Maskwacis in Treaty 6, Augustana provides a classic liberal-arts experience and hands-on learning in a tight-knit community.

Sweetgrass Bear in
Main Quad on U of A,
North Campus carved
by Stewart Steinhauer.

INDIGENOUS LEARNERS FLOURISH WITH PURPOSE

At the largest Northern
research institute in Canada.



TOP 4
UNIVERSITY IN
CANADA



TOP 100
UNIVERSITY IN THE
WORLD



**1st FACULTY OF
NATIVE STUDIES**
IN NORTH AMERICA



2300+
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS
STUDY HERE



LARGEST
INDIGENOUS POPULATION
IN ALBERTA IS IN EDMONTON



**1st INDIGENOUS HEALTH
INITIATIVES PROGRAM**
(wāpanachakos) IN CANADA

For more information on rankings, visit uab.ca/rank

Indigenous Vitality Awaits You

Make the most of your
degree with Indigenous-
focused opportunities.

CULTURE AND CEREMONIES

Stay connected to your roots while
you are at the U of A. Sit with Elders,
visit First Peoples' House and
attend events like:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit
Student Orientation
- Annual Round Dance
- Convocation Honouring Ceremony

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (CSL) PROGRAM

Participants in the CSL program gain
valuable experience within the context
of a university course while increasing
their awareness of the social and
political challenges faced by the
urban Indigenous community in
the Edmonton area. uab.ca/csl

I-STEAM PATHWAYS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

This experiential, cross-disciplinary
learning program enables First Nations,
Métis and Inuit students to gain
research experience in a range
of environmental fields. I-STEAM
participants complete a paid summer
internship with an environmental expert
researcher. isteam-pathways.ualberta.ca

CANADIAN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CILLDI)

CILLDI trains Indigenous language
champions whose role is to protect,
preserve, promote, practice and pass
on their languages. CILLDI summer
school students earn university credits
while training in documentation and
language analysis. uab.ca/cilldi



Hailey from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Fourth Year U of A History Student,
U of A Ambassador and President of the Powwow Club, dances in fancy
shawl outside of the Faculty of Native Studies Pembina Hall.



Opening Fall 2026 a home away from home, the new First Peoples' House is a space rooted in sâkhitowin (love) and tapâtêyimisôwin (humility), where First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students can learn, connect, and thrive.

BRAIDED SUPPORTS

From application to graduation, your success is our top priority.

First Peoples' House

First Peoples' House (FPH) is a place thoughtfully created with intention and care, and led with sâkhitowin (love) ekwa tapâtêyimisôwin (humility). FPH is a "home away from home" on North Campus for U of A First Nations, Métis and Inuit students; a space where learning is not only pursued, but lived, shared and carried forward.

Here, knowledge is held in many forms: in quiet study and in spoken word, in the guidance of tutors and the wisdom of Elders, and with a warm heart of nourishment of community meals and the spirit of ceremony around every corner. This is a place to gather, to be supported and to remember that education is a journey walked together.

uab.ca/fph

Within these walls, First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students are supported in every part of the student journey:

Cultural Grounding: Elders who offer wisdom, connection to tradition and teachings rooted in respect.

Community and Nourishment: Access to snacks and shared meals that bring students together, supporting both physical well-being and belonging.

Cultural Connection: Programming that honours, celebrates and strengthens the FNMI community and ways of being.

Personal Support: Dedicated staff who walk alongside a student's path, offering care, advocacy, and encouragement.

FPH Housing: Diverse, on-campus housing that provides secure, welcoming spaces for U of A FNMI students.

Learning and Voice: Guidance in writing and academics, where stories, knowledge and ideas are nurtured and empowered to be heard.

Academic Services and Support: Access to tutoring, academic learning workshops, writing mentors, librarians and the FPH Kîsikwan (calendar).

Graduate Support: Access to graduate program services and supports.

Financial Support: Dedicated First Nations, Métis and Inuit awards.

Transition Year Program: The First Peoples' House (FPH) Transition Year Program (TYP) is an optional full-time program designed for First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals seeking to enroll in their first year of university and to connect with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit community on campus. Instead of applying directly to one of the nine faculties, a First Nations, Métis or Inuit student can apply to the FPH Transition Year Program for their first year to pursue open studies to prepare for admission to one of the nine faculties. You will be eligible to transfer 15-24 credits. The FPH Transition Year Program admission cycles are as follows:

	pipon (WINTER) TERM: JAN - APR 2027	takwākin (FALL) TERM: SEPT - DEC 2027
APPLICATION LAUNCH	Aug 1, 2026	Nov 1, 2026
APPLICATION DEADLINE	Oct 1, 2026	May 1, 2027
FACULTY ACCESS	Open to the Faculty of Arts and Native Studies only	Open to all faculty program routes

In addition, as a student enrolled in the FPH Transition Year Program, you will be registered in the takwākin (fall) 101 and pipon (winter) 102 university courses, where you will build, connect and deepen your relationships through wāhkōhtowin (kinship) ways of knowing, guided by Elders, Knowledge Keepers and the okiskinohamākew (educator). All of which sets the foundation that will carry you throughout your educational journey.

Visit uab.ca/typ to access more program details, learn about the admission process, the types of documents required to support your application, and find frequently asked questions.

FPH exists to nurture growth, to sustain belonging and to help each U of A FNMI student move forward in a meaningful way toward their goals, their purpose and the communities they will continue to uplift.



A student proudly participates in the University of Alberta Convocation Ceremony.

A Holistic Student Experience

First Peoples' House, together with our many partnerships across campus, reflects a deep commitment to the whole student. Here, support is a circle that is rooted in community and carried forward through housing, health, accessibility and connection. Like roots in the land, each service is grounded in care, drawing strength from culture, tradition and shared knowledge. In this place, FNMI students are not only supported, but empowered to walk their paths with confidence, purpose and connection, carrying their stories forward.

At the University of Alberta, a wide range of programs are designed to help students thrive both personally and academically:

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The university provides accommodations for students with medical or non-medical needs that may impact their studies. To ensure a smooth process, we recommend applying by May 2027, allowing enough time for registration and coordination of supports.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

From counselling services and the on-campus University Health Centre to substance use awareness, recovery programs and peer support, students have access to comprehensive resources that support mental, physical and emotional well-being.

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' UNION (ISU)

The ISU plays a vital role in advocating for Indigenous students, building connections across campus and creating a safe, inclusive space. It supports students in achieving balance across spiritual, mental, physical and emotional health.

The University of Alberta has a strong commitment to Indigenous students.

On the following pages you will explore Indigenous-specific offerings embedded into the programming of many of our faculties.

“

During my two and a half years at the University of Alberta, I have become deeply involved in student governance, Indigenous programming and coursework and community-building initiatives. There is so much support for student parents and Indigenous students.”

DENÉE

4th Year, Combined Native Studies and Secondary Education Student from Kelly Lake Métis Settlement

Augustana Campus

AUGUSTANA INDIGENOUS STUDENT SERVICES

The Indigenous Student Services office is a space where all students can participate in cultural workshops and learning, such as weekly beading circles with local Elders and monthly sewing workshops. This dedicated community space also offers a computer lab with printing and free-flowing snacks.

uab.ca/augiss

wâhkôhtowin LODGE

A central meeting and gathering space for Augustana students, the wâhkôhtowin Lodge is a community space designed with Indigenous culture in mind. Indigenous students can access a range of services and connect with other members of the Indigenous community on campus.

SMUDGE-SAFE CAMPUS

Indigenous students are welcome to smudge freely anywhere at Augustana Campus. Materials for smudging are available in the wâhkôhtowin classroom and community space, as well as in the Multi-Faith Prayer Room.

Keep exploring at uab.ca/augfuture or contact an Augustana recruiter at augadmis@ualberta.ca



“

I decided to transfer to the U of A for their Native Studies program, and I have loved being part of this faculty. I have enjoyed volunteering for and participating in a variety of events with the Indigenous Students' Union and First Peoples' House — a personal favourite was attending the U of A Round Dance.”

ELLA

Native Studies Graduate

Faculty of Native Studies

CERTIFICATE IN INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP

Customize your degree! This certificate provides the skills needed to lead, work or partner with Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses, communities, organizations or governments.

NATIVE STUDIES STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (NSSA)

Serves the needs of Native Studies students and provides a common ground for students to study the historical experiences and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

LIGHT FIRES: INDIGENOUS PRISON ARTS & EDUCATION PROJECT

The Light Fires: Indigenous Prison Arts & Education Project makes post-secondary and arts-based education more accessible to incarcerated people. The work supports the collective and individual empowerment of Indigenous people behind – and beyond – bars.

Keep exploring at uab.ca/fns or contact a Native Studies recruiter at nsrecruitment@ualberta.ca





“

I'm proud to be a third-generation post-secondary student at the University of Alberta, I've found so much joy in being part of the campus community. I love connecting with younger students, building friendships across generations and supporting those around me as a natural mentor. ”

VICTORIA

3rd Year Arts Student from
Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation

Keep exploring at
uab.ca/arts or contact
arts.indigenous@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Arts

DESIGNATED SPACE FOR ARTS INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

The Indigenous Arts Gathering Space is dedicated to the Arts Indigenous community. Meet with friends, have lunch or read a book. It's a cozy, welcoming spot for Indigenous students to relax between classes.

ARTS INDIGENOUS STUDENT COUNCIL (AISC)

The Arts Indigenous Student Council (AISC) is a student-led collective that builds community, support, and visibility for Indigenous students in the Faculty of Arts.

Through cultural programming, peer mentorship and advocacy, AISC creates space for Indigenous students to feel connected, supported and represented throughout their university experience.

COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS LEARNERS

The Faculty of Arts is home to one of the largest Indigenous student communities on campus, with more than 350 First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners.

As an Indigenous student in Arts, you have access to a dedicated Indigenous Recruitment and Engagement Specialist who supports your transition to university, provides academic advising and creates opportunities for connection through events and programming.

This unique role within Arts Undergraduate Student Services also connects you to resources across campus and supports your success in ways that honor who you are and where you come from.

Alberta School of Business

The Alberta School of Business recognizes that Indigenous students bring diverse strengths, experiences and ways of knowing. In response to student-identified needs, we developed a tutoring program that supports numeracy and financial literacy in a culturally-respectful and inclusive environment. This program is designed to build confidence and capacity while providing students with the tools and support needed to succeed in their courses and programs.

KPMG / INDIGENOUS BUSINESS STUDENTS ASSOCIATE CASE COMPETITION

Students that participated in this competition event got the opportunity to develop their case analysis, critical thinking, presentation and teamworking skills in a learning-focused environment. It also features the highest prize money for internal case competitions at the U of A!

CERTIFICATE IN INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Indigenous BCom students have an opportunity to cultivate their ideas through project development to find new solutions for social problems like climate change, food insecurity and poverty. This certificate is run out of the Faculty's eHub where innovative ecosystems flourish.

“

The most rewarding part of my journey thus far has been being admitted into the Finance Honors program at the U of A. It has validated to me that my hard work mattered, and I am capable of achieving whatever I set my mind to. It is also highly rewarding to know that I am breaking down barriers for other Indigenous peoples.”

GEORGE

5th Year Finance Student



Keep exploring at uab.ca/business or contact
the Indigenous Program Coordinator at bcominfo@ualberta.ca

“

To any aspiring law student, know there are many wonderful people — faculty, staff and students alike — who will help you navigate your way through law school. I am so grateful to be part of this terrific community that works tirelessly to remove societal barriers and make space for diversity and inclusion.”

DANA

Recent Juris Doctor Graduate



Medicine & Dentistry

wâpanachakos INDIGENOUS HEALTH PROGRAM (WIHP)

WIHP offers an alternative admission pathway to encourage a greater number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to access Medicine and Dentistry programs. WIHP provides cultural and student supports to Indigenous students in the Faculty to address the underrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in health professions.

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (IMDSA)

IMDSA is made up of Indigenous students in the medical and dental programs who represent, encourage and advocate for future Indigenous health care providers. IMDSA promotes an Indigenous presence in health professions through mentorship and career support.

Keep exploring at med.ualberta.ca or contact the WIHP team at ihl@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Law

JURIS DOCTOR PROGRAM

This three-year degree program has a reputation for providing students with a strong foundation to serve in a variety of settings, within Treaty 6, 7, 8 and beyond. To help address the traditional under-representation of Indigenous Peoples in the legal profession, Law has a holistic alternative admission evaluation.

INDIGENOUS LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ILSA)

ILSA provides various supports to Indigenous law students. Members are devoted to raising awareness on current Indigenous legal issues within Canada and internationally through the Annual Indigenous Law Speaker Series.

Keep exploring at law.ualberta.ca or contact an Indigenous Support Officer at makela@ualberta.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

Several professional programs have alternative admission requirements for Indigenous applicants. Contact indigenous@ualberta.ca for more information.

Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP)



ATEP is a Bachelor of Education degree program within the Faculty of Education that focuses on increasing the number of teachers with an understanding of Indigenous perspectives and culture in communities across Alberta. ATEP uses a cohort study model where students progress through their program at the same time, taking many of the same courses together. uab.ca/atep

ON-CAMPUS COHORT

Students in the on-campus cohort complete their full degree at our North Campus in Edmonton. This model allows Indigenous learners to pursue their education through a major university while remaining closely connected to Indigenous values. Students will also gain access to the ATEP study space and student lounge for a comfortable and quiet place to study.

ONLINE COHORT

Students in this cohort complete their degree primarily online, with an in-person field placement component. This model allows students in remote communities to access teacher training while remaining close to their culture, community and support networks.



ATEP kiskinwahamakewak (Academic Learning Facilitators) provide wrap-around support by fostering strong relationships, offering guidance, and connecting students with the resources they need to succeed.

FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

How Much Will it Cost?

Calculate your personalized estimate at uab.ca/costcalc

First-Year Estimate*



\$7,200+
FOR DOMESTIC TUITION

PLUS



\$3,700+
FOR BOOKS, SUPPLIES
AND FEES



\$14,800+
FOR RESIDENCE
WITH A MEAL PLAN

**These figures are based on one year of full-time study in a general Arts or Science program for 2026-27; fees are subject to change every year.*

Financial Advice

Whether you have financial barriers to attending university or would like more information on funding options available to you, our Indigenous Student Financial Support Coordinator is set on guiding you towards the right support.

Appointments can be made by contacting indigenous@ualberta.ca



Pembina Hall, home to the Faculty of Native Studies at the U of A, North Campus.

Tuition Deposit

If you will be sponsored by your Nation or another third party, you may qualify for a waiver for the \$500 tuition deposit required when you accept your admission offer.

Contact indigenous@ualberta.ca to learn more.

Third-Party Funding Options

FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS

- First Nation or Tribal Council
- Freehorse Family Wellness Society

MÉTIS STUDENTS

- Belcourt Brosseau Métis Award
- Métis Settlement
- Rupertsland Institute (RLI) Post-Secondary Education Funding

INUIT & NORTHERN STUDENTS

- Freehorse Family Wellness Society (Alberta Residents)
- Nunavut Inuit Representative Organizations
- Northwest Territories Indigenous and Territorial Funders

ALL INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

- Indspire Bursaries and Scholarships

Scholarships and Awards

The University of Alberta administers more than \$53 million in undergraduate financial support each year, including awards and scholarships specifically for Indigenous students. Explore your options at uab.ca/awards

ADMISSION-BASED

A scholarship you don't have to apply for. Eligibility for these scholarships is based on your admission average at the time of your admission offer.

Indigenous Entrance Scholarship

(\$1,500): Awarded to First Nations, Métis or Inuit students with an average of 80%.

APPLICATION-BASED

We use a single application to match you to most scholarships and awards based on your background, experiences, academics and interests. Apply at uab.ca/awards by January 10, 2027.

Along with our general scholarship application, we have a few Indigenous-specific awards you can also apply for:

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Awards (\$5,000):

Awarded to First Nations, Métis or Inuit students based on a variety of selection criteria. Apply by **March 31, 2027**.

Indigenous Careers Award (\$2,000):

Awarded to First Nations, Métis or Inuit students who are residents of Alberta completing degrees in programs with high-demand career outcomes. Apply by **September 15, 2027**.

Turtle Spirit Pathway Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students (\$8,000):

Awarded to students new to post-secondary who have demonstrated financial challenges and barriers to attending. Apply by **February 15, 2027**.

For Indigenous-specific awards, students need to provide eligible documentation of Indigenous identity to receive funds. Documents should be sent to fnmidocs@ualberta.ca



MAKING THE LEAP

**There are several ways
to get into the U of A.**

Direct Entry (from High School)

For direct entry, you will need to present competitive grades in five core academic 30-level courses — including English Language Arts 30-1 plus four other core courses. The additional four core courses vary by program. The application deadline for direct entry is **March 1, 2027**. uab.ca/programs

Transfer Students

If you are transferring from another post-secondary institution, you will need to consult your faculty of interest for admission details at uab.ca/transfer. Once admitted, you will automatically be evaluated for transfer credit.

Mature Students

To qualify for admission as a mature (or non-matriculated) student, you must be 21 or older as of September 1, 2027 and not have completed any previous post-secondary schooling. uab.ca/nma

Indigenous Identity

Whether you're from a First Nation, Métis, or Inuit community, or you're an urban Indigenous person, self-declaring can connect you to supports, cultural events, community spaces, and more. You can self-declare when completing your application for admission.

Please Note: While self-declaration connects you to many opportunities, formal documentation is required to verify eligibility for Indigenous-specific awards, scholarships, or specialized programs.

For questions about self-declaration or the documentation process, please contact indigenous@ualberta.ca

Free Application Days

In the spirit of reconciliation and in honour of Residential School survivors, the U of A will once again be offering a free application to all Indigenous learners who apply from **September 30 to October 9, 2026**. uab.ca/fnmi

All dates and deadlines listed in this edition are specifically for students planning to enroll for the Fall 2027 and Winter 2028 academic terms.

University of Alberta, Students' Union Building, second floor – Mural by Cree artist, Jerry Whitehead from the Peter Chapman Band, part of the James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan.

READY TO JOIN US?

uab.ca/start

ASK US

You've got questions.

We've got advisors.

uab.ca/fnmi

indigenous@ualberta.ca