



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

**INDIGENOUS STUDENTS  
FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, & INUIT  
2025 - 2026 HANDBOOK**

ARTIST: TARA KAPPO



# FIND YOURSELF HERE



## 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](mailto:indigenous@ualberta.ca)

## Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs and research stations are primarily located on the traditional territory of the Néhiyaw (Cree), Niisitapi (Blackfoot), Dene, Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), lands now known as part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Nations.



### 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

Campus Saint-Jean is 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 sipsis (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 Quad on North Campus.

# INDIGENOUS LEARNERS FLOURISH WITH PURPOSE

At the largest Northern research institute in Canada.

 **TOP 5**  
UNIVERSITY IN CANADA

 **TOP 100**  
UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD

 **1<sup>st</sup> FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES**  
IN NORTH AMERICA

 **2000+**  
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS STUDY HERE

 **LARGEST INDIGENOUS POPULATION**  
IN ALBERTA IS IN EDMONTON

 **1<sup>st</sup> INDIGENOUS HEALTH INITIATIVES PROGRAM**  
(WĀPANACHAKOS) IN CANADA

“

The first A I got in university was in a developmental psychology course, and this ultimately started my passion for early childhood development. Since then I dove in head-first, including working as a research assistant in a developmental lab focusing on how children develop the ability to regulate their attention, behaviour, cognition and emotions. In this lab we use a bear named Billy Bear to put kids at ease and show them how to wear an EEG cap. I think it is so fascinating how various environmental factors can impact how a child develops. I hope to one day attend graduate school and work as a child psychologist or early interventionist.”

**KINEW**

Kinew, 3rd Year Honours Arts Student from Kinistin Saulteaux Nation







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

## 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, access our Ceremonial room and attend events like:

- Welcoming Ceremony (TAWOW)
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://uab.ca/cilldi)

## Braided Supports

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

### FIRST PEOPLES' HOUSE (FPH)

A dedicated space for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) student community on North Campus. First Peoples' House provides an environment of empowerment for FNMI students at the U of A, offering support and services to nurture, engage, sustain and help our students achieve their goals. [uab.ca/fph](http://uab.ca/fph)

To foster academic success and personal growth, FPH provides access to:

- Tutors and writing support
- Computers and free printing
- Dedicated learning specialist
- Snacks and community meals
- Elders and a Ceremonial room
- Cultural programming

### INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' UNION (ISU)

The ISU advocates for Indigenous students, builds relationships across campus and is responsible for creating a safe and inclusive space for Indigenous students to foster balance in spiritual, mental, physical and emotional health.

[indigenoustudentsunion.com](http://indigenoustudentsunion.com)

Supports available through the ISU include:

- Grants for Indigenous-led projects and workshops
- Miyo-wíchitowin mentorship program
- Otádashinahikêw art community
- Childcare subsidies and support

*Kayla Dion, oskapew-iskwew (Female Helper), Office Manager, welcoming Demaris Badger, student, at First Peoples' House front desk.*

### DEDICATED HOUSING OPTIONS

We offer diverse, on-campus housing options for Indigenous students. First Peoples' House works directly with Residence Services to offer secured residential options for single students, families and student couples.



# Transition Year Program

This one-year university access program is designed for students who may not be prepared to enter a faculty through a direct-entry route. TYP is a full-time Open Studies program that partners with nine faculties. Upon completion, you will be eligible to transfer 15-24 credits into the participating faculty of your choice. [uab.ca/typ](http://uab.ca/typ)



TYP FACULTY PARTNERS	COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences	English 30-1, Math 30-1, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 <sup>1</sup>
Arts	English 30-1, plus one course from Group A, B or C <sup>2</sup>
Business	English 30-1, Math 30-1
Education	English 30-1, plus one course from Group A, B or C <sup>2</sup>
Engineering	English 30-1, Math 30-1, Chemistry 30, Physics 30
Native Studies	English 30-1, plus one course from Group A, B or C <sup>2</sup>
Nursing	English 30-1, Math 30-1 or 30-2, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30
Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation	English 30-1, plus one course from Group A or C <sup>3</sup>
Science	English 30-1, Math 30-1, plus two of Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Math 31, or Computing Science (CSE) Advanced Level CTS (5 credits)

1. BSc in Human Ecology: Biology 30 or Chemistry 30 is required and Math 30-2 or Math 30-1
2. Group A (Humanities): Social Studies 30-1, Aboriginal Studies 30, or a 30-level language other than English; Group B (Fine Arts): Art 30, Drama 30, and Additional Fine Arts courses may be considered; or Group C (Math and Science): Chemistry 30, Biology 30, Physics 30, Science 30, Math 30-1, 30-2, or Math 31
3. Biology 30 recommended

## No Fee to Apply To TYP

Initially, there is no fee to apply to TYP. The application is a more involved process than a direct-entry application requiring additional supporting documents, so applicants are encouraged to start early. The application fee will be required once a conditional admission offer is made.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY (FALL):**

**May 1, 2025**

All Faculties

**DEADLINE TO APPLY (WINTER):**

**October 1, 2025**

Arts and Native Studies

Starblanket  
First Peoples' House



## 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 Aboriginal 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](http://uab.ca/atep)

### COMMUNITY-BASED COHORT

Students in the community-based cohort study for the first two years at a partner college. The remainder of their degree will be completed in person or online at the U of A's North Campus. This collaborative model allows students flexibility to begin their studies at a college site.

### 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 provides access for students in remote or distant communities while remaining close to their culture, community and support networks.



# 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.

“

Studying at Augustana opened doors to countless opportunities that were pivotal in providing me with a deep sense of belonging and commitment to cultural preservation, and inspired me to become an Indigenous Peer Mentor where I support students in maintaining their cultural identity.”

## BRIANNA

2nd Year Physical Education Student



## 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](http://uab.ca/augiss)

### WAHKOHTOWIN LODGE

A central meeting and gathering space for Augustana students, the wahkohtowin 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

Augustana is a Smudging Safe Campus. Indigenous Students are welcome to smudge freely on campus, in residence, or in the wahkohtowin classroom, community space and in the Multi-Faith Prayer Room. Traditional medicines are available upon request.

Keep exploring at [uab.ca/augfuture](http://uab.ca/augfuture) or contact an Augustana recruiter at [augustana@ualberta.ca](mailto:augustana@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

4th Year Native Studies Student

## 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.

### TEETL'IT ZHEH PROJECT

This collaborative research project is focused on creating a curriculum for a land-based learning camp near Fort McPherson, NWT. The camp is designed to connect Teetl'it Gwich'in youth and elders to enhance knowledge sharing across generations.

Keep exploring at [uab.ca/fns](http://uab.ca/fns) or contact a Native Studies recruiter at [nsrecruitment@ualberta.ca](mailto:nsrecruitment@ualberta.ca)

“

I was pleasantly surprised by the strong sense of connectedness within the Indigenous community on campus. Moving away from home was challenging, and when I first arrived I felt insecure and untethered. But the warmth and support I received from everyone at First Peoples' House and the Arts Indigenous Gathering Space quickly changed that. It was so encouraging to have people check in on me, offer me meals, and most importantly, accept and grow to love me for who I am.”

**SHARAYA**

3rd Year Arts Student



## 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 ABORIGINAL STUDENT COUNCIL (AASC)

Open to all Arts students, the AASC has been involved in many projects focused on contemporary issues that infuse events that celebrate academia and Indigeneity.

### COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS LEARNERS

The Faculty of Arts has the second largest Indigenous community, with more than 300 First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners studying in the faculty.

Keep exploring at [uab.ca/arts](https://uab.ca/arts) or contact the Indigenous Recruitment and Events Specialist at [arts.indigenous@ualberta.ca](mailto:arts.indigenous@ualberta.ca)

“

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**

3rd Year Finance Student

## Alberta School of Business

### PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE (PRIME)

PRIME is an academic program where students invest real money, managing a fund worth approximately \$2 million focusing on the Canadian equity market. Eight to ten students each year can participate in this high quality practicum that combines traditional academic objectives with hands-on investment analysis and portfolio management.

### 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



Keep exploring at [uab.ca/business](https://uab.ca/business) or contact the Indigenous Program Coordinator at [bcominfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:bcominfo@ualberta.ca)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Several professional programs have alternative admission requirements for Indigenous applicants.

Contact [indigenous@ualberta.ca](mailto:indigenous@ualberta.ca) for more information.



WAHIKHTOWIN  
LAW & GOVERNANCE LODGE



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

2nd Year Juris Doctor Student

## 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](http://law.ualberta.ca) or contact an Indigenous Support Officer at [makela@ualberta.ca](mailto:makela@ualberta.ca)

## Medicine & Dentistry

### WĀPANACHAKOS INDIGENOUS HEALTH PROGRAM (WHIP)

WHIP offers an alternative admission pathway to encourage a greater number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students access to Medicine and Dentistry programs. WHIP 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](http://med.ualberta.ca) or contact the WHIP team at [ihi@ualberta.ca](mailto:ihi@ualberta.ca)





# FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

## 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](mailto:indigenous@ualberta.ca)

## Tuition Deposit

If you will be funded by your Band 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](mailto: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 \$52 million in undergraduate financial support each year, including awards and scholarships specifically for Indigenous students. Explore your options at [uab.ca/awards](http://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 self-declaring 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](http://uab.ca/awards) by **January 10, 2025.**

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 self-declaring First Nations, Métis or Inuit students based on a variety of selection criteria. Apply by **March 31, 2025.**

**Indigenous Careers Award (\$2,000):** Awarded to self-declaring First Nations, Métis or Inuit students who are residents of Alberta completing degrees in programs with high-demand career outcomes. Apply by **September 15, 2025.**

**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, 2025.**





# 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, 2025**. [uab.ca/programs](https://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. As a transfer applicant, you will be evaluated on both your high school and post-secondary coursework. Once admitted, you will automatically be evaluated for transfer credit. If you are a transfer student from an Indigenous Post-Secondary Institution (IPSI), contact an Indigenous recruiter at [indigenous@ualberta.ca](mailto:indigenous@ualberta.ca)

## Mature Students

To qualify for admission as a mature (or non-matriculated) student, you must be 21 or older as of September 1 in the year you wish to attend and not have completed any previous post-secondary schooling. [uab.ca/nma](https://uab.ca/nma)

**Self-declaring as an Indigenous person and student at the U of A is important.**

Whether you're from a First Nation, Métis or Inuit community, or you're an urban Indigenous person, self-declaring can provide unique opportunities for support, events, funding and more. You can self-declare when completing your application, or any time online. [uab.ca/fnmi](https://uab.ca/fnmi)

## 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, 2024**. [uab.ca/fnmi](https://uab.ca/fnmi)

University of Alberta, First Peoples House Students' Union Building, 2 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](https://uab.ca/start)

## **ASK US**

You've got questions.

We've got advisors.

[uab.ca/fnmi](https://uab.ca/fnmi) | [indigenous@ualberta.ca](mailto:indigenous@ualberta.ca)



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