

BC Indigenous Student Award

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can apply for a BC Indigenous Award?

A. Only Indigenous people who are First Nations (status or non-status), Metis, or Inuit can apply. Applicants must also be BC residents and planning to attend an approved British Columbia public college/university or Indigenous institution can apply.

For new applicants, verification of Indigenous ancestry must be submitted. This can be done by providing a copy of a *Status Card* or *Metis Nation Membership Card* (A *Card* of a parent, along with the applicant's long-form Birth Certificate, is accepted.) Confirmation of Indigenous identity can also be provided in the form of an official signed *Confirmation of Ancestry* provided by an official at a Band Office or Aboriginal/Indigenous organization. Students cannot self-identify – verification is required.

Renewal Students do *not* have to re-submit verification of ancestry.

Q. Who is considered a New Student under the BC Indigenous Student Award program?

A. All first-time applicants or students who have applied for a different program of study are considered “new” applicants.

Students who have received an Indigenous Award in a previous year and are continuing in the same program of study for an additional year should apply as “Renewal” students.

Q. Who is considered a Renewal Student under the BC Indigenous Student Award program?

A. A Renewal student is a student who received an Indigenous Award in a previous year and who is continuing in the same program for an additional year.

Q. How many renewals can a student receive?

A. Each award type has different renewal limits:

Apprenticeship/Certificate/Diploma: 1 renewal

Undergraduate: 3 renewals

Teachers: 3 renewals

Masters: 4 renewals

Doctoral: 5 renewals

Q. Can part-time students apply for BC Indigenous Student Awards?

A. No. Only students studying full-time are eligible to apply for this award. (Students with medical or disability exemptions recognized by their current institution can apply.)

Q. Can I apply for a BC Indigenous Award if took time-off from my current studies?

A. Yes. All students are welcome to apply for Indigenous Student Awards – new or renewal – even if they took time-off from their studies. If you changed your study program, please apply as a New Student. If you are returning to the same study program, please apply as a Renewal Student.

Q. What category do JD (law), or MD (medicine) degree students apply under?

A. Please apply for an Undergraduate Indigenous Student Award as these degrees are considered undergraduate. You are *not* eligible to apply for a Master/Doctoral Indigenous Award for these programs.

Q. What can I do if I miss the application deadline?

A. You cannot miss the application deadline and still be considered for an Indigenous Student Award. Application deadlines are firm. Late applications will ***not be accepted***.

New Student Applications are only considered complete and acceptable for consideration if all documents including, verification of Indigenous ancestry, and Community Involvement reference (for Masters/Doctoral applicants only) are received by the Society before the deadline. Renewal Applications are only considered complete and acceptable for adjudication if all asked information required on the application is included.

Q. Who must submit a Community Involvement Reference?

A. Only new Master's/Doctoral Award applicants must submit Community Involvement References.

Q. Can I apply for an Indigenous Student Award if I plan to attend a private institution?

A. No. The BC Indigenous Award program is only available to students enrolled in study at one of BCs public post-secondary institutions or a recognized Indigenous institution. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Q. What is considered acceptable verification of Indigenous ancestry? (New Award applicants only)

A. Students must choose one of the following:

1) An Indigenous Status Card or Metis Membership Card. Please upload your card in the Status Card section. (A *Card* of a parent, along with the applicant's long-form Birth Certificate, is also accepted.)

2) You can choose the Verifier option to confirm your Indigenous ancestry. Your Verifier needs to fill out an online form through the application platform. You will be asked to provide the email address for your Verifier who our system will contact to request verification of your ancestry by completing an online form. NOTE: It is your responsibility as applicant to ensure that your Verifier completes and submits the form before the application deadline.

3) A letter from the Band Office or Aboriginal/Indigenous organization that states your name and confirms your Indigenous/Metis/Inuit ancestry. The letter must be on official letterhead and include the date the letter was prepared. It must be signed by an appropriate authority at the organization. This letter should then be uploaded to our application system in the "Status Card" section.

Students cannot self-identify – verification is required.

Q. Who can I list as my reference on my application? (New Master's/Doctoral Award only)

A. Your reference must come from an individual who can confirm your community involvement.

When you apply online you will be asked to provide the name and contact information for your chosen reference. Please get a personal email address from your reference as some organizational emails are often blocked.

This reference will receive an invitation from the Society to provide a reference on your behalf which they will be asked to submit directly to the Society. You will *not* receive copies of the reference they provide.

It is good idea to speak with your intended references before you include them on your application so that they will be expecting the invitation the Society will send to them.

All references must be received by the Society *before* the application deadline. It may be necessary for you to remind your references that responding to the Society's invitation is important and time sensitive.

Q. Can I change my reference? (New Award Master's/Doctoral only)

A. Yes. As long as you have not completed and submitted your application – including previous references – you can change who you want to serve as your reference. On the application site, you will need to delete the reference you have previously provided and submit the new name and contact information.

Q. How do I submit my application or renewal request on the Society’s application platform - SM Apply?

A. Once all your application or renewal tasks are completed on the left-hand side on SMAApply, you will see the green “Submit” button will appear on the left-hand side on SMAApply. Please click this button before the deadline for your application to be considered.

If the institution you are currently attending or planning to attend is *not* listed below, **you are not eligible to apply for this award.**

Public Post-Secondary

- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Camosun College
- Capilano University
- Coast Mountain College
- College of New Caledonia
- College of the Rockies
- Douglas College
- Emily Carr University of Art + Design
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Langara College
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- North Island College
- Northern Lights College
- Okanagan College
- Royal Roads University
- Selkirk College
- Simon Fraser University
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of British Columbia (including UBC-O)
- University of the Fraser Valley
- University of Northern BC
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Community College
- Vancouver Island University

Indigenous Institutions

- Ahousaht Education Authority
- Blueberry River First Nation Adult Centre
- CFDF of Central Interior First Nations
- Chemainus Native College
- Coastal Training Centre
- Cowichan Tribes – Quw’utsun Syuw’entst Lelum
- En’owkin Centre (Okanagan Indian Educational Resource Society)
- Fort Nelson First Nation Community Education Authority (Chalo School)
- Gitksan Wet’suwet’un Education Society

- Gitwangak Education Society
- Heiltsuk College
- Ittatsoo Learning Centre
- Jean Marie Joseph Adult School
- K'ak'ot'lats'i School
- Kitimat Valley Institute
- Kwadacha Dune Tiiy – Aatse Davie Society
- Kyah Wiget Education Society
- Lip'alhayc Learning Centre
- Muskoti Learning Centre – Saualteau First Nations
- NEC Native Education College
- Neskonlith Education Center
- Northern Shuswap Tribal Council
- NTC Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council NETP
- Pacheedaht First Nation
- Penelakut Island Learning Centre
- Penticton Indian Band Adult Education
- Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association
- Saanich Adult Education Centre
- Seabird College
- Sechelt Indian Band Education Centre
- Secwepemc Cultural Education Society
- Skeetchestn Band Education
- Snuneymuxw First Nation/House of Learning
- Sto:lo Nation
- Ted Williams Memorial Learning Centre
- Tl'azt'en Adult Learning Centre
- Tsay Keh Dene Nation Learning Centre
- Ts'zil Learning Centre (Liliwat Nation)
- Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu Adult School
- Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute