



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES

### *Questions & Answers...*

#### **1) What is Native Studies? Native Studies:**

- is an emerging area of study that seeks to understand the experiences and the lives of Aboriginal people and communities, past, present and future
- researches how Aboriginal communities and the countries in which they live influence and define each other
- pursues ways of understanding Aboriginal communities -- local, national and global
- combines the insights of many traditional university disciplines, such as anthropology, history, law and sociology, with the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives; this approach challenges mainstream ideas about Aboriginal people
- suggests fundamentally new ways of understanding Aboriginal people and their relations with non-Aboriginal societies and governments
- aims to build bridges that will help create a better Canada

#### **2) How will I benefit from taking a course in Native Studies?**

In Canada, First Nation, Métis and Inuit people number approximately 1 million representing 4% of the population. They account for close to 7% of Albertans, and their numbers are rapidly growing. 54% live in urban areas and 48% of that population is under 24. Chances are your daily life intersects with the life of an Aboriginal person. Canadians' lives are also deeply intertwined with Aboriginal interests such as oil and gas, natural resources extraction, land, water, health, history, treaties, identity and community wellbeing to name a few. Being aware of the ways in which we are all connected means you will be better equipped to understand the complexity of Canada and function as an enlightened citizen. You will also be more likely to succeed in whatever career you choose if you understand perspectives, values and needs of your Aboriginal clients, customers, suppliers, patients or partners.

#### **3) What introductory Native Studies courses should I take?**

NS 110, NS 111 and NS 290 are prerequisites for most Native Studies courses. NS 152 is the introductory Cree language course needed if you are a Native Studies major. NS 200 is a survey course of topics in Native Studies aimed at students outside the Faculty (not available to NS majors). All of these courses offer students a window into the world of Native Studies.

#### **4) What other courses in Native Studies are available at a higher level?**

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of Native Studies we offer courses across a wide range of topics that include Oral traditions, the Métis, Urban Aboriginal Identities, Law, Treaty and Land Claims, Health, Art, Negotiation Strategies, Management Issues, Research Methods, Cree Language and more.

## 5) Can I get a degree in Native Studies? Yes!

- Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies (Honors)
- Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies / Bachelor of Education (Secondary or Elementary)
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation Sciences / Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies

We also offer two certificate programs:

- *Certificate in Aboriginal Governance and Partnership* that allows students to build expertise in government, leadership, successful partnership, management, administration and business.
- *Certificate in Aboriginal Sport and Recreation* that is designed to enhance leadership and to serve a demonstrated need in the growing field of community-based Aboriginal Sport and Recreation.

## 6) Will a Native Studies degree get me a job?

The most recent employment survey of U of A graduates indicates that Native Studies students are in demand across the workforce. 100% of those surveyed report finding employment within 3 years of graduating. Alumni found employment as Federal, Provincial, Municipal, and Aboriginal Government employees or representatives; or as Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers in the oil & gas, forestry, and mining industries. Others have pursued a Bachelor of Laws and entered the legal profession; positions in health & wellness; environmental management: consultants and project manager; positions in the rapidly expanding number of Aboriginal businesses; educational policy research and planning; and teaching.

## 7) Why should I study Native Studies at the University of Alberta? The Faculty of Native Studies:

- is student-centred
- provides a common ground for all students, regardless of ethnic background to learn, research, explore and critically examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Native peoples and communities, and their relationships with Canada and other countries
- conducts internationally recognized interdisciplinary research
- has small class sizes
- often involves undergraduates in Faculty research projects
- is part of the larger U of A community so students can benefit from the wide range of services, academic support, social and recreational opportunities, and community life that the University offers. As well, Aboriginal students can benefit from a number of groups and services on campus specifically directed towards Aboriginal students.

## 8) Are there any elders involved in Native Studies?

Elders are involved on a regular basis with the Faculty of Native Studies. Elders sit on our Faculty Council and participate in most activities organized throughout the academic year: including guest lectures, conferences, special events and gatherings such as our semi-annual Tea & Bannock.

## 9) Where can I get more information about Native Studies and its courses and degree programs?

Visit Native Studies' web site <http://www.ualberta.ca/NATIVESTUDIES/> or contact Native Studies' Academic Advisor, Meika Taylor at [nsadvisor@ualberta.ca](mailto:nsadvisor@ualberta.ca) or 780-492-0525.