January 8, 2026

# Education Abroad Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students
# Terms of Reference

**Purpose**

- Increase First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students' participation in international learning opportunities and reduce study/work abroad barriers;
- Enable the FNMI students to develop, enhance and apply global skills through international experiences, and to advance their academic and career goals.

**Eligible Programs**

This award financially supports FNMI undergraduate and graduate students undertaking experiential learning opportunities **outside of Canada for at least seven (7) days**. **Programs less than three weeks in length must be for credit.**

Types of eligible education abroad experiences could include:

- Formal exchanges at approved partner institutions;
- Short-term/summer courses and/or study tours;
- Faculty-led programs (course taught by U of A faculty abroad);
- Programs led by partner institutions or third-party providers;
- Internships, research, practicum, and clinical rotations abroad.

**Eligibility**

Students must:

- be registered full-time in a U of A undergraduate or graduate degree program at the time of the program abroad. Open Studies and part-time students will not be considered eligible;
- have a minimum 2.0 GPA;
- the FNMI status will be confirmed by the Student Financial Support Office;
- undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of *12 credits of U of A coursework by the application deadline;
- graduate students must have completed at least one term of graduate studies by the application deadline.
- Students who meet the eligibility criteria listed above and who are participating in the Transition Year Program may also qualify for the award.

**Value**

$3,000 - up to $10,000 based on program duration and unmet financial need.

The total value of the award will be based on the program duration, as well as the financial need when applicable. Successful applicants will automatically receive the following amount based on the program duration:

- $3,000 for programs 1 - 4 weeks in duration;
- $6,000 for programs longer than 4 weeks.

If a student has unmet financial needs more than the automatic allocation, they need to submit a budget* in the scholarship application to demonstrate the additional financial needs. The total amount of funding will not exceed $10,000.

*See Appendix I for additional information about the Award Budget.

**Number of Awards**: Variable

**Application & Selection**

- Applications for this Award must be initiated by individual U of A students;
- Applicants will complete and submit an application through Horizons; A complete application must consist of:
  1) Statement of Academic Motivation, Ambassadorship & Cultural Motivation;
  2) Description of Extracurricular Activities;
  3) Budget;
  4) Unofficial transcripts; and
  5) 5) Declaration form.
- An annual total allocation will be made for this award. Depending on available funding, the number of applicants and the amount of student unmet financial need, it is possible that not all applicants can be funded in a given year;
- Selection criteria will be based on the following:
  - Academic merit and GPA of the student;
  - Type and quality of learning experience and how it contributes to the student's academic success;
  - Student's motivation for seeking the experience abroad. Please note: AI tools may be used to support the writing process such as refining spelling, grammar, or sentence structure, provided the content remains the student's original work. **An application with responses generated by AI technology will be rejected**;
  - Demonstrated leadership, involvement, and participation in university or community organizations, including cultural, sports, political, or extracurricular activities.
- For application details, visit the Education Abroad Award for FNMI Students web page.

**Acceptance & Conditions**

- Applicants will be notified if they have been nominated for the award and must confirm acceptance of the nomination; failure to do so will result in forfeiting the award;
- If a student is unable to use the award in the year that they received it, the award cannot be carried over to the next year, and they will need to re-apply. Preference will be given to first-time recipients within the same academic year;
- Award payments will be directly deposited into the award recipient's Canadian banking account via Bear Tracks once applicants complete all the required award acceptance steps. Award payments are subject to U of A administrative timelines;

- Recipients are ineligible to hold other centrally managed awards (e.g., Education Abroad Award, endowed awards such as Edmonton Consular Corps Award, Rod and Judith Fraser Award, etc.) but are eligible for receiving faculty-level awards;
- Recipients will be required to complete the risk management steps listed here depending on their program type and level of study;
- Recipients will also be encouraged to participate in promotion and recruitment activities for education abroad programming.

**Appendix I: Award Budget**

The award budget should include both the expenses associated with the experience abroad and revenue sources. When preparing the award budget, there are a number of things to consider. The information below aims to help the students with their budget planning.

**General information to consider when submitting the budget:**

- Research the estimated cost for the fundable items in the budget form (e.g., accommodation, flight, etc.). Some programs may provide the budget online (e.g. Cortona), while others may require research on the budgetary information;
- **Do not include recreational travel and entertainment expenses in the budget.** Only include expenses directly for the program abroad;
- When planning for the budget, do not include any savings that are intended to use for the U of A tuition in the revenue sources.

**Fundable Expenses**

Accommodation

This award will cover reasonable accommodation during the program abroad. Please note that many programs will combine a number of the eligible expenses (e.g., accommodation and food) into one program fee and an applicant may need to separate those or adjust the expenses accordingly (e.g., budgeting less for food if it's included in the program fee). Examples of unreasonable accommodation expenses include overestimates of monthly rental costs.

Round Trip

Use sources such as Expedia or Google Flights to estimate the flight cost based on the intended travel dates.

Health and Travel Insurance

If an applicant is not covered by health and travel insurance, consider the cost of purchasing appropriate health and travel insurance. See information on selecting a plan here.

Food

Research the cost for food in the destination countries. Many partner universities provide a breakdown of costs including food.

Passport, Visa

Costs for passport and/or visa are both covered through this award. Travel and accommodation to get the visa is not a covered cost.

Mandatory Support Fee

If an applicant is paying a Mandatory Support Fee for U of A programs taught abroad (e.g., receive U of A credits), this amount is fundable through this award.

Differential Tuition and Fees

This award covers the amount of tuition and fees charged by the host organization that are greater than the amount for equivalent credit load at the U of A.

Costs for Field Trips Related to the Program Abroad

Expenses related to field trips that are part of the program experience abroad are fundable through this award.

Dependent Care

If an applicant has dependents (e.g., children) who need care during the program abroad, the expense associated with the provision of needed care (e.g., childcare) is an eligible cost through this award.

Miscellaneous

In this section, list additional necessary expenses, e.g., transit passes in the destination city. Please provide a description of the miscellaneous items and an itemized budget for those expenses.

**Revenue Sources**

Personal Savings

This includes savings an applicant has in a bank that can be used to fund the experience abroad.

From Parents/Guardians

Funds provided by parents, guardians, or others.

Scholarships/Awards/Third Party Funding

Please list funding from other sources, including other U of A awards and funding from a third party (e.g., funding/scholarship/wages from the host organization, band funding).

Other

Please include funding from other sources not listed above in this section. Note that student loans and lines of credit should NOT be listed in this section.