Native Studies

The Faculty recognizes the Indigenous peoples of Treaty Six and the Métis homeland where the Faculty of Native Studies and the University of Alberta are located, a welcoming place for people from around the world.

Choosing an educational path is not easy, yet an education opens doors to a brighter future and the Faculty of Native Studies certainly does this. Being the only Faculty of its kind in North America, the Faculty provides a warm, close-knit, friendly and safe space that nurtures a family-like environment. Students are taught by faculty and staff who are leaders in their various fields of research and are focused on student-centred learning. Native Studies can offer a life-altering experience where you will make friends for life in a vibrant community, led by a strong and active student body and an impressive (and growing!) alumni who have become contemporary leaders in a wide array of professional fields.

If you are ready to transform the world, the Faculty of Native Studies will equip you with the vision and the critical analytical skills to do so. Moreover, the Faculty’s autonomy offers a space where we can begin to collectively re-imagine an Indigenous world!

STUDENT-CENTRED
RESEARCH-ORIENTED
COMMUNITY-ENGAGED

The Faculty of Native Studies celebrates over 30 years of excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

Our vision is to produce a better society by educating Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to be responsible citizens through excellent community engagement, teaching and research focused on the complexity of Indigenous issues and thought.

Our mission is to produce graduates across the university who have respect for Indigenous knowledges, who are educated about Indigenous histories and contemporary issues and who can work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and peoples.

WE VALUE

• Our autonomy as a faculty within the academy
• Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches
• The relevance of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge
• The contribution of Elders to teaching, research and sense of direction
• Our interactions and connections with Indigenous communities
• The promotion of Indigenous languages
• The scholarly standards of the academy for the creation and dissemination of knowledge
WE ARE STUDENT-CENTRED

• Small class sizes
• Get to know your professors one-on-one
• Supportive learning environment
• Employment opportunities - paid undergraduate research, Teaching Assistantships, Research Assistants, Reading Room Coordinator(s)
• Volunteer opportunities throughout the academic year
• Faculty Social Events - New Student Orientation, Tipi Raising and Take Down, Games Night with the Dean, Convocation Reception, and many other events throughout the year
• Faculty Academic Events - Research Day, Speaker Seminar Series, Leading Academic Guest Speakers/Visitors, Conference Opportunities

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A NATIVE STUDIES DEGREE?
The opportunities that await Native Studies alumni are rich and diverse.

COMMUNITY
First Nations
Métis Settlements
Métis Nation of Alberta
Tribal Councils
Regional Councils

EDUCATION
Teacher
Graduation Coach
Indigenous Liaison
Guidance Counselor
Curriculum Development
Educational Policy Research

GOVERNMENT
Politician
Policy Analyst
Public Relations Consultant
Municipal Government
Provincial Government
Federal Government

NON-PROFIT
Community Engagement
Event Coordinator
Fundraising
Human Resources
Program Management
Volunteer Coordinator
Youth Mentorship

FINE ARTS
Creative Writing
Poetry
Art

HISTORY
Historical Research
Genealogy
Museum Curation
Archivist
Historical Interpreter

INDUSTRY
Indigenous Relations
Financial Advising
Economic Development
Entrepreneurship
Land Reclamation
Environmental and Sustainability Research

Tonya, Ashley, and Cassandra are members of the 2019-20 NSSA executive.

OUR STUDENTS & ALUMNI

“Coming from a small community and then entering academic life at the U of A initially felt unsettling and lonely. However, since my time in the Native Studies Faculty, I have found a new kind of family and became confident in my studies. The circle is expansive. Through the knowledge I have gained, I feel my understanding of my potential as a Cree woman and can contribute through in sharing these skills with others.”

TAMMY LAMOUCHE
BA IN NATIVE STUDIES / BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (SECONDARY)

“The combined BA in Native Studies and BSc in Environmental Conservation Sciences degree has expanded my knowledge of ecological systems and my place within them while cementing Indigenous Knowledge Systems. My favorite part of the program was connecting the NS and ALES Land-Based Learning course with the rainforest/wetlands and calling course, as my coursework has tremendously deepened my understanding of ecological knowledge passed on within the circle/course. I found this program because I hope to play a part in mitigating climate change impacts so that our future generations can exist within a sustainable future with the capabilities to live traditional lifestyles.”

ROBIN HOWSE
BA IN NATIVE STUDIES / BSC IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION SCIENCES
CERTIFICATE IN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

“In order to gain international exposure to Indigenous views, I chose the after degree in Native Studies program. Here, not only did I learn about Aboriginal history, politics, cultural values, and Traditional Knowledge, but I also became familiar with Canadian Aboriginal issues. Furthermore, the course projects strengthened my analytical capacity in Native Studies by merging theory and practice. The studying journey at Faculty of Native Studies provided me with a solid foundation to launch my studies in graduate school.”

TAO OCEAN LUO
BA IN NATIVE STUDIES, 2015
CERTIFICATE IN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

“I am so proud to be a Native Studies alumni, even after graduation the Faculty has encouraged and supported me through my introduction to my career. I knew that every time I came to Pembina Hall for a visit, I was welcomed back with open arms.”

KAYLA LAR-SON
BA (HONOURS) IN NATIVE STUDIES, 2016

“Having a BSc in Environmental Conservation Sciences and an Indigenous Knowledge degree has provided me with the skills and abilities to be a part of the solution in protecting the environment. From my time here in the Faculty, the Faculty has provided me with the best educational experience and the best learning environment; as a result I feel that I have the ability to contribute and make a lasting impact.”

TAO OCEAN LUO
The Faculty of Native Studies' professors have research expertise in the following areas: Indigenous History, Métis Studies, Indigenous Women and Gender Issues, Canadian and Indigenous Law, Cree Language, Natural Resources and Land Use, and Indigenous Governance.

Two features of the discipline of Indigenous Studies that distinguish it from other academic disciplines are our strong research connections with Indigenous communities and the multidisciplinarity of our research and teaching. Both are central to the kind of research, teaching, and service we undertake as Indigenous Studies scholars.

For more information on our research initiatives, please visit ualberta.ca/native-studies/research

- aboriginal policy studies (aps) Journal
- Indigenous Governance and Partnership Programming
- Métis Archival Project (MAP Lab)

RUPERTSLAND CENTRE FOR MÉTIS RESEARCH

The Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR) serves as an expansive academic research program specifically geared toward Métis issues. The goals and objectives of the research centre include: building provincial and national connections with the Métis community; building research capacity to advance Métis-specific research; and training and employing student researchers.

LAND-BASED LEARNING IN TEETŁ’IT ZHEH PROJECT

A collaboration between the Faculty of Native Studies and Chief Julius School, the Land-based Learning in Teetł’it Zheh project is building a bush camp school near Fort McPherson, NWT. This school is designed to connect community youth with Gwich’in knowledge holders and enhance traditional knowledge transmission across generations. The project also provides the opportunity for Native Studies students to work with the Teetł’it Gwich’in community to develop future programming for the camp.

INDIGENOUS PRISON ARTS & EDUCATION PROJECT (IPAEP)

The IPAEP makes post-secondary education more accessible to incarcerated people, supports prisoner advocacy, and facilitates creative arts programming inside prisons. We also support research related to Indigenous prison arts and education. IPAEP is currently offering three established programs: Inspired Minds: All Nations Creative Writing, Bedtime Stories, Walls 2 Bridges.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN GENOMICS (SING)

SING Canada’s goal is to help undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral, and community fellows consider the colonial foundations embedded throughout centuries of western science and research, and adapt their work to be more ethical and Indigenous-driven. “SING Canada trains Indigenous scientists to use genomics in ways that complement Indigenous communities’ knowledge about their lands, waters, and health,” explains co-founder Kim TallBear. Participants also have a chance to connect with Indigenous faculty members to discuss questions, concerns, and opportunities in science, technology and society research.
The Faculty of Native Studies offers students the unique opportunity to study from a variety of disciplines, such as gender studies, environmental studies, fine arts, history, geography, health, law, political science and sociology with Indigenous community knowledge and perspectives.

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES**
- Provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to explore and critically examine historical and contemporary relations that concern Indigenous peoples and communities.
- Students can choose one of 60+ minors from the faculties of agricultural, life and environmental science, arts, business, science, or Faculté Saint-Jean (Degrees of Bachelor of Arts).

4-year (120 credits)

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES HONORS**
- Provides further specialization within Indigenous Studies, enabling students to study in greater depth.
- Demands a higher standard of performance that provides excellent preparation for graduate studies, like the Master of Arts in Native Studies.

4-year (120 credits)

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES AFTER DEGREE**
- For students who already hold a four year baccalaureate degree and who have developed critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Individuals who have career and life experiences make excellent candidates for this program.

2-year (60 credits)

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES / BACHELOR OF EDUCATION**
- Offered in partnership with the Faculty of Education.
- During the first three years, students are enrolled in the Faculty of Native Studies. Students spend their final two years in the Faculty of Education.
- This combined degree program allows students to select either the secondary or the elementary program route.

5-year (150 credits)

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES / BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION SCIENCES**
- Offered in partnership with the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.
- During this five-year integrated program, students gain a better academic understanding and specialize in the management and use of Indigenous resources.
- This combined degree program prepares students to work effectively in various contexts where knowledge of Indigenous and Treaty rights and issues are required.

5-year (150 credits)
• Combines Indigenous community knowledge, perspectives and concerns with the scholarly standards and methods of a leading research-intensive university.
• Supports interdisciplinary education in a rigorous, diverse and respectful academic environment attentive to local, national and international issues.
• Self-motivated students investigate and critically examine the historical and contemporary circumstances and experiences of Indigenous peoples and communities, and their relationships with Canada and other nations.

In this scholarly and methodological context, the Master of Arts in Native Studies and the PhD in Indigenous Studies emphasizes research and the strengths of the Faculty:
1. Critical Indigenous Theory;
2. Indigenous Governance;
3. Indigenous Peoples and Place (with emphasis on the Prairies); &

• The Graduate Certificate is offered in partnership between the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation and the Faculty of Native Studies.
• This online, graduate certificate is designed to help working professionals gain a deeper understanding of the cultural context of Indigenous communities and provide professionals with the skills and knowledge to help build healthy Indigenous communities through sport and recreation.

• Provides students with the necessary understanding and skills to effectively lead, work and partner with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, organizations, businesses, or governments.
• Centres on developing knowledge while increasing analytical and applied skills suited to unique governance issues and opportunities.
• Available to students in any UofA undergraduate degree program or as a stand-alone university certificate.
Indigenous Canada is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

Delivery: MOOC Online for free; OR for university credit (NS 201)

Level: Beginner
Commitment: 12 weeks of study, 3-5 hours/week

For more information: uab.ca/indigenous-canada

Topics Covered
•  The fur trade and other exchange relationships
•  Land claims and environmental impacts
•  Legal systems and rights
•  Political conflicts and alliances
•  Indigenous political activism
•  Contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions

Eric Newell Dean’s Entrance Citation in Native Studies – Scholastic Distinction Scholarship
Criteria: Nil, $10,000 payable over four years ($2,500 per year)
Number: 1
Conditions: Awarded to a student with superior academic achievement entering an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Native Studies directly from high school. Selection based on admission average. Honours of 90% for the second, third, and fourth years is contingent upon maintaining satisfactory academic standing in the momentum required. Deadlines: February 15, 2021, and September 15, 2021.

Funded by: Endowed by Dr Eric Newell, LLD (Hon)

Gold Standard Scholarship
Criteria: The Gold Standard Scholarship is available to students entering their first year of full-time studies in an undergraduate degree program at the University of Alberta. The top 1% of students could receive up to $6,000. Automatic Consideration - No application required.

Consideration for the Gold Standard Scholarships based on your admission average at the time of admission offer. Your eligibility will not be recalculated based on your final marks.

Faculty of Native Studies Honors Scholarship
Criteria: Awarded to students with superior academic achievement entering the first year of an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Native Studies. Selection based on admission average. Automatic Consideration - No application required.

Indigenous Entrance Scholarship
Criteria: Self-declaring First Nations, Métis, or Inuit applicants with an average of 80%+ may receive $1,500. Automatic Consideration - No application required.

For more information on these and other awards, visit uab.ca/awards

Scholarships & Awards

•  THE ADRIAN HOPE PRIZE IN CREE LANGUAGE
•  THE ADRIAN HOPE PRIZE IN CREE CULTURE
•  THE BA (NS) / BSC (ENCS) AWARD
•  THE BRUCE WILSON MEMORIAL AWARD IN NATIVE STUDIES
•  THE DR. ELSIE YANIK SCHOLARSHIP IN NATIVE STUDIES
•  THE DR. JOHN E FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD IN NATIVE STUDIES
•  THE FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES MEDAL (CONVOCATION)
•  THE HARRY J STRYNADKA RESEARCH PRIZE
•  THE JOHNNY SAMSON PRIZE IN NATIVE STUDIES
•  THE MAURICE L’HIRONDelle / HELEN TKACHENKO AWARD
•  THE SOLIDARITY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
•  THE SOLIDARITY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS
•  ERIC NEWELL DEAN’S ENTRANCE CITATION IN NATIVE STUDIES
•  THE SOLIDARITY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
•  ERIC NEWELL DEAN’S ENTRANCE CITATION IN NATIVE STUDIES - SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS
•  THE SOLIDARITY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
•  ERIC NEWELL DEAN’S ENTRANCE CITATION IN NATIVE STUDIES - SCHO
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES

HIGH SCHOOL - DIRECT ENTRY

English Language Arts 30-1

TO COMBINE WITH:

• Physical Education
• Fine Arts subject
• Aboriginal Studies 30

Science 30

• Mathematics 30-1 / Mathematics 30-2

• Computer Science Advanced Level and Career Studies

• Social Studies 30-1

• 30-level Language other than English

• Arts subject (only one may be presented for admission)

• Minimum of five credits in Career & Technology Studies

• Minimum of the credits in Career & Technology Studies Subject Addressed in the first year of the BA(NS) program (see Table 2).

TRANSFER

• Only one of 30-1 or 30-2 may be used.

• Students must complete 30-1 or 30-2 at the high school level.

• Teachers may transfer into the Combined Degrees program provided they have successfully completed at least 24 transferable credits with an AGPA of 2.0 or better.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN NATIVE STUDIES

HIGH SCHOOL - DIRECT ENTRY

English Language Arts 30-1

TO COMBINE WITH:

• Biology 30
• Chemistry 30
• Physics 30
• Mathematics 30-1 / Mathematics 30-2
• Computer Science Advanced Level and Career Studies
• Social Studies 30-1
• Science 30
• Science 30
• Social Studies 30-1
• Mathematics 30-1

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THE FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES HAS:

3 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR FALL, WINTER & SPRING

PLEASE REFER TO U OF A CALENDAR FOR DETAILED INFORMATION OR VISIT: UALBERTA.CA/APPLY

"עֵלֵיָה וְרֹפְאֵהוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל" "uplifting the whole people"

— HENRY MARSHALL TORY, FOUNDING PRESIDENT, 1908