

# Land-Based Learning Student Fund

Land-based learning has been a long-standing practice and area of education in Indigenous communities since time immemorial. It is not just learning about the land, but it is learning *with* the land as a relation. Being on the land connects us to place, ancestors, and all our relations, grounding us and at times can offer healing and comfort. To contribute to their success at Western, Indigenous students are invited to maintain their relationship with, or reconnect to the land, through culturally relevant land-based learning opportunities offered outside of Western University curriculum and opportunities utilizing the Land-based Learning Fund.

To make land-based learning more accessible to Indigenous full-time students while studying at Western University, they may apply for one-time funding to participate in a land-based learning experience that would support their wellness and learning while at Western. This funding opportunity was made possible by the support from the Parr Centre for Thriving and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

Land-Based Learning Student Fund applications are reviewed monthly by a committee of representatives from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Awards will vary between \$200 to \$3,000, depending on the student's self-identified needs. This pilot fund will be open for applications until the end of October 2023 or until all funding available has been awarded.

## Application Requirements:

1. All applicants must self-identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit).
2. All applicants must be registered in a full-time undergraduate or graduate program at Western.
3. All applicants must complete an application form and outline their chosen land-based learning experience (i.e., the experience, how it supports them wholistically as an Indigenous student)
4. All applicants must provide a budget that outlines the requested land-based learning-related expenses and how these expenses and/or activities will contribute to their Thriving while studying at Western.

For more information about the Land-Based Learning Fund or to submit applications, please contact Lauren Poeta ([lpoea@uwo.ca](mailto:lpoea@uwo.ca)), Indigenous Initiatives Project Associate.

Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis on the final week of every month.

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Only a **completed** application package will be reviewed. Use this checklist to ensure that you have submitted all the required information. A completed application package will contain the following pieces of information:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A <b>complete</b> Land-Based Learning Student Fund application, including your original signature and date of signature.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Outline</b> of your chosen experience (one page single-spaced), including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Details of Experience: Name of experience, host of experience, itinerary and location (in Canada), contact info, description of the land-based experience</li> <li>○ Personal Statement: Wholistic outcomes of your participation in the land-based learning experience, what you foresee being able to achieve as a result</li> <li>○ Proof of Experience: Either website link or poster advertising the experience</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Budget</b> that outlines requested land-based learning-related expenses. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, transportation, enrollment costs, childcare, food budget, supplies, per diem, etc.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain how these expenses and/or activities will contribute to your wholistic Thriving while being an Indigenous student at Western.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Acceptance Letter</b> stating you will be or have been accepted into the land-based learning experience of your choice pending funding and written by the experience organizer/facilitator and sent directly to Lauren Poeta (<a href="mailto:lpoeta@uwo.ca">lpoeta@uwo.ca</a>), Indigenous Initiatives Project Associate.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>When approved for funding</b> I agree to complete an entry questionnaire before the disbursement of money. After I have completed the experience, I will write a one-page reflection regarding how participating in this experience contributed to my health and wellbeing as an Indigenous student at Western University to support future funding initiatives.</li> </ul>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit <b>one</b> complete application package, including this completed check-list guideline form, to Lauren Poeta ( <a href="mailto:lpoeta@uwo.ca">lpoeta@uwo.ca</a> ), Indigenous Initiatives Project Associate.
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**Personal Data**

Last Name:		First Name:	
UWO Student Number:		Email Address:	
Faculty:	Program:		Year of Study:
Number & Street Name:			Apartment/Unit Number:
City/Town:	Province:	Postal Code:	Area Code & Telephone:

**Indigenous Identity**

<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations (status or non) <input type="checkbox"/> Inuit <input type="checkbox"/> Metis	<input type="checkbox"/> Nation/Community:
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**Declaration**

I hereby declare that all information given on this application is true and complete in every respect. I understand that I may be required to repay all or part of this assistance if the information is found to be inaccurate for any reason.

Signature:

Date: