

# Positionality Statement Requirements and List of Approved Documentation

For Policy 1.58 – Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership at Western University

## Criteria for a Positionality Statement

A statement of relational positionality (up to 4 pages) that includes details of:

1. The individual's personal lived experience in relation to their declaration of Indigenous citizenship or membership;
2. The individual's personal connections, responsibilities, and interrelationships with their Indigenous Nation, Clan, language, culture, community, land, and other relevant responsibilities, including details of the individual's lineal descent;
3. Where relevant, details about how colonial practices (e.g., the 'Sixties Scoop', Residential Schools) have impacted how the individual is able to claim Indigenous citizenship or membership as a person with lived experience;

## Approved Documentation

Two (2) documents demonstrating proof of citizenship or membership in the Indigenous Nation that claims the individual.

A non-exhaustive list of documents that can be provided is:

- A copy of a federal/ national/ state recognized citizenship card or official documentation belonging to the individual's biological parent or grandparent – together with proof of connections/ lived-experience to the community.
- Letters of reference provided by Indigenous relatives or members of a national/ federal/ state recognized community who are familiar with the claimant individual's lived experiences and relational positionality;
- Letter of reference or documentation provided by a state-recognized Indigenous membership authority (e.g., letter from Band Membership Officer);
- Letters of reference from community-recognized Traditional Community leaders (e.g., Clan mothers, Lodge Keepers);
- Certificate of Indian Status from First Nations who are federally recognized and those listed on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada website (<https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng>);

- A copy of Certificate of Indian Status (i.e., status card) of the individual's biological parent or grandparent who also has federally recognized Indian status – together with proof of lineal family connection;
- An affirmation letter from a national/ federal/ state recognized governance entity indicating that the individual is a 'Non-Status' First Nation person;
- Membership proof from a list of federally or state recognized Métis organizations in Canada, specifically:
  - Métis Nation-Saskatchewan;
  - Métis Nation of Alberta;
  - Métis Nation British Columbia;
  - Métis Nation of Ontario;
  - Manitoba Métis Federation;
  - Northwest Territory Métis Nation.
- American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian citizenship document from tribes that are state or federally recognized (<https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory>);
- A Nunavut Trust Certificate card, Inuit roll number, Inuit Beneficiary Card, or any other proof accepted by state-recognized Inuit communities/ organizations;
- Written confirmation letter of Indigenous ancestry from the Department of Indigenous Services Canada;
- International or Global Indigenous peoples' (as defined by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) accepted membership cards and documentation supporting the individual's claimed relational positionality;
- Other membership cards or letters by state-recognized Indigenous communities /organizations;
- Copy of Birth Certificate – together with a copy of the individual's parents' or grandparents' documentation that affirms claims to Indigeneity;
- Genealogy trees that contain certified information to confirm lineage.