

Learning with *Head and Heart*: building an ethical space for Indigenous undergraduate research discovery at Western University

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Research Western, and Western Student Experience are excited to co-launch a third year of the Head and Heart summer research programme for Indigenous students. Rooted in the principle of *Respect* that “recogni[zes] the need to foster congruence between Indigenous paradigms and academic worlds” (ISP 6), the Head and Heart programme aims to “achieve excellence in Indigenous research and scholarship” (ISP 6), and engage Indigenous students in Indigenous research learning opportunities across academic disciplines. In partnership with Indigenous and allied faculty members from Social Science, Education, Arts & Humanities, Information Media Studies, Music, Law, Science, Health Sciences, Engineering, Ivey Business School and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Indigenous students will be awarded a fellowship to complete 10 weeks of research on a topic of their interest that will be guided alongside a designated academic mentor.

Indigenous students are encouraged to bring ways of learning that respect both the head and the heart within their research projects. They will also have the opportunity to develop skills and research capacities in disciplines they may have not yet experienced in their academic or life journeys. Students will work with their designated faculty supervisor to develop research projects that have realworld application and relevance to Indigenous community needs and priorities.

Students will be given additional support by being placed in a community of emerging scholars that will be facilitated by designated Indigenous graduate students, Indigenous Student Centre staff and faculty members. This cohort model is intended to guide students through the research process of creating *respectful, reciprocal, responsible* and *relevant* research projects.

At the completion of the research project, students, academic mentors and faculty supervisors will share their research experiences in a small community forum. Together, we will also gather and celebrate student achievements as part of Indigenous Awareness Week, where students, academic mentors and faculty supervisors will be given the opportunity to share their research journeys with the broader community.

Guidelines for Applying

- Completed applications should be submitted via email to Erin Huner ehuner@uwo.ca by 4:30pm on **MARCH 27, 2020**
- This opportunity is open to students who self-identify as Indigenous to Turtle Island (North America).
- Students must be currently enrolled in a Western undergraduate degree and have not yet graduated.

Requested Materials

1. A cover sheet that details the applicant's: **NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, STUDENT NUMBER and HOME ADDRESS AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION.**
2. Students will be asked to submit a 5 minute video (videos can be emailed directly or you may wish to upload your video to youtube/vimeo etc. and provide the link in an email) that answers the following 5 questions:
 - a) who they are and how they describe their belonging to Indigenous community (for instance a home community in which they grew up or have strong bonds; a community that feels like home; an urban Indigenous community etc.)
 - b) what inspires them about learning (please provide an example of a learning moment(s) you have experienced in your academic and/or life journey that has inspired you in some way);
 - c) what learning with your Head and your Heart means to you as an Indigenous person and student;
 - d) how you think this learning opportunity will enhance your academic journey;
 - e) and any other important information you would like us to know.
3. A set of unofficial transcripts from Western should also be emailed as a PDF to Erin Huner (ehuner@uwo.ca).
4. A testimonial or letter of support from their community, an Elder, a professor or a mentor from Western, or any other organization should also be emailed to Erin Huner (ehuner@uwo.ca) as a PDF.

The selection committee will be composed of: Candace Brunette-Debassige, Special Advisor to the Provost (Indigenous Initiatives), Erin Huner, Director Research, Assessment and Planning, Western Student Experience, Mariam Hayward, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Manager, Office of the VPR, Amanda Bragg, Indigenous Services Academic Advisor, Amanda Myers, Director Indigenous Student Centre, and an Indigenous faculty member to be determined.

If you are unable to create a video, but still wish to apply, please email Erin Huner at ehuner@uwo.ca.

For questions about this opportunity, please contact:

Indigenous Student Centre at 519-661-4095 or IS.Research@uwo.ca

Or Erin Huner at 519-661-2111 x84486 ehuner@uwo.ca

Award Terms and Conditions

Guiding Principles

Administration of this award and all research and mentoring activities carried out in relation to this award are guided by the following (this list is not meant to be exhaustive):

- [Western University's Indigenous Strategic Plan](#)
- [The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Findings](#)
- [The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#)
- [First Nations Education: The Four R's- Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, and Responsibility \(Kirkness & Barnhardt 2001\)¹](#)
- The Ethical Space of Engagement (Ermine 2007)²
- [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS2 – 2014\): Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)
- [The First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#)

Eligibility

- Applications will only be accepted from applicants who:
 - Are currently enrolled as an undergraduate student at Western University (or have been extended an offer of enrollment by the application due date).
 - Who have not previously been a Head & Heart Fellow.
 - Self-identify as an Indigenous person as part of their application..

Value of Award

- Each undergraduate award is valued at \$6300.00. The expectation of this award is that students will participate in 35 hours/week of research-based activity and 2x/week H&H core co-curricular activities for the 10-week period.

Duration of Award

- Funding covering a 10-week period. During the 10-week period, award recipients are expected to participate in 35 hours of research activity as well as the 2x/week co-curricular classes. Students must be ready to begin the H&H programme and research placement on **June 1, 2020.** **The 10 week period will terminate on August 10, 2020.**

¹ <https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/education2/the4rs.pdf>

² http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/ilj6&div=12&g_sent=1&casa_token=&collection=journals

Research Ethics

- Academic mentors are accountable for ensuring all research activities covered under this award and carried-out in association with Western University fully abide by research ethics requirements recognized by Western – especially (though not limited to) the requirements and best practices outlined in *TCPS2: Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada* and [*The First Nations Principles of OCAP*](#).
- When in doubt, academic mentors and students are encouraged to contact [Human Research Ethics](#) at Western University for guidance and advice on what requirements (if any) apply.
- If certification approval is required for research activities being carried out, all funds will be encumbered until the certification approval has been verified.

Reporting

- As indicated above, at the completion of the research project, students, mentors and faculty supervisors will share their research experiences in a small community forum.
- An appropriate* record of this experience is to be filed with Mariam Hayward, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Manager at Research Western via email at mariam.hayward@uwo.ca. When appropriate, final projects will be stored in the Institutional Repository. (*The appropriateness of the record will depend on the kinds of media involved

