



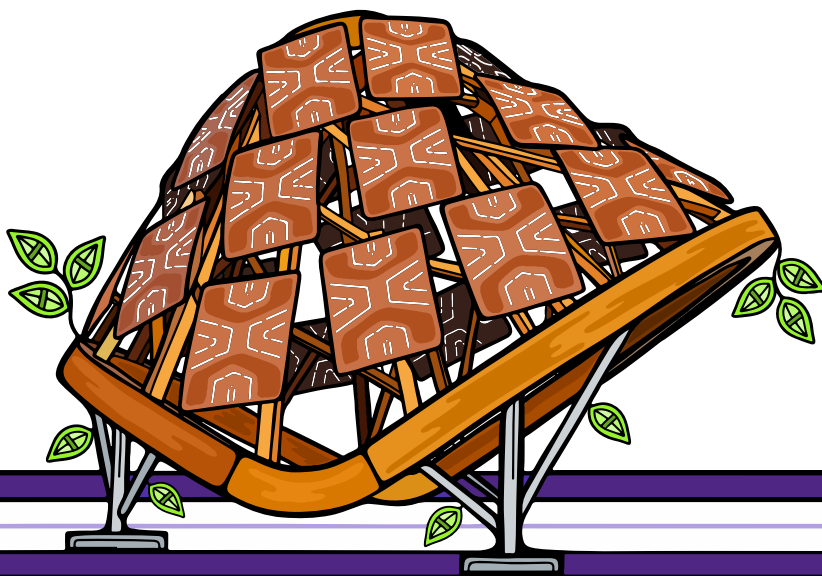
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

INDIGENOUS VIEWBOOK 2027-28



Indigenous
Initiatives

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and the Lūnaapéewak, on lands connected with the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum between the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee and the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796.

With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.

The three First Nations communities in closest proximity to Western are:

- ▶ Chippewas of the Thames First Nation;
- ▶ Munsee-Delaware Nation; and
- ▶ Oneida Nation of the Thames.

By acknowledging the historical and contemporary relationships Indigenous Nations have with the land in the London area, Western affirms the ongoing presence of Indigenous Peoples on this land and their inherent rights to self-determination.

Scan to learn more
about the lands that
Western occupies



Campus and Community

Western University is a place where you can learn, connect and find community. With spaces to gather, opportunities to get involved and a campus surrounded by natural landscapes, you can create a university experience that feels like home.

Whether you are finding your favourite study spot, enjoying fresh corn soup at the Indigenous Student Centre or spending time in the wellness room at the Wampum Learning Lodge, there are spaces across campus where you can gather, connect and feel supported.

Beyond campus, London is home to a vibrant Indigenous community and a range of urban Indigenous organizations and services, offering additional opportunities to connect with community throughout the city.

Just minutes from downtown London, you can explore restaurants, events, sports and entertainment while experiencing everything the city has to offer.



D.B. Weldon Library, one of many campus buildings that features collaborative learning, teaching and study areas.



Western Alumni Stadium, home of the Western Mustangs.

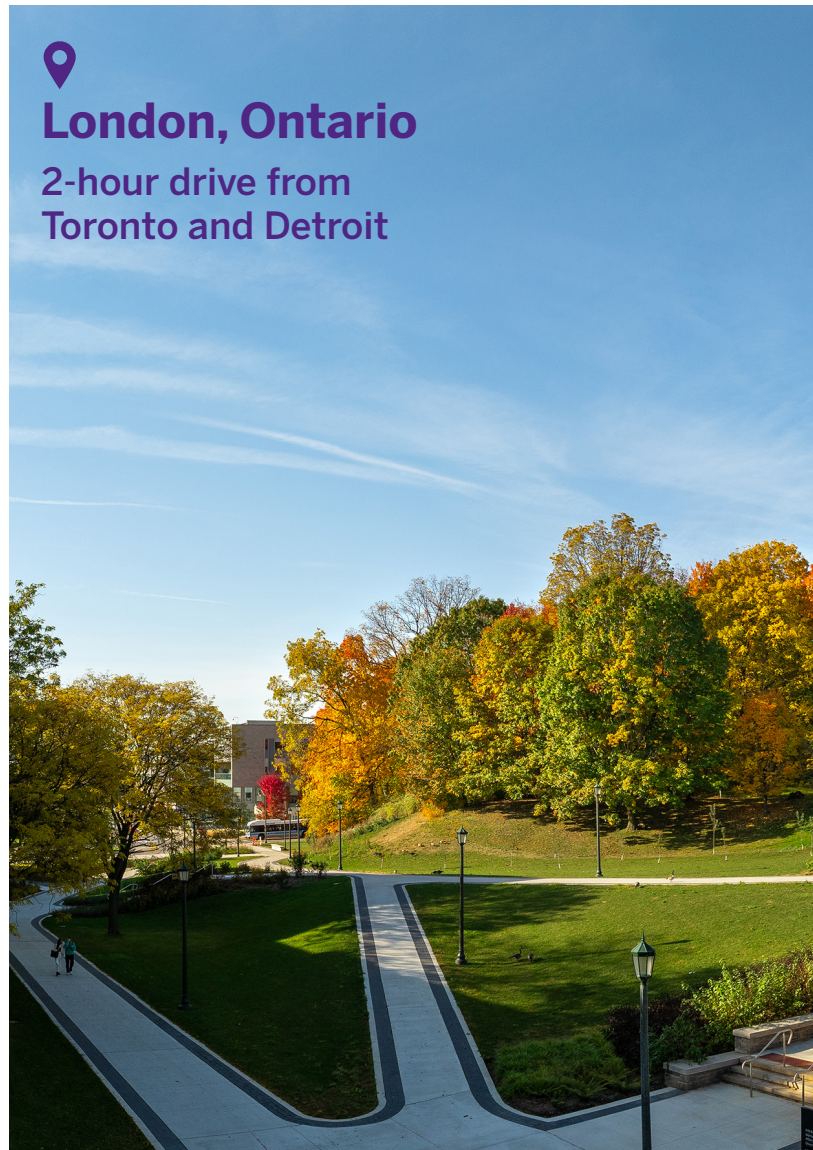
700+

Indigenous students



London, Ontario

2-hour drive from
Toronto and Detroit



43,000+

students from
128 countries

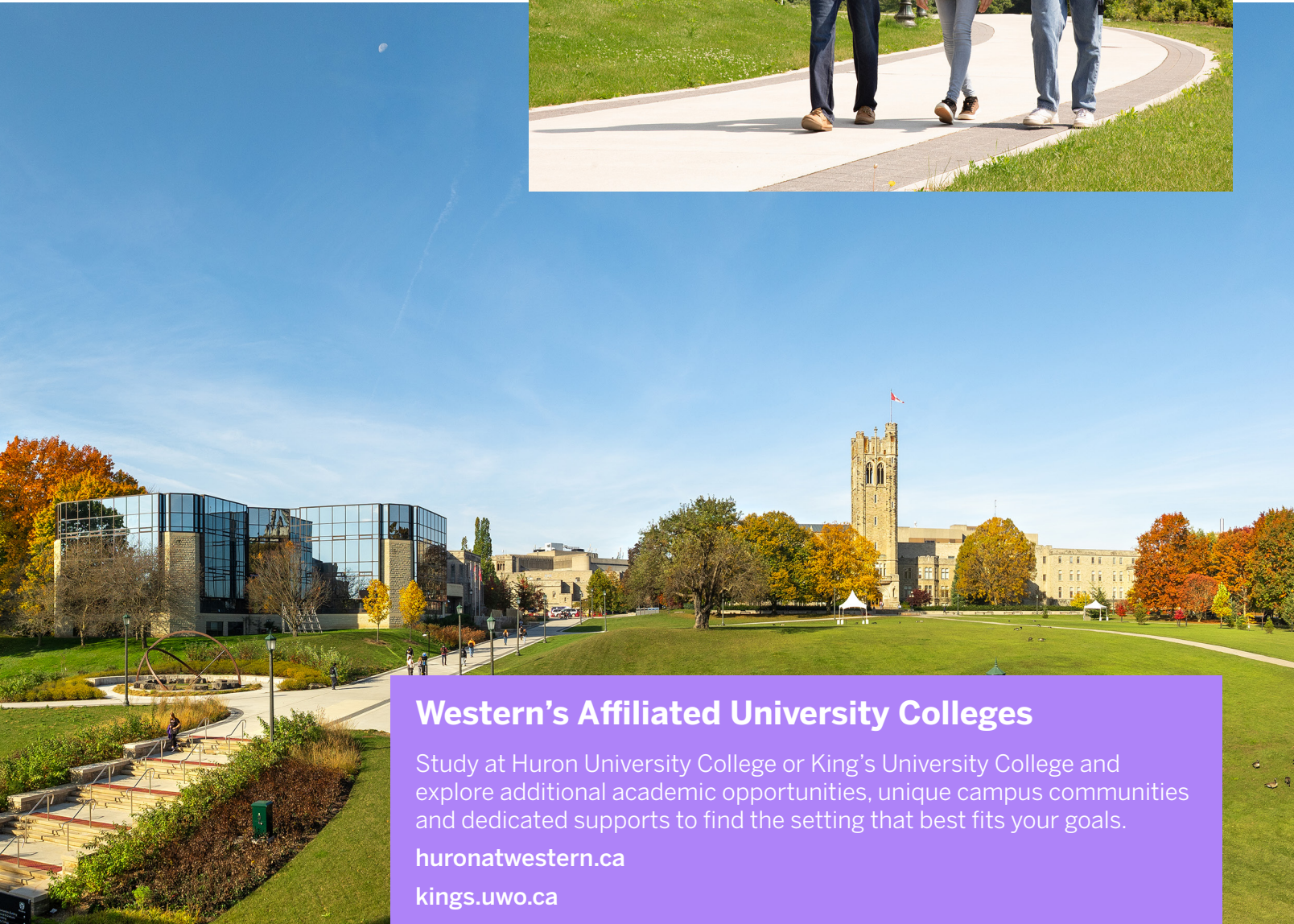
1,300+

acres of campus
and green space

The students featured below, from left to right, are: Ross Tuttle (Moose Cree First Nation, Indigenous Studies), Kylie George (Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Health Sciences) and Nathan Mackay (Métis Nation of Ontario, BSc'25).

“Community means everything to me. At Western, I truly feel like I belong.”

Ross Tuttle
Moose Cree First Nation
Indigenous Studies



Western's Affiliated University Colleges

Study at Huron University College or King's University College and explore additional academic opportunities, unique campus communities and dedicated supports to find the setting that best fits your goals.

huronatwestern.ca

kings.uwo.ca

5
campus
libraries

20+
dining
locations

13
sustainable
buildings

10–20 MINS.
commute to VIA Rail Station
and International Airport

BUS PASS
included in your
student fees

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

Western Student Services Building, Room 2150

London, Ontario

N6A 3K7

indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca

indigenous.uwo.ca

Strategic Areas of Focus

- ▶ Indigenous Community Relationships and Reciprocity
- ▶ Indigenous Student Access, Success and Belonging
- ▶ Indigenous Faculty, Staff and Leadership
- ▶ Indigenous Knowledge, Culture, Teaching and Research
- ▶ Education, Allyship and Institutional Responsibility for Reconciliation
- ▶ Governance, Leadership and Accountability

A Place of Support, Community and Belonging

While your journey at Western University is yours, you do not have to walk it alone. The Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) is here to walk alongside and support you as you explore university, move through your studies and celebrate where your path takes you next.

Guided by Indigenous Peoples, knowledges and community relationships, OII works across Western to create culturally grounded opportunities, meaningful connections and a strong sense of belonging.

What We Focus On

- ▶ Supporting Indigenous students as they access university, move through their studies and build a strong sense of community and belonging.
- ▶ Creating opportunities for students to stay meaningfully connected with Indigenous cultures, communities and ways of knowing.
- ▶ Strengthening Indigenous voices, perspectives and leadership across learning, teaching, research and campus life.

Working in Relationship

At Western, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities is grounded in respectful relationships, shared responsibility and thoughtful consideration of how today's actions will affect future generations. This commitment is reflected in Western's strategic plan, *Towards Western at 150*, and continues to guide the work of OII across the university.



Did You Know?

Indigenous students have access to:

- ▶ Multiple Indigenous spaces across campus
- ▶ Dedicated support staff and community connections
- ▶ Study spaces, computer lab and printing
- ▶ Kitchen facilities and nutrition programs
- ▶ Traditional medicines and cultural supports

Spaces for Indigenous Students

Through the Indigenous Student Centre and Wampum Learning Lodge, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives offers spaces where Indigenous students can access support, build community, celebrate their identities and thrive academically, personally and culturally at Western.

Indigenous Student Centre

A home base for Indigenous students, offering academic and personal support, opportunities to connect with community and a space that honours Indigenous ways of being, knowing and learning.



Wampum Learning Lodge

Serving as a hub for the work of Truth and Reconciliation, bringing people together through culturally meaningful programming, ceremony, events and shared learning.



Office of Indigenous Initiatives Staff

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives, including the Wampum Learning Lodge, fosters an inclusive environment grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The team supports initiatives, programs and relationships that strengthen Indigenous presence across Western through community engagement, meaningful programming and welcoming spaces.



Christy R. Bressette, PhD

**Kettle and Stony Point
First Nation**

*Vice-Provost/Associate
Vice-President
(Indigenous Initiatives)*

cbresse@uwo.ca



**Paula Cornelius-
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Thames**

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Engagement and
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*Head and Heart
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Beauchamp**

Long Plain First Nation

*Indigenous Cultural
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London, Ont.

*Administrative
Coordinator*

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Poeta**

**Wiikwemkoong
Unceded Territory**

*Indigenous
Communications
Coordinator*

lpoea@uwo.ca



Douglas Tulett

London, Ont.

Graphic Designer

dtulett3@uwo.ca

Did You Know?

Through Western's Work Study Program, you can join the Indigenous Student Centre or Wampum Learning Lodge team in a part-time role.



Indigenous Student Centre

isc.staff@uwo.ca

The Indigenous Student Centre's friendly and welcoming staff pride themselves on offering wholistic student support based on the values of helping and serving through Indigenous ways of knowing and being. They provide various supports to help students navigate the university system throughout their entire experience at Western, from recruitment to graduation.



Arielle Bork

**Kettle and Stony Point
First Nation**

*Manager, Indigenous
Admissions and
Enrollment*

abresse2@uwo.ca



Mandy Bragg

**Munsee-Delaware
Nation**

Academic Advisor

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Enhancement
Coordinator*

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Student Coordinator*

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**Six Nations of the
Grand River**

Administrative Assistant

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**Ashley Kewayosh
Samuel**

**Bkejwanong Unceded
Territory**

*Student Opportunities
Coordinator*

akewayos@uwo.ca



Donna Noah

**Munsee-Delaware
Nation**

*Indigenous Financial Aid
Coordinator*

dnoah@uwo.ca

"A snapshot in time" from our Indigenous graduation ceremony, featuring current and former OII staff alongside Work Study students who help create a supportive Indigenous student experience at Western, grounded in friendship, mentorship and community.



Indigenous Student Centre

Western Student Services Building, Room 2100

London, Ontario

N6A 3K7

isc.staff@uwo.ca

indigenous.uwo.ca/students

A Home Away from Home at Western

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) is a space created for Indigenous students at Western University and its affiliated university colleges. It is a place where you can gather, study, rest and connect.

At the ISC, you will find more than services. You will find community, understanding and support that honours Indigenous identities, cultures and ways of learning. Whether you are dropping in between classes or looking for guidance during a challenging time, the ISC is here for you.

Support for the Whole Student

The ISC offers a range of programs, supports and events to help you build connections, navigate university life and feel grounded in your culture and community. From academic support to cultural teachings and social gatherings, programming is designed to support you throughout your university journey.

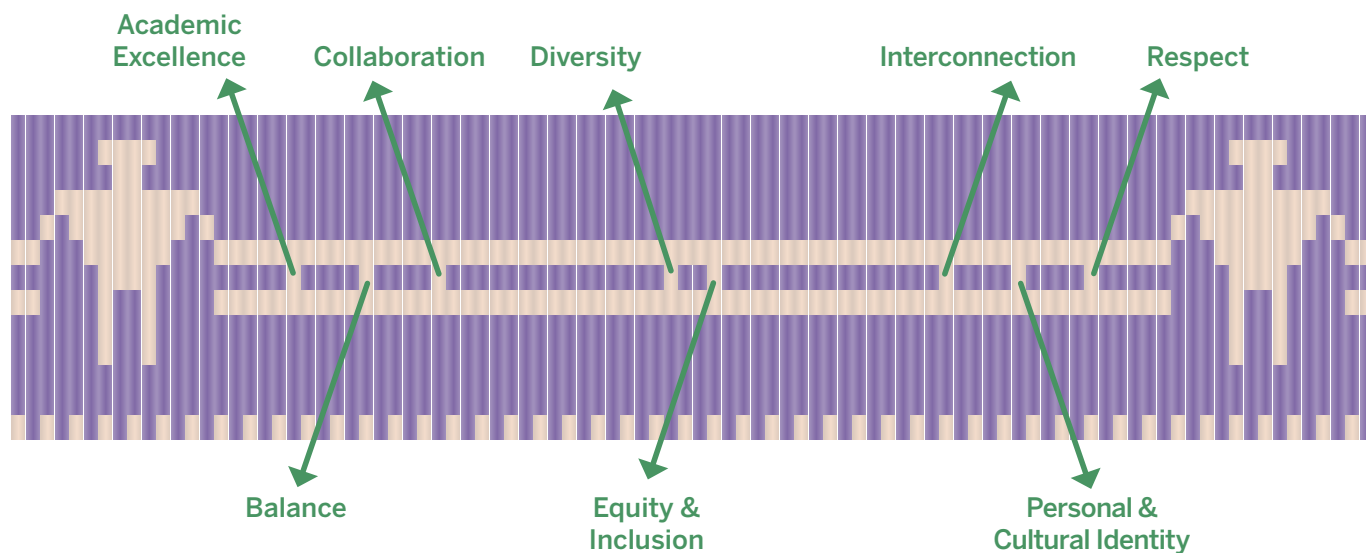
To access the space and stay informed about upcoming activities, you are invited to register with the ISC.

A Strength-Based Approach to Self-Determination

Wampum Belts, traditionally crafted from quahog shells, have been used by Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial to represent shared values and to formalize agreements and alliances between Nations.

When Indigenous students began designing a new logo for the ISC, they chose to honour and revitalize this longstanding tradition. The design reflects the creation of a Wampum Belt agreement between the ISC and Indigenous students, one that clearly expresses shared values, responsibilities and expectations.

This Wampum agreement guides the ISC's vision, purpose and goals through an Indigenous, strengths-based approach. Defined by eight guiding principles, it shapes how programs and supports are delivered, ensuring they remain student-centred, culturally grounded and responsive to Indigenous students' needs at Western.



Scan to read more
about the Wampum
Belt agreement



Indigenous Student Centre Programs and Supports

The ISC offers a range of programs, supports and events that help students build connections, navigate university life and feel grounded in their cultures. From academic support to cultural teachings and social gatherings, programming is designed to support Indigenous students in every stage of their university journey.

To access the space and stay informed about upcoming activities, students are invited to register with the ISC.

Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers

A key part of support at the ISC comes from Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers, who offer cultural counselling, teachings and one-on-one support for Indigenous students.

Through these supports, students can connect with Indigenous languages, teachings and cultural practices while navigating university life. These relationships help foster belonging and wholistic well-being during a student's time at Western.

Student Supports

- ▶ Tutors and academic support
- ▶ Academic and financial aid advising
- ▶ Mental health counselling
- ▶ Monthly corn soup lunches
- ▶ Social and cultural events
- ▶ After-hours access to the ISC
- ▶ Indigenous student orientation
- ▶ Indigenous graduation ceremony
- ▶ Orange Shirt Day programming
- ▶ Riverfest and other annual events

Meet the Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers



Mel Akiwenzie-Lisk
Chippewas of
Nawash First Nation



Biindigegizhig
Oneida Nation of
the Thames



Myrna Kicknosway
Bkejwanong
Unceded Territory



Kelly Nicholas
Oneida Nation of
the Thames



**Deb and Barry
Milliken**
Kettle and Stony
Point First Nation



Gloria Thomson
Métis Nation of
Ontario



Indigenous Circles of Support and Leadership Program

Offered through the Indigenous Student Centre, the Indigenous Circles of Support and Leadership Program, also known as Circles, is open to Indigenous students from all programs and levels of study. Circles is designed to build community, foster leadership and support personal growth in a culturally grounded environment.

Through bi-weekly gatherings during the academic year, students come together to share meals, connect with peers, participate in cultural workshops and learn from inspiring guest speakers. Each session offers space for reflection, celebration and learning.

Circles Explores Topics Such As:

- ▶ Wholistic wellness
- ▶ Traditional medicine teachings
- ▶ Self-care practices
- ▶ Indigenous leadership models

Students also engage in hands-on cultural activities like beading, dreamcatcher making and corn husk doll making, helping to reclaim traditional knowledge, skills and stories.

By participating in Circles, students gain culturally relevant tools to navigate university life with confidence, while strengthening their sense of identity, belonging and purpose on campus.

At the end of each academic year, students can add their participation in Circles to their Western Co-Curricular Record.

What Students Are Saying

- ▶ Stronger connections to culture and community
- ▶ Growth in spiritual, mental and personal well-being
- ▶ A safe, welcoming space where they feel they belong
- ▶ Meaningful mentorship, guidance and support

Scan to
read more
about Circles



“Each session offers something meaningful, whether it is knowledge, laughter or healing. There is a real sense of reciprocity—what we put in, we receive back tenfold in support, identity and collective strength.”

Chesney Sickles-Jarvis
Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Indigenous Studies



Wampum Learning Lodge

1137 Western Road, Suite 1200

London, Ontario

N6G 1G7

wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca

wampumlearninglodge.uwo.ca

A Place to Gather, Learn and Connect

The Wampum Learning Lodge is a learning and gathering space at Western University, grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and teaching. Here, you can connect with Indigenous teachings, communities and one another. Whether you are attending a cultural event, studying with friends or taking part in seasonal programming, the Lodge offers opportunities to gather, learn and connect.

The Lodge offers a home for Indigenous initiatives on campus and a place where relationships are built between Indigenous students, staff, faculty, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, community members and the broader university community. Through cultural, academic and community programming, the Lodge supports experiential learning rooted in respect.

Student Programming and Events

Indigenous students are welcome to take part in a wide range of programming and seasonal gatherings, including:

- ▶ Annual Round Dance and Winter Market
- ▶ Medicine Garden Programming
- ▶ Student Exam Study Spaces
- ▶ Spring Maple Boil and White Corn Harvest
- ▶ Culture Nights and Indigenous Language Programming

3,000+
visitors each year

100+
bookings each year

300+
hours of culture-based learning annually

Elder-in-Residence Program

Mary Lou Smoke

Batchewana First Nation

The Elder-in-Residence Program at Western University provides students, staff and faculty access to Indigenous Elders who offer guidance, cultural knowledge and support rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Through this program, Elders engage with sharing circles, one-on-one mentorship and community events, fostering connections and promoting a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives.



Indigenous Student Life

Find Your Community at Western

At Western, you will find many opportunities to get involved, build community and explore your interests. From student clubs to peer networks, there are spaces across campus where you can connect, share experiences and feel supported.

Here are some of the Indigenous student communities you can be part of:

Indigenous Students' Association

The Indigenous Students' Association (ISA) brings students together and fosters a strong sense of community on campus. Through events, workshops and gatherings, the ISA creates space to connect, build friendships and celebrate Indigenous cultures in a supportive and welcoming environment.

indigenoustudent.club@westernusc.ca

Indigenous Medical and Dental Student Association

At the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, the Indigenous Medical and Dental Student Association (IMDSA) supports Indigenous students in the medicine and dentistry programs. IMDSA provides a space to share experiences, celebrate identities, foster peer support and uplift Indigenous perspectives in healthcare.

imdsa@schulich.uwo.ca

Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network

Infinite Reach connects Métis post-secondary students across Ontario, offering opportunities to share experiences, support one another and build community throughout their academic journey.

infinitereach@metisnation.org

Indigenous Graduate Student Community

The Indigenous Graduate Student Coordinator supports a peer-based network for Indigenous graduate students at Western. This community helps students build connections, access support and navigate their graduate studies.

The Coordinator reports to the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) Council on Indigenous graduate student priorities and leads the SOGS Indigenous Commission.

isc.staff@uwo.ca



Learning Through Experience

At Western University, you can gain hands-on experience, build connections and explore opportunities that support your academic, personal and professional goals.

Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship

Are you curious about research that connects mind, spirit and community? The Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship introduces Indigenous undergraduate students to Indigenous community-based research through experiential and land-based learning over two summers (May to July).

Students explore Indigenous research ethics, cultural and intellectual property rights and community-based research practices before working alongside a Western faculty supervisor on a research project connected to their interests. This competitive fellowship awards \$9,000 per summer, totalling \$18,000.



Indigenous Youth Track and Field Day

Co-hosted by the Indigenous Student Centre and Western's Varsity Track and Field Team, this annual event welcomes Indigenous youth in Grades 6 to 8 to campus for a day of athletic training and community building. Indigenous students at Western are involved in youth engagement and event facilitation while gaining experience supporting youth in building confidence and exploring campus life.

Mini-University

Mini-University invites Indigenous youth to explore university life through academic activities, cultural programming and hands-on experiences. Western Indigenous students are employed as youth mentors, playing a key role in supporting youth ages 11 to 17 and helping them imagine a future in post-secondary education.

Age groups: Otters (11 to 13), Cranes (14 to 17)



Indigenous Student STEM Access Program

issap@uwo.ca
bit.ly/uwo_issap

What is ISSAP?

The Indigenous Student STEM Access Program (ISSAP) is a one-year pathway for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who are interested in pursuing Engineering or Science at Western. Students of all ages are welcome to apply. Admission to ISSAP is limited to a small cohort each year, allowing for a personalized experience through academic preparation, mentorship, cultural connections and community-based support.

What Students Will Do:

- ▶ Complete courses equivalent to Grades 11 and 12 requirements to enter Engineering or Science
- ▶ Take a first-year university (1000-level) course in Engineering or Science
- ▶ Choose additional electives based on academic interests (total of 5.0 credits)

What Students Receive:

- ▶ One-on-one academic guidance
- ▶ Mentorship from Indigenous staff, faculty and peers
- ▶ Access to cultural and community supports
- ▶ A strong foundation for success at Western

Where It Leads:

Students who complete the program with a 75% average are eligible to enter first-year Engineering or Science programs with the skills, knowledge and support needed for their next steps at Western.



“The ISSAP Program has given me a new beginning. It has helped me overcome challenges from my past and shown me that I belong here. I have done so many things this year I never thought I would do.”

Katherine Shone
Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Health Sciences



Scan to
read more
about Katherine

Meet Eric

Big Trout Lake First Nation
Genetics

Boozhoo! My name is Eric Sainnawap, and I am from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake First Nation), a fly-in community in Northwestern Ontario. I am currently in my fourth year of an Honours Specialization in Genetics at Western University.

Growing up in a remote community, I have witnessed firsthand the healthcare challenges Indigenous Peoples face. These experiences inspired me to pursue a career in medicine. I chose to study genetics as a foundation for medical school, with the goal of returning to support my home community and others like it across the country.

The Indigenous Student Centre has played a vital role in my success. It provides not only academic support, but also a strong sense of community and cultural connection that has helped me stay grounded.

This past summer, I completed my first year of the Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship. Head and Heart has prepared me to conduct community-based research by giving me opportunities to learn Indigenous research methodologies, explore research opportunities and connect with researchers in various fields at Western. I look forward to next summer, when I will have the opportunity to take on my own research project.

Post-secondary education is a privilege I do not take for granted. I am committed to giving back and creating pathways for others. I am grateful for the opportunities Western has offered and excited for what lies ahead.



Scan to
see more
about Eric



Undergraduate Programs

Enjoy the flexibility to shape your own learning experience alongside the support and resources to help you succeed on whatever path you take. With thousands of combinations of undergraduate majors, minors and specializations in 11 faculties to choose from, we have the program to fit your interests, needs and goals.

Arts & Humanities

welcome.uwo.ca/arts-humanities

Art History and Museum and Curatorial Studies • Art History and Studio Art • School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (SASAH) • Black Studies • Classical Studies • Creative Arts and Production (CAP) • Creative Writing • Creative Writing and English Language and Literature • English Language and Literature • Film Studies • French for Teaching • French Studies • Gender and Women's Studies • Global Gender Studies • Italian Language and Culture • Linguistics • Medieval Studies • Philosophy • Sexuality Studies • Spanish • Studio Art • Theatre Studies • Visual Arts

Computer Science

welcome.uwo.ca/computerscience

Computer Science

Engineering

welcome.uwo.ca/engineering

Artificial Intelligence Systems Engineering • Biomedical Engineering • Chemical and Biochemical Engineering • Civil and Environmental Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Integrated Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Mechatronic Systems Engineering • Software Engineering

Food & Nutritional Sciences

welcome.uwo.ca/foods-nutrition

Foods & Nutrition • Nutrition & Dietetics

Family Studies & Human Development

welcome.uwo.ca/family-studies

Family Studies & Human Development

Health Sciences

welcome.uwo.ca/health-sciences

Health Sciences • Health Sciences with Biology • Rehabilitation Sciences

Kinesiology

welcome.uwo.ca/kinesiology

Clinical Kinesiology • Kinesiology (BA & BSc)

DAN Management & Organizational Studies

welcome.uwo.ca/management-organizational-studies

Accounting • Commercial Aviation Management (CAM) • Consumer Behaviour • Finance • Human Resource Management • Management and Legal Studies

Media & Communication Studies (MACS)

welcome.uwo.ca/media-communication-studies

Creative Arts and Production (CAP) • Media, Information and Technoculture

Minors not
included. Scan to
view all programs



Scan to read more
about the Indigenous
Admissions Access Category



Medical Sciences

welcome.uwo.ca/medical-sciences

Biochemistry • Biochemistry and Cancer Biology • Epidemiology and Biostatistics • Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences • Medical Bioinformatics • Medical Biophysics — Medical Science concentration • Medical Cell Biology • Medical Physics • Medical Sciences • Microbiology and Immunology • Neuroscience • One Health • Pathology • Pharmacology • Physiology • Public Health (BSc)

Music

welcome.uwo.ca/music

Bachelor of Arts

Creative Arts and Production (CAP) • Music • Music Administrative Studies • Popular Music Studies

Bachelor of Music

Composition • General • Music Education • Music Recording Arts (Collaborative between Western and Fanshawe College) • Music Research • Performance

Nursing

welcome.uwo.ca/nursing

Nursing (BScN) • Nursing (BScN, compressed time frame)

Science

welcome.uwo.ca/science

Actuarial Sciences • Animal Behaviour • Applied Mathematics • Applied Statistics • Astrophysics • Biochemistry and Chemistry • Biodiversity and Conservation • Bioinformatics • Biology • Chemistry • Data Science • Ecosystem Health • Environmental Geoscience Program for Professional Registration • Environmental Science • Financial Modelling • Genetics • Genetics and Biochemistry • Geology • Geology and Biology • Geology Program for Professional Registration • Geophysics • Geophysics Program for Professional Registration • Information Systems • Integrated Science (WISc) • Mathematical and Statistical Sciences • Mathematics • Medical Physics • Physics • Scientific Computing and Numerical Methods • Statistics • Synthetic Biology

Social Science

welcome.uwo.ca/social-science

Anthropology • Archaeology and Biological Anthropology • Black Studies • Climate Change and Society • Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience • Economics • Environment and Health • Financial Economics • Gender and Women's Studies • Geographic Information Science • Geography and Commercial Aviation Management • Geography and Environment • Global Economics • Global Gender Studies • Global Justice • History • Indigenous Studies • International Relations • Linguistics • Physical Geography and Environment • Political Science • Politics, Philosophy and Economics • Psychology • Sexuality Studies • Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology • Sociology • Urban Development

Indigenous Studies Program

Indigenous Studies – Faculty of Social Science

ismain@uwo.ca

indigenousstudies.uwo.ca

Why pursue Indigenous Studies at Western?

- ▶ **Growing Community:** Join a growing number of students studying Indigenous Studies. Start by taking IS 1020E: Introduction to Indigenous Studies in first year.
- ▶ **Interdisciplinary Learning:** Explore topics connected to Indigenous Peoples in Canada and worldwide, including history, culture, language, health and the environment.
- ▶ **Small Class Sizes:** Experience a close-knit learning environment with small class sizes that encourage discussion, collaboration and meaningful connections.
- ▶ **Flexible Program Options:** Combine Indigenous Studies with another program at Western to create a degree pathway that reflects diverse interests and goals.
- ▶ **Research Opportunities:** Build research skills through upper-year courses focused on Indigenous knowledge systems, community priorities and lived experiences.

Course Spotlight

IS 2676A/B: Landmarks: Spatial Storytelling, Land, Art, Place and Community

This studio-based course explores how stories live within the land and how art can strengthen connections to place, community and cultural memory.

Rooted in Indigenous worldviews, students create collaborative artworks at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology and in studio while exploring storytelling through drawing, sculpture, performance and other creative practices.

Through hands-on learning, students engage with Indigenous knowledge systems, community relationships, respectful creation practices and connections to land.



Assistant Professor Tanya Doody and Head and Heart Alumna Caitriona Rice (Hiawatha First Nation, Social Work), preparing student clay works for a traditional pit-firing at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology.

Meet Shan

Oneida Nation of the Thames
Indigenous Studies

Shekoli! My name is Shan Hunt, and I am from the Oneida Nation of the Thames. I belong to the Turtle Clan and am currently in my fourth year of an Honours Specialization in Indigenous Studies at Western University.

I chose Indigenous Studies because it connects deeply to my goal of becoming a legal advocate for Indigenous Peoples. As a licensed paralegal, I have seen gaps in the criminal justice system that continue to impact Indigenous communities. After completing my degree, I hope to attend Western Law and use my education to support meaningful change within the justice system.

My program has connected me to mentors, resources and opportunities while helping me build relationships with peers and local communities. It has also allowed me to learn teachings and cultural knowledge that I was not always connected to due to the lasting impacts of residential schools on my family.

Being a student at Western has been one of my greatest achievements. As the first person in my family to attend post-secondary education, I am incredibly proud of this journey. Beyond the classroom, I have served as Vice-President of Communications with the Indigenous Students' Association, assisted with planning Western's Annual Powwow and participated as a Head and Heart Fellow. Through these experiences, I have strengthened my connection to my culture and gained confidence as an Indigenous woman.





Meet **Kristian**

Six Nations of the Grand River
Dental Surgery

My name is Kristian Jamieson, and I am a proud member of the Cayuga Nation, Wolf Clan, from Six Nations of the Grand River. I am entering my fourth year of dental school at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. My passion for dentistry began in childhood when access to dental care on my reserve was limited. My first dental visits off-reserve were overwhelming, but the kindness and care of my dentist turned fear into inspiration. I knew then I wanted to create that same safe space for others.

Being the first in my immediate family to attend post-secondary education, I was motivated to change the trajectory for future generations. Balancing academics with personal challenges was not always easy, but staying focused on my goals helped me grow stronger and more resilient.

Dental school is fast-paced and exciting, with no two days ever the same. Watching myself grow from student to clinician has been incredibly rewarding. Outside of school, I am a long-distance runner proudly continuing the legacy of my great-great-grandfather, Tom Longboat. I recently broke a decade-long marathon record in Niagara Falls, and in April 2026, I ran the Boston Marathon in 2 hours and 33 minutes, finishing as the 13th-fastest Canadian.

After graduation, I am committed to mentoring Indigenous youth and returning home to provide accessible, culturally safe dental care in First Nations communities.



Scan to
read more
about Kristian

Second-Entry Programs

Build on your undergraduate studies through Western University's second-entry programs, where you can gain specialized knowledge, hands-on experience and professional skills. Indigenous-specific pathways, supports and opportunities are available through a number of these programs to help you take the next step toward your academic and professional goals.

Faculty of Education | edu.uwo.ca

Bachelor of Education (BEd)

Future educators gain the tools to lead inclusive, diverse classrooms with confidence. With Indigenous-focused courses and dedicated supports, the program encourages students to bring their cultural knowledge and experiences into their teaching practice.

- ▶ Four years of undergraduate study + two years to complete the BEd program
- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Access Program

Faculty of Law | law.uwo.ca

Juris Doctor (JD)

Students build a strong foundation in legal theory and practice through a comprehensive legal education at Western Law. Supportive services and Indigenous-specific courses create a welcoming environment for aspiring Indigenous legal professionals.

- ▶ Three years of undergraduate study + three years to complete the JD program
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Category
- ▶ Financial support through Indigenous-specific scholarships

Ivey Business School | ivey.uwo.ca

Honours Business Administration (HBA)

A business education meets personalized support for Indigenous students. With mentorship, scholarships and a focus on leadership, this program helps students thrive in business and beyond.

- ▶ Two years of undergraduate study + two years to complete the HBA program
- ▶ Financial support through Indigenous-specific scholarships

King's School of Social Work | socialwork.kings.uwo.ca

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

Students are prepared to lead positive change and advocate for social justice through hands-on learning and community engagement. The program supports Indigenous learners with a focus on cultural awareness and experiential learning.

- ▶ Two years of undergraduate study + two years to complete the BSW program
- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Financial support through Indigenous-specific scholarships

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry | schulich.uwo.ca

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

With a focus on inclusive care, this program prepares students to become compassionate, skilled physicians. Indigenous students benefit from dedicated pathways and cultural supports that foster academic and personal success.

- ▶ Four years of undergraduate study + four years to complete the MD program
- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

Blending clinical training, research and community outreach, this program prepares students for careers in oral health care. Indigenous students benefit from dedicated supports and inclusive learning environments that reflect their values and goals.

- ▶ Four years of undergraduate study + four years to complete the DDS program
- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students

Graduate Programs

Take the next step in your studies at Western University through a wide range of graduate programs that support advanced learning, research and meaningful contributions across many fields. You can work alongside faculty, researchers and peers while building knowledge connected to your academic, professional and community goals.

Through Western's School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, you can access resources and supports throughout each stage of your graduate journey.

Highlights

- ▶ 87 graduate, 51 doctoral and 10 graduate diploma programs
- ▶ Professional graduate and doctoral programs
- ▶ Interdisciplinary programs

Program Spotlights

Featured Program: Master of Professional Education (MPed)

Field of Leadership in Indigenous Education

This course-based master's program supports students preparing for leadership roles within schools, post-secondary institutions, communities and educational organizations.

Students explore Indigenous education through leadership practices, Indigenous knowledge systems, pedagogies and the historical and contemporary experiences that continue to shape education in Canada.

Through a supportive cohort model, students learn alongside peers from diverse backgrounds while building relationships, sharing perspectives and engaging with important topics in Indigenous education.

With a combination of online and in-person learning, the program offers flexibility for students balancing academic, professional, family and community responsibilities.

Featured Opportunity: Western Libraries-FIMS MLIS Fellowships for Black and Indigenous Students

The Western Libraries-Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) MLIS Fellowships for Black and Indigenous Students combine financial support with paid experiential learning and mentorship for students in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program. Fellows gain hands-on experience, build professional connections and prepare for meaningful careers in libraries and the information profession.

New Pathway: Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition (MScFN)

Interested in a career in nutrition or dietetics? The Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences now offers an Indigenous applicant pathway within the Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition program, including designated seats for Indigenous students. This pathway is designed to increase Indigenous representation in nutrition and dietetics while supporting the health and well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada.

Graduate Programs with Indigenous Applicant Pathways

Faculty of Health Sciences

Master of Clinical Science (MCISc)

- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Master of Physical Therapy (MPT)

- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition (MScFN)

- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MScOT)

- ▶ Designated seats for Indigenous students
- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Faculty of Education

Master of Arts (MA)

- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Master of Professional Education (MPed)

- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Doctor of Education (EdD)

- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

- ▶ Indigenous Applicant Pathway

Meet Savannah

Natoaganeg First Nation
Library and Information Science

My name is Savannah, and I am a Mi'kmaw woman from Notoaganeg First Nation in New Brunswick. I began Western University's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program after completing my undergraduate degree in History. I was drawn to Western not only for its reputation as one of Canada's leading MLIS programs, but also for the opportunities and support available to Indigenous students.

I chose Library and Information Science because I am passionate about supporting the self-governance of Indigenous communities through Knowledge Stewardship and Data Sovereignty, especially within the galleries, libraries, archives and museums sector. Looking ahead, my goal is to lead the creation of an Indigenous-led library in New Brunswick, ideally within my home community.

My time at Western has been an incredible experience so far. I have been supported as an emerging professional through opportunities such as the Western Libraries-FIMS MLIS Fellowship for Black and Indigenous Students, which provides mentorship and hands-on learning connected to my career goals.

Western has helped me grow both academically and professionally, while strengthening my confidence as a future leader. When I graduate, I know I will be prepared to enter the Library and Information Science field and continue supporting Indigenous communities through meaningful, community-driven work.



Scan to
read more
about Savannah



Indigenous Faculty at Western

Indigenous faculty members at Western University bring diverse knowledge, experiences and perspectives across disciplines. Through teaching, research and mentorship, Indigenous scholars contribute to learning environments that reflect Indigenous ways of knowing and support the next generation of students.



Vanessa Ambtman-Smith, PhD

Nêhiyaw-Métis

Assistant Professor,
Department of
Geography and
Environment &
Indigenous Studies
Program



Renée Bédard, PhD

Dokis First Nation

Assistant Professor,
Department of Gender,
Sexuality and Women's
Studies & Indigenous
Studies Program



Spy Dénomme-Welch, PhD

Timiskaming First
Nation

Associate Professor,
Faculty of Education

Canada Research Chair
(Tier II) in Indigenous
Arts, Knowledge
Systems and Education



**Cortney (Awasis)
Golkar-Dakin, PhD**

Anishnaabe-Métis

Assistant Professor,
Department of
Geography and
Environment



Cody Groat, PhD

Six Nations of the Grand
River

Assistant Professor,
Department of History
& Indigenous Studies
Program



**Rebekah Jacques,
MD**

Métis Nation of Ontario

Associate Professor,
Pathology and
Laboratory Medicine



Sally Kewayosh, MFA

Bkejwanong Unceded
Territory

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Information
and Media Studies



**Jackson Leween
Two Bears, PhD**

Six Nations of the Grand
River

Associate Professor,
Visual Arts & Indigenous
Studies Program

Canada Research Chair
(Tier I) in Indigenous Arts
Research and Technology



**Jennifer
Komorowski, PhD**

Oneida Nation of the
Thames

Assistant Professor,
Department of Gender,
Sexuality and Women's
Studies



Gabrielle Heil, MN

Oneida Nation of the
Thames

Lecturer, Arthur Labatt
Family School of Nursing



**Dennis Michaelson,
PhD**

Mistawasis Nêhiyawak

Assistant Professor,
Department of
Electrical and Computer
Engineering



**Erica
Neeganagwedgin,
PhD**

Taíno

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Education



Sheri Nault, MFA

Métis Nation of Ontario

Assistant Professor,
Studio Arts



**Chantelle Richmond,
PhD**

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Professor, Department
of Geography and
Environment

Canada Research Chair
(Tier II) in Indigenous
Health and Environment



Lina Sunseri, PhD

Oneida Nation of the
Thames

Professor, Department
of Sociology &
Indigenous Studies
Program



Jeffrey Warnock, JD

Métis Nation of Ontario

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Law



Lewis Williams, PhD

Ngāi Te Rangi (Māori)

Associate Professor,
Department of
Geography and
Environment &
Indigenous Studies
Program



Nicole Redvers, PhD

Deninu Kúé First Nation

Associate Professor,
Department of
Epidemiology and
Biostatistics

Western Research Chair
Director of Indigenous
Planetary Health

Interested in learning more about Indigenous scholars at Western?

Visit indigenous.uwo.ca/about-us/committees/indigenous-faculty-advisory-council.html to learn more about their research.

Undergraduate Admissions

indigenous.admissions@uwo.ca

Applying to university can feel like a big step, but you do not have to navigate it on your own. The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) is here to support you every step of the way, from your first questions to your arrival at Western.

How the ISC Supports Your Application Journey

- ▶ **Application Guidance:**
Get one-on-one support, virtually or in person, to help you navigate the application process and feel confident in your next steps.
- ▶ **Custom Campus Tours:**
Visit campus in a way that reflects you. Tours can include key spaces like the Indigenous Student Centre, Wampum Learning Lodge and program-specific areas.
- ▶ **Community Outreach:**
Through initiatives like the Indigenous Post-Secondary Education Network, ISC staff visit Indigenous communities to share information, answer questions and build relationships in a good way.
- ▶ **Ongoing Support:** From initial contact to your first day on campus, we are here to offer encouragement, answer questions and help you feel prepared for your journey.

Indigenous Admissions Access Category

Western University recognizes the strengths, experiences and perspectives that Indigenous students bring to the university community. The Indigenous Admissions Access Category is one way we support Indigenous applicants in accessing undergraduate programs.

The pathway is designed to:

- ▶ Encourage applications from Indigenous students
- ▶ Recognize diverse educational journeys and experiences
- ▶ Provide additional support during the admissions process

You can apply through this category alongside your Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) application.

Indigenous Students from the United States

Western University honours the Jay Treaty of 1794 by offering domestic tuition rates to Native American students from the United States. This commitment recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples across borders and supports Native American students in accessing post-secondary education at Western.

Application Process

1. **Identify Your Applicant Type**
Check the notation below to identify what type of applicant you are.
2. **Explore Programs**
Visit welcome.uwo.ca to find the program that best fits your interests.
3. **Check Course Requirements**
Ensure you meet the course requirements for your chosen program.
Visit welcome.uwo.ca/requirements for the full listing.
4. **Note Important Dates and Deadlines**
 - ▶ **Late September:** Applications open at ouac.on.ca
 - ▶ **January 15:** Recommended deadline for Group A* applicants to submit an OUAC application and deadline for Groups A* and B* to apply for equal consideration to full-time undergraduate studies.
Visit welcome.uwo.ca/deadlines for additional dates and details.
5. **Apply!**
Submit your application. Do not forget to self-identify as Indigenous on your OUAC application.

All relevant claims will be subject to Western University's *Policy for Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership (MAPP 1.58)*.

*OUAC Group A applicants are students applying directly from an Ontario high school.

*OUAC Group B includes all other applicants (e.g., out-of-province and international students, mature and senior students and those not applying directly from high school).



Connor Campbell
Frog Lake
Medical Science

Scan to
read more
about Connor



Housing

Western Residence

residence.uwo.ca

Living in residence gives you opportunities to build friendships, find community and feel connected as you transition to university life.

With a variety of residence buildings, room styles and support services, you can explore options that fit your needs and preferences.

Residence is guaranteed for incoming first-year students who meet eligibility requirements.

How to Apply

After receiving an offer of admission, you will receive information about completing the online Residence Placement Questionnaire through the Western myHousing Portal. Using your Western username and password, you can complete the questionnaire, indicate your residence preferences and follow the steps required to confirm your residence space.

Off-Campus Housing

offcampus.uwo.ca

If you are planning to live off campus, Western's Off-Campus Housing team can provide resources and support throughout your housing search.

You can explore rental listings, access helpful information for first-time renters and receive guidance through off-campus advising, including lease reviews and mediation support.

Housing for Families

plattslane.uwo.ca

If you are an upper-year or graduate student, or are coming to Western with your family, Platt's Lane Estates offers townhouse and apartment-style housing close to campus.

You will also be near community resources, including YMCA-operated University Child Care and University Heights Public School.

Did You Know?

Early move-in opportunities are available for Indigenous students to provide additional time to settle into campus.



Indigenous Scholarship Programs

Western University offers Indigenous-specific scholarship opportunities that students can apply for to support their education and recognize academic achievement, community involvement, leadership and contributions within their communities.

Local First Nations Scholarship Program

The Local First Nations Scholarship Program supports eligible students from local First Nations who are pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies at Western.

Created through Western's relationships with local First Nations communities, this scholarship recognizes students' academic achievements, community involvement and ongoing connections to their Nations. Recipients are eligible to receive up to \$15,000 per academic year.

This scholarship is available to students from First Nations connected to the London District Chiefs Council, whose Nations have longstanding relationships with the lands where Western is located:

- ▶ Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- ▶ Bkejwanong Unceded Territory
- ▶ Caldwell First Nation
- ▶ Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- ▶ Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Delaware Nation
- ▶ Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- ▶ Munsee-Delaware Nation
- ▶ Oneida Nation of the Thames

National Indigenous Scholarship Program

The National Indigenous Scholarship Program supports incoming Indigenous undergraduate students beginning their studies full-time at Western's main campus.

This scholarship celebrates Indigenous students from across Canada who demonstrate academic excellence, creative thinking, leadership and meaningful contributions within their communities. Five scholarships valued at \$50,000 each are available annually.

"There is such a big population of Indigenous people who do not feel comfortable expressing themselves through their own culture. At Western, I can proudly do that and it is a big part of my experience here."

Sara Boston
Batchewana First Nation
Indigenous Studies



National Indigenous Scholarship Program Recipient, 2024-25



Financial Aid

indigenous.uwo.ca/students/financial-supports

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Office of the Registrar work together to connect you with financial resources and support throughout your time at Western.

You can connect with dedicated staff to learn more about scholarships, awards, funding opportunities and financial guidance throughout your academic journey.

Undergraduate

Bill Groat Memorial Award	(1 at \$2,750)
Local First Nations Scholarship Program	(Varies)
Margery Baldwin Memorial Bursary	(5 at \$3,000)
Métis Nation of Ontario Bursary	(5 at \$1,000)
National Indigenous Scholarship Program	(5 at \$50,000)
Sweitzer Family Bursary	(1 at \$2,000)
Western Continuing Admission Scholarship of Excellence for Indigenous Students	(30 at \$6,000)

Engineering Students

Enbridge Award in Engineering	(1 at \$2,000)
Nova Chemicals Indigenous Scholarship in Engineering	(1 at \$5,000)
Marvin DeVries Engineering Award	(1 at \$3,000)

Ivey Business Students

Graywood Developments HBA Real Estate Award	(1 at \$7,500)
MSc Indigenous Entrance Scholarship	(5 at up to \$10,000)
Rise Awards in Resilient Leadership for Indigenous Students	(1 at \$10,000)

Huron Students

Indspire Huron University Indigenous Student Bursaries	(Varies)
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King's Students

Joy and Hope Gaudium et Spes Entrance Award for Indigenous Students	(1 at \$1,000)
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All Students

Indspire Building Brighter Futures Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards
Future Generations Foundation
Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
OSAP Ontario Indigenous Student Bursary
TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples
Canada Post Award for Indigenous Students

Second-Entry

Law Students

Bereskin and Parr LLP Scholarship	(1 at \$2,000)
Chan Sau Lan Memorial Bursary	(1 at \$2,000)
Clarke-Osborne Family Entrance Scholarship	(1 at \$2,400)
Cynthia Westaway Award	(1 at \$2,000)
Hewat Family Continuing Award for Indigenous Law Students	(1 at \$30,000)
Joyce Thomas Memorial Award	(1 at \$1,000)
Law Society of Ontario Education Equity Award	(Varies)
Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt Diverse Scholars Award	(4 at \$5,000)

Medical Students

Dr. Kevin Kuo Bursary in Medicine	(1 at \$2,000)
Dr. Marjorie I. Johnson Medical Award	(1 at \$2,000)
Dr. Nancy Naylor Bursary	(1 at \$1,500)
Indigenous Medical Continuing Scholarship	(1 at \$11,000)

Graduate

Local First Nations Scholarship Program	(Varies)
Askunessippi (Antler River) Scholarship	(1 at \$2,000)
Western Libraries – FIMS MLIS Fellowship for Black & Indigenous Students	(2 at \$12,000)
Indigenous Graduate Student Scholarship Program – Education	(2 at \$4,500)
IBET Momentum Fellowship	(2 at \$25,000)
Indigenous Social Science Doctoral Fellowship	(1 at \$20,000)
London Police Association Indigenous Community Impact Award	(1 at \$2,500)
Rise Awards in Resilient Leadership for Indigenous Students (MBA)	(1 at \$22,500)
MBA Indigenous Entrance Scholarships (All Ivey MBA applicants will be considered)	(Varies)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	(2 at \$15,000)
Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) Bursary	(Varies)



The **Indigenous Student Centre** is located in the Western Student Services Building, Room 2100.

The **Wampus Learning Lodge** is located adjacent to the Faculty of Education Building at 1137 Western Road.

Campus Map



@WesternIndigenous



@Westernu_Indigenous

Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA



Information for
Parents



Explore
Campus

Become Purple and Proud

Upcoming Events

Fall Preview Day: November 8, 2026

Spring Open House: April 3, 2027