

INDIGENOUS YOUTH INITIATIVES

WESTERN UNIVERSITY





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Land Acknowledgement

Western University is located in Dish With One Spoon Treaty Territory, the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations.

Special Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge the many departments across Western University whose support helps empower Indigenous youth. Your commitment to inclusive, culturally grounded opportunities inspires students to see themselves in higher education. Your efforts make a lasting impact—thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Indigenous Youth Track and Field Day

Get Active with Western's Track and Field Team!

Indigenous Youth Track and Field Day is a fun event where Indigenous students in grades 6 to 8 from Southwestern Ontario get to train with Western University's Track and Field Team. You will learn new athletic skills, take part in exciting events and get tips from varsity athletes. It is a great opportunity to discover your potential while having fun and staying active. Plus, you will get a sense of what it is like to be an athlete at university!

Programming and Events

- High Jump
- Long Jump
- Shot Put
- Sprints
- Relay Races
- Pole Vaulting
- Varsity Athletes Demonstrations



Mini-University, Otter Program

Explore and Learn at Mini-U!

Mini-University's Otter Program is a fun-filled, week-long day camp at Western University for Indigenous youth ages 11 to 13. You will spend time with new friends, participate in hands-on activities and explore Indigenous culture together. It is all about having fun, making connections and experiencing what university life can be like!

Some Programming Includes

- ▶ **Métis Dot Art:** Learn traditional dot art painting guided by a Métis Elder.
- ▶ **Dig into Earth's History:** Get hands-on with real fossils and explore cool rock formations from the past.
- ▶ **Bowling with Robots:** Program and code mini robots, then test your skills in a fun game of robot bowling!



Mini-University, Crane Program

Experience University Life with Mini-U!

Mini-University's Crane Program is a week-long overnight camp for Indigenous youth ages 14 to 17. Held at Western University, it offers academic workshops, cultural activities and mentorship. Students stay overnight in residence, explore future career paths and gain a meaningful introduction to post-secondary life in a welcoming and inspiring campus environment.

Some Programming Includes

- ▶ **Water Walk:** Join in a land-based activity that honours water, its spirit and our relationship with it.
- ▶ **Strawberry DNA Extraction:** Work to extract DNA from strawberries and discover the science behind it!
- ▶ **Stargazing at the Observatory:** Explore the night sky through powerful telescopes and learn about stars, constellations and the stories they tell.

Both Programs Include

- ▶ **Tour Campus Like a Mustang:** Walk through Western's campus and explore where your future academic journey could begin.
- ▶ **Fire Teachings with an Elder:** Gather around the fire and listen to teachings passed down through generations.
- ▶ **Graduation Celebration:** Wrap up the week with a special graduation ceremony with family, certificates and a delicious lunch.

Youth Visits to Campus

Explore Western and Discover Your Future!

Come visit Western University's Indigenous Student Centre and see what there is to offer! You will take a campus tour, participate in fun workshops and connect with Indigenous undergraduate students who can share their experiences. Learn about incredible programs, student life and the support available to help you succeed. It is a great opportunity to imagine yourself at university and start thinking about your future!

What to Expect

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Learn about the Indigenous Student Centre and its supports.
- **Campus Tour:** Explore the campus and discover key spots most important to Indigenous students.
- **Cultural Workshop:** Take part in a hands-on activity.
- **Lunch and Social Time:** Connect with Indigenous students and staff.
- **Student Panel:** Hear stories from current Indigenous students about their university journey.
- **Faculty-Led Learning:** Dive into interactive sessions on different academic topics.



Indigenous Academic Tutoring and Mentorship Program

Get Support and Stay on Track!

The Indigenous Academic Tutoring and Mentorship Program supports Indigenous students in grades 9 to 12 from school boards in the London area. You will be paired with friendly Western tutors who can help with homework, organization and motivation. Alongside academic support, you will build useful skills, take part in fun activities and gain confidence on your educational journey.

Program Activities

- One-on-one and group tutoring sessions with supportive Western mentors
- Inspiring guest speakers who share stories and advice
- Interactive workshops to boost skills and confidence
- Cultural activities that honour and celebrate Indigenous identity and traditions
- Fun lunches with peers and mentors



A Message for Parents, Caregivers and Educators

This overview was created to inspire and empower Indigenous youth by highlighting the programs, pathways and supports available at Western University. Our goal is to help students see themselves in post-secondary education—nurturing their gifts, exploring their interests and imagining new possibilities for the future.

We recognize the vital role families and communities play in a young person's journey. That is why we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and culturally grounded environment where Indigenous students feel supported, seen and celebrated.

Whether your child is just beginning to explore their options or already planning their next steps, we hope this overview offers encouragement, guidance and a glimpse of what is possible at Western.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our vibrant and supportive community.



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Youth
Initiatives



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