WESTERN UNIVERSITY

INDIGENOUS VIEWBOOK 2026-27







The students featured on the cover, from left to right, are: Ross Tuttle (Moose Cree First Nation, Indigenous Studies), Kylie George (Kettle and Stony Point, Health Sciences) and Nathan Mackay (Métis, Biology).

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Land Acknowledgement

The Great Lakes region of Turtle Island is the ancestral lands of the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee and Lunaapéewak Nations. Western University is located in Baketigweyaang (At the Side-Flow), now known as London, Ontario, alongside the Deshkan Ziibiing (Thames River). This sacred life force flows through the heart of Southwestern Ontario, connecting our communities across the region. Western accepts responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation, as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples through our teaching, research and community service.

This region is connected to the following Wampum agreements: Gdoo naaganinaa (Dish with One Spoon Wampum) and the Kaswenta (Two Row Wampum); as well as the Nanfan Treaty of 1701 and the Treaty of Niagara (1764). The City of London occupies land via Indigenous-Crown Treaties, which include the London Township Treaty 6 (1796), Sombra Township Treaty 7 (1796) and the Longwoods Treaty 21 (1822).

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

- ▶ Deshkan Ziibiing Anishinaabek (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation);
- Lunaapéewak (Munsee-Delaware Nation); and
- ► On Ayota'a: ka (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









Office of Indigenous Initiatives

Western Student Services Building, Room 2150 London, Ontario N6A 3K7 indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca indigenous.uwo.ca

Key Strategic Areas

- ► Strategic Planning
- ► Communications and Reporting
- ► Community Engagement
- ► Policy Development
- ► Space Planning and Management
- ► Curriculum and Training
- ► Student Affairs, Access and Recruitment
- ► Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention
- ► Research and Scholarship Strategies

At Western University, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) leads system-wide changes to advance Truth and Reconciliation and achieve equitable outcomes for Indigenous Peoples. The OII plays a lead role in championing Indigenous strategic directions, building collaborative and community-engaged partnerships and supporting campus partners in implementing Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan.

The OII champions Western's institutional mandate to "advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities" (*Towards Western at 150, 2021*). Under this mission, the OII provides a wide range of resources for Indigenous students before their arrival, throughout their university experience and as alumni.

These supports are provided through the following spaces:

- ➤ The Indigenous Student Centre, which provides academic, personal and culturally relevant support, guidance, work study and skill building opportunities for Indigenous students; and
- ► The Wampum Learning Lodge, which serves as a central hub for advancing Indigenous initiatives at Western, fostering a sense of community through culturally relevant programming and events.

Together, these spaces reflect Western's commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive campus where Indigenous students can thrive. Whether you are just beginning to explore post-secondary options or continuing your academic journey, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives is here to walk with you every step of the way—offering support, community and opportunities to grow both academically and personally.

Western assembles the Indigenous Strategic Initiatives Committee

2014

Western approves its first Indigenous Strategic Plan with eight broad strategic priorities

2016

2013

Western hosts *Gathering our* Voices – the process calls on the university to create its own Indigenous Strategic Plan 2015

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) releases 94 Calls to Action 2017

Provost assembles Task Force on the Implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan





Western appoints interim Special Advisor to the Provost

2018

Western launches the new Office of Indigenous Initiatives and appoints a Vice-Provost/Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives)

2020

Western appoints a Director, Indigenous Engagement and Wampum Learning Lodge

2024

2019

Western announces plans for a new Indigenous Learning Space

2022

Western opens the Wampum Learning Lodge

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 shapes policies, offers resources and leads programs that build relationships, promote cultural understanding and integrate Indigenous perspectives across Western through community outreach, impactful programming and supportive spaces.



Christy R. Bressette, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Vice-Provost/Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives)



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Mel Akiwenzie-Lisk

Chippewas of Nawash

Indigenous Health and

Wellness Promoter and

makiwen@uwo.ca

First Nation

Navigator

Indigenous Student Centre

from recruitment to graduation.



Marisa Geris Oneida Nation of the Thames Community Enhancement Coordinator mgeris@uwo.ca



Arielle Bressette Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Manager, Indigenous Admissions and Enrollment abresse2@uwo.ca



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

Mandy Bragg

Nation

Munsee-Delaware

Academic Advisor

abragg22@uwo.ca

various support to help students navigate the university system throughout their entire experience at Western,



Ashley Kewayosh Samuel Bkejwanong Unceded Territory Student Opportunities Coordinator akewayos@uwo.ca



Kelly Nicholas Oneida Nation of the Thames Administrative Assistant kjnichol@uwo.ca



Donna Noah Munsee-Delaware Nation Indigenous Financial Aid Coordinator dnoah@uwo.ca



Indigenous Student Centre

Western Student Services Building, Room 2100 London, Ontario N6A 3K7 isc.staff@uwo.ca indigenous.uwo.ca/students

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) is a welcoming and inclusive space supporting Indigenous students on Western University's main campus and its affiliated university colleges. At the ISC, students can find a home away from home, offering a sense of belonging and community.

The ISC provides a wide variety of programs, supports and guidance designed to foster academic success, personal growth and meaningful connections.

ISC staff are committed to supporting Indigenous students in reaching their highest potential and academic goals through wholistic wellness services, peer support and culturally responsive programming.

The ISC offers various resources to enhance student success, including:

▶ Gathering Space

► Independent Study Spaces

Computer Lab

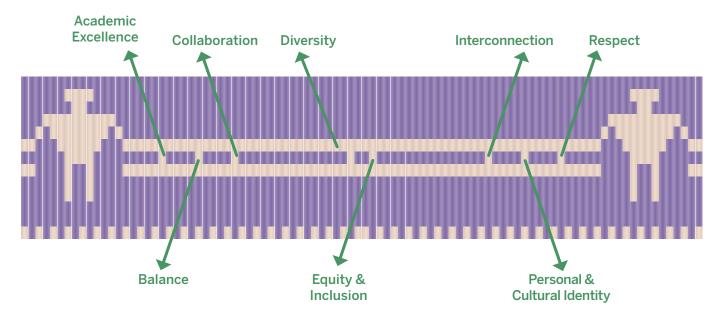
► Access to Traditional Medicines

A Strength-Based Approach to Self-Determination

Wampum Belts, traditionally crafted from quahog shells, have been used by Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. They represent shared values and express agreements that range from personal commitments to complex alliances between Nations.

When designing a new logo for the ISC, Indigenous students sought to revitalize the longstanding practice of creating and using Wampum agreements formalized in a Wampum Belt. This symbolizes the guiding principles that uphold the ISC's vision, purpose and goals through an Indigenous approach.

Through a Wampum Belt agreement between the ISC and Indigenous students at Western, ISC's strength-based approach to supports and programs is defined by eight guiding principles:



Scan to read more about the Wampum Belt agreement

Indigenous Student Centre Programs and Supports

The ISC welcomes all Indigenous students to participate in a diverse range of programs, supports and events offered throughout the year. This programming is designed to foster a sense of community on campus while providing academic, personal and cultural support. From access to Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers to tutoring, social events and youth engagement initiatives, the ISC provides culturally relevant supports to Indigenous students in every aspect of their university journey. To access the space and stay informed about upcoming activities, students are requested to register with the ISC.

Student Supports

- ▶ Tutors and academic support
- Academic advising
- ► Financial aid advising
- Computer lab and printing
- Kitchen facilities and nutrition program
- Monthly corn soup lunches
- Social events
- ► After-hours access to the ISC

Indigenous Awareness Programming

- ► Indigenous speakers and workshops
- ► Indigenous film screenings
- ► Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls speakers and events

Annual Events

- ▶ Indigenous Student Orientation
- ► Indigenous Student Graduation Ceremony
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- ► Flag Raising Ceremony for Orange Shirt Day
- ▶ Louis Riel Day
- ► Riverfest
- Treaties Week

Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers

The ISC is proud to offer various forms of cultural counselling, teachings and guidance for Indigenous students. These supports, provided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers, are available through ISC programming and one-on-one meetings with students.

The Visiting Elders Program is a crucial part of this support. Through this program, Elders and Knowledge Keepers bring vital Indigenous ways of knowing, languages and cultural practices into the university environment. This connection helps students navigate their academic journey, fostering a sense of belonging, cultural continuity and wholistic well-being during their time at Western.



Biindigegizhig
Oneida Nation of

the Thames



Kettle and Stony Point First Nation



Gloria Thomson Métis



Myrna Kicknosway Bkejwanong Unceded Territory



Indigenous Viewbook 2026-27

Indigenous Youth Engagement

The Indigenous Student Centre offers a variety of youth-focused programs that introduce Indigenous youth to life at Western University in engaging and meaningful ways. Through hands-on activities, cultural connection and mentorship from current Indigenous Western students, these initiatives aim to build confidence, foster a sense of belonging and inspire future academic pathways. From athletics to academic exploration, these programs help Indigenous youth imagine themselves thriving in a university setting.

Indigenous Academic Tutoring and Mentorship Program

This program supports Indigenous high school students with academic tutoring and culturally grounded mentorship. In partnership with local school boards, it offers relationship-based learning that honours Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Western student mentors provide one-on-one support, foster confidence and serve as positive role models. The program also offers paid opportunities for Indigenous students at Western to make a meaningful impact for the benefit of the next upcoming generation.

Mini-University

Mini-University offers Indigenous youth the unique opportunity to explore university life through academic activities, cultural programming and campus experiences. The Otter Program is a day camp, while the Crane Program includes an overnight stay in one of Western's residences. Indigenous students at Western are employed to support the program as mentors and leaders, inspiring the next generation. Indigenous youth are encouraged to apply for this enriching opportunity.

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

"Being part of Mini-University when I was young brought so much joy and positivity into my life. My experiences and the people I met through the program inspired me, encouraged me to grow and helped guide me toward the path I am on today. It is an honour to now give back as a camp counsellor'

> Holly Peters **Bkejwanong Unceded Territory** Indigenous Studies Program

Indigenous Youth Track and Field Day

Hosted by the Indigenous Student Centre and Western's Track and Field Team, this annual event invites Indigenous students in grades six to eight across Southwestern Ontario to campus for a full day of athletic training. Participants engage in sprints, relays, long jump and more, with a goal to build confidence. explore their athletic potential and experience Western's vibrant campus environment.





Scan to read more about Indgenous Youth Track and Field Day



Indigenous Circles of Support and Leadership Program

Offered through the Indigenous Student Centre, the Indigenous Circles of Support and Leadership Program – 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

Students who participated in Circles shared powerful feedback about its impact:

- ▶ 100% felt a stronger connection to their culture
- ▶100% said it created a safe and welcoming space
- ▶92% experienced growth in their spiritual well-being
- ▶92% saw positive changes in their personal lives
- ▶85% reported improved mental wellness
- ▶85% found meaningful mentorship and guidance

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."

> Chesnev Sickles-Jarvis Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Indigenous Studies Program

Indigenous Student Life

At Western University, many opportunities exist to get involved and enrich your student experience. From student clubs to support systems, Indigenous students can connect, build community and explore interests. Here are some Indigenous groups available on campus.

Indigenous Students' Association

The Indigenous Students' Association (ISA) maintains a sense of community amongst students and across campus. It provides programming, events and workshops to educate Western's campus about Indigenous Peoples, Nations and cultures.

Throughout the academic year, the ISA hosts social events that provide its members space to connect, share experiences and build lasting friendships in a supportive and welcoming environment.

in digenous student. club@westernusc. ca

Indigenous Medical and Dental Student Association at Schulich

The Indigenous Medical and Dental Student Association (IMDSA) at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry fosters community and cultural connections for Indigenous students in the Doctor of Medicine and Dentistry programs. IMDSA offers a safe, inclusive space to share experiences, celebrate identity and support one another while uplifting Indigenous voices and perspectives in healthcare.

imdsa@schulich.uwo.ca

Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network

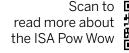
Infinite Reach is a community of Métis post-secondary students across the province who connect, share experiences and support each other in their academic journeys. The network aims to foster a strong sense of community, making it easy for students to build connections.

infinitereach@metisnation.org

Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement

Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) is a peer-based support network for Indigenous graduate students aimed at facilitating transition and enhancing retention and graduation rates. This program is operated jointly by the Indigenous Student Centre and the Society of Graduate Students at Western.

sagecoordinator@uwo.ca













Wampum Learning Lodge

1137 Western Road, Suite 1200 London, Ontario N6G 1G7 wampumlearninglodge@uwo.ca

wampumlearninglodge.uwo.ca

The Wampum Learning Lodge is an intercultural teaching, learning and gathering space at Western University, designed with Indigenous epistemologies (ways of knowing and being) and pedagogies (ways of teaching) at its heart.

Dedicated to advancing indigenization, decolonization and reconciliation, the Lodge serves as a homeplace for Indigenous initiatives on campus and fosters space for collaboration between Western, local Indigenous organizations and Nations in the Deshkan Ziibing territory.

Programming and Events

- ► Bi-weekly Culture Nights
- ► Language Programming
- Medicine Garden Programming
- ► Exam Study Sessions
- ▶ White Corn Harvest
- Anniversary Round Dance
- ► Indigenous Winter Market
- ► Spring Maple Boil

The Impact:

Since its opening in 2022, the Lodge has become:

- ► A trusted space for Indigenous students, staff, faculty and community members where cultural identity, community and academic success are supported and celebrated.
- A catalyst for meaningful engagement between Western and local Indigenous Nations, leading to new partnerships, programming and shared initiatives across campus and beyond.
- ► A living example of reconciliation in action, where Indigenous worldviews shape research, teaching and university decision-making, creating lasting change for future generations.







Guidelines for engaging with the Lodge are rooted in cultural and Treaty frameworks to support Indigenous self-determination in education. These guidelines enable the Western Indigenous community and local Indigenous Peoples to access bookable spaces for Indigenous programming, events, courses and special occasions that align with the Lodge's vision and mission.



Scan to read more about the Lodge guidelines and how you can engage

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.

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Indigenous Student STEM Access Program

oii-forms@uwo.ca bit.ly/uwo_issap

What is ISSAP?

The Indigenous Student STEM Access Program (ISSAP) is a one-year alternative pathway designed specifically for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students who are interested in studying Engineering or Science at Western University. ISSAP offers an inclusive, supportive entry point to help you successfully transition from high school to university.

What You Do:

- ➤ Complete courses equivalent to grade 11 and 12 to enter Engineering or Science
- ➤ Take a university-level (1000-level) course in Engineering or Science
- ➤ Choose additional electives based on your interests (total of 5.0 credits)

What You Get:

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

Where it Leads:

Finish the program with a 75% average and you will be eligible to enter first-year Engineering or Science programs – fully prepared and confident for what is ahead.



The inaugural cohort experienced a

100% SUCCESS RATE

in accessing **first-year undergraduate** programs upon completion of the **ISSAP program.**

Experiential and Land-Based Learning

Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship

Over two summer terms, the Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship supports Indigenous undergraduate students who are interested in community-based research or graduate studies. Fellows engage in experiential and land-based learning, collaborate on faculty-led projects and present their work at the annual Head and Heart Indigenous Research Symposium. This competitive fellowship awards \$9,000 per summer, totaling \$18,000.



bit.ly/uwo handh



Global Connect Program

Western International's Global Connect Program offers short-term, group-based learning experiences through international study tours. In 2024 and 2025, groups of Indigenous students and staff travelled to Costa Rica during a reading week to explore the culture of local Indigenous communities, thereby fostering cross-cultural communication and global awareness through immersive, hands-on experiences. These transformative experiences reflect the program's commitment to cultural exchange and creating meaningful global learning opportunities for Indigenous students at Western.

bit.ly/uwo_globalconnect

Careers and Experience

Careers and Experience is a service provided at Western University that supports students in realising their potential through personalized career guidance, hands-on learning and professional development. From internships and community-engaged learning to resume building, interview preparation and career fairs, students gain skills and confidence to pursue meaningful opportunities. Partnering with employers, Careers and Experience connects students to real-world experiences that strengthen their academic journey and future career goals. Students are empowered to explore their interests, grow their networks and shape a path right for them.

careerexperience.uwo.ca

Work Study

Western's Work Study Program enables students to work part-time on campus in roles that accommodate their studies. This program supports students to gain valuable work experience and develop skills for future studies and careers.

Each year, the Indigenous Student Centre and Wampum Learning Lodge hire Indigenous work study students for community programming, administration, social media and Indigenous education roles.

bit.ly/uwo_workstudy



Campus and Community

Western University's welcoming campus fosters a strong sense of community and connection, making it a vibrant hub for student life. Surrounded by natural landscapes and designed with inspiring indoor spaces, the campus offers countless spots for students to gather, collaborate or unwind with friends.

Whether you are looking for a cozy study nook in one of our libraries, enjoy freshly made corn soup at the Indigenous Student Centre or relax in the wellness room by the waterfall in the Wampum Learning Lodge, there is always a place for you here. Beyond campus, downtown London is just minutes away, with an array of entertainment, dining and sports venues to explore. Western students benefit from a close-knit campus culture while having access to all that a dynamic city offers, creating a balanced and engaging university experience.



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**

"Community is essential for success, and I found mine here at Western."

Nicholas Keller **Bkejwanong Unceded Territory** BA'25



42,000+ 1,300+ students from 134 countries

acres of campus and green space

20+ dining campus libraries

14 sustainable locations buildings

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

BUS PASS included in your student fees

Undergraduate Admissions

indigenous.admissions@uwo.ca

How does the ISC support you through the application process?

- Application and Admissions Support: We offer personalized guidance, whether in person or virtual, to help you navigate the application process and get your questions answered with care.
- Custom Campus Tours: Our tours are tailored to your goals and highlight key Indigenous spaces like the Indigenous Student Centre, Wampum Learning Lodge and facultyspecific areas.
- ► Community Outreach:
 Through the Aboriginal
 Post-Secondary
 Information Program
 and other initiatives, a
 representative from the
 ISC visits Indigenous
 communities to share
 helpful information, answer
 questions and build
 relationships grounded in
 respect and support.
- ➤ Ongoing Encouragement:
 From initial contact
 to arrival, we provide
 continued encouragement
 so you feel welcomed,
 supported and prepared
 for your journey to Western.

Indigenous Admissions Access Category

Western University values Indigenous perspectives and is committed to creating access and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. This commitment involves offering equitable undergraduate admission pathways for Indigenous applicants that recognize unique experiences. The purpose of the Indigenous Admission Access Category is to encourage undergraduate applications from Indigenous Peoples while providing additional support throughout the application and admissions process. Students can apply through this category alongside their Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) application to start their journey with us.

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 cross-border rights of Indigenous Peoples and supports educational opportunities for Native American students pursuing their studies at Western.

Application Process

- 1. Determine 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 Ontario high school students (Group A*) to submit an OUAC application.
- ▶ **January 15**: Deadline to submit OUAC application (Groups A and B*) for equal consideration to full-time undergraduate studies. For more dates and details, visit welcome.uwo.ca/deadlines
- 5. Apply!

Submit your application. Do not forget to self-identify as Indigenous on your OUAC application.

All relevant claims will be affirmed by Western University's Policy for Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership.

- *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).



Big Trout Lake First NationBiology

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 third year of an Honours Specialization in Biology with a Minor in Biochemistry 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 biology 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 so far. It provides not only academic support, but also a strong sense of community and cultural connection that has helped me stay grounded.

I am honoured to serve as the Indigenous Representative on the Science Students' Council for the 2025-26 academic year, where I aim to amplify Indigenous voices within the Faculty of Science.

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.



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 • Art History and Museum and Curatorial Studies • Art History and Studio Art • Arts and Humanities • Black Studies • Classical Studies • Creative Arts and Production • Creative Writing • Creative Writing and English Language and Literature • English Language and Literature • Film Studies • Fine Arts — Studio • 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

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 • Mechanical Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Software Engineering

Food & Nutritional Sciences

welcome.uwo.ca/foods-nutrition

Chemical Engineering/Honours Specialization in Foods and Nutrition • Foods and Nutrition • Nutrition and Dietetics

welcome.uwo.ca/family-studies

Family Studies and 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)

Management & Organizational Studies

welcome.uwo.ca/management-organizational-studies

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

Media & Communication Studies

welcome.uwo.ca/media-communication-studies

Creative Arts and Production • Media. Information and Technoculture





Medical Sciences

welcome.uwo.ca/medical-sciences

Biochemistry • Biochemistry and Cancer Biology • Biochemistry and Pathology of Human Disease • Biochemistry of Infection and Immunity • Chemical Biology • Computational Biochemistry • Epidemiology and Biostatistics • Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences • Medical Bioinformatics • Medical Biophysics (Medical Science concentration) • Medical Biophysics and Biochemistry • Medical Cell Biology • Medical Sciences • Microbiology and Immunology • Microbiology and Immunology • Physiology • Physiology • Physiology • Physiology • Physiology

Music

welcome.uwo.ca/music

Composition • Creative Arts and Production • General • Music • Music Administrative Studies • Music Education • Music Recording Arts (collaborative program between Western and Fanshawe College) • Music Research • Performance • Popular Music Studies

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 • Computer Science • 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 • Information Systems • Mathematical and Statistical Sciences • Mathematics • Medical Physics • Physics • Scientific Computing and Numerical Methods • Statistics • Synthetic Biology

Social Science

welcome.uwo.ca/social-science

American Cultural Studies • American Studies • Anthropology • Archaeology and Biological Anthropology • Climate Change and Society • Criminology • 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 • Linguistic Anthropology • Linguistics • Physical Geography and Environment • Political Science • Politics, Philosophy and Economics • Psychology • Sexuality Studies • Sociocultural Anthropology • Sociology • Urban Development

Western University
Indigenous Viewbook 2026-27

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 your first year.
- ▶ Interdisciplinary: Explore multiple areas important to Indigenous Peoples in Canada and worldwide, including history, culture, language, health and the environment.
- ➤ Small Class Sizes: With an average class size of 15-20 students, experience a tight-knit learning community.
- Flexible Program: Combine Indigenous Studies with another program at Western to create a degree tailored to your interests.
- ▶ Research Focus: Upperyear classes emphasize building research skills for community work, professionalization or graduate studies.

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

This studio-based course explores the ways stories live on the land and how art can connect us to place, community and cultural memory. Inspired by Indigenous worldviews, students create collaborative artworks at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology and in studio, engaging with spatial storytelling through drawing, sculpture, performance and more. With an emphasis on Indigenous knowledge systems, students learn about community engagement, respectful creation and their personal and cultural relationships with the land. This course blends hands-on making, land-based learning and visual lectures to deepen understanding of Indigenous histories, arts and ways of knowing.



Assistant Professor Tanya Doody and Head and Heart Fellow Caitriona Rice preparing student clay works for a traditional pit-firing at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology.



Meet Mike

Whitefish River First Nation Indigenous Studies

My name is Michael (Mike) Pitawanakwat-Cywink, and I am an Ojibway artist from Whitefish River First Nation. I am a graphic designer, muralist and painter, currently pursuing the Indigenous Studies program at Western University. My work is grounded in Ojibway culture and teachings, drawing on the Woodland style to tell stories through vibrant imagery, symbolism and colour.

Since starting my journey at Western, I have completed over 20 murals across London, Ontario, including several on Western's campus, as well as in local schools, hospitals and other community spaces. My art and education have grown side by side, and balancing both has taken dedication, careful planning and the support of those around me.

I am deeply thankful for the encouragement I have received from the Indigenous Student Centre, Wampum Learning Lodge and professors who took the time to understand my work and my journey. Their support allowed me to keep moving forward even when the path felt overwhelming.

Through my art, I aim to honour Ojibway stories, challenge stereotypes and create spaces where Indigenous identity is seen and celebrated. Each mural is more than a painting—it is a statement of presence, pride and possibility.



Second-Entry Programs

Through Western University's highly respected second-entry programs, students can gain advanced knowledge and expertise in their chosen fields. Designed for those who have completed two to four years of undergraduate studies, these programs encourage Indigenous students to apply by offering Indigenous-specific pathways and supports.

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 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 world-class 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 equips students with the skills to lead 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

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 currently in my second 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 will be running the Boston Marathon this year.

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 Kristia



Graduate Programs

Western University is one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities, where researchers, faculty and graduate students are leaders in their fields, conducting innovative research in exciting and emerging areas. Graduate programs are overseen by Western's School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), which provides academic and administrative support to enhance the experience of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Through SGPS, students gain access to a wide array of resources and guidance, empowering them to pursue research excellence and professional development throughout their academic journey.

Highlights

- ➤ 87 Graduate, 51 Doctoral and 8 Graduate Diploma Programs
- ► Professional Graduate and Doctoral Programs
- ► Interdisciplinary Programs

Program Spotlight

Master of Professional Education (MPEd)

Field of Leadership in Indigenous Education

This professionally focused, course-based master's program prepares graduates for leadership roles across educational institutions, including schools, school systems, colleges, universities, adult learning environments and various related organizations and agencies. Graduates gain a deep understanding of leadership theories and practices alongside comprehensive knowledge of Indigenous education, including Indigenous knowledge systems, pedagogies and the historical and contemporary conditions shaping Indigenous education in Canada.

The Leadership in Indigenous Education program unites students from diverse ancestries and professional backgrounds, fostering critical engagement with key issues in Indigenous education. The program is designed around a cohort model to promote strong peer support, class cohesion, continuity in learning and high completion rates, enriching the educational journey from one course to the next.

This hybrid program combines online and in-person courses, enabling students to balance work, family and academic commitments while pursuing this degree.

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 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)





Meet Brendan

Ginoogaming First Nation Neuroscience

My name is Brendan Charles, and I am a proud member of Ginoogaming First Nation near Longlac, Ontario. I am currently in the final year of my Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Neuroscience at Western University, supervised by Dr. Amanda Moerhing. I also completed my Master of Science in the same lab after discovering a passion for research during my undergraduate studies at Nipissing University.

I first joined Western to work on a behavioural neuroscience project exploring how certain brain regions influence mate choice and aggression in fruit flies. That experience sharpened my skills in critical thinking and experimental design.

For my PhD, I wanted to focus on something that felt both interesting and meaningful. I now study how mutations in certain genes—called tRNA genes—may contribute to neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS. These conditions are not only devastating, but they also affect First Nations communities at higher rates. It is meaningful to work on research that could lead to better understanding and, one day, better treatments.

If you are considering graduate school in the sciences, my advice is to talk to students currently in the program. Every experience is different, and finding the right supervisor, lab and environment is key to making your graduate school journey successful and fulfilling.



Indigenous Faculty at Western

At Western University, we are fortunate to have diverse Indigenous scholars contributing their expertise across various disciplines. These faculty members bring invaluable perspectives to their fields, enriching the learning environment and supporting Indigenous knowledge and community engagement.



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



Welch, PhD Algonquin-Anishnaabe Nation Associate Professor, Faculty of Education Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Indigenous Arts, Knowledge Systems and Education

Spy Dénommé-



Neeganagwedgin, PhD Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education



Sheri Nault, MFA Métis Assistant Professor, Studio Arts



Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environment

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



Cortney (Awasis) Golkar-Dakin, PhD Anishnaabe-Métis Assistant Professor. Department of Geography and

Environment



Six Nations of the Grand River Assistant Professor, Department of History & İndigenous Studies Program

Cody Groat, PhD



Rebekah Jacques, Assistant Professor. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine



Lina Sunseri, PhD Oneida Nation of the Thames Professor, Department of Sociology & Indigenous Studies Program



Jeffrey Warnock, JD Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law



Lewis Williams, PhD Ngāi Te Rangi (Māori) and Scottish descent Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environment & Indigenous Studies Program



Sally Kewayosh, MFA Bkejwanong Unceded Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information

and Media Studies



Jackson Leween Two Bears, PhD Six Nations of the Grand River and Tyendinaga

Mohawk Territory

Associate Professor, Visual Arts & Indigenous Studies Program

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



PhD Métis Assistant Professor. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dennis Michaelson.



Deninu Kýé First Nation Associate Professor. Department of Epidemiology and **Biostatistics** Western Research Chair Director of Indigenous

Planetary Health





Interested in working with one of our scholars? Visit indigenous.uwo.ca/AboutUs/faculty/ to learn more about their research.



Western's Affiliated University Colleges

Western University's two affiliated university colleges contribute to the dynamic student experience by offering smaller, close-knit communities just steps away from main campus. Students enrolled at these affiliated colleges have full access to Western's facilities, including the Indigenous Student Centre and Wampum Learning Lodge, and graduate with a degree from Western.

Huron University College

huronatwestern.ca

Huron at Western is a vibrant community known for its small class sizes and commitment to fostering ethical leadership. With an academic focus on the liberal arts, social sciences and theology, Huron provides students with a personalized educational experience that encourages critical thinking and social responsibility.



King's University College

kings.uwo.c

King's at Western is an intimate university campus offering small classes, faculty engagement and quality undergraduate degree programs. King's provides holistic student support services in an inclusive and empowering community where students flourish in their capacity for critical thought, articulate expression and ethical action.

Western Continuing Studies

wcs.uwo.ca

Western Continuing Studies offers a range of flexible and accessible learning options tailored for lifelong learners. With professional development courses, post-degree diplomas and personal enrichment programs, students can gain new skills, advance their careers or explore areas of personal interest. Programs are designed to fit diverse schedules and learning preferences, offering both in-person and online options that accommodate busy lives.

With high-quality instruction and a foundation of academic excellence, these programs offer an enriching educational experience. Students can build practical skills in areas like project management and business analysis or engage in creative growth through writing and language courses. Additionally, students benefit from a vibrant community of peers and professionals, creating connections that support both personal and career development. Whether expanding your career or exploring a passion, Western Continuing Studies provides an inviting and adaptable path forward.



Housing





Western Residence

residence.uwo.ca

Residence at Western offers a welcoming, supportive environment for students transitioning to university life. With a variety of residence buildings and room styles, there is something for everyone. Residence is guaranteed for all incoming first-year students (conditions apply), providing an excellent opportunity to build lifelong friendships and immerse themselves in campus life.

Early move-in dates are available for Indigenous students to help ease their transition and get settled on campus.

How do I apply?

To apply for residence, first accept your offer of admission. You will then receive an email with a link to the residence application, which you can access through the Western Housing Portal. Log in using your Western Student ID, complete the application and indicate your building and room preferences.

Off-Campus Housing

offcampus.uwo.ca

Are you planning to move to London and live off-campus? Western's Off-Campus Housing team is here to help. Visit their website to explore rental listings and access helpful tools for first-time renters. The team also provides support through off-campus advising, assisting with lease reviews and mediation services.

Housing for Families

plattslane.uwo.ca

Platt's Lane Estates provides convenient and affordable housing for Western's upper-year students, graduate students and students with families. It consists of townhouses and three-story walk-up apartment buildings located near the YMCA-operated University Child Care and University Heights Public School.

Indigenous Scholarship Programs

Local First Nations Scholarship Program

The Local First Nations Scholarship Program supports local First Nations students studying full- and part-time at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level. Awarded annually based on academic excellence and community involvement, scholarships can provide up to \$15,000 per academic year.

This program is designed for local First Nations students associated with the London District Chiefs Council, whose Nations have longstanding relationships with the land where Western is geographically located. These communities include:

- ► Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- ▶ Bkejwanong Unceded Territory
- ► Caldwell First Nation
- ► Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- ▶ Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit
- ▶ 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 studying full-time at Western's main campus. Awarded annually based on outstanding academic excellence, creative thinking and contributions to Indigenous communities (both on- and off-reserve, as well as in urban settings), this scholarship provides five awards of \$50,000 each to eligible students applying from Canadian high schools or post-secondary institutions.



National Indigenous Scholarship Program Recipient, 2024-25



Financial Aid

indigenous.uwo.ca/students/financial/

The Office of the Registrar and Office of Indigenous Initiatives work collaboratively to support your financial well-being during your time at Western.

All Students

Indspire Building Brighter Futures Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards
Local First Nations Scholarship Program
National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund
Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant
Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
OSAP Ontario Indigenous Student Bursary
RBC Scholarship for Indigenous Students
TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples

Second-Entry

Dr. Nancy Naylor Bursary

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)

Undergraduate

orider Bradatte	
Bill Groat Memorial Award	(1 at \$2,750)
Burey Family Award	(1 at \$1,000)
Championship Legacy Award	(Varies)
Dancap Private Equity Indigenous Continuing Award	(1 at \$5,000)
Education Student Council EDI Bursary	(2 at \$1,250)
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)
Marvin DeVries Engineering Award	(1 at \$3,000)
Nova Chemicals Indigenous Scholarship in Engineering	(1 at \$5,000)
Ivey Business Students	
Graywood Developments HBA Real Estate Award	(1 at \$7,500)
Huron Students	
Indspire Huron University Indigenous Student Bursaries	(Varies)

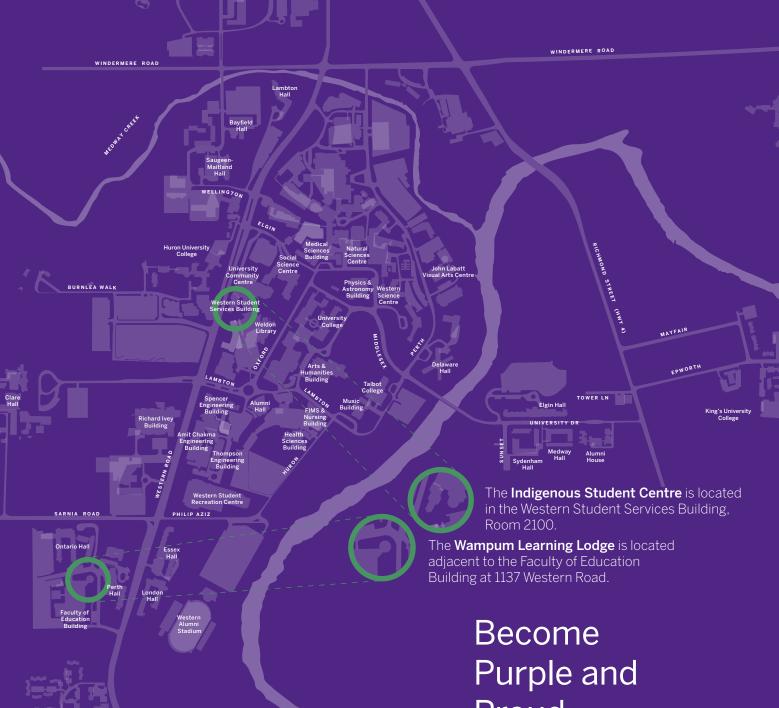
King's Students

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Joy and Hope Gaudium et Spes Entrance Award for Indigenous Students	(1 at \$1,000)
King's University College Indigenous Student Award	(6 at \$1,000)
Kings University College Student Bursary	(4 at \$1,000)

Graduate

(1 at \$1,500)

Askunessippi Scholarship	(1 at \$2,000)
Burey Family Award	(1 at \$1,000)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	(2 at \$15,000)
StudentCare Indigenous Bursary	(1 at \$2,000)



Proud

Upcoming Events

Fall Preview Day: November 16, 2025 Spring Open House: March 28, 2026



Information for Parents



Explore Campus





@WesternuIndigenous



@Westernu_Indigenous

