

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

Research Western, on behalf of Vice-President (Research), Dr. John Capone, and Western Student Experience on behalf of Dr. Jennifer Massey, in partnership with Indigenous Services, has created a unique summer research programme for Indigenous undergraduate students. Rooted in the idea of *Respect*, as described in Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP), this programme aims to “recogni[ze] the complex and diverse nature of Indigenous Knowledge systems and languages, and the need to foster congruence between Indigenous paradigms and academic worlds” (ISP 6). In order to enact this guiding principle in our ISP, the Indigenous undergraduate research programme aims to open space for Indigenous students to utilize Indigenous Knowledge systems and language within undergraduate summer research projects across a wide variety of academic disciplines. In partnership with allied and Indigenous faculty members from Social Science, Education, Arts & Humanities, FIMS, Music, Law, Science, Health Sciences, Engineering, Ivey Business School and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, students will be given bursaries to complete 14 weeks of research with a designated faculty member.

Indigenous students will be encouraged to bring ways of learning that respect both the head and the heart within their research projects; they will also have the opportunity to develop skills and capacity in disciplines they may have not yet experienced in their academic or life journey. Students will work with their designated faculty supervisor to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing the world within their research projects.

Students will be given additional support by being placed in small groups, with mentorship provided by designated Indigenous Services staff members. This support is intended to guide students and their supervisors through the process of creating *respectful, reciprocal, responsible* and *relevant* research projects.

At the completion of the research project, the student, Indigenous Services mentors and faculty supervisor will work with the Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western to describe the experience of building an ethical space for discovery at Western. We will celebrate the achievements of these students, their mentors and supervisors with a community gathering in the Fall during Indigenous Awareness Week, where students, mentors and faculty supervisors will be given the opportunity to express what they learned together and present aspects of their research to the broader community.

Guidelines for Applying

- Completed applications should be submitted via email to Erin Huner ehuner@uwo.ca by 4:30pm on **APRIL 5, 2019**
- This opportunity is open to students who self-identify as Indigenous to Turtle Island (North America).
- Students must be currently working towards an undergraduate degree and have not yet graduated.

Requested Materials

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

The selection committee will be composed of Dr. Juan Luis Suárez, Associate Vice-President (Research), Candace Brunette-Debassige, Special Advisor to the Provost (Indigenous Initiatives), Erin Huner, Director Research, Assessment and Planning, Western Student Experience, Amanda Bragg, Indigenous Services Academic Advisor, Amanda Myers, Indigenous Services Community Enhancement Coordinator, and Zeeta Lazore Cayuga, Indigenous Liaison Admissions Coordinator. The selection committee may wish to interview candidates if they feel this is warranted.

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

For questions about this opportunity, please contact:

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

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

Award Terms and Conditions

Guiding Principles

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

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

Eligibility

- Applications will only be accepted from applicants who:
 - Are currently enrolled as undergraduates at Western University (or have been extended an offer of enrollment by the application due date).
 - Who have not previously been a Head & Heart Fellow.
 - Self-identify as an Indigenous person.
 - Guidance about self-identification as an Indigenous person is available through the Indigenous Services at Western University website: [Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Process](#)
 - Questions related to self-identification (if any) raised by applicants or the selection committee will be resolved through direct consultations with [Indigenous Services at Western University](#)

Value of Award

- 18 awards of \$7650.00 will be awarded. The expectation of this award is that it is full-time employment. Full-time employment is considered 35 hours/week for the 14-week period.

Duration of Award

- Funding covering a 14-week period. During the 14-week period, award recipients are expected to work full-time. Full-time employment is considered 35 hours/week. Students must be ready to report for work on **May 13, 2019. The 14 week period will terminate on August 19, 2019.**

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

²

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

Travel Component of Award

- The award will include a travel bursary. Conditions for travel include the following:
 - Eligible costs of travel totaling up to \$500 will be covered by the bursary. Any costs exceeding this amount will not be covered by this award.
 - Travel costs for one trip from London, ON to the student's home community and one trip from the student's home community to London, ON can be claimed (up to the maximum amount of the allowable bursary). Additional travel will not be covered under this award.
 - Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous Urban Population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).
 - All expenses must be in accordance with Western's policy on travel expenses: [MAPP 2.16: Travel & Expenses Reimbursement Policy](#) and [MAPP 2.16: Procedures](#).
 - All travel expenses must be incurred within the 14-week term of the award and all travel claims must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the date of completion of the travel.
 - Original, itemized receipts are required for all expenses except mileage claims, parking meters, valet parking, tolls and reasonable gratuities paid in cash.

Research Ethics

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

- If certification approval is required for research activities being carried out, all funds will be encumbered until the certification approval has been verified.

Reporting

- As indicated above, at the completion of the research project, the student, Indigenous mentor and faculty supervisor will work with the Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western to describe the experience of building an ethical space for discovery at Western.
- An appropriate* record of this experience is to be filed with Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western. (*The appropriateness of the record will depend on the kinds of media involved.)