

You + Waterloo

Indigenous overview 2027

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



Boozhoo, shé:kon, waachi'ye, tansi,
aanii, tunngasugit, tawnshi, greetings!
At Waterloo, you'll find resources
and opportunities for Indigenous
students, from weekly meetups
to scholarships and more. **W**



**“Being far from home
can be hard, but having a
welcoming Indigenous campus
community has made a big
difference. It enables me
to be a better student.”**

Tara (she/they) (BES '25), Happy Valley-
Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador,
Environment, Resources and Sustainability



Embrace your power and potential

**Scan
to learn
more**



uwaterloo.ca/future/indigenous



Financial support to achieve your goals

Scholarships

Waterloo offers up to 15 scholarships and awards ranging from \$1,200 to \$40,000 for incoming First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.

Tuition waiver

Waterloo is committed to addressing the goals of Truth and Reconciliation and removing or reducing the financial barriers to attending university. Waterloo

- › offers application fee support for Ontario students (email us at myapplication@uwaterloo.ca)
- › waives tuition for students who are members of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation or Six Nations of the Grand River
- › offers Ontario domestic tuition rates for out-of-province First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students, as well as Native American students from the continental U.S. recognized by the Jay Treaty

Residence deposit deferral

If you choose to live on campus in your first year and have been verified through Waterloo's Indigenous citizenship/membership process, you're eligible to apply to have your residence deposit deferred.

Indigenous studies at Waterloo

No matter which program you choose, you can enrich your degree with minors.

Indigenous studies minor

- › Deepen your understanding of Indigenous cultures, history, languages, and contemporary challenges. Sample courses: The Indigenous Experience in Canada; Indigenous Rights in Global Context

Indigenous entrepreneurship minor

- › Create and innovate in a program that focuses on the unique needs and priorities of Indigenous entrepreneurs. Sample courses: Fundamentals of Indigenous Entrepreneurship; Indigenous Sustainability Entrepreneurship

Acknowledgement of traditional territory

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is co-ordinated within the Office of Indigenous Relations. **W**



Connect with the **Indigenous** campus community

Whether you grew up in an Indigenous community, you're from an urban space, or you're beginning to embrace your culture, you belong here. [W](#)





**Learn more by
following us on
Instagram**



Ceremonial Fire Grounds and Medicine Garden

The Ceremonial Fire Grounds offer a sacred space for ceremonies, land-based learning, and Indigenous teachings. The Medicine Garden is available for you to learn how to grow, harvest, and practise with Indigenous medicines.

Gidinawendamin/ Ska'nikú•lát (We are related) Pow Wow

Each year we host a Pow Wow to honour and celebrate cultures through drumming, dancing, food, and crafts.

Indigenous Student Services

Through cultural activities like soup and bannock lunches, Elder sharing circles, and craft and learning workshops, Indigenous Student Services provides a welcoming and inclusive space where you'll find community and friendship among other students, staff, and professors.

Advancing Indigenous Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

AISES fosters a culturally safe gathering space for Indigenous students, professors, and staff in STEM.

Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Elders and Knowledge Keepers foster a safe, respectful, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment where you can thrive. They value and honour your unique learning journey by offering their diverse experiences and ways of knowing through a variety of teachings, perspectives, connections, and support.

Skén:nen Tsi Nón:we Tewayá'- taróroks (Where we all gather together peacefully) Indigenous Outdoor Gathering Space

This space provides an outdoor classroom setting for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content and is a place for all campus communities to gather and sit freely when it is not in use for events.

Indigenous Speaker Series

The Indigenous Speakers Series is a public lecture series that amplifies the voices of Indigenous artists, writers, activists, scholars, and community leaders. 



Support at every step

At Waterloo, you're supported by a broad community of people – from Indigenous staff and professors in every faculty to wellness, academic, and cultural supports.

“The genuine support offered by the Indigenous staff across campus transformed the most difficult parts of my academic and healing journey into experiences grounded in inspiration, understanding, compassion, and care.”

Brae (he/him), Earth Sciences,
Sioux Lookout, Ontario





With you from day one

Office of Indigenous Relations (OIR)

Providing guidance, support, and resources to strengthen our shared vision of reconciliation, OIR serves as a central hub for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students, professors, staff, and allies within the Waterloo community. Through their work, OIR also recognizes and uplifts key days and months that honour Indigenous histories, cultures, and ongoing journeys toward reconciliation.

Counselling Services

Our on-campus counselling services are available to support your personal, social, and academic experiences through one-on-one counselling, group therapy, and skills seminars.

AccessAbility Services

AccessAbility Services supports you in building academic accommodation plans that honour your needs, lived experience, and identity.

Indigenous naturopath

The Indigenous naturopath offers culturally grounded, holistic health care rooted in Indigenous and Western healing traditions and is available to support your physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Students' Writing Café

Designed as a welcoming, low-pressure space, the Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Students' Writing Café offers a supportive environment where you can write alongside peers and build community.

Off-campus community supports

In addition to our on-campus supports, the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, The Healing of the Seven Generations, Qualia Counselling, and White Owl Native Ancestry Association are also available within the community. [W](#)

Get in touch

No matter your question – from scholarships to programs to student life – our recruitment team is here to support you.

indigenous.recruitment@uwaterloo.ca

Cover illustration by Bridget George, an Anishinaabe author and illustrator raised on Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.



At the heart of the illustration is a painted turtle, a symbol of resilience and duality in Indigenous cultures. Like Indigenous students navigating post-secondary education, the turtle moves between two worlds – the water and the land. Accompanying the turtle are honeybees, diligent pollinators, buzzing with purpose. These bees, much like Indigenous students, travel widely, gathering knowledge and resources to enrich their communities. The chickadees, despite flying away from where they were hatched, always remain rooted at home. Central to the artwork are geometric ribbons with six triangles on either side, representing both the Six Nations of the Grand River on whose land the University is situated and the six faculties at the University. Intertwined with cedar springs, these ribbons symbolize protection and unity across campus and within the greater community.



Waterloo is committed to acting on the climate emergency and is working toward carbon neutrality and zero waste in our own practices. The paper this publication is printed on contains post-consumer fibre and is Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified.

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Our greatest impact happens together

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