Students who identify as Indigenous on the 2019-20 OSAP Application for Full-Time Students are exempt from making the fixed student contribution. The exemption from the fixed student contribution can result in additional OSAP grant and loan support each year.

To be exempt from the fixed student contribution, students must also submit supporting documentation confirming their Indigenous identity.

**How does the exemption from the fixed student contribution work?**

All students who apply for OSAP assistance are expected to contribute $3,600 towards the costs of postsecondary studies.

Students who identify as Indigenous when they apply for OSAP and provide acceptable documentation to confirm their Indigenous identity are exempt from the fixed student contribution. This can result in additional grant and loan funding for Indigenous students.

The OSAP assistance will not reflect the exemption from the fixed student contribution until documentation is provided and eligibility is confirmed. Once documentation is accepted, the amount of the student’s assistance will be re-calculated, and they may be eligible for additional OSAP grants and loans (up to approximately $3,600 per year).

**What documents are accepted to confirm Indigenous identity?**

Students can provide a copy of ONE of the following documents:

- Status card;
- Band membership card;
- Red card (Haudenosaunee Identification Card);
- Certificate of Aboriginal Status;
- Confirmation of Band, Métis Nation of Ontario or other Métis organization funding (for example, Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) or Indigenous Skills Employment Training Program (ISET Program));
- Membership card from a provincial affiliate of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples;
- Citizenship card issued by a Métis National Council governing member (for example, Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan); or
- Land claim beneficiary card.

If students do not have one of the documents listed above, they may provide one of the following:

- A letter from an Indigenous organization (for example, Métis Nation of Ontario, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Tungasuvvingat Inuit) on the organization’s letterhead that confirms the student’s name and Indigenous identity. The letter should be signed and dated by a senior representative of the organization and include their name, contact information, and position within the organization; or
- A letter from an Indigenous Friendship Centre, on the organization’s letterhead that confirms community involvement, the student’s name and indigenous identity. The letter should be signed and dated by a senior representative of the organization and include their name, contact information, and position within the organization; or
- An affidavit from the student confirming their Indigenous identity, including an explanation of why official documentation is unavailable.
What is an affidavit?
An affidavit is a document where the contents have been sworn or affirmed to be true. It is sworn and signed before a lawyer, a commissioner of oaths, or a notary public.

Some universities and colleges provide this service on campus for free or at a low cost to students. Students are encouraged to contact their school’s financial aid office if they need help getting an affidavit for OSAP. Also, many ServiceOntario locations offer commissioner of oaths services. Students can call ServiceOntario General Inquiries at 1-800-267-8097 to ask about the nearest location that offers this service and any potential fees. Some locations offer this service for free.

The affidavit must include a statement confirming the student’s Indigenous identity and explaining why official documentation is unavailable.

What is the deadline to submit documentation?
All required supporting documentation must be received 40 days before the end of the student’s current study period.

Do students have to re-submit documentation every year?
No. Once this documentation has been accepted it will not have to be re-submitted in future years.

Help is available
Students studying at a postsecondary education institution within Ontario can contact the financial aid office at their institution.

Students studying outside of Ontario, as well as Indigenous organizations with questions about OSAP, can contact a Ministry representative, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:
• Call: 1-877-OSAP-411 (1-877-672-7411)
• TTY: 1-800-465-3958.