

Post Secondary

As per the INAC *Post-Secondary Education National Program Guidelines 2005*, Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), eligible programs are “offered by a post-secondary institution that includes at least one academic year in length (as defined by the institution), and for which completion of secondary school studies, or its equivalent as recognized by the post-secondary institution, is required”.

Eligibility Guidelines

For a student to be eligible to apply for INAC funding, they must meet criteria in three areas:

Be an Eligible Student + Attend a Eligible Institute + Enroll in a Eligible Program

Student Eligibility:

Students must meet **all** of the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- Status ('registered') Indian or qualifying Inuit **AND**
- Resident of Canada for at least 12 consecutive months prior to application **AND**
- Accepted into an eligible program at an eligible institution **AND**
- Maintain satisfactory academic standing (this generally means good attendance and a passing grade)

Institution Eligibility

In order to be eligible for funding, a student must attend an eligible program at a school that is either:

- A public institution (e.g. University of British Columbia, Douglas College, etc.) **OR**
- An eligible private institution **OR**
- An institution that delivers their program through an agreement with an eligible institution. (For example, a First Nations community-based institution may offer a university program on-reserve through an agreement with an eligible college or university.)

Program Eligibility

Post-secondary Student support Program (PSSSP)

A student must attend an eligible program that meets all of the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- Be at least one academic year in length (or equivalent for part-time students.) Most eligible programs are at least 8 months long, although some intensive programs as short as 4 months are eligible **AND**
- Require completion of grade 12 (or equivalent, as defined by the school) for admission **AND**
- Be offered at an eligible post-secondary institution (see above).

Post-secondary programs vary, even within the same area of study, and careful research is often required to confirm eligibility. For example, some trades programs are eligible while others are not.

Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)

If you want to go to college or university, PSSSP may be the program for you.

This program provides funding support (within specific limits) for eligible students to attend eligible college or university-level certificate, diploma or degree program at eligible post-secondary institutions.

University College Entrance Program (UCEP)

If you need specific high school courses to get into a college or university program, UCEP may be the program for you.

This program provides funding support (within specific limits) for students who need pre-requisites (e.g. English 12) to qualify for admission to eligible college or university-level certificate, diploma or degree program. The pre-requisites must be taken at an eligible post-secondary institution.

Student Loans, Scholarships and Bursaries

Student loans are available from the federal and provincial governments. In many cases, students who qualify for loans also qualify for special grants or bursaries, which do not need to be paid back.

Useful websites for post-secondary student funding:

www.aboriginallearning.ca for student funding and resource supports for housing, transportation, childcare, scholarships, loans, grants, bursaries
<http://sdiprod1.inac.gc.ca/abs/main.asp?lang=E> (INAC) for a searchable list of scholarships and bursaries specific to Aboriginal persons
www.studentaidbc.ca (BC Ministry of Advanced Education) for student loans, scholarship and grants, including for students with disabilities and for adult students taking high school courses
www.bccampus.ca for financial aid, education planning, course search, applications and discussion boards on housing and transportation
www.studentawards.com for bursaries and scholarships
www.canlearn.ca for loans and to search schools and programs
www.schoolfinder.com for scholarships searchable by school and area of study
www.naaf.ca (National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation) for scholarships
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca for scholarships/student employment subsidies
www.fnesc.ca (First Nations Education Steering Committee) for scholarships, youth and student employment programs (offered through Bands)

You may also wish to contact the Aboriginal Advisor(s) at the institution you plan to attend in order to receive updated and detailed information on funding sources, including those specific to the school. Many school websites also provide scholarship and bursary information online.

APPLY FOR EVERY AWARD YOU CAN – INCLUDING THOSE NOT SPECIFIC TO ABORIGINAL STUDENTS!

Education Planning

Plan Your Education (with help from your Education Coordinator and/or Aboriginal Advisor at your school)

1. Find an area of student that interests you
2. Find a program that will prepare you for a career
3. Find an institution that offers helpful support
4. Apply (perhaps to more than one school)
5. Apply for any potential funding source, including INAC funding from your Band, and back-up funding such as a student loan
6. Ensure you know the limits of each type of funding, including the INAC guidelines and those of your Band
7. Ensure you provide all required documentation
8. Apply for available grants, scholarships and bursaries (including any scholarships or incentives offered by your Band)
9. Maintain your academic standing

10. Don't be afraid to ask for help – from school advisors, tutors, professors, Elders, Education Coordinators, and your family!!!
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MLIB Post Secondary Program – PRIORITY LIST
(When reviewing all applications)

1. McLeod Lake Indian Band members whom are continuing post-secondary sponsorship from the previous school year in the same field.
 2. Members who have graduated from secondary school in the previous school year.
 3. New applicants in date order, not including members who have dropped out/quit in the 2 years prior to the new application (excluding leave for medical and/or family reasons).
 4. New applicants whose studies are not within the 2-4 year program length, including those using the first year to receive grade 23 or equivalent.
 5. Applicants who have dropped out/quit prior to the date of new application.
 6. McLeod Lake Indian Band members who have choose severalty may receive Post Secondary sponsorship through the McLeod Lake Indian Band Education Department based on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada INAC funding rates only.
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Trades and Apprenticeship

INAC Post-Secondary Education and Nominal Roll Funding and Trades Programs in BC Region.

Trades Program are only eligible for INAC Post-Secondary Education funding if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The student must be eligible for support (i.e. A registered Indian or Inuit, accepted into an eligible program at an eligible institution and have lived in Canada for least 12 continuous months prior to application) **AND**
2. The institute offering the program must be eligible (i.e. A public post-secondary institution, a Designated private post-secondary institution [go to www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc] **AND**
3. The program must be eligible (i.e. Provide a certificate, diploma or degree and be at least one academic year in length and require secondary school completion for admission)

The last point is where many trades programs do not meet the eligibility requirements for INAC Post-Secondary Education funding; for example, many trades programs only require completion of grade 10 for admission or the technical training/classroom portion is only 6 or 8 weeks in length and not equivalent to an academic year.

IF a trades program does require secondary school completion or its equivalent for admission **AND** is at least one academic year in length, then it can be considered an eligible program (when offered at an eligible institution, as noted above). INAC allows the institution to define equivalents of 'secondary school completion' and an 'academic year'; generally this will be defined as a program that requires (or at least recommends) grade 12 graduation and results in at least 30 credits or includes 450 hours of classroom instruction (when a standard credit system is not used by the institution).

An academic year normally includes 6-8 months of continuous classes. There are eligible variations, however.

For example, the total technical training for an apprenticeship might include 24 weeks (over a period of 4 years). If the institution confirms this is equivalent to an academic year then it would meet this part of the program eligibility requirements. The student would generally be considered a part-time student, however, as the academic is spread over 4 years.

A student attending an eligible trade's apprenticeship program is considered full time, however, if their technical training period is at least 12 weeks in length with no more than a two week break between levels (this could include two sets of 6 week training offered back to back, for example). If each technical training period is less than 12 weeks in length, a student would be considered part-time and would therefore not be eligible for a living allowance during their technical training period.

Additional Information

For more information on trades training and certification contact:
Industry Training Authority
Suite 110, 2985 Virtual Way, Vancouver BC V5M 4X7
Telephone: 778-328-8700 Fax: 778-328-8701
Toll Free (within BC outside of Greater Vancouver): 866-660-6011
www.itabc.ca

Alternative Sources of Funding:

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
For information on federal grants for apprentices and tax deduction for trades call visit
www.hrsdc.gc.ca or
www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/index.shtml

Student funding support for trades programs may be available through local Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) organization (www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/aro), subject to their specific program guidelines and availability of funds.

BC Student Assistant Program (BCSAP)

Government loans are available to apprentice students who are registered in a training period 12 weeks or longer. Apprentices who are registered for back to back training with no more than two week break between levels, and totally a minimum of 12 weeks are also eligible. Call Student Aid BC at 1-88-561-1818 or visit www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/welcome.htm

Adult Basic Education Student Assistance Program (ABESAP)

The Adult Basic Education Student Assistance Program is part-time funding available to students who require educational upgrading to recertify, write endorsement exams, or obtain their Trades Qualification (TQ). Call Student Aid BC at 1-88-561-1818 or visit www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/welcome.htm

Canada Study Grant (CSG)

The Canada Study Grant provides a non-repayable grant to apprentices in financial need in order to assist with the cost of tuition, textbooks and other training costs. Students must be registered in an eligible apprenticeship program and meet income requirements. Visit www.hrsdc.bc.ca/en/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

BC Training Tax Credit Program

Visit www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/business/Income_Taxes/ttc or contact Ministry of Small Business and Revenue at 1-8000-663-7867

Aboriginal Learning Links (ALL)

For up to date information on Funding Support for Aboriginal students visit www.aboriginalllearning.ca

Institutions may offer bursaries, scholarships or other sources of financial assistance specific to trades or technical programs.

Any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MLIB Education Department for clarity at #250-750-4415!