



FACULTY OF ARTS

## INDIGENOUS STUDIES

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The Department of Indigenous Studies is grounded in the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in Canada (including First Nations, Non-Status, Inuit, and Métis) and around the globe. Students from all backgrounds and disciplines explore the unique complexities and broad, diverse cultures associated with Indigenous studies.

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IS maintains at its core a focus on policies, acts, and treaties that have and continue to affect the lives of Indigenous peoples and communities. Our professors have backgrounds in politics, economics, anthropology, sociology, human ecology, natural resources management, and law.

This program leads to a **Bachelor of Arts degree (3-year, 4-year or Honours)** with a Major in Indigenous Studies. Students taking an undergraduate degree in another Major may choose to add a Minor in Indigenous Studies as a secondary area of interest.

The department also offers a Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance (MAIG) – see *separate fact sheets for the MAIG program*. Employees of Red River College who are interested in the special RRC Cohort Stream to earn a BA in Indigenous Studies from UWinnipeg should consult RRC Human Relations for guidance and funding.

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### SAMPLE COURSES

**Indigenous Treaties in Canada** This course examines the historical relationship between indigenous peoples and the Canadian State as shaped by the negotiations and the signing of the Treaties. Starting from the political/legal position of indigenous peoples as set up by the Royal Proclamation, students study the history, context and application of treaties and treaty-making in Canada.

**Biocultural Conservation** This course focuses on the interrelationship between indigenous peoples and their environment. Indigenous and local communities contribute with understanding, practices and innovations regarding the use and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in diverse ecosystems. The value of indigenous knowledge is recognized in international agreements and efforts are made to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into conservation and management programs.

**Community Food Security- Indigenous and International Perspectives** Community food security provides a rich diversity of self-organized food systems to improve, maintain and enhance health, well-being, resilience and ecological sustainability, originated and nurtured by Indigenous and other marginalized communities. By examining Canadian and international case studies on Indigenous voices, knowledges and perspectives on their own food systems, this course critically engages students with the concepts, approaches, practices and challenges of Indigenous food production, consumption and distribution and their role in achieving community food security.

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## MORE SAMPLE COURSES

- Indigenous Treaties in Canada
- Indigenous Justice Issues
- Indigenous Women and Resilience
- Indigenous Peoples, Land and Resources
- Community Development

## SAMPLE FIRST YEAR

IS-1010(3) Indigenous Ways of Knowing  
IS-1016(3) Introduction to Indigenous Studies: Art, Culture & History  
IS-1017(3) Introduction to Indigenous Studies: Politics & Governance  
IS-1101(6) Introductory Cree or IS-1201(6) Introductory Ojibwe  
RHET-1101(3) Academic Writing: Humanities, or any other section of Academic Writing (if required)  
12-15 credit hours Electives

*NOTE: This sample first year is representative of the courses you may take. For many of our programs, you may choose another set of courses and still be well on your way to a degree. Also, for most programs you do not have to take 30 credit hours (five full courses) in your first year.*

## TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAM

The highly supportive Transition Year Program (TYP) helps Aboriginal students make a successful transition from their community to an urban university. The TYP Coordinator assists students with their applications, course selection, and registration process. First-year students are matched with returning Aboriginal students - mentors who provide support and familiarize new students with the campus. Contact Randy White at 204.786.9983 or [r.white@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.white@uwinnipeg.ca) to find out more about TYP.

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***“Obtaining a BA in Indigenous Studies has helped me gain a better understanding of the unique relationship between Indigenous Nations of Canada and the Crown. With this knowledge, I am able to understand the true spirit and intent of our Treaties and how we are to move forward towards reconciliation.”***

– Kayla Frank, BA Indigenous Studies, who works at The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

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## REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

You must meet The University of Winnipeg’s general admission requirements. No specific courses required.

## HOW TO APPLY

For details on application requirements and deadlines, and to apply online, please visit:  
[uwinnipeg.ca/apply](http://uwinnipeg.ca/apply)

For more information contact a student recruitment officer at [welcome@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:welcome@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204.786.9844. In any case where the University’s Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

## CONTACT US

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