

Enhancing Indigenous student success at Canada's universities

**Universities
Canada.**



Education plays a vital role in the reconciliation process and universities are committed to improving First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples' access and success in higher education.

From 2013 to 2015, programming for Indigenous students has increased 33%, alongside growth in targeted services and support.



2013

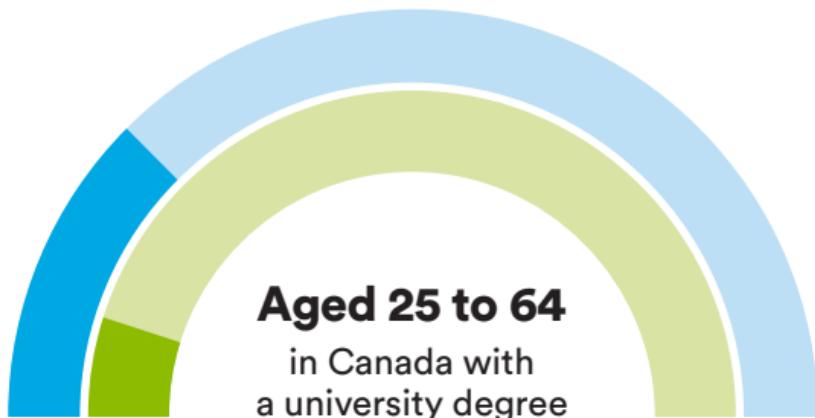


2015

Unlimited potential

Indigenous youth is one of the fastest-growing segments of the population, with 650,000 Indigenous people under the age of 25. Yet less than 10% of Indigenous people aged 25 to 64 in Canada have a university degree, compared to more than 26% of non-Indigenous Canadians in the same age group.

Canada's universities are committed to working together, and with government and other partners, to help narrow this gap.



Indigenous
people



non-Indigenous
Canadians

Enhanced programs and services = improved outcomes

Canada's universities recognize the unique challenges Indigenous students often face. Across the country, universities are strengthening Indigenous leadership within institutions; updating academic programs to reflect Indigenous history and realities; partnering with local Indigenous communities; fostering meaningful intercultural engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students; and providing targeted resources and gathering spaces for Indigenous students.



69%

offer transition programs

69% of Canadian universities offer programs to help Indigenous students transition into university studies, including outreach programs in Indigenous communities, academic support and mentorship for students starting as early as the elementary school level.

33%

increase in programming

Canadian universities offer 233 undergraduate programs and 62 graduate-level programs with a focus on Indigenous issues or specifically designed for Indigenous students – a 33% increase since 2013.

30+

languages

More than 30 Indigenous languages are taught at Canadian universities. Between 2013 and 2015, the percentage of universities offering Indigenous language courses increased from 44% to 54%.

86%

offer targeted services

About 86% of universities offer targeted support services, including academic counselling and peer mentorship, to meet the unique needs of Indigenous students.

Partnering for student success

Research shows that financial support and role models are critical to educational access and success for Indigenous students.

84% of universities provide financial support—such as scholarships, bursaries, loans and fellowships—to Indigenous students, compared to 78% in 2013. 76% of universities provide financial guidance.

Fostering community

Staying connected to their identity and having a sense of community can make a significant difference in Indigenous students' ability to successfully navigate university studies.

88% of universities organize social and cultural activities for Indigenous students.

79% of Canadian universities have physical spaces where First Nations, Métis and Inuit students can gather and find counselling, support and connections to their culture, including local elders.

Online database of programs and services

Universities Canada has created an online searchable database to assist Indigenous students — and their parents, teachers and guidance counsellors — in finding the resources and programs to help them succeed at university.

www.universitystudy.ca/Indigenous

Additionally, 3/4 of universities' websites feature sections dedicated to programs and services offered to support Indigenous students.



Committed to action

Tremendous opportunities exist for Indigenous people and Canada through improved access to higher education. Canada's universities are committed to playing a leadership role in the reconciliation process by removing barriers to higher education and supporting Indigenous student success at all levels, as demonstrated by the launch of universities' *Principles on Indigenous education* in 2015.

Access to education also requires better financial supports. Universities Canada recommends that the federal government commit to substantial, sustained growth in student support and financial assistance for Indigenous students, including scholarships at the graduate level.

Universities Canada also recommends new investments to enhance existing institutional programming — both on and off campus — that serves Indigenous students and their communities.