Learning with *Head and Heart*: building an ethical space for Indigenous undergraduate research discovery at Western University

Research Western, on behalf of Vice-President (Research), Dr. John Capone, in partnership with Indigenous Services, has created a unique summer research programme for Indigenous undergraduate students. Rooted in the idea of *Respect*, as described in Western’s Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP), this programme aims to “recognize the complex and diverse nature of Indigenous Knowledge systems and languages, and the need to foster congruence between Indigenous paradigms and academic worlds” (ISP 6). In order to enact this guiding principle, as defined in the ISP, this Indigenous undergraduate research programme aims to open space for Indigenous students to utilize Indigenous Knowledge systems and language within undergraduate summer research projects across a wide variety of academic disciplines. In partnership with allied faculty members from Arts & Humanities, FIMS, Music, Law, Science, Health Sciences, Engineering, Ivey Business School and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, students will be given bursaries to complete 14 weeks of research with a designated faculty member.

Respecting that connection to home and community is a vital part of creating culturally safe spaces for Indigenous students to flourish, this programme will make available to each successful student a bursary to travel home during their summer research experience. A learning outcome will be incorporated from this aspect of the programme, asking students to discuss their research experience with a community member, elder or family member, in order to inform the process of building an ethical space for discovery to have connections to home and community.

Indigenous students will be encouraged to bring ways of learning that respect both the head and the heart within their research projects; they will also have the opportunity to develop skills and capacity in disciplines they may have not yet experienced in their academic or life journey.

Students will be paired with an Indigenous mentor by the Community Enhancement Coordinator in Indigenous Services to support the student and supervisor through the process of creating *respectful, reciprocal, responsible and relevant* research projects. Students will work with their Indigenous mentor and designated faculty supervisor to design a research project that allows each student to utilize Indigenous Knowledge within the research project, and research project outcome(s).

At the completion of the research project, the student, Indigenous mentor and faculty supervisor will work with the Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western to describe the experience of building an ethical space for discovery at Western. We will celebrate the achievements of these students, their mentors and supervisors with a
community gathering in the Fall during Indigenous Awareness Week, where students, mentors and faculty supervisors will be given the opportunity to express what they learned together.

Guidelines for Applying:

- Applications should be submitted via email to Erin Huner, ehuner@uwo.ca, as either a PDF or MS word document by **APRIL 20, 2018**.
- Any non-digital materials can be shown to the committee at the time of interview.
- This opportunity is open to students who self-identify as Indigenous to Turtle Island (North America).
- Students must be currently working towards an undergraduate degree.

Requested Materials:

1. Students will be asked to write a 500-word description about:
   - who they are;
   - what inspires them about learning;
   - their desire to utilize, or how they have utilized Indigenous Knowledge in their learning journey at Western.
2. A set of unofficial transcripts from Western should also be included.
3. Students may also submit a testimonial or letter of support from their community, an elder or a mentor from Western, or any other organization.
4. There will be story-telling component to the selection process: Students will be asked to tell the selection committee their learning story. Students may use any means to tell this story, and may bring an elder or mentor to support them through the oral portion of the selection process. For instance, students might want to show and describe to the committee beading work, carving, dance, drumming or song; art work, poetry, or any other output they feel best describes their learning story and respects learning with both the head and the heart.

The selection committee will be composed of Dr. Juan Luis Suárez, Associate Vice-President (Research), Erin Huner, Knowledge Exchange Manager, Amanda Bragg, Academic Advisor, and Amanda Myers, Community Enhancement Coordinator, Indigenous Services.

For questions about this opportunity, please contact:
Erin Huner, Knowledge Exchange Manager, Research Western
e: ehuner@uwo.ca
p: 519-661-2111 x8530
Award Terms and Conditions

Guiding Principles
Administration of this award and all research and mentoring activities carried out in relation to this award are guided by the following (this list is not meant to be exhaustive):

- Western University’s Indigenous Strategic Plan
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Findings
- The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action
- First Nations Education: The Four R’s- Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, and Responsibility (Kirkness & Barnhardt 2001)\(^1\)
- The Ethical Space of Engagement (Ermine 2007)\(^2\)
- The First Nations Principles of OCAP®

Eligibility
- Applications will only be accepted from applicants who:
  - Are currently enrolled as undergraduates at Western University (or have been extended an offer of enrollment by the application due date).
  - Self-identify as an Indigenous person.
  - Guidance about self-identification as an Indigenous person is available through the Indigenous Services at Western University website: Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Process
  - Questions related to self-identification (if any) raised by applicants or the selection committee will be resolved through direct consultations with Indigenous Services at Western University

Value of Award
- 15 awards of $10,000 will be awarded.
- Each award will include a travel bursary commensurate to travel costs per individual student up to $600.

Duration of Award
- Funding covering a 14-week period

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\(^1\) https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/education2/the4rs.pdf

\(^2\) http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/ilj6&div=12&g_sent=1&casa_token=&collection=journals
Travel Component of Award

- The award will include a travel bursary. Conditions for travel include the following:
  - Eligible costs of travel totalling up to $600 will be covered by the bursary. Any costs exceeding this amount will not be covered by this award.
  - Travel costs for one trip from London, ON to the student’s home community and one trip from the student’s home community to London, ON can be claimed (up to the maximum amount of the allowable bursary). Additional travel will not be covered under this award.
  - Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous Urban Population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).
  - All expenses must be in accordance with Western’s policy on travel expenses: MAPP 2.16: Travel & Expenses Reimbursement Policy and MAPP 2.16: Procedures.
  - All travel expenses must be incurred within the 14-week term of the award and all travel claims must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the date of completion of the travel.
  - Original, itemized receipts are required for all expenses except mileage claims, parking meters, valet parking, tolls and reasonable gratuities paid in cash.

Research Ethics

- Academic mentors will ultimately be accountable for ensuring all research activities covered under this award and carried-out in association with Western University fully abide by research ethics requirements recognized by Western – especially (though not limited to) the requirements and best practices outlined in TCPS2: Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada and The First Nations Principles of OCAP.
- When in doubt, academic mentors and students are encouraged to contact Human Research Ethics at Western University for guidance and advice on what requirements (if any) apply.
• If certification approval is required for research activities being carried out, all funds will be encumbered until the certification approval has been verified.

**Reporting**

• As indicated above, at the completion of the research project, the student, Indigenous mentor and faculty supervisor will work with the Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western to describe the experience of building an ethical space for discovery at Western.

• An appropriate* record of this experience is to be filed with Knowledge Exchange Manager at Research Western. (*The appropriateness of the record will depend on the kinds of media involved.)