

April 2025



**Executive Summary of Guidelines- McGill Indigenous Tuition Initiative**

Office of Indigenous Initiatives | Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)  
McGill University

Website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/indigenous-tuition-initiative>

Contact: [Indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:Indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca)

## Overview

The [McGill Indigenous Tuition Initiative](#) is available to First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students from the following groups:

### **Category A (Communities)**

First Nations students who are citizens/members of: Kahnawà:ke, Kanehsatake (QC), Akwesasne/St. Regis (QC, ON, USA), Six Nations of the Grand River (ON)

### **Category B (Partnerships)**

First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students who are taking courses as part of a program developed through an educational partnership agreement between McGill and the School of Continuing Studies, the Office of First Nations and Inuit Education, and the School of Social Work including:

- Cree Nation of Mistissini (QC)
- Cree Nation of Eastmain (QC)
- Cree Nation Government (QC)
- Cree Nation of Chisasibi (QC)
- Cree Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (QC)
- Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation (QC)
- Makivik (QC)
- Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (QC)
- Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (QC)
- Cree School Board (QC)
- Naskapi Education Committee (QC)
- Listuguj Education Directorate (QC)
- Micmacs of Gesgapegiag (QC)
- Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education (NL)
- Nunavik (QC)
- Kanehsatà:ke Mohawk Language Custodian Association (partnerships)
- Kahnawake (partnerships)

### **Eligibility**

- Must be First Nations, Inuit, Metis

- Must have documentation (either a status card, or for non-status students, they must provide the status card of a parent, along with documentation identifying their connection to the parent). [Indspire's criteria](#) will apply for documentation.
- Education centers/authorities must attest to their student's eligibility/verify their documentation.
- Students can be enrolled in full-time or part-time students
- Must be enrolled in credit courses (non-credit courses are not eligible)

### **What is covered?**

- Tuition charges and mandatory student fees for credit courses
- Course/program specific fees up to a maximum of \$200.00/term (example of such fees is the nursing clinical skills kit)
- Other charges for core fees associated with a program will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. **Requests for amounts above \$200 can be sent to [indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca)**

### **What is not covered?**

- Tuition and mandatory fees for non-credit courses
- (Opt-outable) health and dental fees
- Housing/rent or transportation costs
- Living allowances and textbooks
- uPrint charges (for printing). First Peoples' House offers free printing to Indigenous students
- Meal Plans
- Fees for optional field trips
- OneCard charges (food and dining service)
- Fines and late registration fees
- Interest charges
- Any other non-mandatory fees that are opt-outable

**Because of the funding structure for these programs, special approval for the tuition initiative is required if students wish to take:**

- Master of Public Policy (Faculty of Arts)
- McGill HEC Montreal Executive MBA
- MBA/Law Program
- Master of Management and Analytics

- Master in Management in Finance
- Master of Management in Retailing
- Master of Business Administration
- International Masters for Health Leadership
- International Master Program for Managers
- Masters of Global Manufacturing. And Supply Chain Management
- Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Management
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Accounting
- Joint Executive MBA
- Any other existing or future self-funded program (except for those offered through partnerships listed in Category B)
- Any non-credit activity within the School of Continuing Studies, the Executive Institute, or other McGill Faculties

Email requests can be sent to [indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca)

### **How Students Receive the Exemption**

- Education centers/authorities must send an exemption letter identifying their eligible students directly to [indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca) and indicate the following:
  1. Confirmation that students are First Nations, Inuit, Metis and are citizens/members of their community
  2. Student names and ID numbers
  3. For fees that are not covered by the tuition initiative, to whom the charges should be sent (either to the student or the education center/sponsor)
  4. A statement acknowledging that the education authority agrees that they **will not** receive an invoice for their list of students
  5. For partnership programs, the start and expiration date of the program.
  6. Kahnawà:ke, Kanehsatake, Akwesasne, and Six Nations of the Grand River do not need to indicate expiration dates for the students. Information will be renewed with each subsequent letter.
  7. A contact person associated with the education center/authority

### **Notes**

- First Nations, Metis, Inuit students in partnerships are eligible for this initiative up to the completion of their degree, certificate, or diploma offered as part of the partnership. Partnerships are renewable.

April 2025

- If you have a student in your partnership cohort who is First Nations, Metis, or Inuit but is not on your community registry, they may be included if the partner/education authority verifies their documentation and attests to their eligibility.
- For students who are federally recognized as part of Kahnawà:ke, Kanehsatake, Akwesasne, and Six Nations of the Grand River, but who are not enrolled on the community registry, they must apply [here](#).

### **Deadlines for Letters**

For Fall: July 24

For Winter: November 24

For Summer: March 24

\*We recognize that the timing may not align with the academic calendar for partnership programs. We request that the list be sent to [indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca) as soon as possible before the start of the program.

- **Exemption lists are valid for the period indicated on the exemption letter (the start and end date of the program).** Education centers **do not** need to send a duplicate list every semester unless there are changes to the exemption list.
- If there is a minor change to the list (a student added or dropped) during the semester, an email from the community partner/education center will suffice if it contains the same information as a letter.
- **NEW LISTS** are only required when the period expires, or if there are significant changes made to the exemption list (program date change, multiple students being added or dropped).
- Communities may also choose not to participate in this initiative and prefer to sponsor (pay for) their students' tuition and fees. In this case, the education authority would continue to send their sponsorship letters to [sponsorshipadmin.finserv@mcgill.ca](mailto:sponsorshipadmin.finserv@mcgill.ca).
- Communities/Partnerships also have the option to participate in the exemption for only some of their students and can, therefore, send both a sponsorship letter (you will receive an invoice) and an exemption letter (you will not receive an invoice).

April 2025

- First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students who are not registered with your community but are part of your cohort of students are eligible with confirmation their documentation has been verified.
  - Example scenario: *Your community is partnering with McGill to run an in-community program that consists primarily of members who are registered with your community. There are other students in that cohort who are First Nations, Metis, or Inuit, but are not eligible for funding through your education center or their education center because they live away from their reserve.*
    - Because they are part of your program, you can verify their eligibility and documentation and include them under this tuition exemption.

### **Reminder**

Sponsorship letters should go to [sponsorshipadmin.finserv@mcgill.ca](mailto:sponsorshipadmin.finserv@mcgill.ca)

Exemption letters should go to [indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca](mailto:indigenoustuition@mcgill.ca)

### **Financial Implications for Students**

This initiative will be technically considered an award not based on merit or financial need, which means it will be taxable, and a T4A will be issued to the student. Students are advised to consult with a tax expert on their particular circumstances and inform their education authority if they cannot participate in this initiative.