**Ashukin Application for Students (NUR1 432)**

Ashukin, which means *bridge* in different Indigenous languages, was created to establish partnerships and to foster relationships with different Indigenous communities in Quebec enabling nursing students to work with Indigenous communities. Ashukin creates opportunities that support reconciliation by breaking barriers, dispelling myths and cultivating understanding through hands-on experiences in Indigenous settings and to create opportunities for mentorship with Indigenous students interested in pursuing nursing studies.

**Rationale: Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Call to Action #23**.

We call upon all levels of government to:

1. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
2. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
3. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.

The Ingram School of Nursing is pursuing the integration of the TRC Call to Action #23 by addressing the [6 core competencies of the framework for First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nursing](https://cna-aiic.ca/~/media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/first_nations_framework_e.pdf). Additionally working and learning in different environments assists students in accomplishing the [CASN Entry to Practice Public Health Nursing Competencies](http://casn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/FINALpublichealthcompeENforweb.pdf).

Learning to work with Indigenous populations provides students with an opportunity to apply strength based nursing approaches and enables students to better understand and advocate for the population for which they provide care. This learning opportunity may challenge or align student’s values and beliefs. The priority of choice will be given to nursing students that demonstrate an interest in working with Indigenous populations and demonstrate academic accomplishments.

**Please note that the Ashukin Program is exempt from the** [**Policy for Clinical Placements**](https://www.mcgill.ca/nursing/files/nursing/mcgill_nursing_undergrad_handbook_nov._20_2017.pdf)(page 34 of the Student Handbook).

**Description of the Ashukin Program placement:**

**NUR1 432**

The students in NUR1 432 that will be placed in the Ashukin Program will meet the same objectives as their colleagues placed in other community organizations in Montreal - developing, planning, implementing and evaluating a primary prevention project with a population.

For the **fall and Winter** semester: The students will have the possibility to travel to a Rural Indigenous community (within 6 hours of Montreal), or to a Centre d’Amitié Autochtone (within 4 hours of Montreal).

For students going to local settings outside of the STM network additional travel subsidies will be available ($200 for Kahnawá:ke).

**Mandatory Conditions:**

1. Provide an application form to demonstrate an interest in the Ashukin Program practicum experience
2. All student’s application meeting the criteria might have a phone conversation with the course coordinator and may require an interview in the setting itself.

**Application Form:**

Name:

Student ID:

Program/Year of Study:

Graduation Year:

Current Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Semester for the practicum:

**Essay questions: maximum of 2 pages single-spaced**

1. What is your interest or motivation in applying to the Ashukin Program? What do you expect to gain from this experience?
2. What knowledge/skills/competencies/strengths do you bring to work with an Indigenous population?
3. Briefly describe an experience you have had outside of your own culture. What did you learn from this experience?
4. What obstacles or challenges do you anticipate? (ex. cultural, linguistic, safety, ethical). How do you plan to address them.

**Additional documents:**

1. CV
2. Copy of unofficial transcript

**Please submit to Françoise Filion** at [francoise.filion@mcgill.ca](mailto:francoise.filion@mcgill.ca) by the date prescribed.