

World Indigenous Studies in Education MEd (WISE)

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why a MASTER OF EDUCATION IN WORLD INDIGENOUS STUDIES IN EDUCATION?

WISE is a part-time blended (online and on-campus) program intended for students with experience in Indigenous communities.

It is designed to develop in its graduates leadership abilities and theoretical, practical, and experiential knowledge, and to increase research and development capabilities in education, in the community, and its leaders.

Program STRUCTURE

- **Blended, part-time study** only, with cohorts beginning in July or September. The first July is normally face-to-face and the balance is online.
- **2 degree patterns:** 6 half-courses + thesis or 8 half-courses + project.
- Each course consists of **36 instructional hours**.
- Students are assigned and interact regularly with a **program advisor**.
- There are **traditional opening and closing ceremonies** in July as well as other activities, such as sharing circles, visiting speakers, and other events through the [Queen's Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre](#).
- Program staff are available to assist you.
- Students can expect to complete within **36 to 48 months** of part-time study.
- Degree requirements must be completed within **5 years** of initial registration.
- Students have access to our **Elder-in-Residence** who is available to support Indigenous students.



Required COURSES

All students are required to take this course on campus:

- **EDUC-872 - Educational Research in Indigenous Contexts**

An introduction to educational inquiry that focuses on the principal Western approaches and on the design and implementation of research appropriate for Indigenous contexts. Topics may include oral traditions, narrative research, archival research, Indigenous epistemologies, decolonization of research methodology, and ethical concerns about intellectual property. The course provides initial preparation for thesis and project work and introduces students to the tools and conventions of educational inquiry: for example, library searches, use of primary and secondary sources, ethical review considerations, and writing graduate assignments.

Students choosing a thesis are recommended to take:

- **EDUC-875 - Qualitative Inquiry: Orality in Indigenous Thought**

Prepares students to undertake research using qualitative approaches appropriate to Indigenous contexts, such as narrative studies based in oral traditions, and their impact on Indigenous thought, participant observation, and ethnography.

Brief descriptions of the courses offered in the WISE program can be found in the [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs calendar](#).



Graduate Studies FAQs

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.



Graduate Studies, Faculty of Education
(613) 533-6206
educgrad@queensu.ca

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Professional experience in Indigenous education or a related field, a BEd degree or its equivalent, and a minimum of a B- (70 - 72.9%) average in a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent; OR
- Two years of professional experience in Indigenous education or a related field, and a minimum of a B- (70 - 72.9%) average in a Bachelor's Honours degree or its equivalent; OR
- A BEd degree and a background in Indigenous issues, and a minimum of a mid-B (73 - 76.9%) average in a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent; OR
- Demonstrated significant professional experience in Indigenous education or related field, and a minimum of a mid-B average in a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent.

In addition to the above academic requirements, an applicant must submit two letters of support from respected members of the applicant's Indigenous community to which they either belong or are related. Please note that these references do not replace the requirement for applicants to provide two academic references as part of their application package (4 references in total).

Since preference will be given to qualified applicants of Indigenous ancestry (Status, non-Status, Métis, Inuit) applicants may be requested to provide proof of Indigenous ancestry where applicable. Documentation which provides proof of Indigenous ancestry may include: a status card, church records, a Métis card, a verification letter from an official Political Territorial Organization (PTO) or First Nations.

Applicants whose native languages do not include English must obtain a passing score in one of the accepted tests of English language proficiency. Information can be found in the General Regulations of the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs here: [How to Apply](#).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Applicants may submit their applications and all supporting documentation for July and September admission between October and March 1.

Student TESTIMONIAL

"As a student in the WISE program I am thankful for the support and guidance of my supervisors and professors. Their impact in my learning is not purely an academic one. From them I continue to learn more about myself and my role within Indigenous Education. I am often inspired and motivated by their genuine interest in my journey through the program."

- Erin Buchmann (WISE Student)