Indigenous Studies

The major in Indigenous Studies is an interdisciplinary degree, designed to draw together a range of course offerings on Indigenous history, culture, experience, language, and ways of knowing from many departments within Arts and Science. It will give both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Indigenous history and culture, to ensure that future leaders and policymakers have a solid foundation in the histories of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. Students expand their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous cultures, while developing professional skills such as innovative Indigenous approaches to learning and research to work with Aboriginal communities.

alumni STORY

“Through the interactions and the knowledge I have gained both in and outside of classes, I have grown as an individual in the best ways possible. In order to change the world, we must first change ourselves.”

- Lauren Ball, BAH ‘19

5 REASONS to study INDIGENOUS STUDIES

1. Students become qualified educators on the lived histories and current realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada and beyond, therefore contributing to the reconciliation process.

2. Students learn minimum of two to three Indigenous languages at the beginner level.

3. Students will develop skills to work with Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous methodologies, framed by Indigenous pedagogies and learning practices.

4. Classes combine traditional classroom education with experiential learning such as engagement with local Indigenous communities.

5. Interdisciplinary courses from the humanities, social sciences and beyond will broaden your worldviews and strengthen your critical thinking skills.

alumni STORY

“Through the interactions and the knowledge I have gained both in and outside of classes, I have grown as an individual in the best ways possible. In order to change the world, we must first change ourselves.”

- Lauren Ball, BAH ‘19

2022-23 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection

add a CERTIFICATE

Data Analytics
Disability and Physical Activity
Employment Relations
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
French for Professionals
Geographic Information Science
Global Action and Engagement
Indigenous Languages and Cultures
International Studies
Media Studies
Sexual and Gender Diversity
Urban Planning Studies
QUartsci.com/certs


That is a degree from Queen’s.
2022-2023

Indigenous Studies MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR
Start with Indigenous Language courses; choose from Anishinaabemowin, Mohawk, or Ondena.
Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options. Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's Native Student Association, or Queen’s Health Outreach. Get involved with the Indigenous Studies Program Student Council (PSC).
See the INDG info section of the LCLU website or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Visit the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre (FDISC) and check out their programs. Introduce yourself to the Elders in Residence in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.
Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations like Kehiwintha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking IUSC's Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
Speak to Indigenous Advisor at FDISC to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

2ND YEAR
Complete the core courses DEV5 220 and DEV5 221, take option courses at 200-level and complete the language requirement.
Introduce yourself to your professors and talk with them about their courses in the program.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Volunteer at the annual Indigenous Knowledge Symposium in November. Consider applying to positions with the AMS.
Talk to the Department or Career Services about summer jobs through QWEP or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Centre Summer Initiative (QISC).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Visit the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre (FDISC) and check out their programs. Introduce yourself to the Elders in Residence in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.
Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations like Kehiwintha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking IUSC's Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
Speak to Indigenous Advisor at FDISC to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

3RD YEAR
Get outside and spend some time learning from the land, with INDG 395. Complete INDG 302; finish option courses at 200 level and start option courses at 300 level.
Start thinking about ideas for the fourth-year capstone course INDG 401. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USRF).
Attend and/or volunteer at the annual Indigenous Knowledge Symposium in November.
Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Visit the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre (FDISC) and check out their programs. Introduce yourself to the Elders in Residence in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.
Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations like Kehiwintha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking IUSC's Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
Speak to Indigenous Advisor at FDISC to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

3RD YEAR
Get outside and spend some time learning from the land, with INDG 395. Complete INDG 302; finish option courses at 200 level and start option courses at 300 level.
Start thinking about ideas for the fourth-year capstone course INDG 401. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USRF).
Attend and/or volunteer at the annual Indigenous Knowledge Symposium in November.
Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Visit the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre (FDISC) and check out their programs. Introduce yourself to the Elders in Residence in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.
Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations like Kehiwintha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking IUSC's Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
Speak to Indigenous Advisor at FDISC to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Get outside and spend some time learning from the land, with INDG 395. Complete INDG 401.
Participate in research-based courses, including the INDG 401 capstone, that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Consider submitting a piece to the Queen’s Journal of Indigenous Studies. Participate in a conference like Inquiry@Queen’s.
Consider joining professional associations like the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association or the Indigenous Literary Studies Association.

Where can I go?
A degree in Indigenous Studies can equip you with:
- Knowledge of history of the colonization of Indigenous peoples.
- Capability to distinguish among Indigenous and non-Indigenous epistemologies, methodologies and pedagogies.
- Initiative, perseverance, problem solving and time management skills through pursuing your own research question or work with peers on an applied project.
- Skills to conduct independent research by gathering information, asking critical questions.
- Ability to explore complex and difficult ideas through Indigenous modes of respectful debate, discussion, and consensus-based decision-making.
- Communicating with humility the diverse historical and cultural characteristic of Indigenous peoples
- Skills to build and grow ethical relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities by engaging with Indigenous peoples, cultures, histories.

How to use this map
The map shows the steps to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map is a tool to help you make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

© Queen’s University, 2022-2023
Indigenous Studies

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen's – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.