

IFSP STUDENT GUIDEBOOK



Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 Overview
- 02 Eligibility
- 03 How to Apply
- 04 Required Documents
- 05 ISET Office Registration
- 06 Funding & Financial Support
- 07 Student Responsibilities
- 08 Summer Work Placements
- 09 Support for Students
- 10 After Graduation
- 11 FAQ
- 12 Closing Message



OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program (IFSP) is here to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students in British Columbia who are studying full-time in forest or natural resource fields. Each year, we support up to 35 students, like you, with funding that can go toward tuition, textbooks, school supplies, and a living allowance during the school year.

As part of the scholarship, you'll also take part in a required paid summer work placement with one of our industry partners. This is where you gain hands-on experience, mentorship, and connections in the forest sector. Our current partners include:

- [BC Timber Sales](#)
- [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [Office of the Chief Forester](#)
- [Mosaic Forest Management](#)
- [Stella Jones](#)
- [Gorman Bros](#)
- [Tolko](#)
- [Drax](#)
- [Finning](#)
- [LP Building Solutions](#)

Your scholarship funding will be distributed through your regional Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) office, which means you'll need to be registered with an ISET office to access it.





ELIGIBILITY

- Identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit
- Live in British Columbia
- Be enrolled in full-time studies related to forest or natural resources
- Commitment to the **required** summer work placement
- Be registered with an ISSET office
- You need to re-apply each year to continue receiving the scholarship.

IMPORTANT:

You must re-apply for the scholarship each year of your program. While returning students are often given priority, the funding is not guaranteed and depends on available resources as well as maintaining your expectations during your time in the program.

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Fill out the Intake Form – Go to ForestryConnect.ca and complete the short online form with your basic information (name, contact, school/program).

Step 2: Meet with your [Workforce Contact](#) – After you submit the form, a Career Advisor will reach out. You'll chat about the program, your goals, and whether you're ready to apply.

Step 3: Receive the Application Package – If it makes sense to move forward, your Career Advisor will send you the full package. You'll complete it and submit it with the required documents.

Step 4: Read and sign your student contract.

Returning Students: If you've already received the scholarship in the past, you'll need to go through the application process again each year, from step 2. Returning students usually have priority, but you must still re-apply to be considered.

Required Documents

- Application Part A: personal information
- Application Part B: status information and funding request
- Application Part C: signed by your ISET representative
- Acceptance letter from your post-secondary institution
- [Cover letter](#) outlining your experience and career aspirations in the forest sector
- Current [Resume](#)
- Driver's license
- Proof of status (status card, Metis card, or verification)
- Most recent transcript (unofficial transcript is OK)



ISET OFFICE REGISTRATION

To receive your scholarship funding, you'll need to be registered with your regional Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) office.

Your ISET office is an important partner in this program. They not only help distribute your funding throughout the school year, but can also provide extra support such as career counselling, training opportunities, and connections in your community.

Part C of your application package (ISET Representation Form) must be signed by your ISET office. Most offices are already familiar with our scholarship program, but if yours has any questions, they can contact us and we'll be happy to provide an overview.

Find your nearest ISET office: HERE

If you have questions or need help gathering these documents, please reach out! We can support you and even help connect you with your ISETP office if needed. Email us at: workforce@forestrycouncil.ca or contact your Career Advisor.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Being part of the IFSP comes with responsibilities. These expectations are here to help you succeed in your studies, your work placement, and your future career!

Here is what you agreed to in your contract:

In School:

- Attend and participate in your classes, labs, and practical sessions during the school year
- Complete assignments, exams, and projects to the best of your ability.
- Maintain professionalism in class and contribute to a respectful learning environment.
- Keep your grades up and share your progress with your Career Advisor.

Communication:

- Stay in touch with your workforce contact through monthly check-ins. This is a chance to chat about how school is going and prepare for continued success.
- Respond to emails in a timely manner and keep your contact information (phone number, email, mailing address) up to date.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Work Placement:

- Complete your summer work placement with one of the industry partners.
- Show up on time, meet attendance expectations, and represent yourself and the program in a professional way.
- Follow workplace rules and respect your mentors and colleagues.

Finances:

- Use your scholarship funding responsibly.
- You are responsible for any costs beyond your approved sponsorship amount.
- Take care of your own personal financial matters (such as taxes or EI).
- Let us know right away if your situation changes and it affects your funding or

You are responsible for your own conduct. Any negligent or inappropriate behaviour could result in dismissal from the program.

If extra funding is available, you may be invited to participate in our annual conference! The same conduct expectations apply, as you would be an ambassador for the program and organization.



TIMELINE

Here is what to expect throughout the year, plus a peek at what is happening behind the scenes to keep moving things smoothly:

Applications - Anytime (Apply early!)

Applications are open year-round, but spaces fill fast. Apply before July for the upcoming school year.

Behind the scenes: We review your application, confirm eligibility, and coordinate funding with your ISETP office.

September–December: Fall Semester

School begins, funding starts, and monthly check-ins kick off.

You'll submit receipts, attend gatherings, and start thinking about next summer's work placement.

Behind the scenes: We track funding and start connecting with industry partners.

December–May: Winter Semester

Keep studying, stay in touch, and reapply if you're returning next year.

Behind the scenes: We renew funding, confirm ISET contracts, and match students with mentors.

May–August: Work Placement

Put your learning into action in a paid summer role with one of our partners.

Behind the scenes: We check in with mentors and gather feedback for next year.

September: Repeat!

New school year, new funding, same support - your IFSP journey continues.



FUNDING & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program is designed to help remove financial barriers so you can focus on your studies and career goals. Each student's funding looks a little different, depending on their situation and other sources of support.

How Funding Works:

- As part of your application, you'll complete a Funding Request Form (Part B). This is where you outline your estimated expenses for the school year and your official request.
- Funding can be combined with different sources: ISET offices, band funding, grants etc.
- Your scholarship is made possible through the industry partners.



Summer Work Placements

A big part of this scholarship is the opportunity to put your learning into practice. Every student is required to complete a paid summer work placement with one of our industry partners.

During your placement, you'll:

- Gain hands-on experience in the forest sector
- Work alongside mentors and professionals who support your learning
- Explore different roles in forestry, from fieldwork to office-based positions
- Build connections that can open doors for your future career

How placements are decided:

- In your application, you'll share your preferred work locations and interests in forestry.
- Your Career Advisor will use this information to match you with a partner organization that fits your goals.
- You'll meet with the partner's hiring team for a suitability interview before starting to make sure it's a good fit.

Ongoing support:

- You'll have a mentor at your placement who will be your main point of contact.
- Your Career Advisor will continue monthly check-ins through the summer to make sure everything is going well and to support you if challenges come up.



Supports

We want you to feel supported throughout your studies and your work placement. Along with regular check-ins from your Career Advisor, you'll have access to resources that can guide you at every step.

Where to start:

- Visit ForestryConnect.ca for a full list of resources, including Indigenous student offices at colleges and universities across BC, career planning tools like Career Cruising, and more.
- You can always contact us directly if you're not sure where to start. We'll help connect you with the right support based on your needs, whether that's academic help, financial questions, or personal support.

We can provide guidance to outside supports too:

- [Hope for Wellness Line](#) offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention by phone or online chat. Call toll-free 1 8 55 242 3310 or start a confidential chat with a counsellor [here](#).
- [Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society](#) provides services for Indigenous people across BC. Adults/Elders line: 250 723 4050; youth line: 250 723 2040.
- [Metis Crisis Line](#) is a service of Metis Nation British Columbia: 1 833 638 4722.
- [First Nation Health Authority](#)
- [Guide to Indigenous Organization and Services](#)

Your success in this program is about more than funding, it's about making sure you have the guidance, tools, and encouragement to thrive.





AFTER GRADUATION

Your connection to the Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program doesn't end when you finish school. We are here to continue supporting you as you step into your career and explore new opportunities in the forestry sector. We encourage you to stay connected with us and with other graduates, sharing your journey helps inspire the students who come after you.

As the current and next generation of forest professionals, your guidance, experiences, and voice are shaping the future of this industry. Whether it's through mentorship, working in the field, speaking at events, or simply staying in touch, you play an important role in strengthening this community!



FAQ

What if I receive other funding after being accepted for this program?

That's not a problem! Just let your Career Advisor and ISET office know. We'll adjust your funding plan, so everything works together and you're not double-funded in the same area.

What if I am unable to do the summer work placement?

The work placement is a required part of the scholarship. If something serious comes up that prevents you from working (such as health or family reasons), contact your Career Advisor right away. We'll talk through your situation and look at options together.

What if my situation changes during the school year?

Life happens. If you move, change programs, or face unexpected challenges, let us and your ISET office know as soon as possible. Keeping us updated helps make sure your funding and support continue smoothly.



FAQ

What if I struggle academically?

You're not alone. Your Career Advisor can connect you with tutoring, Indigenous student services, or other academic supports at your school. Being open about struggles early makes it easier to get back on track.

What if I need to withdraw from school?

If you withdraw, your scholarship funding will be discontinued as you must remain in full-time studies to qualify for the scholarship. Contact your Career Advisor immediately so we can help you plan next steps and support you if you want to reapply in the future.

What if I don't have all my documents ready when I apply?

Submit what you have and let your Career Advisor know what's missing. We can work with you to gather the rest.



WORKFORCE CONTACT



Catherine Langille

Workforce Development, Lead

+1 236-362-0447

Catherine@forestrycouncil.ca

Workforce@forestrycouncil.ca

THANK YOU!

We're so glad you're considering the Indigenous Forestry Scholarship Program. This scholarship is about more than funding; it's about supporting your journey as a student, connecting you with mentors, and preparing you for a future in forestry and natural resources. Remember, you are part of the next generation of forest professionals. Your voice, knowledge, and guidance are essential in shaping the future of this sector.

If you ever have questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to walk alongside you every step of the way.



ForestryCouncil.ca
info@ForestryCouncil.ca
604.971.3448