

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

NIC

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

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INDIGENOUS RESOURCES HANDBOOK



WHERE WE ARE

NIC is honoured to acknowledge we operate within the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish people.





Meet our team

You're not alone on your journey. Our Indigenous Education Navigators are your go-to connection on campus.

We can work with you to create an education plan, connect you with learning and cultural supports – including events. We can even provide a campus tour for you!

Email us at indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca.
Book an appointment with us online.

Meet our Elders

NIC Elders in Residence act as a bridge between the college and First Nations communities. They're also here to provide cultural support and guidance to students like you.

Read more about our Elders.

Education with purpose

It's not just about finding a job or learning a skill. It's about what you care about – whether that's building or creating a career, revitalizing your community or caring for others.



Bachelor of Science in Nursing alum **Kohlton Tapp** (right) takes part in a pinning ceremony for new BSN graduates.

Flexible program options

Certificate
An accelerated program that typically takes one year to complete – perfect for starting your career or building your knowledge.

Diploma
A credential that delves into more advanced studies that usually takes two years to complete.

Degree
Often referred to as a "bachelor's degree," these four-year programs combine practical and academic concepts to enhance your career and learning opportunities.

Trades foundation
A one-year certificate program that covers the basic skills and knowledge you need to work in the trades. An employer sponsor is not needed; you'll complete this program in class.

Trades apprenticeship training
Advanced technical training that combines time spent working in the industry under employer supervision with in-class technical training. Your NIC classes will usually last between four and 10 weeks per level.

Find a program

Use our online program finder tool to browse full and part-time options.

Community on campus

College is not just about showing up for class – it's also about forming lifelong memories and connections.

We offer a mix of social and cultural events throughout the year, including workshops, free lunches, guest speakers and ceremonial events.

Stay connected with our Indigenous Student Newsletter.

Join our Facebook group.



Indigenous Student Lounges

Each NIC campus features dedicated spaces for Indigenous students to gather, rest, study and connect. Open during regular campus hours.

Campbell River campus
Room C240B

Comox Valley campus
Discovery Hall, Room 218

Port Alberni campus
Room N104

Mixalakwila campus (Port Hardy)
Multi-purpose areas are available

Travel the globe

Our students take part in field schools, international co-op and exchanges with NIC partners in North America and beyond.

Meet Indigenous people from across the world, gain amazing memories and make connections to last a lifetime.

Read our plan to improve international education through Indigenization.

In 2026, NIC hosted its first-ever international Indigenous field school.

In May 2024, Indigenous students from NIC and Nova Scotia Community College travelled to New Zealand's Waikato University as part of a study abroad experience.

Get the full story.



"I feel really supported by the Indigenous navigators. They were really helpful in helping me find extra bursaries or funding if I needed it. I'm also super lucky I got to go to New Zealand. We got to do a lot of Māori cultural work and learning about how they teach ECCE and how they incorporate language and culture in everything that they do."

Robyn Yow, Early Childhood Care and Education student

GET STARTED

We can't wait to welcome you to campus. Many programs have limited seats, so apply early to secure your spot.

Learn more about our application process.



Self-declaring as an Indigenous student

By self-declaring your ancestry, you can access a wider range of supports, services and awards, including scholarships and bursaries. Self-declaring is voluntary.

Priority admission

Interested in starting a trades or health care career? As a self-declaring Indigenous student, you may be eligible for a priority seat in a wide range of programs. You must meet the admission requirements for the program.

Learn more.



Comox Valley on-campus housing

Applications are open for tul'al'txw, our new student housing commons at the Comox Valley campus. We offer priority consideration for Indigenous students.

Learn more.

Quick definitions

Academic calendar
Official record listing programs and courses offered during the particular year, including admission and completion requirements.

Academic schedules and deadlines
A list of dates and deadlines that affect students.

Add/drop period
The short time at the beginning of the term when you can change the courses you're registered in without academic or financial penalty. The deadline will be listed in the academic schedule.

Admission requirements
The conditions you must meet to be invited to a program.

Award
Financial support for your educational journey that you don't have to pay back. Common examples include scholarships and bursaries.

Part-time v.s. full-time students
Full-time students are enrolled in at least nine credits per term; part-time students are enrolled in fewer.

Pre-requisite
A course you need to complete before another course can be taken.

Registration
Signing up for a course and reserving your seat.

Sponsorship
Ongoing financial support from an outside organization to help you pay for your education (ex: Indigenous sponsoring agencies or First Nation Band Councils).

Term/semester
The part of the year in which you'll study. For example, a one-year program will typically be completed over two terms – a fall term (Sept.-Dec.) and a winter term (Jan.-Apr.).

Transcript
An official, permanent record of your completed courses and the mark you received for each.

Tuition
The cost of a course or program.

Tuition deposit
A non-refundable fee that is applied to tuition and is due at or prior to registration.

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GET IN TOUCH

indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca
1-800-715-0914
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All efforts are made to ensure information accuracy. Please note information may change without notice. The most up-to-date program information, including full admission requirements and curriculum details, is available at **nic.bc.ca**.
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