

MAKIGIAQTA POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The Makigiaqta Post-Secondary Education Funding Program (the “Program”) serves as a cornerstone of this policy. The objective of the Program is to offer engagement, funding, and hands-on support for Inuit individuals accepted into post-secondary degree programs.

Aligned with Makigiaqta Inuit Training Cooperation’s (“Makigiaqta”) overarching mandate, the purpose of this policy goes beyond sponsorship. Makigiaqta provides **additional funding** avenues that support educational, training, and employment development initiatives, to enhance the skills of Nunavut Inuit.

2. SCOPE

The policy aims to address the underrepresentation of Inuit in key governmental and Inuit organizational roles by supporting individuals in their pursuit of post-secondary education and ensuring seamless transitions into relevant job sectors. The scope of this policy encompasses:

1. **Target Group:** This policy is tailored specifically for Inuit who are enrolled in, or wish to pursue, post-secondary education programs. It includes not just recent high school graduates but also mature students or those seeking to upgrade or shift their educational qualifications.
2. **Educational Institutions:** The policy covers participants attending any accredited post-secondary institution – university, college, or other professional education establishment – that offers programs leading to degrees which are recognized by key government and Inuit organizations.
3. **Key Sectors:** While the broader goal is to increase Inuit representation across various sectors, this policy prioritizes areas where the community's voice is crucial, such as healthcare, education, housing and infrastructure, public administration, justice, environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and regional development.
4. **Support Mechanisms:** This scope includes comprehensive support mechanisms for participants like scholarships, grants, mentorship programs, and work-integrated learning opportunities specifically designed for Inuit students. These mechanisms will be established in collaboration with educational institutions, government bodies, and Inuit organizations.
5. **Transition to Employment:** The policy emphasizes not just education but also a smooth transition to employment for participants. This includes career counseling, job placements, and partnerships with key government and Inuit organizations to ensure that there are dedicated opportunities for Inuit graduates.

By focusing on these core areas, this policy strives to create a network where Inuit students are motivated and equipped to pursue post-secondary education and, subsequently, contribute significantly to decision-making roles in key governmental and Inuit organizations.

3. DEFINITIONS

Funding Organization – includes an educational institution, non-profit organization, Inuit Firm or a private sector employer providing opportunities for sponsorships to Inuit participants, but may not necessarily directly or immediately be employing Inuit.

Inuit – Inuk (plural Inuit) enrolled under the Nunavut Agreement and registered with the Nunavut Tunngavik Inc (NTI) enrollment list.

Participant(s) – an individual that is pursuing a post-secondary degree program and seeking a sponsorship from Makigiaqta.

Participant Agreement – a contract of terms and conditions between Makigiaqta and participants receiving sponsorship.

Post-secondary degree program – course of study or academic curriculum offered by a college, university, or other higher education institution that leads to the attainment of an academic degree upon successful completion.

- Academic degrees covered in this policy:
 - Bachelor's Degree: An undergraduate qualification awarded by colleges and universities upon completion of study in a chosen major or discipline.
 - Master's Degree: An advanced program following a bachelor's degree focusing on specialized knowledge or research.
 - Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.): The highest level of academic achievement, typically requiring several years a graduate coursework completion combined with passing a comprehensive examination and research towards the completion of a dissertation.

Sponsorship – a financial agreement between the Participant and Makigiaqta.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

It is Makigiaqta's firm commitment to ensure that participants are not only encouraged but also actively supported in pursuing post-secondary education, enabling them to transition seamlessly into pivotal roles within government and Inuit organizations. To this end:

1. Makigiaqta will provide supplementary funding specifically for Inuit students pursuing post-secondary education who are already receiving financial support from other organizations.
2. Makigiaqta will support the coordination of work-integrated learning on a case by case basis for interested participants, in partnership with academic institutions and key organizations.
3. Makigiaqta will advise on and support the coordination of direct recruitment channels for Inuit graduates to enter relevant sectors, ensuring their skills and knowledge are effectively utilized.

5. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

A. Applicant Eligibility: An Inuk is eligible to apply for sponsorship if they are:

- Enrolled in a post-secondary degree program;
- Accessing other funding and demonstrate a need for additional funding;
- Pursuing a degree or accreditation which is aligned with Makigiaqta's strategic priorities and in demand in identified key sectors in Nunavut with government or Inuit organizations.

B. Eligible Costs: Makigiaqta will ensure Program funding is allocated consistently and fairly and will include, but is not limited to, such costs as tuition, books and materials, fees, housing and living expenses, and travel costs.

C. Application Process and Review

1. Applicants submit their applications alongside all required documentation.
2. Makigiaqta staff will conduct an initial evaluation.
3. Review Committee evaluates.
4. Review Committee decides on each application.

Please refer to the Makigiaqta Post-Secondary Education Funding Guidelines for detailed information on the application process and the roles and responsibilities of each party.

6. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

A. Multi-Year Funding Process: Participants may be considered for multi-year funding. The maximum duration for which a participant may receive multi-year funding will be determined by the Review Committee and may vary based on the participant's degree program.

B. Disbursement of Funding: Funds will be disbursed based on a predetermined schedule as defined in the Participant Agreement and may include direct, advance, or reimbursements payments.

C. Funding Cap: May be established to limit the maximum funding that can be awarded to a participant. It will be determined annually by the Review Committee and communicated to all eligible participants.

Please refer to the PSE Funding Guidelines for detailed information on the allocation of funds.

7. APPEAL PROCESS

This appeal process is intended to provide participants with a fair and transparent mechanism for addressing unique or extenuating circumstances that may affect their eligibility for financial aid.

- A. Submission of Appeal:** To initiate the appeal process, a student must submit a written appeal to the Review Committee within 30 days of the initial decision. The appeal should include a detailed explanation of the grounds for the appeal and any supporting documentation.
- B. Review and Evaluation:** The President, NTI will evaluate the appeal and associated documentation. The decision will be based on a fair and impartial assessment.
- C. Additional Information:** If necessary, the President, NTI may request additional information or clarification from the student.
- D. Appeal Decision:** The President, NTI will provide a written decision to the student within 30 days, outlining whether the appeal has been approved, denied, or if additional information is required.
- E. Appeal Approval:** If the appeal is approved, the student will receive a revised financial assistance award that reflects the adjustments made based on the appeal grounds.
- F. Final Decision:** The decision made by the President, NTI is considered final and binding for the applicable funding period. Students who are denied funding will be eligible to apply in future funding periods.

Confidentiality: All information submitted as part of the appeal process will be treated as confidential and will be shared only with individuals directly involved in the appeal review and decision-making process.

8. ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

If the participant fails to complete the approved program of studies without justifiable reasons, they shall repay Makigiaqta all financial assistance paid to them or a lesser sum on a pro-rated basis. If the participant fails to complete the Participant Agreement through unforeseen circumstances, they may request a review of those circumstances by the Review Committee who may release the participant from further obligations.

9. REVIEW AND REVISIONS

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years. Any changes or amendments will go through the approval process designated by the Board of Directors of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

10. ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDICES

- a. Guidelines for Applicants
- b. Application Form
- c. Participant Agreement

11. APPROVAL OF POLICY

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Board Resolution # : _____

CONTACT

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