

# Indigenous Great Lakes Network (IGLN) Graduate Student Scholarship Competition

## IGLN Network Purpose

The Indigenous Great Lakes Network (IGLN) aims to serve Indigenous communities, Nations, Tribes and organizations around the Great Lakes by helping to support their environmental research and monitoring priorities and needs.

## IGLN Network Intentions

1. **Fostering Connection and Collaboration:** To act as a central hub that fosters connection between Indigenous communities, Nations, Tribes and organizations around the Laurentian Great Lakes.
2. **Funding Support and Resource Accessibility:** To provide network participants with the resources they have identified as being necessary to address obstacles faced when it comes to accessing resources needed to advance and pursue their environmental research and monitoring priorities.
3. **Inclusivity and Transparency in Network Structure:** To ensure that the network's decision-making processes (e.g., priorities, vision, mandate, funding) are transparent, fair, and accountable, and to work for and support individual participants (communities, Nations, Tribes, and organizations) as well as the collective.
4. **Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing and Sustainable, Indigenous-led and Indigenous-focused Initiatives:** To create, promote, and support opportunities for youth to actively engage in environmental research and monitoring initiatives.
5. **Training, Capacity-Building, and Community-focused Sustainability:** To assist in building or connecting participating Indigenous communities, Nations and Tribal Organizations with the right people, skills and expertise to support environmental research or monitoring.



## 1) Funding Program Description

Applications are invited from graduate (MA/MSc, PhD) students who are enrolled in full-time or part-time for the summer semester (May – September 2026) at Trent University and whose research focuses on an issue related to Indigenous research or monitoring interests associated with the Great Lakes. The connection to and significance of the research and/or monitoring for an issue of importance to an Indigenous community or Nation and its association with the Great Lakes must be explicitly described in the application. This award program is designed to support projects that:

- Are being conducted in cooperation with an Indigenous community or Nation;
- Are inclusive of in-community research time;
- Contribute to the understanding of a specific Great Lakes issue of importance to an Indigenous community or Nation;
- Contribute to the student's education in Indigenous Great Lakes environmental issues.

## 2) Objectives of the Competition

- To stimulate interest in research on key environmental issues of importance to Indigenous communities and Nations in the Great Lakes region;
- To provide support to graduate students for training and research in Indigenous environmental research;
- To support the development of highly qualified researchers with knowledge and experience in Indigenous environmental issues;
- To enhance capacity among Indigenous communities and Nations and individuals to participate in and use results from environmental research in the Great Lakes region.

## 3) Eligibility Requirements

The program is open to any student enrolled in either part-time or full-time studies for the summer semester (May – August 2026) in a graduate program at Trent University and whose research involves working in cooperation with an Indigenous community, Nation or Tribal Organization on a Great Lakes associated research or monitoring initiative. ***Eligible Indigenous students are strongly encouraged to apply.***

## 4) Application Requirements

A complete application consists of **one (1)** of the following options:

- a. Completion and submission of written electronic form, found on the IGLN website (<https://www.indigenousgreatlakesnetwork.org/>)
- b. Submission of video recorded application (should not exceed 10 minutes in duration)
  - Video and proof of enrolment to be emailed to IGLN Director, Lydia Johnson – [lydiajohnson@trentu.ca](mailto:lydiajohnson@trentu.ca)

## 5) Closing Date

The closing date for applications is Sunday March 22, 11:59 pm EST. *Incomplete applications will not be reviewed and considered for funding.*

## 6) Amounts Available

Graduate Student Research Awards will be provided at the level of \$5,000/semester for students enrolled in full-time studies, and \$2,500/semester for students enrolled in part-time studies.

## 7) Funding Expectations

Successful applicants will be required to complete a reflection at the end of the funding cycle. Reflections be accepted in **one (1)** of the following formats:

- Interview with IGLN Director
- Artistic reflection (i.e., photo-journal, collage, scrapbook, vlog)
- Short written submission

## 8) Application Questions

1. Full Name
2. Program of Study
3. Research Project Title
4. Supervisor/s
5. Do you self-identify as Indigenous?
6. Will you be enrolled as a graduate student at Trent University for the summer semester (May – August 2026)?
7. Please provide proof of enrollment
8. Tell us about yourself and your connection to the Great Lakes (max. 4000 characters)
9. Tell us about your research and how it meets the outlined objectives (max. 4000 characters)
10. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your research and/or your community-researcher relationship? (optional, max. 4000 characters)

Further inquiries related to application requirements and submission can be directed to the IGLN Director, Lydia Johnson at [lydiajohnson@trentu.ca](mailto:lydiajohnson@trentu.ca)