

“Building Bridges to Advance Indigenous Leadership and Improve Youth Energy Literacy”

SENS Indigenous Student Bursaries

Purpose: The “Building Bridges to Advance Indigenous Leadership and Improve Youth Energy Literacy” initiative, supported through the Suncor Energy Foundation, focuses on removing systemic barriers for Indigenous students to gain leadership and educational training in energy security planning. Funding is intended to provide qualified Indigenous students with bursaries for tuition which will directly remove barriers to participation in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) Master of Sustainability in Energy Security (MSs-Energy Security) academic programs and provide Indigenous peoples with pathways to career advancement and leadership in energy security.

SENS Indigenous student bursaries, supported by the Suncor Energy Foundation, are available to **Indigenous students admitted and registered** in the MSs-Energy Security Master’s program or the associated graduate certificate program (Graduate Certificate in Energy Transitions). The award covers approximately 2-year or 1-year tuition for the program. To be eligible, students must submit:

- **A statement describing the impact this award will have on their pursuit of postsecondary studies (1 page maximum).**
- **Evidence of Indigenous Identity: Status card, provincial Metis card, or a letter in support of your Indigenous identity from your home community’s traditional authority/representative.**
- **Two (2) community support letters.**

If an applicant does not possess proof of the documentation required to confirm Indigenous identity, students can submit a statement about their existing lived experiences and ongoing relationship to recognized and inherent Indigenous community, nation or people. This includes specific information about the Indigenous community that they belong to, such as their treaty, land claim settlement agreement, and traditional territory or region. In the case of International Indigenous students, coming from places outside of Canada or the USA, the applicant’s statement should make reference to the applicable characteristics of the UN’s Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Voices Factsheet (https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/5session_factsheet1.pdf) in establishing their identity as an Indigenous person

Complete applications may be sent to sens_bursaries@usask.ca. Evidence of Indigenous identity and community support letters must be received no later than July 31. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by September 1.

Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to those who best demonstrate what receiving this award would mean to their pursuit of postsecondary education. Priority for bursaries is given to Canadian Indigenous students.

Terms and Conditions for Successful Applications:

1. Funding from this award can only be used to cover tuition costs in the MSs-Energy Security program. Student fees and tuition over and above the awarded amount are the responsibility of the student.
2. Monies will be paid out in equal instalments against the student's account (at the start of each term the student is registered).
3. Failure to make satisfactory progress in the graduate program (including course work, research, and/or other program requirements) will result in immediate termination of the award and repayment of any part for which the student is ineligible for.
4. Withdrawal from the program prior to completion will result in any unused monies being returned immediately to the School of Environment and Sustainability to be used for other awards.
5. In the event a recipient has also received additional funds to support their tuition and other costs associated with the MSs-Energy Security program, the award may be reduced. Recipients must report all outside funding support to sens_bursaries@usask.ca, regardless as to when they receive the outside funding.
6. Recipients are expected to write a brief thank you letter to the Suncor Energy Foundation for their generous donation for each academic year that the bursary is received describing the impact that the award will have on their postsecondary studies. Thank-you letters are to be emailed to sens_bursaries@usask.ca by September 30.