

Eligibility

a. Personal Eligibility

FFWS is contracted to provide funding services to students who meet specific eligibility criteria. FFWS is not an alternative funding agency.

Students eligible to apply for funding are those who answer yes to ALL three of the following questions:

1. Have you been a resident of Canada for the last twelve consecutive months?
2. Do you have either Indian or Inuit Status?
3. Are you either a, b, c or d:
 - a. A status Indian affiliated with one of the following Alberta-based First Nations AND not eligible for funding from that First Nation due to having regained status as a result of Bill C-31:

Bearspaw	Frog Lake	Saddle Lake
Beaver	Goodfish Lake	Sawridge
Beaver Lake	Goodstone (Wesley)	Sucker Creek
Blood Tribe	Kapowe' No	Swan River
Chiniki	Kehewin	Tall Cree
Cold Lake	Long Lake	Tsuu T'ina
Driftpile	Peigan	

What is Bill C-31?

In 1985, Bill C-31 amended the Indian Act. As a result of this amendment, people who had previously lost their Indian status under old registry regulations are/can be reinstated under the Bill C-31 (reinstated individuals are sometimes referred to as 'Bill C-31'). If you are registered as an Indian under the following sections of the Indian Act, your status is considered to be a result of Bill C-31:

6(1)(c) 6(1)(d) 6(1)(e) 6(1)(f) 6(2)
Status under sections 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(b) identify 'regular' status.

There are a few different ways to identify if your status is a result of the Bill C-31 amendment (you cannot tell by looking at your status card):

- You have a letter of reinstatement from DIAND/INAC.
 - You have contacted your First Nation and they have informed you.
 - You have contacted the Registries department at INAC and they have informed you.
 - You have submitted an Authorization of Information Release form to FFWS.
 - You were born after April 17, 1985.
- b. Registered in affiliation with Heart Lake First Nation,

Michel Band/Alberta General List, or Smith's Landing First Nation.

- c. An Alberta resident (living in Alberta for 12 consecutive months prior to attending a post secondary program) with Inuit status and not eligible for funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories or Nunavut student financial assistance programs due to residency.
- d. An Alberta resident (living in Alberta for 12 consecutive months prior to attending a post secondary program) with Indian status registered to a NWT-based First Nation and not eligible for funding from the Government of NWT Student Financial Assistance program due to residency.

b. Program Eligibility

FFWS only sponsors students who are enrolled in programs eligible for sponsorship under the PSSSP and UCEP policies. This means eligibility to apply to FFWS for funding is also based on program eligibility.

Students applying for sponsorship under the PSSSP (for post secondary programs) may only be eligible for sponsorship if the program meets ALL THREE of the following criteria:

1. You will be attending a degree, diploma, or certificate granting institution recognized/accredited by a province as a post secondary institution. This includes institutions affiliated with or delivering accredited post secondary programs by arrangement with a recognized post secondary institution. **Eligible institutions must be on the INAC approved post secondary institutions list.**
2. Your program of studies is offered by a recognized post secondary institution and has completion of Grade 12 as a mandatory entrance/admission requirement.
3. Your program of studies is at least one academic year (eight months) in length and leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree.

UCEP Eligibility

UCEP stands for University and College Entrance Preparation Program. These upgrading programs are offered by post secondary institutions to enable students to gain the academic level required for entrance to degree and diploma programs. FFWS recognizes that some programs are not specifically referred to as UCEP when they provide the same results. Academic upgrading-type programs may also fall under the UCEP category.

To be eligible to receive support for a UCEP program:

1. Students must qualify for admission to the UCEP/upgrading program under the mature student admission requirements of the post secondary institution.
2. Students must be able to achieve, through the UCEP/upgrading program, the academic level required for entrance to a post secondary program (Grade 12

equivalency) within one academic year. This will need to be confirmed, in writing, by a program advisor at the selected institution.

3. Students may not receive funding for an UCEP/upgrading program if they have previously or are currently enrolled in a post secondary program of studies.