

1. Eligibility:

Three eligibility criteria must be met by ALL applicants:

- a. Personal
- b. Educational Institution
- c. Program

a. Personal Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, you must have been a resident of Canada for the last twelve consecutive months

Students eligible to apply for funding are those who answer YES to ONE of the following questions:

1. Do you have either Inuit status or registration with a NWT-based First Nation but have lived in Alberta for the last twelve consecutive months (prior to the date of application) and are not eligible for funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories and/or Nunavut student financial assistance programs due to residency?
2. Are you registered in affiliation with Michel Band/Alberta General List, Heart Lake or Smith's Landing First Nation?
3. Are you 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	Goodstoney (Wesley)	Sucker Creek
Blood Tribe	Kapawe'no	Swan River
Chiniki	Kehewin	Tall Cree
Cold Lake	Long Lake	Tsuu T'ina
Driftpile	Peigan	Heart Lake

Note - Band Membership: FFWS does not sponsor individuals who are on the band membership list with their Alberta First Nations Band, regardless of their Bill C-31 status.

What is Bill C-31 and Bill C-3?

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'). This status can be passed onto the reinstated individual's children and grandchildren.

In 2011, **Bill C-3** amended the Indian Act. As a result of this amendment, grandchildren of the reinstated individual, who were not considered Bill C-31, were given access to aboriginal rights. **FFWS does not provide funding to individuals with Bill C-3 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 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, who have verified your status with INAC;
- You have a letter of reinstatement from INAC.

b. Educational Institution Eligibility

Eligible institutions must be on the Master List of Designated Educational Institutions on the Government of Canada's website:

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/post_secondary/designated_schools.page

AANDC approved post-secondary institutions list.

c. Post-Secondary Program Eligibility

FFWS only sponsors students who are enrolled in programs eligible for sponsorship under the PSSSP and UCEP (below) 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, territory or state as a post secondary institution.
2. Your program of studies requires completion of Grade 12 as a mandatory entrance/admission requirement for all students, including mature.
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. 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. Courses below a Grade 11 level will not be eligible for tuition support and will not count toward full time status.

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.