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 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 or Heart Lake?

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:

   Bearsapw  
   Beaver  
   Beaver Lake  
   Blood Tribe  
   Chiniki  
   Cold Lake  
   Driftpile  
   Frog Lake  
   Goodfish Lake  
   Goodstoney (Wesley)  
   Kapawe’no  
   Kehewin  
   Long Lake  
   Peigan  
   Saddle Lake  
   Sawridge  
   Sucker Creek  
   Swan River  
   Tall Cree  
   Tsuu T’ina  
   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 status?

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.

FFWS does not provide funding to individuals with Bill C-31 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 ISC and they have informed you;
- You have submitted an Authorization of Information Release form to FFWS in the past, who have verified your status with ISC;
- You have a letter of reinstatement from ISC.
b. Educational Institution Eligibility


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.