

**General Observations:** A statement of intent expresses your scholarly interests and applies them to a specific research project. When envisioning your project, think of it as an exercise in possibilities, but be strategic, because the project must be manageable within the time frame of the degree. The expected length of a statement of intent for our program is no more than two double-spaced pages.

**Key Points to Cover in a Statement of Intent:** While describing your experience and stage of development in your academic journey, please use the statement of intent as an opportunity to show us **what** you want to research, as well as **why** and **how**. Please also tell us how you understand **Indigenous Knowledges**: How do you define “Indigenous Knowledge” in the research you’d like to do? With these things in mind, you can craft a statement of intent that responds to the following key points:

1. Purpose:

- ▶ Briefly describe the research you wish to undertake, specifying the main research question and the type of project (master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation). Be as clear, specific, and comprehensive as possible.
- ▶ Provide a one or two sentence summary statement of what you intend to do.
- ▶ Please tell us how your own experiences and cultural background have impacted your choice of research topic.
- ▶ Indicate which faculty member in IK might serve as a potential supervisor for your project. Securing faculty support is a key part of the application process. Moreover, it is expected that applicants to both MA and PhD programs will develop this proposed research plan in consultation with a potential supervisor who has expertise in their research area before submitting the application for admission.

2. Intellectual Framework and Methodology:

- ▶ Identify the critical, historical, or theoretical framework within which you position your research, and briefly explain why it’s appropriate for your proposed project.
- ▶ Explain your methodology by showing what approach you plan to use for the data collection, and also analysis and interpretation. If you have an established relationship with a community you aspire to work with for your MA or PhD, tell us a bit about this. If not, explain how you will develop a relationship in the time allotted for your degree.

3. Situate within Current Scholarship:

- ▶ In one or two sentences, indicate which scholars have recently published important work on this topic.
- ▶ Show how your approach to your project will contribute to this scholarly conversation, perhaps with a new case study or by asking new questions.

4. Significance:

- ▶ Explain the potential implications of your project and indicate how it will advance knowledge in the field.
- ▶ In other words, say why it matters: what is the potential impact of such a study? Think of this section as a response to a “So what?” or “Why is it significant?” question.

5. Current Status and Qualifications:

- ▶ Give the admissions committee and potential supervisor(s) a clear sense of where you are in your academic career, and be specific about your current and previous degree(s).
- ▶ Demonstrate how you are qualified and well positioned to undertake this research project. For example, show how your previous studies, professional experience, community organizing, and personal or ancestral knowledges contribute to the project.
- ▶ Describe how your positionality shapes your aspirations as a student and researcher. For example, explain the kinds of experiential knowledge that have led you to this graduate program, and to the project you propose.

\* Adapted from the FCCS document, Guidelines for Writing a Statement of Intent for Graduate Studies

## RESOURCES FOR IK APPLICANTS

**For more information on the IK program** including program overviews, admission requirements, tuition and funding information, and a complete list of our affiliated faculty, visit:

<https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/igs/indigenous-knowledges/>

### How to Apply:

1. **Find a supervisor:** Please contact prospective supervisors before starting an application. Admission to the program requires the support of a faculty supervisor, as well as meeting program-specific criteria for admission requirements.
2. **Gather and complete your application materials, including:**
  - a. Online application and application fee
  - b. Official transcripts for all post-secondary institutions attended
  - c. Statement of Intent
  - d. English language test (for non-native speakers of English)
  - e. CV or resumé
  - f. Two reference forms or letters
3. **Deadline:** The deadline for complete applications is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**For more information on each these application processes and to watch a video on applying to graduate school at UBC, Okanagan campus, visit:**

<https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/applying/>

**Resources for Indigenous students:** for more information on graduate studies at UBC, Okanagan campus, including resources, funding, and support for Indigenous students, please visit:

<https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/indigenous-graduate-students/>

UBC Okanagan is committed to meeting the challenge issued to Canadians by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to engage in an ongoing process of reconciliation. To reduce barriers and support the recruitment of Indigenous graduate students, effective April 1, 2022, the College of Graduate Studies introduced application fee waivers for Indigenous applicants. Please inquire further at [igs.themes@ubc.ca](mailto:igs.themes@ubc.ca).