

# New: Indigenous Environmental Leadership Pathways Program

The School of Environment and Sustainability at Royal Roads University, in partnership with ECO Canada, has launched a new online, undergraduate program in Indigenous Environmental Leadership. The program is designed to prepare Indigenous learners to work with environmental organizations in their communities and nations to identify and address environmental challenges.

The online program highlights the importance of Indigenous Environmental Leadership and considers approaches to protect, maintain, and restore ecosystems in communities and territories, including new approaches to environmental challenges such as climate change, species loss and land and water degradation.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM



The program focuses on integrated Indigenous-led environmental stewardship and planning, in the context of regenerative sustainable economic and social development. It provides a pathway to further post-secondary environmental education e.g. Bachelors and Masters programs and professional certification.

Designed and taught by Indigenous scholars, this program is based on Indigenous science, knowledge, values and laws. It is overseen by an advisory circle of Indigenous scholars, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, leaders and practitioners as well as local advisors from the learners' communities.

Students who complete the initial four courses will receive a certificate and can continue taking courses to lead to degree completion.

The first offering of this program is a pilot with fees waived and the students will help us further develop the program by giving feedback on their experience. Students taking the Practicum in Indigenous Environmental Leadership will receive \$1,000 each from ECO Canada.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



To join the pilot program, students should:

- Be no more than 31 years of age
- Have graduated from high school or have 2 years of environmental experience (paid or volunteer)

Credit from courses taken at other post-secondary institutions can be transferred into this program and will count towards the credits needed for admission to degree completion programs.

After the pilot program, there will be no age restrictions.

## COURSES

The four courses in the Certificate in Indigenous Environmental Leadership Pathways program are:

- Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Leadership
- Challenges for Indigenous Environmental Leaders
- Strategies and Tools for Indigenous Environmental Practice
- Practicum in Indigenous Environmental Practice

## HOW TO APPLY

Please send the completed application form, and a letter of reference from a community member to [RRU-SES@royalroads.ca](mailto:RRU-SES@royalroads.ca)

For more information about the program please contact Meagan Hamilton [Meagan.5hamilton@royalroads.ca](mailto:Meagan.5hamilton@royalroads.ca) or Leslie King [leslie.king@royalroads.ca](mailto:leslie.king@royalroads.ca)



# Indigenous Environmental Leadership Pathways Program - Courses

## **IELP 200: Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Leadership**

Provides an understanding of what Indigenous environmental leadership means to Nations and communities. Offers an overview of Indigenous and Canadian legal environmental frameworks and the ways in which Indigenous, local, and scientific knowledge systems can be applied to environmental problems.

## **IELP 220: Challenges for Indigenous Environmental Leaders**

Introduces and investigates environmental issues faced by Indigenous communities including: water, air, land and ecosystem degradation, food insecurity, infrastructure, climate change, biodiversity loss, and more. Explores the relationships between the environment, economy, livelihoods, governance, self-determination, and social development.

## **IELP 240: Strategies and Tools for Indigenous Environmental Practice**

Covers practical ways of addressing environmental issues in Nations and communities. Topics include: integrated environmental planning, project management, remote sensing and GIS, marine protected areas, regenerative food systems, guardian and land defender programs, climate adaptation and mitigation, and more.

## **IELP 260: Practicum in Indigenous Environmental Leadership**

Students will work with an organization to address environmental issues in their Nation or community. Placements may be in their Nation or a group of Nations, in a government department, business or industry, or educational institution, preferably in their Nation or community. Work will be supported by a supervisor as well as an RRU academic advisor.

**These courses will be developed further with input from the advisory circle, Indigenous course developers and the Nations from which the students are drawn. For all these courses, local mentors will be identified to mentor individual students or cohorts of students in their home community.**