

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



**NIC**

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

# Indigenous Education Handbook

**2023/24**



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Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakas'la  
Kwak'wala

ᐱᓄᓐᓇᓗᓐᓇ  
Liq'wala

ᐱᓄᓐᓇᓗᓐᓇ  
Island Comox

The above words mean 'welcome' in the four languages of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw, Liḡw'łdaḡw, and Coast Salish people.

We are honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the College's campuses are situated.

## GILAKAS'LA

NIC is honoured to welcome Indigenous learners from many Nations and cultures and recognizes the wealth of traditional knowledge students bring to the college community. We strive to create a welcoming environment that nurtures your success.



**KELLY SHOPLAND**  
K'ÓMOKS FIRST NATION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

## OUR DIRECTION

### WORKING TOGETHER

Working Together is North Island College's Indigenization Plan and our commitment to Indigenous-led learning and Indigenous students and communities.

Working Together provides a framework for reconciliation that's grounded in equity and includes goals for creating healing pathways that are led by Indigenous communities and the students we serve.

### BUILD 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

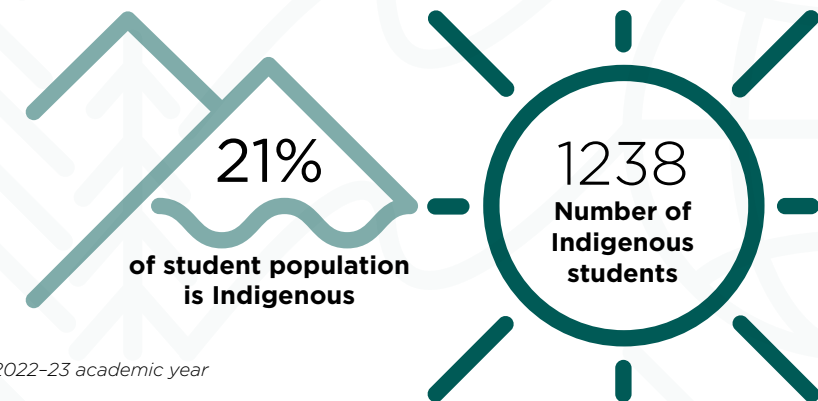
BUILD 2026 is NIC's commitment to ensure students are at the centre of everything we do. It's our promise to support the unique people and communities of Vancouver Island and the Central Coast through individualized learning.

View Working Together and BUILD 2026 at [nic.bc.ca/publications](http://nic.bc.ca/publications)

### JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Journeying Together is our Indigenous-serving Internationalization plan, placing Indigenous students, employees and their communities at its heart while serving as a guide for NIC to re-envision global engagement.

For more Indigenizing internationalization initiatives, visit [nic.bc.ca/international](http://nic.bc.ca/international)



Data based on 2022-23 academic year

# WHO WE ARE

## MEET THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION TEAM

NIC's Indigenous Education team is here to support your journey. Whether it's formal support through academic advising and counseling, or connecting through events with Elders, we are here to support your success. Our Indigenous Education Navigators and Elders assist current students every step of the way.

To meet with us, visit:

[nic.bc.ca/indigenous-navigators](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-navigators)

Or email:

[indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca](mailto:indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca)

### INDIGENOUS EDUCATION TEAM



Wilma Gus



June Johnson



Daryle Mills



Fernanda Pare



Dr. Evelyn Voyageur



Sara Child



Luke George



Willow Hunt-Scott



Rylee Latrace



Sarah Lawrence



Rebecca MacKenzie



## Mixalakwila

*Mixalakwila: "Maker of what's been dreamt about."*

### Gilakas'la

NIC respectfully acknowledges we operate within the unceded territory of the Kwagwł.

#### REBECCA MACKENZIE

Indigenous Education Navigator  
'Namgis First Nation  
[rebecca.mackenzie@nic.bc.ca](mailto:rebecca.mackenzie@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 949-7912 ext 2863  
Room 104, Mixalakwila Campus

#### SARA CHILD

Indigenous Education Facilitator  
Kwakiutl First Nation  
[sara.child@nic.bc.ca](mailto:sara.child@nic.bc.ca)  
(250) 949-7912 ext 2841  
Mixalakwila Campus



## Port Alberni

### łuuᓄaaʔateʔicuu

NIC respectfully acknowledges we operate within the unceded territory of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations.

#### LUKE GEORGE

Indigenous Education Navigator  
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#### WILMA GUS

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Room C137, Port Alberni Campus



## Comox Valley

### čēčēhaθēč Gilakas'la

NIC respectfully acknowledges we operate within the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

#### FERNANDA PARE

Elder in Residence  
Nagega  
Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis,  
K'ómoks and Carrier  
Sekani  
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#### DR EVELYN VOYAGEUR

Elder in Residence  
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#### WILLOW HUNT-SCOTT

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Taku River Tlingit  
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#### SARAH LAWRENCE

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250-923-9708  
Campbell River and  
Comox Valley Campuses



## Campbell River

### ǧəlakasla

NIC respectfully acknowledges we operate within the unceded traditional territory of the Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai and Kwikwaka'wakw First Nations.

#### DARYLE MILLS

Elder in Residence  
Tipiskowpisimwikumusqua  
Cree, Dene, Stoney  
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River Campus

#### JUNE JOHNSON

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Cape Mudge  
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River Campus

#### RYLEE LATRACE

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#### SARAH LAWRENCE

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Campbell River and  
Comox Valley Campuses



# WHAT YOU'LL FIND AT NIC

NIC works closely with Regional Indigenous Advisory Committees and the Indigenous Education Council to develop programs and courses informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and being and Indigenous language courses such as Kwak'wala and Nuuchahnulth.

## PROGRAMS

- Aboriginal Leadership Certificate
- Awi'nakola Land-based Learning
- Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate
- Island Pre-Health Science Advanced Diploma

## COURSES

Explore courses with an Indigenous focus, many of which can be transferred to universities across BC and beyond.

- Introduction to Kwak'wala (KWA-096 & KWA-097)
- Kwak'wala Intro to U'Mista Orthography (KWA-098)
- Introduction to Nuuchahnulth Language (NCN-096, NCN-097)
- First Peoples Literature & Composition (ENG-096)

- Histories and Impacts of Colonization (ABG-100)
- Governance and Organizational Structures (ABG-102)
- Vision, Values, Philosophies and Ethics (ABG-103)
- Politics, Policy and Practice (ABG-105)
- Community Development and Planning (ABG-110)
- Economic Development (ABG-111)
- Human Resources (ABG-115)
- Communications (ABG-120)
- Finance (ABG-125)
- Essay Writing & Indigenous Perspectives (ENG-116)
- Indigenous Literatures in Canada (ENG-127)

## FIELD SCHOOLS

Immerse yourself in travel and study with students and faculty.

### VIRTUAL FIELD SCHOOL, PACIFIC RIM CONNECTIONS IN COSTA RICA

NIC began a partnership with Tecnológico de Costa Rica to deliver an Indigenous student virtual exchange. The result was a strong foundation for further Indigenous cultural/community relationships and exchanges.

### INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FLUENCY FIELD SCHOOL IN HAWAII

This field school was a collaboration between NIC's Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate and Kapi'olani Community College in Honolulu. Students from the Kwakwala cohort were invited to attend the field school and spend 10 days in Honolulu. During that time, NIC Kwakwaka'wakw students shared language learning experiences and engaged in a cultural exchange with our Hawaiian hosts.

For more field school opportunities, visit [nic.bc.ca/study-abroad](http://nic.bc.ca/study-abroad)



## PRIORITY ADMISSION

Students with Indigenous ancestry may be eligible for a priority seat in health and human service programs as well as multiple trade programs. For the full list of priority admission programs, visit [nic.bc.ca/programs](http://nic.bc.ca/programs)





## FINDING COMMUNITY

Make the most of your NIC experience by connecting with students and participating in activities and student-led events.

- Participate in our workshops and Indigenous social and cultural events
- Sign up for the Indigenous Education Newsletter at [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students)
- Stop by the Indigenous Student Lounges
- Participate in our Indigenous Social and Cultural Events and Workshops
- Join us on Facebook @nicindigenousstudents
- Gather for ceremonies, celebrations, and classes in our Gathering Places at our Campbell River or Port Alberni campuses
- View our event calendars posted near the Gathering Place and in the Indigenous Student Newsletter

## SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The North Island College Aboriginal Scholars program is a holistic and culturally-relevant program to support you.

### HOW IT WORKS

Work with Indigenous supports to create an achievement plan based on your goals. They can be academic, spiritual, emotional and/or physical.

You'll work with your support people throughout the term to keep on track and also access services that will help you achieve your goals.

Apply for one term or the entire academic year. At the end of each successful term, you can earn a \$250 scholarship.

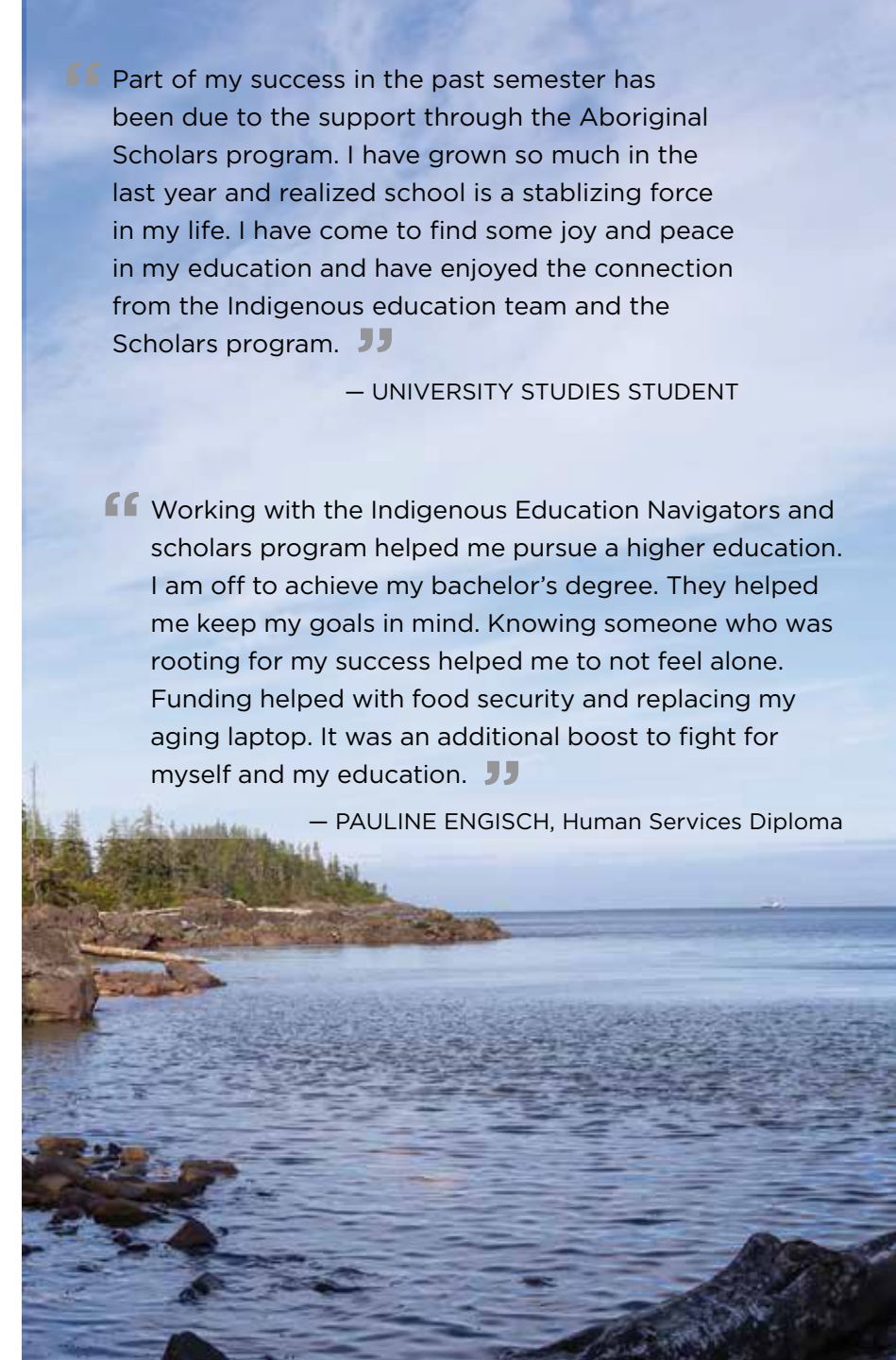
Examples of support include study skills, faculty meetings, Elders in Residence, community events, physical activities, financial aid and bursaries.

“ Part of my success in the past semester has been due to the support through the Aboriginal Scholars program. I have grown so much in the last year and realized school is a stabilizing force in my life. I have come to find some joy and peace in my education and have enjoyed the connection from the Indigenous education team and the Scholars program. ”

— UNIVERSITY STUDIES STUDENT

“ Working with the Indigenous Education Navigators and scholars program helped me pursue a higher education. I am off to achieve my bachelor's degree. They helped me keep my goals in mind. Knowing someone who was rooting for my success helped me to not feel alone. Funding helped with food security and replacing my aging laptop. It was an additional boost to fight for myself and my education. ”

— PAULINE ENGISCH, Human Services Diploma





## SELF- DECLARE YOUR INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

We encourage you to declare your Indigenous ancestry. No proof of ancestry is required. You can declare when you apply or after you become a student.

The Aboriginal Ancestry Declaration form is available at [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students)

### WHY SELF-IDENTIFY?

- You're helping to identify how many Indigenous students attend NIC.
- Gain access to information on awards, scholarships and bursaries, as well as programs, supports and services.
- Gain access to Priority Admission on select Health and Human Service programs.

To be considered for a priority admission seat, Indigenous students must:

- Meet NIC's general admission requirements and specific program requirements.
- Declare ancestry and intent to access priority seating with an Indigenous Education Navigator.

## INDIGENOUS STUDENT LOUNGES

Whether you want to hang out with other students or chat with an Indigenous Educational Navigator, Indigenous student lounges are a great place to connect and can be found in Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni and M̓ixalakwa campuses.

Drop in to plan an event, study or discuss your education and career goals with a navigator.

### CAMPBELL RIVER CAMPUS

Room C240B  
Open during campus hours

### COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS

Discovery Hall, Room 218  
Open during campus hours

### PORT ALBERNI CAMPUS

Room N104  
Open during campus hours

### M̓IXALAKWILA CAMPUS

Open during campus hours

## STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services provides a wide range of resources and supports to help you reach your goals. Whether you need help planning your education, securing funding or accessing support services, we're here to help.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

- Library and Learning Commons [library.nic.bc.ca](http://library.nic.bc.ca)
- Math Supports [library.nic.bc.ca/mathsupport](http://library.nic.bc.ca/mathsupport)
- Writing Supports [library.nic.bc.ca/writingsupport](http://library.nic.bc.ca/writingsupport)
- Peer Tutoring [library.nic.bc.ca/peertutoring](http://library.nic.bc.ca/peertutoring)
- Student Technical Services [library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech](http://library.nic.bc.ca/studenttech)

### CULTURAL SUPPORTS

- Elders in Residence [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/elders-in-residence](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/elders-in-residence)
- NIC Indigenous Student Lounge [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/indigenous-student-lounges](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/indigenous-student-lounges)

### EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

- NIC Counselling [nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling](http://nic.bc.ca/student-services/counselling)
- Elders in Residence [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/elders-in-residence](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/elders-in-residence)

### PHYSICAL SUPPORTS

- Financial Aid [nic.bc.ca/financial-support](http://nic.bc.ca/financial-support)
- Bursaries/Scholarships [nic.bc.ca/financial-aid-awards/funding](http://nic.bc.ca/financial-aid-awards/funding)
- Educational Advising [nic.bc.ca/admissions/advising](http://nic.bc.ca/admissions/advising)
- Indigenous Education Navigators [nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/indigenous-education-navigators](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-students/indigenous-education-navigators)



# FUNDING MY EDUCATION

Did you know that you may be eligible for sponsorship or support that will help cover the cost of your education? Reach out to your Indigenous Education Navigator if you need help understanding any of these resources.



## NATION OR BAND FUNDING

Some Bands and Nations have funding to support your education. Generally the Education Coordinator at your Band or Nation office can help you with this. If you are unsure where to start please connect with your Indigenous Education Navigator.

## MÉTIS NATION FUNDING

Métis students may be eligible to apply for support through Métis Nation BC. Please be aware of processing times and a thorough application.

## INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION FUNDING

Financial assistance may be available to you while in short or long-term training and school, including tuition, books, safety tickets, personal protection equipment, tools and sometimes childcare, travel and living expenses (e.g., NVIATS, NETP).

## EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

Bursaries are available through a variety of organizations including unions and employee groups, employers, non-profit, provincial and federal organizations (e.g., Indspire, Irving K. Barber Awards, New Relationship Trust).

## NIC FOUNDATION AWARDS

As a new or continuing student, you're eligible to apply for hundreds of scholarships and bursaries to help pay for college. Applications are open for a limited time starting in March.

## STUDENT AID:

Help with the cost of post-secondary education through student loans and grants.

## EMERGENCY FUNDS

If you face unexpected financial hardships while attending NIC, you can meet with an Indigenous Education Navigator or Financial Aid Advisor to arrange access to emergency funding.

## PLEASE NOTE

- All sources of funding may have limited resources and each may have their own deadlines and eligibility requirements. Connect directly with the fund holder for more details.
- Many agencies and organizations outside of the ones listed here may have resources available to you. Reach out to your Indigenous Education Navigator or Financial Aid Advisor to discuss your options.

# NIC LINGO

## BECOMING A STUDENT

### APPLICATION

Your formal submission of interest, either online or by paper, for a particular program.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements you need to meet in order to enter the program you're applying to. Requirements vary by program.

### COURSE PRE-REQUISITE(S)

A course(s) that's required before another course can be taken.

### TRANSCRIPT

An official, permanent record of the number of courses you've completed and your marks in those courses. Official transcripts must be ordered from your institution, with the cost paid by the student. You can access unofficial transcripts through your myNIC account.

### PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT

NIC accepts English and Math placement tests in lieu of transcripts. You can either provide a high school transcript or take a placement test to ensure that you

have the necessary English and/or math skills for your studies.

### INVITATION

Being accepted into a program after the requirements for entering the program have been met. For most NIC programs, you're invited on a first-qualified, first-invited basis.

### TUITION DEPOSIT

A non-refundable tuition deposit paid prior to registration. After you've registered, your deposit will go towards the tuition you owe. Tuition-free courses/program do not require a tuition deposit.

### REGISTRATION

Signing up for a specific section of a course to reserve your seat.

## WHEN YOU'RE A STUDENT

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

A full list of NIC courses.

### ACADEMIC SCHEDULES AND DEADLINES

A summary of dates and deadlines that affect students.

### ADD/DROP

The period of time at the beginning of each semester when you can change the courses you're registered for without a penalty.



### GRADE POINT

The value of your final mark in a course rated on a scale between 0 and 4.33.

### GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

GPA is the value of each course final mark multiplied by the credit value of each course, divided by the number of courses taken.

### PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME STATUS

Refers to the number of credit hours you're enrolled in each semester. You're considered full-time when you're enrolled in nine or more credit hours. When you're registered with the Department of Accessible Learning, you're considered full-time if you're registered in six or more credit hours.





### SEMESTER/TERM

The divisions of the academic year. NIC has three terms:

- Fall - September to December
- Winter - January to April
- Spring/Summer - May to August  
Note: from May to August, you can register in classes that run in just Spring (seven weeks), just Summer (seven weeks) or throughout the Spring/Summer term (14 weeks)

### TIMETABLE

Shows you which courses are currently scheduled.

### WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

The latest possible dates to withdraw from a class without it affecting your grade point average (GPA). A "W" will show on your transcript, but that course will not be used in the calculation of your grade point average.

### COLLEGE CREDENTIALS

#### CREDENTIAL

The official document you receive when you complete an academic program.

#### CERTIFICATE

A credential of 30 credit hours, usually completed in one year. Trades foundation programs are included in this category.



### DIPLOMA

A credential of 60 credit hours, which can be completed in two years of full-time study.

### DEGREE

An undergraduate degree of 120 credit hours, which can be completed in four years of full-time study (also known as a bachelor's degree).

### TRADES FOUNDATION

A Trades program that covers the basic knowledge and skills to start working in a specific trade. Level 1 of apprenticeship training is sometimes included. An employer sponsor is not required.

### TRADES APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

A combination of on-the-job and in-school training. Apprentices need an employer sponsor to complete their apprenticeship levels. The in-school training lasts 4-10 weeks, depending on the trade.

## NEXT STEPS

### 1 CHOOSE A PROGRAM

Explore programs and admission requirements at [nic.bc.ca/programs](http://nic.bc.ca/programs)

Apply early to secure your spot.

Applications open in October for the following school year.

NOTE: Most programs don't have an application deadline and operate on a 'first applied, first qualified, first invited' system — so the sooner you apply, the better!

### 2 SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Sign up to [educationplannerbc.ca](http://educationplannerbc.ca), fill out your application and pay the \$25 fee.

We'll send confirmation of your application to your personal email address.

Be sure to add [@nic.bc.ca](mailto:@nic.bc.ca) to your safe sender list.

### 3 ACTIVATE YOUR MYNIC ACCOUNT

Log in to [mynic.nic.bc.ca](http://mynic.nic.bc.ca) with the username and password in your confirmation email.

### 4 SUBMIT YOUR TRANSCRIPTS

Upload your official transcripts and any other documents required for your program.

### 5 CHECK YOUR MYNIC ACCOUNT FOR YOUR OFFER OF ADMISSION

Accept your offer and pay your tuition deposit.

### 6 REGISTER FOR YOUR COURSES

Choose courses in self-service in your myNIC account.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

We're here to help!  
[indigenournavigators@nic.bc.ca](mailto:indigenournavigators@nic.bc.ca)





NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE



**NIC**

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

[indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca](mailto:indigenousnavigators@nic.bc.ca)

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[nic.bc.ca/indigenous-navigators](http://nic.bc.ca/indigenous-navigators)

