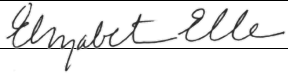




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## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate
FROM:	Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
RE:	Aboriginal University Admission Policy Name Change (SCUS 23-70)
DATE:	July 7, 2023 

Action undertaken by SCUS on July 6, 2023, gives rise to the following recommendation:

### Motion

That Senate approves the policy name change from Aboriginal University Admission Policy (AUAP) to Undergraduate Admission Policy for Indigenous Students (UAPI).



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
Student Services

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**MEMORANDUM**

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ATTENTION      SCUS      DATE      June 20, 2023  
FROM      Tom Nault  
                 Registrar & Executive Director  
RE:      Aboriginal University Admission Policy Name Change

Proposal

Student Recruitment and Admissions (SRA) is currently reviewing the Aboriginal University Admission Policy (AUAP) and intends to bring a new and/or revised policy to Senate for January 2025. In the meantime, however, SRA requests an interim name change from AUAP to the Undergraduate Admission Policy for Indigenous Students (UAPI).

Motion

That SCUS approve and recommend to Senate the interim change of name of the Aboriginal University Admission Policy to Undergraduate Admission Policy for Indigenous Students (UAPI).

Background

Why the shift from Aboriginal to Indigenous?

In the 1982 Constitution Act, the term Aboriginal is used as a blanket term that recognizes First Nation, Inuit, Métis Peoples of Canada (Centre for Constitution Studies, n.d.). Continuing to use the term *Aboriginal* rather than *Indigenous Peoples* reflects an “archaic understanding that fails to recognize Indigenous Peoples in Canada as distinct, separate Nations” (Muskrat Magazine, 2017). The term was “chosen by Indigenous leaders in the 1970s to identify and unite diverse communities and represent them in global political arenas” (CourseAdmin, 2018). Furthermore, the term comes from the Latin word *indigena*, meaning *sprung from the land* and highlights a peoples’ connection to traditional territories, as well as their experiences of colonization (Animikii Indigenous Technology, n.d.; CourseAdmin, 2018).

The term Indigenous, therefore, “reinforces land claims and encourages territory acknowledgements, a practice which links Indigenous Peoples to their land and respects their claims over it” (Animikii Indigenous Technology, n.d.). Finally, this shift in language aligns with using more inclusive language across the higher education sector in Canada.

Thank you,

Tom Nault  
Registrar & Executive Director,  
Student Enrollment

References:

Constitutional Studies. (n.d.). *Aboriginal Rights*. Centre for Constitutional Studies. University of Alberta, Faculty of Law. <https://www.constitutionalstudies.ca/the-constitution/aboriginal-rights/>

CourseAdmin. (2018, May 24). *Aboriginal, native, or Indigenous?*. Indigenous Awareness Canada Online Training. <https://indigenousexcellencecanada.com/indigenous-awareness/aboriginal-native-or-indigenous/>

MUSKRAT Magazine. (2017, September 11). *Why we use indigenous instead of Aboriginal*. MUSKRAT Magazine. <http://muskratmagazine.com/why-we-use-indigenous-instead-of-aboriginal/>

Animikii Indigenous Technology. (n.d.). *Why we say "Indigenous" instead of "Aboriginal."* <https://animikii.com/news/why-we-say-indigenous-instead-of-aboriginal>

## Calendar Entry

<http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/admission/undergraduate-admission.html>

# Special Categories of Admission

Simon Fraser University is interested in extending learning opportunities to British Columbia residents who may not qualify under the regular categories of admission. The number of such admissions is limited by the availability of resources, and is not automatic. Only Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible. Three special categories are available.

- **Aboriginal Indigenous**

Aboriginal Indigenous applicants (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples of Canada) who do not meet the competitive admission average that is set by Simon Fraser University's individual faculties and schools can apply to be admitted under this special admission category. Applicants normally will be high school graduates and will meet the general Simon Fraser University minimum requirements for admission. Aboriginal Indigenous applicants who do meet the university's competitive average and the general admission requirements should apply directly to their faculty or program of choice.

Visit <https://www.sfu.ca/students/admission/admission-requirements/aboriginal-admission-policy.html>. (Note: *URL to change*)

This admission category considers the applicant's educational history, cultural knowledge, work experience, educational goals, and other achievements. This information will be reviewed by a three-member committee composed of participants from Simon Fraser University's Indigenous Student Centre, the specific faculty to which the student has applied, and the university's office of admissions.

## **Applicants will**

- provide documentation of Aboriginal Indigenous heritage (First Nations, Metis, or Inuit). This could include, but is not limited to, Indian or Metis status cards, official Inuit identification, official letters from Aboriginal Indigenous organizations, or a combination of these.
- complete a separate [Supplemental Aboriginal Undergraduate Admission form](#) (Note: *URL to change*) containing the applicant's educational history, non-educational achievements, Aboriginal Indigenous cultural knowledge and activities, two references, and a personal letter from the applicant outlining the applicant's academic goals.
- have completed specific faculty and/or program prerequisites which must be finished before being considered for admission to particular programs.