POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT GUIDE

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Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Citizen Guide to Postsecondary Support Funding

Welcome to your guide for Postsecondary support through the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government. This guide explains who can apply, what support is available, applying for support and what happens after you apply.

1. Before You Apply: Things to Consider

Before starting your application, take a moment to think about your goals, both personal and professional, and how your learning journey connects to your community.

Ask yourself:

- What are my long-term goals, and how will this program help me get there?
- How might my skills and knowledge support Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government in the future?
- Do I need support with housing or technology while I study?
- Is this the right time for me to return to school? If not now, when?

If you're considering a program in a high-demand field, you may be eligible for additional support through the Government's Priority Career Program. These may include top-ups, paid practicum opportunities, or signing bonuses after graduation. Since these programs can change from year to year, we encourage you to check in with the Department of Huuḥtakšiiḥinʔaała - Education and Youth before applying to learn more.

2. Helpful Terms (Definitions)

Adult Basic Education (ABE) Courses that help you finish high school, improve basic skills (like reading, writing, or math), or get ready for college or trades programs.

Annual Funding Schedule The document that establishes funding rates, maximum amounts, eligible expenses, and program limits for each fiscal year.

Application Package The full set of documents you need to apply for education funding — like your application form, school letter, transcripts, and a letter explaining your goals.

Citizen An individual who is listed on the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Citizenship Register.

Dependent A child or person who relies on you financially, like your kids or a dependent spouse. This can increase your monthly living allowance.

Distance Education A program of study delivered primarily through remote learning methods, such as online or correspondence instruction, rather than regular in-person classroom attendance.

Exit Interview A short conversation with education staff after you finish your program to talk about how things went and share feedback.

Full-Time Being enrolled in a minimum of 4 courses/12units per academic term or as defined by the institution's standard for full-time enrollment.

Indian Status Registration under the *Indian Act*, administered by the Government of Canada.

Living Allowance Monthly money to help you cover rent, groceries, and other basic living costs while you're a full-time student.

Living at Home You live with your parent(s) or guardian(s) while attending school and do not have full responsibility for your own rent and household expenses.

Living on Own You live independently (not with parents or guardians) and are fully responsible for your own housing, rent, and daily living costs.

Mandatory Fees Fees charged by your school that are required to take your classes — like registration or lab fees. (Does not include optional things like health plans or parking.)

Opt Out The process of choosing not to participate in something, for example, telling your school you don't want the optional health and dental benefits so you won't be charged.

Optional Health and Dental Benefits Health and dental insurance offered through your school.

Part-Time Enrolled in less than a full course load, typically fewer than 4 courses/12 units or as defined by the educational institution.

Practicum A supervised work placement or field experience that forms a required part of an educational program.

Priority Career Program Programs that help build the Government's future, like areas where we need more workers or leaders. These may come with additional support, such as signing bonuses or internships.

Program of Study The approved educational program, training, apprenticeship, or course of study in which a student is enrolled.

Sponsored Student A Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizen who has been approved for education funding through the Department of Huuḥtakšiiḥinʔaała (Education and Youth).

Technology and Equipment Support A one-time amount to help you buy equipment you need for school, like a laptop or internet device.

Treaty Settlement Lands Lands governed by the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government and identified as Treaty Settlement Lands as per the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Tuition The cost your school charges to take classes.

3. Who Can Apply?

You are eligible to apply if you are:

- A citizen
- Enrolled (or planning to enroll) in any of the following:
    - Public postsecondary institutions (preferred)
    - Private accredited institutions (on a case-by-case basis)
    - Distance Education

There are no age limits and no residency requirements. All citizens can apply, whether you live on or off treaty settlement lands.

4. What Types of Support Are Available?

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government offers a wide range of supports to help citizens pursue education and training. You can request support for:

- Tuition and mandatory fees
- Monthly living allowance (based on living at home/living on own, and full-time/part-time enrolment)
- Books and learning supplies

- Travel and relocation costs
- Technology & Equipment Support
- Special clothing or safety gear
- Graduate studies incentive (Master's/PhD)
- Priority Career program top-ups
- Damage deposit assistance
- Non-financial supports like tutoring, or mental health and wellness
- Entrance exams, licensing exams, assessment fees, and preparation materials

Please note: The types of support listed above may not be available in all situations and require an application. Funding amounts, limits, and eligibility requirements are outlined in the Annual Funding Schedule and may change from year to year.

5. When Should You Apply?

- Main application period: January 15 to February 28 (for Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer terms)
- Rolling intake: Accepted year-round for short-term, trades, online, or urgent applications

We encourage you to apply early, even if you don't have everything ready yet.

6. What Do You Need to Submit?

To apply, complete the Application Package and include:

- Completed Education Funding Application Form and any other relevant forms
- Program Acceptance Letter (can be provided at a later date)
- Most Recent Transcript or Skills Assessment
- Letter of Intent - Describe your educational goals, why this program is a good fit, and how it connects to your personal or community growth
- Rental Agreement - if you are living on your own
- Budget form and Dependent documentation (if applicable)
- Optional: Letters of Support from Elders, mentors, teachers, or employers

7. What Happens After You Apply?

- Staff will review your application and contact you if anything is missing.
- Expect to hear back within 30 business days of the deadline or your submission date - it may take a bit longer if we're receiving a lot of applications.
- If you're conditionally approved, please send in required documents to be fully approved.
- If approved, you'll:
  - Get a welcome email and be scheduled for a check-in
  - Be asked to sign a sponsorship agreement
  - Learn about check-ins, reporting, and available supports

If your application isn't approved, you'll have the option to appeal, just make sure to submit it within 30 days, or you can reapply with updated information.

8. While You're a Sponsored Student

You are expected to:

- Stay in touch with the Manager of Education Services
- Submit final grades each term
- Use funding only for approved educational expenses
- Pay your own rent or housing costs using your living allowance

- Reach out if you need help!

If you are registered for, or eligible to be registered for, Indian Status, you may already have health and dental coverage available to you and may choose to opt out of the optional student health and dental plan. If you choose to keep the plan, the cost is your responsibility and is not covered by Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ funding. If you are not eligible to be registered for Indian Status, please contact us to discuss your options.

Staying Eligible for Funding

To keep receiving support during your studies, you'll need to meet a few academic expectations:

- Remain actively enrolled and participating in your approved courses, training, or educational activities full-time.
- Stay in good academic standing with your school.
- Keep a minimum GPA of 2.0 (a C average)
  - If your grades fall below this, you may need to meet with the Manager of Education
  - Your funding might be paused until your grades improve
- First-year students must hand in a monthly progress report signed by their instructors.

Please note: Living allowance and other ongoing supports are available while you are actively participating in your approved program, including required classes, unpaid practicums, unpaid clinical placements, unpaid apprenticeships, field schools, and other mandatory educational activities.

Keep Us Updated

Please let us know as soon as possible if anything changes while you're studying, such as:

- You withdraw from a course or your program.
- You change schools or programs.
- You switch between full-time and part-time studies.
- You move or your living arrangements change.
- You take a leave of absence or your studies are interrupted.

Keeping us informed helps us make sure your funding continues correctly and allows us to support you if your circumstances change.

Retaking a Course? Here's What to Know

Sometimes things don't go as planned, and you may need to retake a course. Here's how funding works in those situations:

- The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government will not normally cover tuition a second time for the same course.
- If you had to withdraw from a required course for medical or compassionate reasons, you can repeat it and tuition will be covered
- If you've experienced exceptional circumstances, reach out to the Department of Huuḥtakšiiḥinʔaała to discuss your situation.

Withdrawing from a Course or Program

Thinking About Withdrawing?

If you're considering dropping a course or leaving your program, please connect with the Manager of Education first. This helps us support you and make sure you understand how it may affect your funding.

- Always talk to the Manager of Education before withdrawing, leaving without notice could lead to a pause in your funding.

- Reach out to your campus advisor or counsellor before making changes to your schedule. They can help you think through your options.
- If you're unsure or feeling overwhelmed, just reach out. We're here to support you.

Medical or Compassionate Withdrawals

We understand that sometimes life happens, your health, mental wellness, or family circumstances might make it hard to continue your studies. If this happens, you may be eligible for a medical or compassionate withdrawal. Here's what you need to know:

- You'll need a note from a doctor explaining how your health affected your ability to stay in school.
- If it's related to mental health or emotional wellness, you can provide a letter from a counsellor, psychologist, or other mental health professional.
- You can apply for up to one full semester off through a medical or compassionate withdrawal.

9. After You Graduate

We encourage you to:

- Complete an exit interview to share feedback
- Explore opportunities to give back (mentorship, Government-based work, etc.)

If you studied in a Priority Career Program, you may be eligible for:

- A signing bonus if you return to work with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government
- Paid internship/practicum opportunities
- Relocation support
- Degree completion bonus

10. Funding Guidelines and Maximums

Program Duration Limits

Funding is generally available for the following lengths:

PROGRAM TYPE	MAXIMUM DURATION
Indigenous College Prep / Access Programs	1 year
Certificate Programs	Up to 1 year
Diploma Programs	2 years
Bachelor's Degree	4 years
Master's Degree	2 years
PhD / Doctoral Studies	Up to 5 years

Students with disabilities, part-time schedules, or exceptional circumstances may request extended timelines.

Need Help?

We're here to support you every step of the way. If you have questions or need help with your application, please contact:

Department of Huuḥtakšiiḥinʔaała – Education and Youth
Jennifer Touchie – Manager of Education Services
education@ufn.ca
250-726-7342
PO Box 699, Ucluelet, BC, V0R3A0

You can also visit our office in Hitaču at 700 Wya Rd or connect by phone (250-726-7342) or via Zoom (by request).

POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT
ANNUAL FUNDING SCHEDULE

Annual Funding Schedule (2026–27)

The Annual Funding Schedule sets out the approved rates, maximum caps, and limits for all education supports under the *Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Postsecondary Support Policy*.

This schedule is reviewed and approved annually by the Director and may be adjusted if budget conditions or program priorities change.

Tuition & Program Fees

SUPPORT	RATE/MAXIMUM	NOTES
Tuition	Actual eligible cost	Paid directly to the institution, or reimbursed to student with receipt
Mandatory Program Fees	Actual eligible cost	Must be required for participation or completion Paid directly to the institution, or reimbursed to student with receipt
Registration Fees	Actual eligible cost	Where required by institution Paid directly to the institution, or reimbursed to student with receipt

Books & Learning Supplies

SUPPORT TYPE	RATE/MAXIMUM	NOTES
Books & Supplies	$150 per course	Higher for high-cost programs (e.g., Early Childhood Education, Nursing, etc) with proof.
Special Materials Request	Up to $500 per academic year	Program requirement letter required.

Living Allowance Rates

LIVING SITUATION	BASE RATE	DEPENDENT ADD-ON	NOTES
Single student living at home	$1,300	+$200 per dependent (up to $800)	Requires confirmation of dependents each year.
Single student living on own	$2,500	+$200 per dependent (up to $800)	Proof of rental or residence required. Requires confirmation of dependents each year.

Part-Time Living Allowance Rates

COURSE LOAD (% OF FULL-TIME)	LIVING AT HOME	LIVING ON OWN Proof of rental or residence required.
75% course load	$975	$1875
50% course load	$650	$1250

Travel & Relocation

SUPPORT TYPE	MAXIMUM	FREQUENCY	NOTES
Relocation Grant	Up to $500	One-time per credential	For students moving communities to attend school.
Return Travel (Home Connection)	Up to $250	Once per term	For students moving communities to attend school. Must provide confirmation of travel

Rental Damage Deposit	50% of one month's rent up to $1000	Once per credential	Receipt required.

Special Clothing & Equipment

ITEM TYPE	MAXIMUM	NOTES
Safety gear/uniforms/special clothing	$300 per semester	Program requirement letter required.
Exceptional tools or equipment	$600 per semester	Program requirement letter required and Director approval.

Technology & Equipment Support

SUPPORT TYPE	MAXIMUM	FREQUENCY	NOTES
Laptop, tablet, software, printer, etc.	$500 per credential	One-time	Receipt required for reimbursement

Graduate Studies Incentive

CREDENTIALS	INCENTIVE	PAYMENT DATE	NOTES
Master's Degree	$500	End of each semester	Must be in good standing. Funding is available only to students enrolled in classes during that semester.
Doctoral (PhD)	$750	End of each semester	Must be in good standing Funding is available only to students enrolled in classes during that semester.

Priority Career Program Supports

CATEGORY	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	CONDITIONS
Priority Career Program Student	Up to $500 monthly top-up	Program must be approved for fiscal year.
Completion Bonus	$1,000	Paid upon successful completion of the credential (e.g., Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD) and submission of official transcripts verifying graduation. Not issued annually.
Employment Return Incentive	$2,000	Issued after the employee has completed a minimum of one year of continuous employment with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government in a role related to their completed program of study. Payment processed following employment verification.

Tutoring & Academic Support

SUPPORT TYPE	MAXIMUM RATE	NOTES
Private Tutor	$30/hour	Proof of need and tutor info required.

Notes:

- All financial supports are subject to annual review, budget approval and availability

POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ

SECTION A: APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Full Legal Name:		**Student #**	
Preferred Name (if different):		Date of Birth:	
Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Citizen?:	☐ Yes ☐ No	SIN:	
Email:		Phone:	
Mailing address:			
City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Gender:	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Prefer to self-describe _____ ☐ Prefer not to say		
Do you have a disability that may require accommodation under this policy?	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Have you attached supporting disability documentation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable		
Marital Status:	☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Common-law ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced		
Do you have any dependents?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please list below		

Name:	Birth Date:	Gender:
		☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Two-Spirit ☐ Other:
		☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Two-Spirit ☐ Other:
		☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Two-Spirit ☐ Other:
		☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Two-Spirit ☐ Other:

SECTION B: PROGRAM INFORMATION			
Program Name:			
Start Date:		End Date:	
Program Level:	☐ Indigenous College Preparatory / Access Programs ☐ Certificate ☐ Diploma ☐ Bachelor's ☐ Master's ☐ PhD ☐ Trades		
How many years is the program?	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ Other (please specify):___	What year are you in?	☐ First Year ☐ Second Year ☐ Third Year ☐ Fourth Year ☐ Other (please specify):___
Institution Name:			
Institution Type:	☐ Public ☐ Private (accredited) ☐ Other (describe):		
Semesters:	☐ Fall (September – December) ☐ Winter (January – April) ☐ Spring (May – June) ☐ Summer (July – August)		

Enrolled in	☐ Full-time Studies ☐ Part-time Studies
Mode of Study	☐ In-person ☐ Online ☐ Hybrid (Online & In-person)
Student Type	☐ New ☐ Continuing ☐ Returning

SECTION C: EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

What is the highest level of education you have completed? List any courses, certificates, diplomas, bachelor's, master's, and PhDs that you have completed up to this point.	
For the _____ funding year, I plan to complete the following courses/program:	
Financial Support Requested:	☐ Tuition and Mandatory Fees ☐ Living Allowance ☐ Books & Supplies ☐ Math and/or English Assessment Fees

Letter of Intent (please provide as much detail as possible and add additional pages as needed):

SECTION D: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

To apply for education funding, please provide the following:

- Completed **Education Funding Application Form** and any other relevant forms
- **Program Acceptance Letter** (Can be provided at a later date)
- Most Recent **Transcript** and/or **Skills Assessment**
- **Letter of Intent** – Describe your educational goals, why this program is a good fit, and how it connects to your personal or community growth
- **Dependent documentation** (if applicable)
- Optional: **Letters of Support** from Elders, mentors, teachers, or employers

SECTION E: DECLARATION		
I declare that the information I have provided in this application is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false or misleading information may affect my eligibility for education support.		
Applicant Signature:	Date:	
Received by (office use)		
Name:	Signature:	Date:

Please submit your application by:

Mail:
PO Box 699
Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

In Person:
c̓ixʷatin Centre
700 Wya Rd, hitac̓u, BC
or
hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office
3203 3rd Ave, Port Alberni, BC

Fax:
(250) 726-7552

Email:
education@ufn.ca