



SUBJECT	Tuition Bachelor of Nl̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency, UBC Okanagan
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 22, 2021
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
ACTION REQUESTED	APPROVAL REQUESTED IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition of \$187.23 per credit for domestic students and \$1,371.88 per credit for international students for the Bachelor of Nl̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency program at UBC Okanagan, in alignment with current tuition for the Bachelor of Arts, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President pro tem, UBC Okanagan
SUPPORTED BY	Dale Mullings, Associate Vice-President Students, UBC Okanagan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In direct alignment with [strategy 17 on Indigenous Engagement](#) from UBC's strategic plan, the Bachelor of Nl̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency (BNLEK), approved by the Okanagan Senate on January 27 2022, is intended to create new speakers in communities whose languages are critically threatened. Indigenous languages are under threat almost everywhere in the world. In Canada, over 50 languages are under threat. British Columbia has an extraordinarily rich linguistic heritage, being the ancestral home of more than half of the Indigenous languages of Canada; of the 10 genetically distinct language families in Canada, seven are found in BC. All of the 34 extant First Nations languages of BC are critically endangered, many facing the loss of their last generation of fluent speakers within the next decade.

Indigenous communities know very well how deeply intertwined language and culture are, and understand how language loss marks a crucial threshold in the compounding consequences of colonization. Communities and their institutions, along with collaborators in the wider education system, have been working to find innovative ways to sustain and revitalize language traditions, restore language competence, and protect the knowledge of their communities.

Upon the successful completion of the 63 credit hours of coursework required for the foundation Diploma in Nl̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency from NVIT (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), the BNLEK at UBC Okanagan requires an additional 63 credit hours of coursework.

The proposed tuition for the BNLEK program is in accordance with the current tuition for the Bachelors of Arts; which for 2021-2022 is \$187.23/credit for domestic students and \$1,371.88/credit for international students.

Consultation with students consisted of one face-to-face meeting with the Students' Union Executive, at which all program information was shared. The Executive responded positively to the proposal and no concerns.

Upon approval of UBC's Board of Governors, the program will be submitted for Ministry approval for implementation in 2023-2024.

APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report



Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Bachelor of Nte?kepmx Language Fluency (Okanagan)

Anticipated Start Date: September 2023

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$187.23	\$1,371.88
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$73.00	\$123.00
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00

Note 1 – Proposed tuition reflects approved 2021/22 tuition for the Bachelor of Arts program and will be subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with the Bachelor of Arts program leading up to the program’s launch. In recent years, tuition increases have been 2% for continuing domestic students and between 2% and 5% for continuing international students.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2022W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.



Bachelor of Nłeʔkepmx Language Fluency (BNLEK) Tuition Consultation Report

The University would like to gather your comments on the tuition for a proposed Bachelor of Nłeʔkepmx Language Fluency. Below you will find:

- instructions to provide feedback
- an overview of the program
- the proposed tuition

Instructions

We are seeking comments from individual students and student organisations on campus. Please review and distribute the information below as you deem appropriate.

All comments should be sent to Michelle.Lowton@ubc.ca by March 1st, 2022.

If you have any questions about this consultation process, please contact the AVP Students Office:
Michelle.Lowton@ubc.ca.

Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students), and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students) know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation. Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible Faculties and the Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and the Board of Governors as received.

Program Overview

Indigenous languages are under threat almost everywhere in the world. In Canada over 50 languages are under threat. British Columbia has an extraordinarily rich linguistic heritage, being the ancestral home of more than half of the Indigenous languages of Canada; of the 10 genetically distinct language families in Canada, 7 of these are found in BC. All of the 34 extant First Nations languages of BC are critically endangered, many facing the loss of their last generation of fluent speakers within the next decade.

Indigenous communities know very well how deeply intertwined language and culture are, and understand how language loss marks a crucial threshold in the compounding consequences of colonization. Communities and their institutions along with their collaborators in the wider education system have been working to find innovative ways to sustain and revitalize language traditions, restore language competence, and protect the knowledge of their communities.



The Bachelor of Nt̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency is intended to create new speakers in communities whose languages are critically threatened. Upon the successful completion of the 63 credit hours of coursework required for the foundation Diploma in Nt̓eʔkepmx Language Fluency from NVIT (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), the BNLEK requires 63-credit hours of coursework as follows:

- 12 immersive language courses (3 credits each)
- 1 capstone course (6 credits)
- 4 language revitalization courses (3 credits each)
- 3 other required courses on Indigenous methodology, composition, and a summer course to support students' transition to university (3 credits each)

Tuition

The tuition for the proposed BNLEK program is in accordance with the current tuition for the Bachelors of Arts; which for 2021/22 is \$187.23/credit for domestic students and \$1,371.88/credit for international students. Tuition is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors. In recent years, tuition increases have been 2% for continuing domestic students and between 2% and 5% for continuing international students.

Consultation summary

An invitation for feedback regarding this new program and related tuition and fees was circulated to the UBC Student Union Okanagan, as well as Indigenous Programs and Services, and the faculty to disseminate. Interested parties were notified that they are able to submit their feedback in multiple ways, including written, oral, audio files, and if necessary could be received and translated. The option to attend an online consultation was sent out in early February and a session was scheduled for February 11th at 11am on Zoom. The zoom session was attended by Dr. Mike Evans, Dale Mullings, Michelle Lowton and Tashia Kootenayoo, SUO President.

Several questions were raised by Tashia Kootenayoo and both the questions and answers are outlined below:

Is it possible to waive fees for registration for Indigenous students to attend this program?	Yes, it is possible to waive the registration fees for this program, which will be coordinated with the support of Indigenous Programs & Services.
There is a lot of stakeholders from community, is that consultative process?	Yes, stakeholders have consulted on the cohort program that leads to this degree program, and Indigenous Programs and Services has reached out to Nt̓eʔkepmx students, specifically an undergraduate student and one medical student at UBCO. We encouraged students to provide feedback in any way they are comfortable, including opportunities in-person, through written communication, and audio files. We are also able to offer translation services.
Will settlers be included in these classes and cohorts? Would a settler be able to take this course as an elective? In order to maintain cultural safety we need to consider this.	Whether settler or Indigenous students, it is not possible to take these courses as electives. Students must be admitted to the program and have attended the program through the cohort model.