

First Peoples

in the Université du Québec network

Quebec is home to more than 140,000 aboriginal persons.¹ Nearly three-quarters of these individuals live in rural communities in regions served by Université du Québec (UQ) institutions. This proximity has led many of these network institutions to form strong ties with the First Peoples, whose 11 aboriginal and Inuit nations are represented in the network's student body.



Some 600 aboriginal students attend UQ institutions every year,² 10% of which are enrolled in graduate level programs. A number of network establishments have developed customized training programs that take into account the needs of this aboriginal clientele, particularly with regard to support and supervision. Over the last decade, nearly 1,000 aboriginal students have earned degrees from UQ.

The UQ network makes a significant contribution to research into issues of concern to the First Peoples. Its researchers carry out a third of Quebec's university research into these aboriginal issues, in the humanities and social sciences as well as the natural sciences and engineering. Previously considered subjects of study, aboriginal people are now frequently collaborators and co-researchers in the network's research projects.

Some one hundred UQ researchers work on aboriginal subjects. In addition to the 95 projects currently underway, 218 research projects on aboriginal issues were carried out within the network between 1999 and 2011. The total value of these projects amounts to \$17.4 million.

1. Statistics Canada, *National Household Survey*, 2011.

2. This figure does not include aboriginal students not living on a reserve located in Quebec at the time of their initial admission or who have not reported themselves as aboriginal students at their institutions.

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC

The mission of Université du Québec's ten institutions is to promote access to higher education while contributing scientific advancement and regional development across Quebec. Today, some 96,000 students enroll every fall in the over 750 programmes offered by the institutions in the Université du Québec network. The network's 6,900 professors and lecturers and 4,100 permanent employees administer day-to-day teaching and research activities in over 60 municipalities throughout the province.

Université du Québec à Montréal (**UQAM**) / Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (**UQTR**) / Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (**UQAC**) /

Université du Québec à Rimouski (**UQAR**) / Université du Québec en Outaouais (**UQO**) / Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (**UQAT**) /

Institut national de la recherche scientifique (**INRS**) / École nationale d'administration publique (**ENAP**) / École de technologie supérieure (**ÉTS**) /

Télé-université (**TÉLUQ**)



Université du Québec

www.uquebec.ca

involvement

The student bodies of all Université du Québec institutions include aboriginal students. The more active among them include service centers.



UQAC

Involvement in aboriginal communities

	UQAM	UQTR	UQAC	UQAR	UQO	UQAT	INRS	ENAP	ÉTS	TÉLUQ
Aboriginal student training	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Research projects into aboriginal issues	Number	47	15	24	13	11	46	48	13	1
	Amount (\$M)	4,2	1,3	1,7	0,8	0,3	2,8	5	0,7	0,6
DIALOG network partner		☒					☒	Coordinator		
Aboriginal service center		☒		☒		☒	☒			

Source: Websites of UQ network institutions and SIRU data for 1999–2011.

UQAM

UQAM works with aboriginal persons living in urban areas. It offers a variety of courses that address their reality. The institution is also home to a Canada Research Chair in the Aboriginal Land Question, and its professors work on various aspects of the aboriginal world [e.g., First Nations living conditions, ethnohistory, culture, the notion of the North, social transformation, religious traditions, ecosystem-based forest management, governance, joint management, law]. Professor Lynn Drapeau has published the first modern grammar of the Innu language.

UQAC

For nearly 25 years, UQAC has provided aboriginal students with a place of welcome, support, and consultation through Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite (CPNN). This structure, officially recognized in 1991, allows UQAC to fulfill one of its main mandates, which is to provide university education to the aboriginal community. It can also help develop research by taking into account the specific needs of members of First Nations communities. UQAC also works with aboriginal communities in the Côte-Nord region through its Centre d'études universitaires de Sept-Îles.

UQAM – Le Cercle des Premières Nations

The Cercle brings together non-native and aboriginal students and acts as a resource and assistance center and meeting place for everyone interested in the culture and realities of the First Nations. Its mandate is threefold:

- Support aboriginal students while helping them integrate;
- Promote aboriginal culture within the UQAM community;
- Establish ties of friendship and cooperation between aboriginal and non-aboriginal members.

<http://cpn.uqam.ca>

UQAC – Le Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite

Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite (CPNN) serves both an administrative and educational role. Over the past years, it has developed partnerships with aboriginal communities who turn to UQAC for their adult education needs. CPNN continues to expand across northeastern Quebec. Every year, some 300 students enrolled in its programs find the information and educational support they need at CPNN to successfully complete their studies in harmony with their culture.

www.uqac.ca/nikanite/



Antoine Devouard

UQO

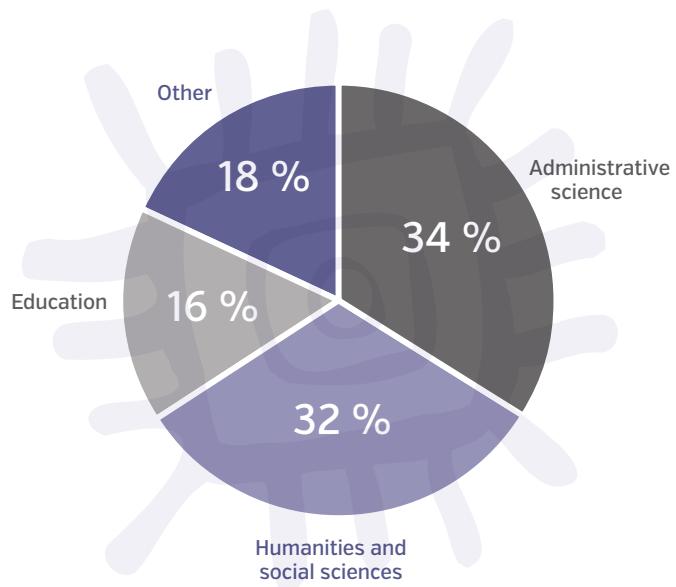
UQO offers online courses on First Peoples issues and is home to the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Governance of Territory. Its professors work on a variety of themes related to First Peoples: political and cultural demands, paternity and social work in aboriginal communities, hydroelectric development, and labor relation regulations in these communities.

UQO – L'Amicale autochtone

L'Amicale is a group created in 2010 by an administrative sciences student proud of his Algonquian origins. Open to members of the First Peoples, the Métis of Canada, aboriginal persons from other countries, and non-aboriginal persons alike, L'Amicale offers networking and exchange opportunities and aims to help transmit the knowledge of aboriginal peoples. In addition to enriching communication between its students within the institution, L'Amicale initiated the Aboriginal Day celebrations held on the Gatineau campus over the last three years.

amicale.autochtone@uqo.ca

Degrees granted to aboriginal students by UQ network institutions by field of study



UQAT

Since 1984, UQAT has been developing training specifically tailored to the needs of the First Peoples. It now welcomes some one hundred aboriginal students a year. UQAT is the only university in Quebec that makes the First Peoples central to its institutional mission, dedicating one of the six key points of its 2015–2020 Development Plan to this community. The university also reserves a place for an aboriginal representative on its board of directors. The partnerships developed with the First Peoples include Unité de recherche, de formation et de développement en milieu inuit et amérindien (URFDEMIA) and the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Forestry.

UQAT – First Peoples Services

UQAT is the only university in Quebec and in eastern Canada to offer specialized support services to aboriginal students. Most of the staff of this service is bilingual and aboriginal. It takes a holistic approach, meaning it is centered on people and their physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional needs. With its many personalized services and motivated and approachable staff, it ensures aboriginal students on the Val-d'Or campus have a truly enjoyable university experience.

www.uqat.ca/services/premierspeuples/

INRS

UQAM

UQAT

DIALOG The aboriginal research and knowledge network

Forging ties with the First Peoples is central to the mission of the DIALOG international aboriginal research and knowledge network. Three institutions are involved in DIALOG, including INRS, which acts as coordinator. DIALOG aims to develop a better understanding of aboriginal experiences and relations between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. It builds on knowledge co-construction and takes into account the needs, perspectives, and approaches of aboriginal peoples in matters of research and public policy.

DIALOG encourages the distribution and advancement of university research in the spirit of partnership and collaboration by:

- Organizing knowledge exchange and sharing activities between academic and aboriginal communities;
- Writing research summaries and knowledge reviews on a variety of topical subjects;

- The movement of aboriginal researchers and partners for university education, knowledge sharing, and exchange;

- Inviting researchers from outside Quebec for residencies.

DIALOG provides support to university students at all levels in the form of:

- Scholarships of excellence for Masters and PhD candidates;
- Distribution and mobility stipends for graduate students;
- Training internships in aboriginal communities and in DIALOG laboratories at INRS and UQAT;
- Multiple networking opportunities through DIALOG activities.

www.reseaudialog.qc.ca

