

Education Grant Policy

Approved by Chief & Council: May 12, 2021



Table of Contents

1. Policy Purposes	3
2. Definitions.....	3
3. Eligibility Criteria.....	5
4. Grant Limits, Considerations and Funding Priorities.....	5
Limits and Restrictions	5
Funding Considerations	7
Program Priorities	7
5. Application Process	8
Required Documentation	8
Deadlines.....	9
6. Grant Terms.....	9
Funding Suspension	9
Fraud	10
Consequences of Withdrawal.....	10
Support for Living Expenses.....	11
Books and Supplies	11
Tutoring.....	11
Examination Fees	12
7. Appeal Process.....	12
8. Review and Amendment	12
9. Coming into Force.....	12
Appendix A: Schedule of Monthly Living Allowance	13
Education Grant Application Forms.....	14

1. Policy Purposes

The Education Grant Policy is intended to guide the allocation of education funds to eligible ACFN members in a fair and transparent process. It applies to students attending an approved accredited college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary educational institution.

2. Definitions

In this Policy:

“Academic Year” means the academic year normally refers to two semesters with an approximate duration of eight (8) months.

“Books and Supplies” are the resources or books required by a "Student" to participate in a course offered by an Educational Institution.

“Chief and Council” means the governing body of the "First Nation" duly elected in accordance with the "First Nation's" customary election laws then in force.

“Compassionate Reasons” means pertaining to the death, incapacitating illness or serious accident of an immediate family member and approved at the discretion of the education coordinator.

“Dependent” means a person who is 18 years of age or younger or a person who is 18 years of age or older and who, for diagnosed medical reasons, cannot live independently and is wholly dependent on the "Student" who is their parent or legal guardian.

“Dependent Spouse” means a person who is married to or living in a common law relationship with the “Student” and who, for diagnosed medical reasons, is unable to work in any gainful occupation.

“Educational Institution” means an eligible educational institution offering higher education beyond high school. It is any accredited college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary educational institution.

“Education Coordinator” means a person employed by ACFN who implements the Grants to students.

“First Nation” means the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

“Fraud” means any act expression, omission or concealment calculated to deceive the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation to its disadvantage and carried out for the purpose of achieving personal gain.

"Full-Time Student" means a student enrolled in a program at an accredited educational institution and takes a minimum of three (3) classes or nine (9) credits per semester in their area of study or Two (2) courses or minimum of six (6) credits, during spring/summer semester regardless of year of study.

"Grant" means an amount of funding provided to a "Student" subject to the terms and conditions outlined in this "Policy" for the purposes of defraying, in whole or in part, the costs associated with "Books", "Living Expenses" or "Tuition".

"Living Expenses" means the amounts required by the "Student" to cover the costs of housing, food, daycare, and other necessities of life for the "Student", any "Dependents" and/or a "Dependent Spouse". Amounts listed in Appendix A.

"Medical Reasons" means a serious illness or injury in which the student will be absent from classes for more than one week. The student is required to provide the Education Coordinator with a note or certificate from the doctor or medical institution that provided details of the illness or reason for absence from classes.

"Member" means a person who has been recognized as a "Member" by the "First Nation" pursuant to the applicable Membership Code in force.

"Outside of Canada" studies will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if attending a Canadian approved Institution and is based on program of study and funding availability.

"Part-Time Student" means a student enrolled in an accredited educational program, who takes two (2) courses or six (6) credits (or less) in each semester, regardless of year of study.

"Post-Secondary Education" means a program of studies, offered by a post-secondary institution, for which completion of high school studies or its equivalent is a pre-requisite.

"Policy" means this Education Grant Policy.

"Student" means a "Member" who is enrolled in or who has been accepted to enroll in a program of study at an accredited Educational Institution.

"Semester" means part of the academic year, as defined by the post-secondary institution. The duration is usually four months (Fall, Winter, Summer).

"Tuition" is the amount of the fees charged by an "Educational Institution" to enroll in a program of study leading to a certificate, trade, diploma, or degree.

"University and College Entrance Preparation (UCEP)" is a program that prepared students to enter a post-secondary institution.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Funding is not always guaranteed. Eligibility to be considered for funding does not guarantee that an individual will be approved to receive support. To be eligible for funding the following must be met:

1. Be a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.
2. Be a student accepted into or enrolled into an academic institution.
3. Attending an Accredited Educational Institution. Approved institutions can be found at the following website: [List of designated educational institutions - Canada.ca](#)
4. Provide all documents, records, and releases required and requested by the Education Coordinator including providing copies of transcripts at the end of each academic year.
5. Only fully completed application packages received before the application deadlines will be considered:
 - Completed Application Form
 - Letter of Acceptance from an Approved Educational Institution
 - Recent Transcripts
 - Student Funding Contract
 - Statement of Intent
 - Clear Copy of Treaty/Status Card
 - Clear Copy of Dependent(s) Alberta Healthcare Card(s)
 - Marriage Certificate or Declaration of Common-Law Marriage
 - Funding Denial Letter from Athabasca Tribal Council's Post-Secondary Program
6. The student must apply to Athabasca Tribal Council's Post-Secondary Program before applying to the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

4. Grant Limits, Considerations and Funding Priorities

Limits and Restrictions

Grants are subject to the following limits and restrictions:

- (a) The amount of the living allowance is set out in Appendix A.
- (b) Funding from year to year is not guaranteed to any student.

- (c) The number of grants available in any given year is contingent on the program budget approved by the Chief and Council for that year.
- (d) Grants will not be awarded for schooling provided by Provincial education authorities or for attendance at a private school.
- (e) Grants are only provided for program of studies, offered by a post-secondary institution, for which completion of high school studies or its equivalent is a pre-requisite.
- (f) Travel allowance is not provided.
- (g) Students will be provided “supplies” if deemed necessary by the Educational Institution.
- (h) Fees for applying to academic institutions are not provided; however, the fees may be reimbursed if the student receives a grant.
- (i) Fees for transcripts required to apply to academic institutions are not provided; however, the fees may be reimbursed if the student receives a grant.
- (j) Tuition & fee support will not be provided for health and dental plans offered by the Educational Institute.
- (k) Financial support will not be provided for a dependent(s)’ school supplies, computers, or related hardware and software.
- (l) Financial support is not provided for professional fees, protective equipment, union fees, safety tickets.
- (m) Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is not responsible for the reimbursement of student loans, books, tuition, or any expenses incurred by students prior to being sponsored by ACFN. Reimbursements may be considered, if the student completes a funding application within the deadlines and if funding is available.

Funding Considerations

The following is a list of the priorities and criteria used to determine successful grant applications:

- (a) Grants are provided for post-secondary schooling related to advancement in current employment or to increase the student's employability.
- (b) Preference will be given to students who are pursuing an educational path and have the desire to work, provided services that will benefit the First Nation (for example, engaging in studies to complete a degree in medicine with the goal of providing physician services to the community of Fort Chipewyan).
- (c) Preference may be given to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance in prior courses of study.
- (d) Preference may be given to students who show initiative in funding their own educational goals by saving money for school, obtaining student loans, or obtaining academic awards or bursaries.
- (e) Grants are provided to assist a student in successfully graduating from a program of study. A student who has not completed courses of study in the past, has failed to maintain academic standing at an Educational Institution, or who has not demonstrated the degree of maturity or commitment to successfully graduate will not generally qualify for a grant.
- (f) Grant allocation preference will be provided to students with full-time status.
- (g) Grants will be provided primarily for tuition and books. Only in exceptional circumstances will funding be provided for living expenses.

Program Priorities

Priorities for approval of applications are based on the following categories:

- (a) **1st Priority: Currently Funded Students**
Continuing from the past to current academic year without a break in studies.
- (b) **2nd Priority:** Students who just completed their High School Diploma and/or requirements to receive acceptance into an educational institution.

- (c) **3rd Priority: UCEP (Pre-Tech.)**
Upgrading/trade students who can complete their diploma or acquire the necessary prerequisites to enter an approved post-secondary program within two semesters.
- (d) **4th Priority: New Post-Secondary Students**
Students who have met college or university academic requirements and are accepted into a program of studies by an approved post-secondary institution.
- (e) **5th Priority: Reimbursement** Students who are requesting reimbursement of books and tuition upon successful completion of course (s).
- (f) **6th Priority: Probation**
Students who are returning after completion of a suspension period due to unapproved withdrawal or termination by institute and/or Post-Secondary Education Counselor.

5. Application Process

Fully complete the application process and return to the Education Coordinator before the deadline. Incomplete or late applications without required supporting documents will be immediately denied for the semester.

Required Documentation

- Completed Application Form
- Letter of Acceptance from an Approved Educational Institution
- Recent Transcripts
- Student Funding Contract
- Statement of Intent
- Clear Copy of Treaty/Status Card
- Clear Copy of Dependent(s) Alberta Healthcare Card(s)
- Marriage Certificate or Declaration of Common-Law Marriage

The Education Coordinator may require the student to provide additional information or documentation, such as transcripts, confirmation of enrolment or acceptance, among others, for consideration in the application process.

Applications are only valid in the fiscal year in which the application has been submitted. Any student who applies for but does not receive a grant may re-apply the next fiscal year.

A Student who has applied for a grant shall be notified in writing by the Education Coordinator regarding the outcome of their application.

Deadlines

Semester Start Date	Intake Deadline
September	June 15th
January	November 30th
May-August	March 31st

6. Grant Terms

- (a) The student must ensure that the Education Coordinator has their current mailing address, telephone number(s), email address, and bank account information for any year in which a grant has been provided to the student.
- (b) The student must promptly advise the Education Coordinator if they withdraw from a program or of any change in full time status.
- (c) The student must maintain the overall minimum grade point average required in their program according to the rules and regulations of the Educational Institution and must provide the Education Coordinator with a copy of their transcript at the end of each semester that the grant was provided.
- (d) Gain credits for at least 75% of their course load in each semester.
- (e) Due two weeks prior to first day of class the student will provide, to the Education Coordinator:
 - Tuition & Fee Assessment
 - Courses
 - Timetables

Funding Suspension

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation will suspend payments when:

- (a) The student and/or institution has provided a notice of withdrawal or suspension from the program.

- (b) Changes academic status from full-time to part-time.
 - (c) The student fails to gain credits for at least 75% of their course load in each semester.
- Students, who find themselves in any of the above situations, must notify the Education Coordinator immediately.

Fraud

If a student is suspected of committing fraud, all funding will be suspended until the student can provide evidence to the contrary. If a student is found to have committed a fraudulent act all assistance provided to the student will be terminated. The student will be ineligible to reapply for a grant for two academic years following the year in which the fraudulent activity occurred. Fraudulent acts include the following, but are not limited to, the list below:

- (a) Claiming dependent(s) who do not reside with the student.
- (b) Continue to collect living allowances after the student has withdrawn from school.
- (c) Claiming children in the care of Social Services as dependents for the purpose of acquiring additional funding.
- (d) Failure to notify the Education Coordinator of a change in academic status from full-time to part-time while continuing to collect monthly living allowances as a full-time student.
- (e) Claiming and receiving funding as single parent with dependent(s) while residing with a spouse (married or common-law).

Consequences of Withdrawal

- (a) It is the students' responsibility to give notice to the post-secondary institution and the Education Coordinator of their withdrawal from school.
- (b) If the withdrawal is deemed to be for medical or compassionate reasons, the student can reapply the following semester.
- (c) If the student withdraws from a program and there is no medical or compassionate reason, the student will not be able to apply for two years.
- (d) If the student withdraws for a second time and there is no medical or compassionate reason, they may be suspended indefinitely from future educational support.

Support for Living Expenses

- (a) The support for living expenses is expected to cover such costs as food, shelter, and daily transportation. Please refer to Appendix A for a schedule of living allowance subsidies.
- (b) Living allowance subsidies will be paid in Canadian dollars regardless of the location of the institution.
- (c) Where two applicants are married to each other or are common-law and have no dependents, the living allowance subsidy for each will be calculated as a married/common-law student. Where two applicants are married to each other or are common-law and have dependents, one of them will be designated as a married/common-law student with dependents; the other will be designated as a single student.
- (d) Living allowance subsidies are direct deposited to the students' bank accounts normally three banking days prior to month end for the following month.
- (e) Each student must provide a personal void cheque or bank account information prior to the program start date for the direct deposit of living allowance subsidies. Students without an active bank account will have their cheques mailed on the target deposit dates.
- (f) No cheques will be couriered to students or deposited on their behalf by employees of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

Books and Supplies

- (a) Assistance for books and supplies will normally cover textbooks and supplies officially listed by the Academic Institution for a student's program of studies.
- (b) The amount for books and supplies is identified in the fee assessment.
- (c) All invoices for books and supplies will be paid out in Canadian funds (the student is responsible for covering all differences that may arise due to foreign exchange rates).

Tutoring

Tutoring may be provided to students having difficulty in a specific course of study, pending availability of funds. To access support for tutoring, the student must provide the following information to the Education Coordinator:

- (a) A Letter from the instructor of the course explaining: why the tutor is required, the number of tutoring hours recommended.

- (b) A quote from the tutor indicating the start and completion date of tutoring, and hourly rate.

Examination Fees

Examination fees, which are required for entrance into professional and accredited programs may be reimbursed. These include the LSAT, MCAT, DATS and CA examinations. Any exam not listed may be discussed with the Education Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

7. Appeal Process

To ensure fairness and equitable treatment, the following appeal process may be used if a student is unsatisfied with a decision made by the Education Coordinator.

- (a) The student must file the appeal in writing within two weeks (post marked) of the situation that the student feels justified to appeal. This letter must be sent to the Chief Operating Officer (CEO).
- (b) The appeal letter should be detailed in explaining the issue/problem with specific reference to the section of the Education Grant Policy that is disputed.

A written response will be sent to the appealing student within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the Chief Executive Officer's decision. The CEO's decision will be final. The appealing student will be notified in writing within seven days (7) of the CEO's decision.





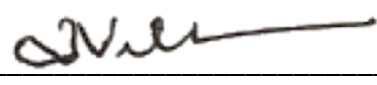
8. Review and Amendment

This Education Grant Policy may be reviewed, amended, or discontinued by the Chief and Council at any time without notice to Members.

9. Coming into Force

This Education Grant Policy is approved by the Chief and Council and effective as of the signing date set out below:

Herby Enacted by Council at a duly convened meeting held on the 12 Day of May 2021.

	
_____ Councillor Tim Flett	_____ Chief Allan Adam
	
_____ Councillor Flossie Cyprean	_____ Councillor Hazel Mercredi
	
	_____ Councillor Teri Villebrun

Appendix A: Schedule of Monthly Living Allowance


Category	Monthly Allowance
Single student living with parents	\$750.00
Single student /Married/common law student with working spouse	\$1,250.00
Single parents: With 1 dependent With 2 dependents With 3 dependents <i>\$75.00 per month for each additional dependent</i>	\$1,350.00 \$1,550.00 \$1,750.00
Sponsored student through Athabasca Tribal Council	Rates will be used to top up student living allowances provided by ATC. Proof must be provided.

"Dependent" means a person who is 18 years of age or younger or a person who is 18 years of age or older and who, for diagnosed medical reasons, cannot live independently and is wholly dependent on the "Student" who is their parent or legal guardian.

Education Grant Application Forms

- 1) Completed Application Form (8 pages total)
- 2) Authorization to Release: Enrollment, Academic, & Residential Information
- 3) Student Funding Contract
- 4) Statement of Intent
- 5) Direct Deposit Information

Other Supporting Documentation Required

- 1) Letter of Acceptance from an Approved Educational Institution
 - 2) Recent Transcripts
 - 3) Clear Copy of Treaty/Status Card
 - 4) Clear Copy of Dependent(s) Alberta Healthcare Card(s)
 - 5) Marriage Certificate or Declaration of Common-Law Marriage
 - 6) Funding Denial Letter from Athabasca Tribal Council's Post-Secondary Program
- 



**APPLICATION FOR EDUCATION GRANT
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION EDUCATION GRANT POLICY**

Name of Member/Student		
Address		
Email Address		
Telephone Numbers	Home:	
	Work:	
	Cell:	
Treaty Number		
What is your age?		
Have you received an education grant from ACFN in the past?	Year:	
	Program:	
	Institution:	
	Completed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
What is the year in which you graduated from high school?		
What is the total amount of the Grant applied for?	\$	
What is the Grant For? Fill in the amount for each category	Tuition \$	
	Books \$	
	Living Expenses \$	
Describe any other sources of funds you will be using to pay for your education including personal savings, grants from other organizations, awards, or bursaries.	Source	Amount
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
What is the name of the Educational Institution you will be attending?		
Where is the Educational Institution located?		
What is the course of study or program you are enrolled in?		
What is the normal time required to complete the program of study (for		

example a typical university degree is normally completed in 4 years)	
Indicate whether you are studying full-time or part-time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time
Have you ever withdrawn from or failed to maintain academic standing in a course of study?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered yes to the question above, then provide the particulars	
Describe your long-term career plan and how the course of study you are undertaking will help you attain your goals.	

<p>In what way would your education enable you to contribute back to ACFN?</p> <p>Ex: Resources for other students? Doctor for our community? Work for an ACFN company? Become a vet?</p>		
<p>Do you have any dependents as defined in the Education Grant Policy?</p>		
<p>If you have dependents, then provide their names and dates of birth.</p>	<p>Name</p>	<p>Date of Birth</p>
<p>Do you have a dependent spouse as defined in the Education Grant Policy?</p>		
<p>What is your dependent spouses name?</p>		

If you have a dependent spouse, then provide the particulars of the diagnosed medical reason why your spouse is unable to work in any gainful occupation.	
Have you read the Education Grant Policy and accept the terms and conditions upon which grants are made?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
NOTICE: The Education Coordinator may require additional information to process your request for a Grant. If so, then you will be contacted and must provide the information or documentation to maintain your application.	
Date of Application:	
Declaration:	I, the undersigned Member/Student declare the statements made in this Application to be true.
Signature of Member/Student:	

Fax, email or mail your completed application to:

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Education Coordinator
P.O. Box 366
Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0
Fax: 780-697-3500
Email: education@acfn.com

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Approved by Education Coordinator?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Amount of Grant	\$
Signature of Band Administrator: (approval for fund disbursement)	



**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE
ENROLLMENT, ACADEMIC, & RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

To the Office of the Registrar:

As a student assisted by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, I hereby authorize the release of all transcripts, attendance records, residential information (e.g., living arrangements) and all other documents indicative of my progress to the sponsoring agency throughout the duration of this 20____/ 20____ academic year.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Program: _____

Education Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information:

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Education Coordinator
P.O. Box 366
Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0
Fax: 780-697-3500
Email: education@acfn.com



**ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

STUDENT FUNDING CONTRACT

This contract is between the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the undersigned student for the purpose of acquiring education sponsorship to pursue an upgrading, trade, or a post-secondary program of study.

I have read the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's Education Grant Policy. I understand its content and intent and, therefore, I agree that:

1. I will complete and sign the application form and return it to the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Education Department along with all necessary supporting documents. I understand that any incomplete documents will be declined for funding and returned to me for clarification.
2. I understand that my application will be assessed according to the criteria set out in the funding policy.
3. Should I fail to earn credits or not complete the course(s) that I have enrolled in, for reasons other than a medical release or other emergency reasons, my funding will be terminated, and I will not be eligible for funding for two years.
4. I understand that unexplained absences over three days per month will result in automatic termination of the education grant.
5. Until all transcripts of sponsored courses have been provided to the Education Coordinator, I understand that I will not be eligible for funding.
6. I will immediately inform the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation of any changes to my contact information, course or program of studies, student status (full-time or part-time), claimed number of dependents, and absences of over three days per month.
7. I will be respectful when dealing with ACFN Education personnel.

I have read and understand the policies and procedures for educational funding of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and I agree to all the above conditions.

Signature

Date



**ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Student Name: _____ Institution: _____

Program: _____ Program Length: _____

Why have you selected this program?

What are your future goals and job prospects?

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the conditions contained in the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's EDUCATION GRANT POLICY and will abide by it.

Student Signature

Date



**ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION

Students who are required to submit their banking information for the purpose of having their living allowance direct deposited, if applicable.

Please submit a **“VOID” cheque** for the bank account you would like to receive your monthly living allowance.

Please forward this information to the following address:

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
ATTN: Education Coordinator
PO Box 366
Fort Chipewyan, AB
TOP1B0

Fax: (780) 697-3500

Email: education@acfn.com