

Research Information Sheet & Invitation to Participate

A Study of Indigenous Graduate Student Support Experiences (Western Canada) 2025

What is the purpose of this study? We are conducting research into Indigenous specific graduate student support programming such the SAGE (Support Aboriginal Graduate Program). We wish to learn if, and how, Indigenous graduate student support programming is helpful in assisting Indigenous graduate students to successfully complete their graduate degrees. We are also interested in learning if, and how, these Indigenous specific graduate student support programs influence whether Indigenous graduate students see themselves as future university professors.

Who Should Participate in this Study?

- a)** You are a current Indigenous graduate student actively engaged in Indigenous specific graduate student support programs (such as SAGE).
- b)** You are an Indigenous graduate student not actively engaged with Indigenous specific graduate student support programs but familiar with such programs (as SAGE).
- c)** You are an Indigenous person who has completed their graduate degree (e.g. SAGE alumni). but did have experience with Indigenous specific graduate student support programs as a graduate student

Our geographical focus includes individuals primarily from Alberta and Saskatchewan including students who have taken graduate courses at the University of Alberta (UofA), University of Calgary (UofC), University of Regina (UofR), and University of Saskatchewan (UofS) campuses. Participation by other individuals from other Western Canada (Alberta and Saskatchewan) catchment areas who meet the above criteria are welcome.

What Does the Study Involve?

Survey: As a participant in this study, you will be asked to complete a password protected electronic survey asking you for information in relation to your Indigenous graduate student support experience, for example age group, stage of academic career, and the university where you were most involved such activities or programs. The data from this survey will

be used to provide background information about the different Indigenous specific graduate student support activities (and their localities) impacting people participating in the study. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. The final question on the survey asks if you wish to participate in a focus group. **Completing and submitting the survey assumes that you have read the consent form and agree to voluntarily participate in the survey and that you are consenting to have your survey data used in the research (as outlined in the consent form you have been provided). Please do not respond on social media to the research invitation. Please note that individuals who choose to comment a social media posting of this study will be publicly identified with the study"**

Focus Group: If you complete the survey and wish to participate in the focus group, a research team member will contact you with further details about the focus group including information on date, time, and place of the focus group. Through a conversational approach, the focus group will be a discussion of the impact of Indigenous specific graduate student support programs, Indigenous graduate student support theory and principles, the design and delivery of Indigenous specific graduate student support programs and their impact for a future professor pathway. The focus groups will be 1-1.5 hour in length. **A research team member will ask that you email the signed consent form prior to the focus group session. You may withdraw from this study at any time.**

Who is the Research Team?

Principal Investigator

Dr. Margaret Kovach, Professor, Educational Studies, UBC-V

Co-Investigators

Dr. Shawn Wilson, Associate Prof., Indigenous Studies, UBC-O

Dr. Monty Montgomery, Associate Prof., Social Work, UBC-V

Lindsay DuPré, Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, UBC-O.

If you are interested in participating in this study please contact: **Lindsay DuPré at IndigGradStudy.ed@ubc.ca**. A member of the research team will send you the consent form and a link to the survey.