

PLAR in and for University-Based Indigenous Language Programs

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Revitalizing & Reclaiming

Indigenous Languages



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Indigenous Languages provides a critical framework for passing on history, philosophies, and worldviews of Indigenous peoples. Each language also carries unique community knowledge systems integral to cultural expression, land relationships, and governance.

Our new thematic major in Indigenous Languages seeks to revitalize languages such as Cree and Ojibwe. Students will be introduced to – or enhance their skills in – these languages while exploring and examining policies that led to language shift and endangerment. Graduates will have an opportunity to become proficient in Cree or Ojibwe, as well as research and advocate for the revitalization of Indigenous languages.

- Launches September 2021
- 3-year or 4-year Bachelor of Arts
- Revitalize languages such as Cree and Ojibwe
- Classroom and community learning

For more information visit: uwinnipeg.ca/indigenous

Teaching Indigenous Languages



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Are you fluent in Anishinaabemowin or Ininimowin?
Are you interested in learning skills to teach community
classes and introductory language classes?

The University of Winnipeg, in partnership with Indigenous Languages of Manitoba (ILMB), is piloting a program that will provide fluent Ojibwe and Cree speakers with training to teach Indigenous languages. It will give speakers opportunities to teach introductory classes for adult learners and within community organizations – while supporting language revitalization within Manitoba. Students will earn a certificate after completing this three-month program.

- Anticipated start date is May 3, 2021
- Limited spots for sponsorship of tuition and books
- Paid practicum opportunities may be available upon completion of program

For more information contact:

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Rationale for Indigenous Languages Programs

- UW strategic direction of Indigenization
- Student demand seen in language course enrolment and student association advocacy
- Crisis shortage of Indigenous language teachers and fluent speakers in Manitoba
- Indigenous communities in Manitoba asking for support in language revitalization/programs
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action number 16
- Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG
- Bill-C91 – Indigenous Languages Act – June 2020
- UN Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032

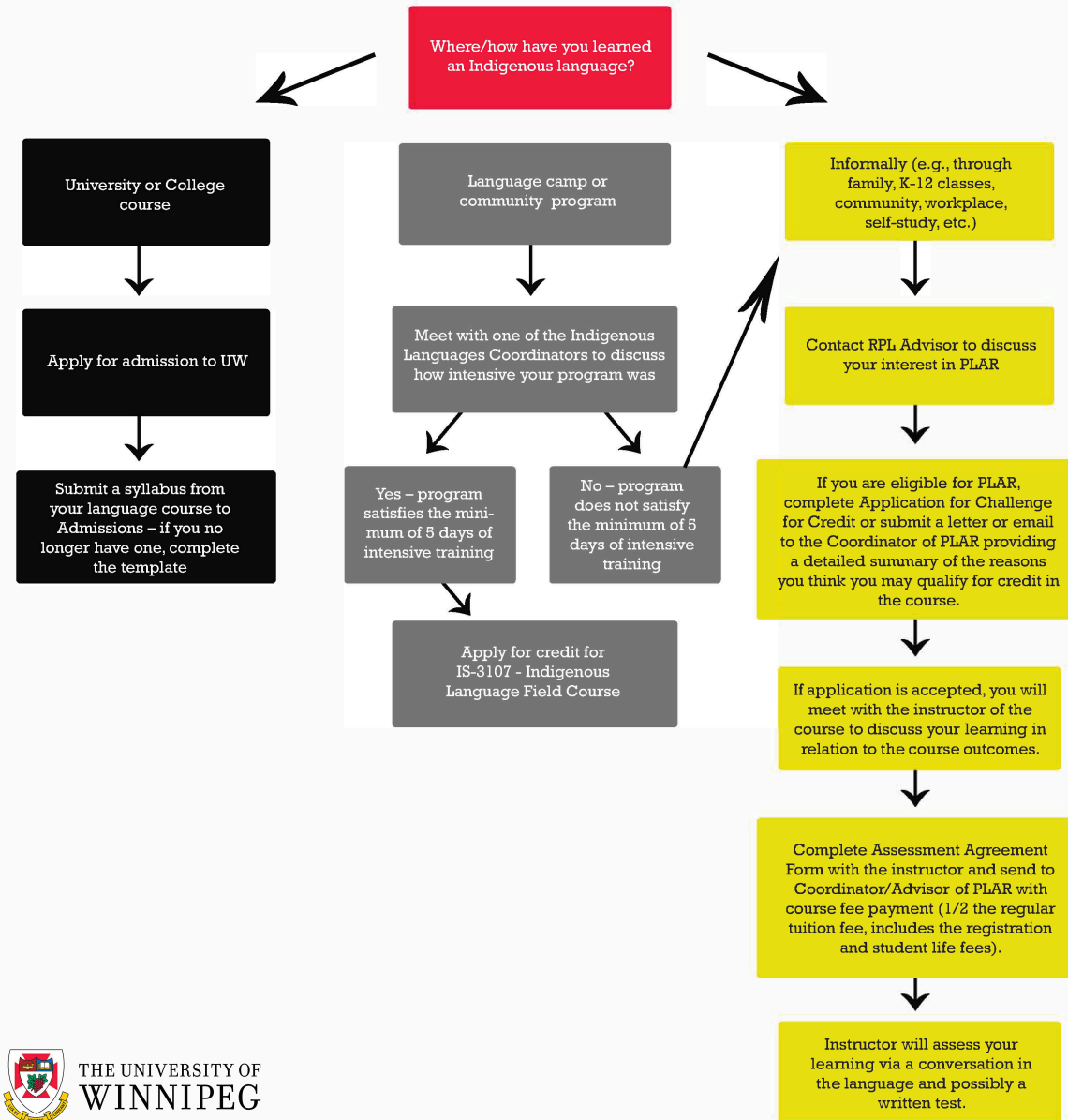
Partnerships and Support

- Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy (MALS), led by
 - Indigenous Languages of Manitoba
 - Indigenous Inclusion Directorate of Manitoba Education and Training
 - Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
 - University College of the North
- Indigenous communities and First Nations in Manitoba
- Working Group hosted by UW, including
 - University of Manitoba
 - Manitoba Education and Training
 - Manitoba Teachers' Society
 - Winnipeg School Division
 - Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Language Revitalization Circle

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

- Students who already have proficiency or fluency in an Indigenous language may use the 'Challenge for University Credit' process in order to receive credit for existing language courses.
- Potential students with lived experience in teaching and revitalizing Indigenous languages (teachers, language workers) can also apply for PLAR for admissions and course credit

Process for Gaining Credit for Previous Learning of Indigenous Languages within the UW Thematic Major in Indigenous Languages



Opportunities and Challenges

- Recognizing and valuing language journeys
- Facilitating access to and speed through which students complete program
- Creating spaces for and facilitating collaborations
- Indigenous language professors collaborating on benchmarks for introductory, intermediate, and advanced language levels
- Ownership of community languages and language learning
- Increasing number of Indigenous language speakers, teachers and language planners in communities

Our PLAR is a Work in Progress

Feedback and suggestions?