

FNEESC Review of Changes to AANDC’s PSSSP and UCEPP National Program Guidelines 2015-16

The 2015-16 PSSSP and UCEPP National Program Guidelines were recently posted online at <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1422288926040/1422289003986>. There are some distinct changes to wording and additions/removals which are outlined carefully here. Substantive changes include:

- 1) Clarification that student applications are valid for one year only (section 4.2 Eligible Students), which is important when establishing priority selection criteria practices;
- 2) Removal of the word “all” when referring to which eligible students will receive funding (section 5 Program Requirements);
- 3) Local operating guidelines are now optional, rather than required (section 5 Local Operating Guidelines). However communities must still have:
 - a. priority selection criteria that is publically available;
 - b. rules for deferring applications in situations where there are more eligible students than funds available; and
 - c. an appeal process that is publically available.
- 4) Requirements to provide a student access to advisory support for an appeal and to pay costs associated with travelling to attend an appeal have been removed (section 5.3 Appeal Process); and
- 5) More detail has been added regarding reporting and management responsibilities (section 8 Monitoring and Accountability and section 9 Reporting Requirements).

There are minor recurring changes throughout the document, such as:

- UCEP is now referred to as UCEPP;
- Selection priority criteria is now referred to as priority selection criteria; and
- Underline is often now bold (formatting).

Further review is ongoing to ensure all changes are documented. The word order has been revised a great deal. In many cases large sections of text have been moved and/or distributed into their appropriate sections, so a side by side comparison of the 2014-15 and the 2015-16 Guidelines is difficult.

The remainder of this document highlights the additions/changes by section (note some are minor).

Introduction

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
These program guidelines replace the Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program, E-12 Guidelines, dated October 1977 and supersede departmental directives which relate to the application of the E-12 Guidelines including rates of training allowances and limits of support; as well as, the 2013-2014 National Guidelines.	These program guidelines replace the 2014-2015 Post-Secondary Student Support Program and University and College Entrance Preparation program National Program Guidelines.

4.2 Eligible Students

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)

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	UCEP students must not have been financially supported previously by AANDC for post-secondary programs (exemptions to this condition may be made for medical reasons). (addition)
Funding is limited and not all students may be funded or partial funding may be provided.	Funding is limited and not all students may be funded. Partial funding may be provided. Applications to AANDC's programs are valid for one school year only. For information on how to apply, see the Post-Secondary Education page. (FNESC Note: this link still leads to the 2014-15 National Program Guidelines)
Under the PSSSP and the UCEP program, an eligible post-secondary education program is a program of studies:	Under the PSSSP and the UCEPP, an eligible program of studies (e.g. trades, sciences, arts) is a program:

4.4 Eligible Institutions

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
For a list of accredited Canadian post secondary institutions in your province or territory, please consult the appropriate provincial or territorial Ministry of Education website for their list of certified institutions (See Annex 2).	<p>For a list of eligible Canadian post secondary institutions please consult the list of institutions available on AANDC's website at <u>WEBLINK WILL BE INSERTED WHEN AVAILABLE</u>. AANDC's list of eligible institutions is effective as of April 1, 2015 for new PSSSP/UCEPP students and will be updated and adjusted as necessary on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>If the program of studies is in a foreign institution, the student must provide evidence that it is recognized in Canada as an acceptable post-secondary program of studies.</p> <p>ADDITIONS TO APPROVED LISTS OF POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS Where the institution selected by the student is not listed on the Annual Register of PSE Students, AANDC's regional office in the region where the institution is located, will request documentation from recipients to formulate a recommended action as per section 4.4, <i>Eligible Institutions</i> of the National Program Guidelines, to the Education Branch, Headquarters for discussion.</p>

5. Program Requirements

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)

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Provision, administration and distribution of funding, within the recipient's budgetary envelope, to all eligible post-secondary education students as per the maximum amount payable outlined in section 6.2;	Provision, administration and distribution of funding, within the recipient's budgetary envelope, to eligible post-secondary education students as per the maximum amount payable outlined in section 6.2, <i>Maximum Amount Payable to Students</i> ;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and administration of a selection priority criteria that is publically available; • Development and implementation of rules for deferring applications in situations where there are more eligible students than funds available; and • Implementation and administration of an appeal process that is publically available <i>(additions)</i>

5.1 Local Operating Guidelines

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
Recipients must have local program guidelines	Recipients may have local program guidelines
	Rules for deferring applications in situations where there are more eligible students than funds available <i>(addition)</i>

5.2 Potential selection priorities

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
Returning students (students who had stepped out from their post-secondary studies and now wish to return)	Returning students

5.3 Appeal Process

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
Student access to advisory support	<i>(removed)</i>
The recipient will provide funding for board members and the student to attend the appeal hearing, if necessary	<i>(removed)</i>
Where a student is convinced that the First Nations education department's guidelines are not being fairly applied to his or her situation then the student shall have access to an appeal hearing.	Where a student is convinced that the local or national program guidelines are not being fairly applied to his or her situation then the student shall have access to an appeal hearing.
The appeal board's ruling must be consistent with the intent of the Post-	The appeal board's ruling must be consistent with the intent of

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Secondary Student Support Program's policy and guidelines	the PSSSP and UCEPP National Program Guidelines.
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6. Eligible expenditures

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
Books and supplies required by the student for their program of study (to a maximum of \$2000/year);	Books and supplies required by the student for their program of study;
Regional living allowances for the student, and if applicable, each dependent established by the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) as amended from time to time. Refer to the CSLP website	For full-time students only, regional living allowances for the student, and if applicable, each dependent up to the maximum of those established by the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) as amended from time to time. Refer to the CSLP Needs Assessment Tables for Student Loans for further information;
	NOTE: These are maximum allowable eligible expenditures. No student is entitled to these amounts. (addition)
	Travel support does not include moving expenses such as the removal of household effects. (addition)
	It is strongly encouraged that recipients ensure students always seek economic means for travel. The cost of travel, meals and accommodation should not exceed the rates set for government travel in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's <i>Travel Directive</i> where possible. Rates are periodically updated throughout the year. For further information, please consult the travel section of Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's website . (addition)

6.1 Eligible Tuition

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
	Note that the conditions concerning foreign institutions apply to the PSSSP students only (addition)
Regular tuition fees; that is the tuition fees normally charged by the institution to Canadian students	Students attending Canadian public institutions at the actual tuition rate, including compulsory student fees charged by the institution for a Canadian student
Tuition support may be paid directly to the student	In exceptional circumstances, tuition support may be paid directly to the student as opposed to directly to the post-secondary institution.

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<p>A student enrolling in a private or foreign institution must provide documentation with the application which identifies the most comparable program in the nearest Canadian public institution to his/her place of residence. The documentation must include application, registration, tuition and mandatory student activity fees of the Canadian public institution.</p>	<p>The student will provide documentation which identifies the most comparable program in the nearest Canadian public institution to his/her place of residence. The documentation must include registration, tuition and mandatory student activity fees of the Canadian public institution.</p>
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6.2.1 Limits of Assistance

<p>Previous Wording (2014-15)</p>	<p>REPLACED with (2015-16)</p>
<p>If the demand from eligible students exceeds the funding available, selection priority criteria will apply as per local policies.</p>	<p>If the demand from eligible students exceeds the funding available, priority selection criteria will apply.</p>

6.2.2 Limits of Assistance for UCEPP

<p>Previous Wording (2014-15)</p>	<p>REPLACED with (2015-16)</p>
<p>The support for tuition, books and supplies, travel and living costs for the UCEP program will be the same as that provided under the PSSSP.</p>	<p>The support for tuition, books and supplies, travel and living costs for full-time students in the UCEPP may be the same as that provided under the PSSSP.</p>

6.3 Administration Costs

<p>Previous Wording (2014-15)</p>	<p>REPLACED with (2015-16)</p>
	<p>For travel and accommodation: It is strongly encouraged that recipients always seek the most economical means for travel. The cost of travel, meals and accommodation should not exceed the rates set for government travel in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's <i>Travel Directive</i>. Rates are periodically updated throughout the year. For further information please consult the travel section of the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada's website. (addition)</p>

6.4.3 Incentives for students enrolled in Level 3 or 4 programs

<p>Previous Wording (2014-15)</p>	<p>REPLACED with (2015-16)</p>
<p>Students who have completed two or more years of their program of studies at Level 3 without support from the Student Support Program will receive the incentive upon</p>	<p>Students who have completed two or more years of their program of studies at Level 3 without support from PSSSP may receive the incentive upon commencement of the first year they are supported by the program.</p>

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commencement of the first year they are supported by the program.	
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8. Monitoring and Accountability

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)
	Funding recipients must deliver the programs in accordance with the provisions of their funding agreement and the program delivery requirements outlined in these National Program Guidelines while also ensuring that the necessary management controls are in place to manage funding and monitor activities. Funding recipients are required to exercise due diligence when approving expenditures and must ensure that such expenditures are in accordance with the eligible expenditures set out in these National Program Guidelines. <i>(addition)</i>
AANDC is committed to providing assistance to recipients in order for them to effectively carry out the obligations contained in each funding agreement.	AANDC is committed to providing assistance to recipients in order for them to effectively carry out obligations under these National Program Guidelines and funding agreements.
To ensure that program terms and conditions and funding criteria are being met, that funds are expended on the intended purposes, and that AANDC's accountability to Parliament is being met, in-office and onsite monitoring and compliance activities will be conducted with all recipients.	To ensure that program delivery requirements are being met, that funds are expended on the intended purposes, and that AANDC's accountability to Parliament is being met, activities including audits, evaluations, as well as desk and on-site compliance reviews will be conducted with all funding recipients.
	The Department's collection and use of personal information and other records for the purposes of program compliance reviews will be limited to what is necessary to ensure program delivery requirements are met. The Department is responsible for all information and records in its possession. The confidentiality of the information will be managed by AANDC in accordance with the <i>Privacy Act</i> and other related policies on privacy. Recipients are responsible for the protection of personal information per the privacy legislation, regulations and/or policies that govern them up to the point that it is transferred to AANDC. <i>(addition)</i>

9. Reporting Requirements

Previous Wording (2014-15)	REPLACED with (2015-16)

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<p>The reporting requirements are listed in the recipient's funding agreement. To access the reports (Data Collection Instruments), log on to the AANDC Services Portal. If you do not have access to the AANDC Services Portal, contact your regional office. Reports are also available on AANDC's website.</p>	<p>The reporting requirements are listed in the recipient's funding agreement, and details on these requirements are available in the Reporting Guide. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that reporting requirements are met and reports are accurate and submitted on or before the established due dates. Recipients who have access to the AANDC Services Portal can access the reporting forms (Data Collection Instruments) by opening a session on the Portal. If you do not have access to the Portal, contact your regional office.</p>
<p>The confidentiality of the information will be managed in accordance with the Privacy of Information legislation.</p>	<p>(removed to section 8)</p>