



VJKF 2024 Application Package



**VERNA J. KIRKNESS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

2024 Program Dates:

- OPTION 1: May 12th – May 17th
- OPTION 2: May 26th – May 31st
- OPTION 3: July 7th – July 12th
- OPTION 4: July 28th – Aug 2nd
- OPTION 5: Aug 11th – Aug 16th

(*Students can only participate in 1 program week.)

Apply Now

Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program

The VJKF Program offers Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) high school students* an opportunity to spend one week conducting research in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. As one of our Kirkness Scholars, you'll work with university professors and graduate students from one of our partner universities. All of our students are given an opportunity to let us know which areas of STEM research interests them the most!

VJKF Program Details

- All expenses are paid if a student is accepted into the VJKF Program.
- Accepted students will be assigned to a university and week, and provided with the list of research opportunities at that university.
- Students will be able to select their top 5 choices of lab projects that interest them most and we will do our best to match students with one of their top choices (we can't guarantee that will be possible in every case).
- All students participate in our Certification Celebration on Thursday night.
- On the final afternoon of the Program, each group will make a presentation about their learnings from the lab and their experiences throughout the week. There will be plenty of time to build a successful presentation!

*Students in grade 11 will receive priority acceptance to the Program. Returning students and students in grade 12 who apply will be placed on a waitlist. VJKF hopes to give students who have not yet considered applying to a post-secondary institution an opportunity to experience the VJKF Program and be able to apply for post-secondary the following fall. Students in grade 10 will be asked to apply again the following academic year.

Program Benefits

There are NO fees to attend a VJKF Program.



Conduct research

You'll have the opportunity to learn about one of your top five selected research areas.



Campus life

Get a taste of university and campus life. Work with professors and attend campus tours.



Expand your knowledge

You'll have an opportunity to learn about STEM research happening at universities.



Receive certificate

Every student who completes our Program will receive a Certificate of Completion.



Build your resume

Attending the VJKF Program is a noteworthy accomplishment to put on your resume.



Indigenous service on campus

See what service and supports are in place for students on campus.



Have your questions answered

You'll have an opportunity to ask questions about university and campus life.



Hands-on science

Students will conduct hands-on research in a university lab under the supervision of their mentors.



Scholarship Opportunities

Students who complete the VJKF Program are eligible to apply for a VJKF scholarship to attend a post secondary institution.



Create friendships

Meet VJKF Scholars and learn from many people across Canada.

Become a Kirkness Scholar APPLY TODAY!

Thanks to our generous donors our Program is offered to Indigenous students FREE of charge. For further details about our Program and application process, [please visit our website](#).



info@vjkf.org
www.vernakirkness.org



587.814.0444
1.888.647.1701



In-Person Program Sample Agenda

*All Programs will be based off of this Sample Agenda. Agendas will be tailored to each specific Program and city location.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:00 AM	Breakfast						
9:00 AM	Students arrive to residence	Campus Tour Indigenous Centre Scholarships	Indigenous Class	Indigenous Class	Indigenous Class	Mentor Class/Lab	
10:00 AM			Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab		
11:00 AM			Lunch 12-1pm				Lunch Scholarships
12:00 PM		Lunch 12-1pm				Lunch Scholarships	
1:00 PM		Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Presentations	
2:00 PM		Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab		
3:00 PM		Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab	Mentor Class/Lab		
4:00 PM		VJKF Welcome Icebreakers Pizza Night Movie Night	Guest Speaker		Guest Speaker		
5:00 PM	Homework/Relax/Ready for Dinner						
6:00 PM	Dinner			Honour Dinner			
7:00 PM	Cultural Activity		Scavenger Hunt Gym	Cultural Activity	Honour Dinner		
8:00 PM	Downtime / Gym						
9:00 PM	Downtime / Gym						
10:00 PM	Curfew						

- Mentor Class / Lab Time: 22.5 hours
- Cultural Components: 3.5 hours
- Info Sessions (university/scholarships): 4.5 hours
- Downtime: 13 hours



VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ON-CAMPUS
PROGRAM

2024 APPLICATION FORM for the VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION PROGRAM

The VJKF Program offers Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) high school students* an opportunity to spend one week conducting research in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Please call our office at 587-814-0444 should you have any questions.

*Students in grade 11 will receive priority acceptance to the Program. Returning students and students in grade 12 who apply will be placed on a waitlist. VJKF hopes to give students who have not yet considered applying to a post-secondary institution an opportunity to experience the VJKF Program and be able to apply for post-secondary the following fall. Students in grade 10 will be asked to apply again the following academic year.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 15, 2023

All applications and supporting materials must be received by the deadline.

Completed applications can be received by:

Mail: Verna J. Kirkness Foundation
Attn: Application committee
P.O. Box 47092
Calgary RPO Creekside AB, T3P 0B9
Email: morgan.laboucan@vjkf.org

Students can also apply online at:
www.vernakirkness.org

ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND INCLUDES:

COMPLETED (TYPED) APPLICATION, INCLUDING SIGNED CONSENT FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please check here (if you do not have a scanner) to indicate that you will be mailing your Parental/Guardian Consent form separate from the emailed application.

REFERENCE LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Fill in the required fields on this application or apply online.

Print the consent form on page 5. Complete and sign the application, then email or mail the completed forms to the address noted above.



PART 1 – STUDENT INFORMATION

Legal First Name:

Legal Last Name:

Preferred Name(s):

Have you attended VJKF before?

YES

NO

Gender: M F Other

Preferred language: French English

Pronouns: He/him She/her They/them Community I'm from:

I am: Status First Nation

Non-Status First Nation

Inuit

Métis

Date of Birth:

(Day/Month/Year)

Email (Personal):

Email (School):

Student Cellphone:

I'm currently in grade:

Street Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Check box if mailing and street address are the same

Mailing Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

PART 2 – PARENT/GUARDIAN AND TEACHER/COUNSELLOR INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name:

Email:

Best contact phone number:

Teacher/Counsellor referring and submitting application:

Teacher/Counsellor phone number:

Teacher/Counsellor email:

Name of High School:



VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PART 3 – PROGRAM CHOICE (on campus program)

In January, we will let all successful VJKF student applicants know which universities are participating and research opportunities they are holding for VJKF students. We will try and match students with their research preferences, but sometimes this isn't always possible.

For now, **please select ALL the weeks** you would be available to attend. If you're a successful applicant, **you will only be eligible to participate in ONE program week.**

WEEK 1: May 12th – May 17th

WEEK 2: May 26th – May 31st

WEEK 3: July 7th – July 12th

WEEK 4: July 28th – August 2nd

WEEK 5: August 11th – August 16th

PART 4 – REFERENCE

ASK YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR TO WRITE A LETTER OF REFERENCE AND LIST THEIR NAME BELOW. Check the guidelines on the website for further information.

Name of Reference:

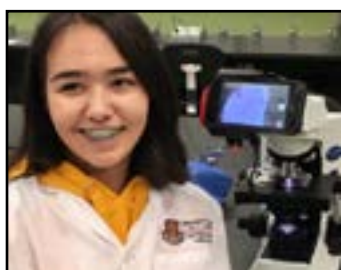
Email:

Phone Number:

PART 5 – UPDATES

Help us keep our records current while you attend school. This information is crucial in helping us apply for additional funding for the VJKF Program, which will allow more Indigenous students to attend our Program in the future.

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, I AGREE TO PROVIDE THE VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION WITH SHORT WRITTEN UPDATES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS ABOUT MY ONGOING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.





PART 6—ESSAY

In a maximum of 400 (TYPED) words, please explain why you are interested in attending the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program. **This essay is the most important part of the application.** The more information you provide, the better chance you have of being accepted. Applications with less than 50 words will not be accepted.





PART 7 – PARENTAL / GUARDIAN CONSENT

I _____ understand that _____ has applied to participate in the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program (hereinafter called the “Program”) that includes lectures with professors from participating Program universities.

I understand that participation in the Program will involve:

- 1) the applicant spending one week on a university campus and working as part of a research team from a university;
- 2) as part of the participation in the Program, the applicant working with a research team will be provided with materials and basic safety training as arranged by the Program;
- 3) during their involvement the applicant may be mentored and supervised primarily by a graduate student;
- 4) there are learning activities in the evenings that will require student attendance.

I understand that there are certain expectations regarding the applicant’s conduct during their involvement in the Program, which will be explained to the applicant.

These expectations include:

- The applicant following the instructions given to them by the mentor or lab supervisor.
- The applicant following ALL safety protocols in place during the Program.
- The applicant conducting themselves in a respectful and mature manner at all times.
- The consumption of alcohol or illegal substances throughout their participation in the Program is strictly prohibited.
- Participants are not permitted to bring gaming systems/equipment with them to campus. (Cellphones and laptops are permitted.)
- Violation of any of the above rules may result in the applicant being asked to leave the Program.

I understand that participation in the Program may involve the applicant coming into close proximity with, and working with scientific apparatuses and/or materials that may be dangerous if mishandled. I understand that all participants will be asked to complete a survey at the end of the Program. I further understand that, if the applicant is accepted to participate in the Program, I will be required to sign a situation specific consent form prior to their participation fully indemnifying the host university, as well as the Program planners, administrators and personnel from any and all liability for any injury which may be suffered by the applicant during their participation. Having read the above, I consent to the applicant’s submission of an application to participate in the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program.

Signature

Date (day-month-year)

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Relationship to Applicant

Best Contact Number:

Email:



VERNA J. KIRKNESS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Our Partner Universities



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
of CANADA



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



University
of Victoria



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



KWANTLEN
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of Manitoba



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UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
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UNIVERSITY



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