



NATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM
AT THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT UBC

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application

Dear Student(s),

Thank you for your interest in the Native Youth Program. Before we arrange an interview with you, please provide us with some information about yourself. You can mail, e-mail, fax, or drop it off at the Museum of Anthropology care of the Native Youth Program (NYP) before 4:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2025.

The following is a list of things we would like you to submit:

1. A letter stating why you wish to be hired as a student in the NYP and why you think you are appropriate for the job. Please tell us about your interest in Indigenous culture and any Indigenous activities or organizations that you have been involved with past or present.
2. A resume. Please make sure that your current telephone number and email address are included on your resume. Also, include the names and telephone numbers of two people we may call for references. These can be employers, teachers, counselors, and family friends.
3. Please **complete one** of the following assignments and submit it with your letter and resume. Do not heavily rely on references or research books for the assignment, as strict essay format is not mandatory. The composition should be double spaced 1-2 pages in length and interesting to read. Allow yourself to be creative and expressive. Remember there are no right or wrong answers; we simply want your own impressions and ideas.

Assignments

Assignment 1: Visit the Museum

Select a piece at the Museum of Anthropology that is interesting to you and write about it. Tell us why the object interests you and what purpose it serves in Indigenous culture. If you are personally connected to an object (for example, if it comes from your area or culture), you may want to include details that are not part of the Museum's description. You may use labels, source books, the online catalogue system, and any other information you find relevant. Along with your descriptive composition of the piece you may wish to include a drawing.

OR

Assignment 2: Thoughts and Issues

Focus on a First Nations issue that is important to you and write about that subject and how it affects Indigenous people today. Some examples may include First Nations education, Native youth issues, land claims, self-government, treaties etc. Describe your views on the subject and state why you have chosen the specific topic and how it affects you as a First Nation's youth.

Please ensure that we receive **all three components** of this application. We will contact you as soon as possible to make an appointment for an interview. Interviews will be approximately 30 minutes. Thank you very much for your interest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

nyp@moa.ubc.ca or damara.jp@ubc.ca

Sample Letter Statement (scroll down for more...)

[Your name]
[Your address]
[Your phone number]
[Your email address]

[Date]

Native Youth Program
UBC Museum of Anthropology
6393 NW Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
604-822-6587
nyp@moa.ubc.ca

Re: High School Student position

Dear Native Youth Program Manager,

Hello, my name is [your name] and I am from [Where are you from?] and I am [What First Nation, Métis or Inuit community do you identify with?] I am [how old are you] and I go to school at [Where do you go to school?]

[Why you wish to be hired as a student in the NYP] I want to be hired by the NYP this summer because I feel that rather than get a job just flipping burgers I would rather spend my summer doing something that can teach me about my First Nations heritage. [Why you think you are appropriate for the job] I am appropriate for the job because I have experience in working in a team setting. I am organized and easy going. [Please tell us about your interest in First Nations culture.] I grew up in an urban setting away from my reserve and I am interested in expanding my knowledge of my own and other First Nations cultures. [Or] I grew up being taught my culture from my family and the elders in my community and I would like the opportunity to share what I know with Museum visitors. [Have you been involved in any First Nations activities or organizations in the past or present?] I have been active at the Friendship centre here in Vancouver in the sports groups. I also go to powwows every summer with my family. I am a traditional dancer and have been taught by people in my community.

Thank you and I hope to hear back from you soon,

[Your name]

Assignment 1: Sample

Assignment 1: Visit the Museum or visit The Research Reciprocal Network (RRN) at www.rrnpilot.org
[Your name]
[Date]

(Select an object at the Museum of Anthropology that is interesting to you and write about it.)

I have selected, Boots, item number 1337/1 a-b. I went on to The Research Reciprocal Network (RRN) at www.rrnpilot.org, I signed up for an account and then went on and found the item. It is also on display in the museum. *[Tell why it interests you and what function it serves in First Nation's culture]* The reason that this item interests me is because my grandmother makes and sells traditional art such as moccasins like these. This pair of boots is from the plains Cree area where I grew up. I have seen the designs of flowers and the colors used on the boots my whole life and identify it with a sense of home. I remember sitting at her kitchen table watching her cut hide and bead for hours. She would let me do little projects along with her and it was really nice to hear the stories and to hear her speaking Cree while she worked.

These boots were made and donated by David Pokotylo in 1988. They are classified as beadwork and are made from skin, glass and fiber. There is a ring of fur on the top and a tie that can be done up to hold the boot in place. The bottoms of the boots are worn down where Mr. Pokotylo walked on them before donating them to the museum. I know from experience how comfortable walking around in moccasins is. You can feel the ground but you aren't hurt by it.

There are no additional comments on the RRN regarding the boots, either from community members or other museum staff. They would be housed in the Multiversity galleries at the Museum.

Example of an application to the Native Youth Program at The Museum of Anthropology, UBC
(Completed application has: a cover letter, a resume, and either assignment 1 or assignment 2)

Assignment 2: Sample

Assignment 2: Thoughts and issues- Focus on a First Nation's issue that is important to you and write about that subject and how it affects aboriginal people today.

[Your name]

[Date]

(Some examples may include First Nation's education, native youth issues, the land question, aboriginal rights, self-government, treaties etc. Describe your views on the subject and state why you have chosen the specific topic and how it affects you as a First Nation's youth.)

The issue that I am choosing to write about is Residential school. Starting in the 1880s the push for assimilation took a different form with the creation of the Residential School system. Children were taken from their families and placed in the care of strangers. When the children arrived at these schools their hair was cut off, their names changed, and they were beaten if they spoke their own languages. Some suffered mental, physical and sexual abuse from school authorities. Most residential schools were closed by the mid 1970s and the last one was closed in 1996. There were some good experiences expressed by survivors but for the majority of children it was a terrible time.

The reason that I am choosing to write about residential school is because my grandmother, great aunties and uncles all had to go. They were taught to be ashamed of their language and traditions. Because of that my mother's generation grew up away from their culture and language. Thankfully, my grandmother now is an active member of her First Nations community, speaks her language and teaches us grandchildren about the traditions that she had remembered and regained. It is such a good feeling to know that even though the government tried to assimilate First Nations people that it didn't work and that we are still going strong and speaking our languages and practicing our traditions.

Example of an application to the Native Youth Program at The Museum of Anthropology, UBC
(Completed application has: a cover letter, a resume, and either assignment 1 or assignment 2)

Checklist

Letter Statement

Resume

Assignment 1 OR 2

Submit via mail, e-mail or personal drop-off at the
Museum of Anthropology

Museum of Anthropology at the
University of British Columbia

6393 NW Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2

Email:

Damara Jacobs-Petersen
Native Youth Program Director &
Curator of Indigenous Engagement
nyp@moa.ubc.ca