



GEORGE FOX
EVANGELICAL SEMINARY

An Indigenous Learning Community



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Master of Arts, Intercultural Studies

NAIITS

Graduate Admissions

P.O. Box 181

Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0

Canada

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admissions@naiits.com

GEORGE FOX

Office of Graduate Admissions

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Portland OR 97223

USA

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seminary@georgefox.edu



NAIITS /GFES

Our goal is to develop and instruct from a body of theology and biblical teaching-that resonates with the culture and traditions of Native North Americans. For generations, Native North Americans have believed Christian faith required them to become like Euro North Americans. Many still do! They lived the false dichotomy of belief that a fulfilled relationship with God required rejection of their own culture and the adoption of another. In best-case scenarios Native North Americans struggle to embrace God in the Christianity of a secularized western culture. In the worst case, they have rejected God in Christ because of western Christianity's perceived cultural requirements.

NAIITS' /GFES' focus, therefore, is on:

- Developing mentored theological and biblical research, writing and study programs that address missional, theological and biblical issues from the perspective of Indigenous Christians.
- Working cooperatively with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners including colleges, universities, seminaries, mission societies, Native ministries and others committed to realizing the leadership potential of Indigenous people in Canada and the United States.

Traditionally, Native People did not talk about spirituality or faith, nor did they build complex theologies. They simply lived what they believed. It was expected that one would live in such a way as to acknowledge and honor their Creator. Theology was practice!

In the 21st century, however, much has changed. Now we find we must speak to our own people of our faith in God, of walking out life in a good way. We must share our understanding of God's Word in new ways. We need forums for dialogue and teaching in theology, missiology and biblical issues.

New approaches to concerns such as ethics and AIDS, lifestyle and family, community and commitment must be developed in authentically Native ways.

While our desire is to strengthen people of faith in Native communities, we understand that faith and community are interconnected. Evangelism is therefore an important outcome of our work. So is intercultural mission. The work of NAIITS equips people to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ to others – regardless of ethnicity, traditions, culture or language. The partnership in offering this MA degree in Intercultural Studies takes this work a step further.

We are committed to the historic message as a contemporary one – necessary for today's generation

- Our context is informal and formal
- Our methods employ a wide range of disciplines
- Our studies embrace the traditionally academic, while observing the traditions and learning styles of Aboriginal people
- Our strength is in the learning dialogue – telling the story of what God is doing among us
- Our prayer is to hear in our people, not just their words but also their heart



Admission Procedure

The applicant must furnish the following:

1. Completed and signed application form
2. \$50 nonrefundable application fee (A matriculation fee of \$200 is payable on admittance)
3. Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
4. Applicant's admission statement
5. Three references – one pastoral, one academic or professional, and one personal (must use forms included in application packet)
6. One official transcript from each college or university attended – sealed from the issuing institution

Forms may be scanned and sent to:

admissions@naiits.com

Or mailed to:

NAIITS Admissions
PO Box 181
Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0
Canada

Once accepted, a copy will be passed on to:

Office of Graduate Admissions
George Fox Evangelical Seminary

Notes:

1. NAIITS /GFES reserves the right to select students on the basis of academic performance and professional qualifications.
2. As a means of providing a focused effort to address the lack of First Nations peoples in theological education, NAIITS /GFES reserves the right to limit applicants to those of Native North American and other Indigenous descent.
3. All questions must be answered, with the exception of those marked "optional."
4. An interview will be required of applicants as part of the admission process.
5. Application materials become the property of George Fox University and are not returned or transferred to another institution.



Application for Admission

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

Date: _____

Office Use

ID# _____

Date _____

TD Paid Date _____

I. Personal Information (please print clearly in black pen)

Full Legal Name _____

Preferred name _____

Other names used that may appear on transcript _____

Address _____ City _____

_____ Prov/State _____

E-mail address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Fax _____ Other (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter) _____

Weblog _____

Country of citizenship _____ Residency: CDN ___ US ___ OTH ___

Birthplace _____

Date of birth ____/____/_____
dd / mm / yyyy

Tribal Origin: _____ Social Ins./Sec. number* _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes ___ / No ___ If yes, please explain... _____

Optional Information

Male ___ / Female ___

Marital status: Single ___ / Married ___

** If you provide your Social Insurance/Security number, NAIITS uses it for keeping records, doing research, and reporting. NAIITS does not use your number to make any decision directly affecting you or any other person. Your Social Security number is not given to the general public. If you choose not to provide your Social Security number, you are not denied any rights as a student. Providing your Social Security number means that you consent to the use of the number in the manner described.*



II. Enrollment Information

Expected date of enrollment _____

Please list the names of other schools where you may be applying (optional)

How did you hear about NAIITS' programs?

III. Ministry Experience

Present ministry vocation _____

Supervisor _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Denomination _____

Organization name and address _____

Previous ministry experience

Role _____ Role _____ Role _____

Location _____ Location _____ Location _____

Dates _____ Dates _____ Dates _____

IV. Education

Please list, in chronological order, all colleges and postsecondary institutions attended. (NAIITS only requires copies of transcripts for the initial application. However, when the applicant is requested, it is your responsibility to see that one official transcript is sent to the NAIITS office or, the office of the institution through whom your degree will be issued.) Use extra pages if necessary.

Institution _____ Dates _____ to _____

Major _____ Degree _____

Institution _____ Dates _____ to _____

Major _____ Degree _____

Institution _____ Dates _____ to _____

Major _____ Degree _____



V. Financial

Do you expect to file an application for financial aid with your band or tribal education authority?

Yes ___ / No ___

Are you a veteran?

Yes ___ / No ___

VI. References

One professional, one academic, and one personal reference required.

Professional _____

Address _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ Code _____

Phone _____ email _____

Academic _____

Address _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ Code _____

Phone _____ email _____

Personal _____

Address _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ Code _____

Phone _____ email _____

VII. Three Self-assessment Essays

1. In 500-1000 words, relate your spiritual pilgrimage, assessing strengths and weaknesses.
2. In 500-1000 words, briefly describe your present ministry vocation, highlighting your key ministry-related (a) problems, (b) areas of interest, (c) and long term goals.
3. In 250-500 words, describe why you are pursuing an advanced degree and what you hope to gain.



Statement of Faith

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of both history and change. But he does not come first to change the outer self – he comes to change the inner. Then the Spirit and the Word transform the outer for God’s purposes. And God never leads astray. Allowing the Spirit of God to hold us true to the Scriptures will permit us to understand and discern more fully the meaning and value of our traditions and history.

The Gospel has the power to transform life, to create a new world. Only it can revitalize confused lives, those who have lost their culture and traditions, their identity and their pride, into such a potent demonstration of Good News we are called to carry to others.

The Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies is a Christian mission which upholds the formational articles of faith that:

The Nature of God. We believe in one eternal God, the source and goal of life, who exists as three persons in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In love and joy, God creates and sustains the universe, including humanity, male and female, who are made in God’s image.

God the Father. We believe in God the Father Almighty, whose love is the foundation of salvation and righteous judgment, and who calls us into covenant relationship with God and with one another.

God the Son. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word, who is fully God and fully human. He came to show us God and perfect humanity, and, through his life, death, and resurrection, to reconcile us to God. He is now actively present with us as Savior, Teacher, Lord, Healer, and Friend.

God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathed God’s message into the prophets and apostles, opens our eyes to God’s Truth in Jesus Christ, empowers us for holy living, and carries on in us the work of salvation.

Salvation. We believe that salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone, to whom we must respond with repentance, faith, and obedience. Through Christ we come into a right relationship with God, our sins are forgiven, and we receive eternal life.

The Bible. We believe that God inspired the Bible and has given it to us as the uniquely authoritative, written guide for Christian living and thinking. As illumined by the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures are true and reliable. They point us to God, guide our lives, and nurture us toward spiritual maturity.

Following Jesus. We believe that God has called us to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to be God’s agents of love and reconciliation in the world. In keeping with the teaching of Jesus, we seek peace and justice in human relationships and social structures.

The Church. We believe in the Church as the people of God, composed of all who believe in Jesus Christ, who support and equip each other through worship, teaching, and accountability, who model God’s loving community, and who proclaim the gospel to the world.

Christian Worship. We believe Christ is present as we gather in his name, seeking to worship in spirit and in truth. All believers are joined in the one body of Christ, are baptized by the Spirit, and live in Christ’s abiding presence. Christian baptism and communion are dynamic spiritual realities, and, as Christians from many faith traditions, we celebrate these in different ways.

The Future. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ, in the resurrection of the dead, in God’s judgment of all persons with perfect justice and mercy, and in eternal reward and punishment. Ultimately, Christ’s kingdom will be victorious over all evil, and the faithful will reign with him in eternal life.



Applicant's Affirmation

I authorize investigation of all information provided during the application process. References provided by me may give NAIITS any and all information requested, as well as any pertinent information they may have, personal or otherwise. I release from all liability or responsibility NAIITS, its agents, partners in education and all people, companies, or corporations providing information to the institute about me. My signature also attests that I differ in no significant way in my understanding, actions or life-ways with the statement of faith of NAIITS on page 7 above and that the information provided in the 8 pages of the application, including this signature page, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Date _____



Professional Reference Form

This form is to be filled out by a pastor, bishop or other person who exercises professional oversight. A member of your immediate family should not complete it.

Section A: To be completed by applicant

Applicant's name _____

Students have the right to inspect and review their educational records; students may waive their right to see specific confidential letters or recommendations. In the belief that applicants and the people from whom they request evaluations may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

1. I waive my right to examine this form.

Signature Date

2. I do not waive my right to examine this form, and I authorize the person completing this form to provide a candid evaluation.

Signature Date

Section B: To be completed by reference (use additional sheets as required)

1. How long have you known the applicant? How well? In what capacity?

2. To what extent have you observed the applicant engaged in their ministry setting? What is their ministry?

3. Please comment on the following aspects of the applicant's ministry, if known to you:

(a) concern for others, (b) interpersonal skills, (c) vision and goals, (d) creativity, and (e) effectiveness.

4. Do you have any reservations in recommending this individual for a Graduate Studies program? Why or why not?



Academic Reference Form

This form is to be filled out by a professor or academic administrator. A member of your immediate family should not complete it.

Section A: To be completed by applicant

Applicant's name _____

Students have the right to inspect and review their educational records; students may waive their right to see specific confidential letters or recommendations. In the belief that applicants and the people from whom they request evaluations may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

1. I waive my right to examine this form.

Signature Date

2. I do not waive my right to examine this form, and I authorize the person completing this form to provide a candid evaluation.

Signature Date

Section B: To be completed by reference (use additional sheets as required)

1. How long have you known the applicant? How well? In what capacity have you known them?

2. To what extent have you observed the applicant engaged in their ministry setting? What is their ministry?

3. Please comment on the following aspects of the applicant's ministry, if known to you:
(a) concern for others, (b) interpersonal skills, (c) vision and goals, (d) creativity, and (e) effectiveness.

4. Do you have any reservations in recommending this individual for a Graduate Studies program? Why or why not?



Personal Reference Form

This form is to be filled out by a personal acquaintance. A member of your immediate family should not complete it.

Section A: To be completed by applicant

Applicant's name _____

Students have the right to inspect and review their educational records; students may waive their right to see specific confidential letters or recommendations. In the belief that applicants and the people from whom they request evaluations may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

1. I waive my right to examine this form.

Signature

Date

2. I do not waive my right to examine this form, and I authorize the person completing this form to provide a candid evaluation.

Signature

Date

Section B: To be completed by reference (use additional sheets as required)

1. How long have you known the applicant? How well? In what capacity have you known them?

2. To what extent have you observed the applicant engaged in their ministry setting? What is their ministry?

3. Please comment on the following aspects of the applicant's ministry, if known to you:

(a) concern for others, (b) interpersonal skills, (c) vision and goals, (d) creativity, and (e) effectiveness.

4. Do you have any reservations in recommending this individual for a Graduate Studies program? Why or why not?