

# APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Master of Arts, Intercultural Studies

**Portland Seminary**

***Office of Graduate Admissions***

12753 SW 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Portland OR 97223

USA

503-554-6100 800-493-4937

Fax 305-554-6111

[seminary@georgefox.edu](mailto:seminary@georgefox.edu)

**NAIITS**

***Graduate Admissions***

P.O. Box 1169

Montague, PE C0A 1R0

Canada

+1.888.704.3824

[admissions@naiits.com](mailto:admissions@naiits.com)

## NAIITS /PORTLAND

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'/PORTLAND'S 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 social ethics, 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, learning styles and learning contexts of Indigenous people where and as possible;
- 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 the forms included in the application packet, printed and sent to the referees)
6. One official transcript from each college or university attended – sealed from the issuing institution

#### **Return all application materials to either:**

Office of Graduate Admissions  
Portland Seminary  
12753 S.W. 68<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97223

**Or,**

NAIITS Admissions  
PO Box 1169  
Montague, PE COA 1R0  
Canada

#### **Notes:**

1. NAIITS /PORTLAND 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 /PORTLAND reserves the right to limit applicants to those of Native North American and other Indigenous descent if and as they deem appropriate.
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 PORTLAND SEMINARY and NAIITS and are not returned or transferred to another institution.

**Application for Admission** (please print clearly in black pen)

**©Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use**

ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

TD Paid Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Personal Information**

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name \_\_\_\_\_

Other names used that may appear on transcript

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
mm / dd / yyyy

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

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How did you hear about NAIITS' programs?

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**III. Ministry Experience**

Present ministry vocation \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Organization name and address \_\_\_\_\_

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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** (Please provide one professional, one academic, and one personal/tribal reference as required)**Professional** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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**Academic** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal/Tribal**

\_\_\_\_\_

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 recreate the 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.

NAITS, as a group of Jesus’ followers, upholds the following points that flow from the narrative of our faith:

We believe in one eternal Creator of all, the source of life, who exists as a mystery to us: three persons in one. Our Creator is at once the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because of these three, and their love for all that is, the universe is created, including humanity, made in our Creator’s image.

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

We believe in our Creator as Jesus Christ, the Word who became like us, who is simultaneously fully transcendent and fully human. He came to show us the Creator and to perfect humanity and, through his person, work, life, teaching, death, and resurrection, to reconcile us to our Creator. He is now actively present with us as Savior, Teacher, Lord, Healer, and Friend.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathed the Creator’s message into the prophets and apostles, opens our eyes to our Creator’s Truth embodied and lived in Jesus Christ, empowers us for holy living, and carries on in us the work of the restoration of all things to the intent and purpose of our Creator – what we know as our salvation.

We believe that this 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 our Creator, our sins are forgiven, and we receive eternal life.

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

We believe that our Creator has called us to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to be 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.

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



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.

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 eternity either in our Creator's presence or absence. Ultimately, Christ's kingdom will be victorious over all evil, and the faithful will reign with him in eternal life.

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***Applicant's Affirmation***

***I authorize investigation of all information provided during the application process. References provided by me may give Portland/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 Portland/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 Portland/NAIITS 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. NOTE: Return completed form to: NAIITS Admissions P.O. Box 1169, Montague, PE COA 1R0 Canada

**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. NOTE: Return completed form to: NAIITS Admissions P.O. Box 1169, Montague, PE COA 1R0 Canada

**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. NOTE: Return completed form to: NAIITS Admissions P.O. Box 1169, Montague, PE C0A 1R0 Canada

**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?