

Interested in the Sloan Foundation Indigenous Graduate Partnership at SUNY-ESF? Here are answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Don't see the answer to your question? Please reach out to Dr. Robin Kimmerer at rkimmer@esf.edu and we will respond as quickly as possible.

What is the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership?

- The Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP) is a scholarship program funded by the A.P. Sloan Foundation since the fall of 2003 to support Indigenous (Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian – U.S. Citizenship) graduate students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) with the intent of increasing the number of Indigenous Americans earning master's and doctoral degrees in STEM disciplines. For more information, click [here](#).

What are the benefits of participation in the SIGP?

- You will become part of a prestigious nationwide network of indigenous scholars, with the benefits of mentoring and community connection, in support of higher education. The benefits of participation in the SIGP include: tuition waiver from SUNY-ESF, a stipend, support for health insurance, research experience, professional development opportunities, faculty mentorship, and networking with a community [current and former SIGP awardees](#).

What are the expectations and responsibilities of SIGP scholars?

- Enrollment in an approved STEM field program, submission of an annual spending plan and expenditure report, submission of an academic report at the conclusion of every semester of enrollment, and timely completion of the graduate degree. SIGP scholars participate in a weekly seminar offering academic and professional development as well as a supportive mentoring environment with a lively cohort of other Sloan scholars.

Who is eligible to apply to the SIGP?

- Students of Native American, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian descent who meet SUNY ESF's graduate admissions criteria and want to pursue an M.S. or Ph.D. in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) field.

Do the benefits of SIGP differ for Masters and PhD students?

- Yes. Masters students will receive a tuition waiver and a stipend of \$18,000 per year of enrollment up to three years. PhD students receive the tuition waiver, a full Graduate Assistantship (teaching or research) at SUNY ESF during every semester of enrollment up to four years, and a total of \$40,000 over the course of their program.

What is the timeline for application to the SIGP?

- We are currently recruiting for students for the Fall 2020 semester. While the official SUNY-ESF deadline for applications is January 15, the deadline for the SIGP is somewhat more flexible. We are accepting applications on a rolling basis; however, as

spaces are limited, we encourage potential applicants to submit their completed applications as soon as possible.

I'm interested in applying! What are the next steps?

- Application information for all SUNY-ESF graduate programs is available [here](#). Please indicate on your application that you're interested in the SIGP. Additionally, please reach out to Dr. Robin Kimmerer at rkimmer@esf.edu so we can also discuss your specific areas of interest and guide you to the most appropriate graduate advisor.

What are the criteria for selection as a Sloan scholar?

- The first criteria for selection is acceptance to the SUNY ESF Graduate School (see [here](#)). Acceptance to ESF is based upon a number of factors, including undergraduate GPA, GRE scores, and relevant professional and life experience. While there is a minimum GPA for admission, the graduate dean can exercise discretion with respect to individual applicants, and the GRE requirement can be waived upon request. SUNY ESF considers the whole person in making admissions decisions! Additionally, all prospective applicants to the SIGP qualify for an application fee waiver. We strongly advise prospective applications to reach out to Dr. Robin Kimmerer with questions.

Is there a separate application for the Sloan program?

- Yes. Once you have been accepted to the Graduate School, you will be asked to complete a supplemental essay question. This essay, in addition to a phone interview with Dr. Kimmerer, will inform the selection process for Sloan scholars.

I don't know how to reach out to prospective advisors. Help!

- We would be glad to! See [this sheet](#) for helpful tips.

Who will facilitate my experience at SUNY-ESF?

- As a SIGP scholar at SUNY-ESF, you will work closely with the staff and faculty affiliated with the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment (CNPE). The CNPE brings together a strong and diverse team of STEM faculty with experience in mentorship, research and teaching with Indigenous students. Affiliated faculty members contribute to the CNPE under the direction of indigenous scholars Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer (Potawatomi, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor) and Assistant Director Neil Patterson (Tuscarora, Scientific Co-chair, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force).

What will my experience as part of the SIGP at SUNY-ESF involve?

- Students entering the program may select from any of the 40 graduate STEM programs at ESF. Upon matriculation, they will participate in all of the Graduate Student Orientation programs offered by the College. In addition, all SIGP students will become part of the CNPE mentoring group which includes faculty and staff mentors, peer mentors and indigenous community partners. Sloan students will also enroll in a weekly CNPE Indigenous Leaders seminar which provides social and cultural support, integration of indigenous and scientific knowledges, leadership opportunities, academic

skills support and professional development experiences. The cohort experience will begin with a retreat at one of SUNY-ESF's wilderness field stations to provide an initial cohesive experience for students and mentors. This retreat will introduce the ecological and cultural landscape which students will inhabit during the graduate program, and begin to cultivate a sense of place and belonging which supports student success. Finally, the SIGP program will facilitate ongoing cultural connection between students and the Onondaga Nation, located just a few miles from campus.

Why should I study at SUNY-ESF?

- SUNY ESF is the nation's leading STEM institution devoted entirely to the science of the environment, from conservation biology, forest management, ecology, conservation biotechnology, to bioprocess engineering and sustainable energy solutions. Graduate students may enroll in one of 40 different programs of study (see next question for more details). In addition to the wide array of STEM courses available, the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment has developed a suite of courses specifically designed to meet our goal of attracting and supporting indigenous students. Our students also have free access to the entire course catalog at Syracuse University, which includes Native American studies.

What graduate programs does SUNY-ESF offer in STEM?

- SUNY-ESF offers more than 40 M.S. and Ph.D. programs in STEM fields. Eligible departments include: Chemistry, Environmental and Forest Biology, Environmental Resource Engineering, Environmental Science, Forest and Natural Resources Management, and Paper and Bioprocess Engineering. For a complete listing of degree programs, please see [The Graduate School website](#).

What is the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment?

- The mission of SUNY-ESF's [Center for Native Peoples and the Environment](#) is to become a national leader in education, research and outreach that integrate the wisdom of indigenous knowledge and the tools of scientific knowledge, in service to sustainability. Building upon a decade of collaboration with indigenous groups for research and educational outreach, the CNPE was officially established eleven years ago. Since that time, the CNPE has grown considerably. We now offer a College-wide minor, eight courses, a graduate curriculum and have attracted more than \$2million in extramural grant support from both federal and philanthropic sources. We are actively involved in research, education and outreach. In 2018, the CNPE received a NYS legislative appropriation to serve as an environmental liaison between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Indigenous Nations in NY, creating additional opportunities for our students and collaborators.

Who will be my fellow students?

- Because Sloan Scholars are admitted in annual cohorts of 4-5 students, the community ranges from first year graduate students to those nearing degree completion. Students associated with the Center also come from ally communities and represent a wide range

of interests and perspectives. We're proud of their achievements and career success. Among our indigenous alumni are the manager of a tribal nursery, environmental educator for the National Park Service and tribes, a PhD student in forest management, a hydrologic engineer, coordinator for the Northeast Climate Science Center, an intern at the former White House Council on Environmental Quality, a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow, and a member of the EPA Tribal Science Forum.

Which other universities participate in the SIGP?

- In addition to SUNY-ESF, other university members of the SIGP include: University of Alaska-Fairbanks, University of Alaska-Anchorage, University of Arizona, University of Montana, Montana State University, Montana Tech, and Purdue University.

What is the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation?

- Founded in 1934 by industrialist Alfred P. Sloan Jr., [the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation](#) is a not-for-profit grantmaking institution that supports high quality, impartial scientific research; fosters a robust, diverse scientific workforce; strengthens public understanding and engagement with science; and promotes the health of the institutions of scientific endeavor.