



**World Indigenous Nations University
(WINU)**
Sovereign Forever – Forever Sovereign

**INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND
ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE STRATEGY**

TO DEVELOP A

MEMORANDUM OF UNITY

This *International Indigenous Education, Research and Engagement Alliance Strategy* is a guide to developing a Memorandum of Unity. It recognizes the pioneering and visionary work of the Founding Elders and Leaders, and subsequent members who have worked diligently to establish the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU), the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), and the foundational statements, agreements, declarations, and protocols. All of which are incorporated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Coolangatta Statement of 1999; the Mataatua Declaration of 1993; and the 2014 UN General Assembly Outcomes Statement, all of which are collectively referenced hereby and inform this Memorandum of Unity.

In the Spirit of collaboration and reciprocity, institutions entering into a Memorandum of Unity with the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU), agree to abide by the principles of relationality, respect, responsibility, relevance, responsiveness, reciprocity, reconciliation and resiliency. These pertain to Indigenous participation in higher education, research, publishing, community engagement and service.

By entering into a Memorandum of Unity, the participating Indigenous-serving and First Nations educational institution agrees to join with the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) in forming a partnership for the exchange of information and resources where appropriate. The partnership is for developing innovative, culturally respectful and collaborative education initiatives such as student and staff exchange, community engagement for progressing collaborative research and academic programs and activities in the areas of Indigenous education, academic and research development. These broadly relate to the education, human rights and well-being of Indigenous people, and the sustaining of their Indigenous and cultural knowledges, values, histories, languages, environmental and cultural heritage protection and sustainability.

An Indigenous-serving educational institution is one defined as meeting the standards outlined by the WINU, the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), the WINHEC Board of Accreditation, and the WINHEC Research Standards, as adopted by WINU. Furthermore, an Indigenous-serving educational institution is one that can demonstrate that their goals align with the objectives, philosophy, mission and goals of WINU, and which underpins the UNDRIP, and other international and national documents of note that pertain to the education and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

Community engagement with Indigenous peoples is built upon relationships of mutual respect, trust and integrity, which sustain these relationships between groups of people working towards shared goals and service provision. Without genuine engagement with Indigenous peoples, communities and organisations it will be difficult to meet WINU's objectives, missions and goals. Any partnership must be underpinned by the Articles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the principles of free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and their committees, through their representative institutions. The adoption of the latter provides an internationally developed framework for engagement.

A Memorandum of Unity in no way takes away the intellectual and ceremonial or property rights to the Indigenous knowledge of individual First Nations peoples and groups.

Specifically, the partner institutions will be required to:

1. Collaborate and engage with WINU in the planning and effective delivery of innovative academic programs, research and related activities for all their Indigenous staff and students, through each partner committed to undertaking the following criteria:
 - i. ensure equal access to high-quality education that recognises Indigenous people's diverse cultures and knowledge, and empowers them to deliver such educational programs;
 - ii. promulgate, promote and protect Indigenous people's knowledges, culture, values, languages, histories, art, stories, and research methodologies;
 - iii. promote and adhere to the WINU cultural and research standard's frameworks and policy;
 - iv. assist each other in the development of exemplary education and research policies, programs, practices, curriculum and assessment strategies;
 - v. encourage ongoing sharing of cultural resources and communication about education, academic writing and research using digital and emerging learning tools and technologies; and
 - vi. broaden other potential innovative opportunities for additional academic and research collaborations, including joint and cotutelle/co-badged degrees that incorporates the supervision of postgraduate research degrees, peer reviewing of articles, chapters and books, and the awarding of a postgraduate degree from both WINU and the partnering institution.
2. Collaborate and engage with the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) in the planning and delivery of innovative education, community engagement service, publishing and research activities, which in good faith commits to the purpose and

intention outlined in the criteria of the WINHEC International Indigenous Education and Engagement Alliance Strategy, including the following:

i. Legal and Policy

- affirm support for the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007;
- promote and protect the intellectual and cultural property rights and scholarship of Indigenous knowledges, cultural heritage, languages and cultural practices;
- promote cross-cultural competence of all partner institution's educators and staff that are engaged in teaching, research, engagement, and the development of policies and practices, as they pertain to Indigenous peoples, students and staff; and
- promote increased historical and contemporary understanding between and among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people throughout the world.

ii. Teaching and Learning

- encourage students, teachers, researchers and administrators to pursue improved teaching and learning through mutually recognized and effective pedagogy and practices;
- offer high quality cross-institutional instructional coursework and programs that include exchange opportunities in each of the partnering institution's sites aimed at increased cross-cultural understanding;
- assist each other in the development of exemplary curriculum and assessment strategies; and
- encourage ongoing sharing of cultural resources and communication about educational issues using digital and emerging learning tools and technologies.

iii. Research

- explore opportunities for the development of shared research interests among staff and students from each of the partnering institution, which are founded upon cultural and ethical research standards, practices and principles;
- promoting collaborative research that responds to and has valued impact in addressing Indigenous communities' human rights, education, well-being and cultural environmental sustainability; and
- respond to, and action the mission, goals and objectives of WINHEC; the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU), the World Indigenous Research Alliance (WIRA), as well as the Articles outlined in the UNDRIP.

iv. Engagement

- facilitate national and international exchange of students, staff, researchers, Elders and communities to foster collaborative and innovative scholarship and research;
- develop culturally safe exchange policies and practices;
- broaden other potential innovative opportunities for additional academic and research collaborations, including joint and/or co-badged degrees; and

- facilitate respectful engagement and consultation as a key cornerstone of the community-engagement process that enhances the sustainable social, cultural and economic development of Indigenous peoples, communities, organisation and nations.

Ratification of a Memorandum of Unity by participating institutions will not result in any material, financial, or other obligation for any of the institutional partners unless otherwise agreed upon. Each of the institutions will determine the financing of specific joint initiatives in concert with their respective policies. These activities shall be discussed and agreed upon, case by case.

A Memorandum of Unity is effective for a period, as agreed upon by all partners, and from the date of signature. It may be revised or extended by mutual consent. All necessary changes of the Memorandum of Unity, or termination of the agreement, requires notice of six-months in advance to all parties.

Directions to becoming an aligned partner institution

Institutions who aspire to enter into a partnership and a Memorandum of Unity with WINU are required to:

- i. collaborate and engage with WINU in the planning and effective delivery of academic programs, research and related activities for all of their Indigenous staff and students;
- ii. demonstrate evidence they meet the criteria for the planning and delivery of academic programs, research and related activities, and engagement
- iii. sign a Memorandum of Unity (refer to Appendix A); and
- iv. return the signed copy of a Memorandum of Unity to the WINU email for WINU's Executives correspondence:
 - a. **E-mail:** winuenquiries@gmail.com

**Institution's Application addressing the criteria set out in the International
Indigenous Education, Research and Engagement Alliance Strategy to enter into a
Memorandum of Unity**



MEMORANDUM OF UNITY (MOU)

In the Spirit of Collaboration and Reciprocation, the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) and _____, enter into this Memorandum of Unity and agree to abide by the principles of relationality, respect, responsibility, relevance, responsiveness, reciprocity, reconciliation and resiliency as Indigenous-serving educational institutions, which pertain to Indigenous participation in higher education, research, publishing and community engagement.

This Memorandum of Unity recognizes the pioneering and visionary work of the Founding Elders and leaders, and subsequent members who have worked diligently to establish the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium and the World Indigenous Nations University, as well as the foundational statements, agreements, declarations, and protocols. All of which are incorporated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Coolangatta Statement of 1999, the Mataatua Declaration of 1993, the 2014 UN General Assembly Outcomes Statement, all of which are collectively referenced hereby and made a part of, and inform this Memorandum of Unity.

With this Memorandum of Unity, the participating Indigenous-serving educational institution's Indigenous staff and First Nations institutions agree to join with the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) in forming a partnership. This partnership is for exchanging information and resources where appropriate, and for developing innovative, culturally respectful and collaborative education initiatives such as student and staff exchange, and community engagement. The partnership is to also progress research and academic development and activities in the areas of Indigenous education, academic and research programs, community engagement, and research broadly related to the education, human rights and well-being of Indigenous people and the sustaining of their traditional and cultural knowledges, values, histories, languages, environmental and cultural heritage protection and sustainability.

This Memorandum of Unity in no way diminishes, erodes, denies or negates the intellectual rights to the Indigenous knowledge of individual First Nations peoples and groups.

An Indigenous-serving educational institution supports the Indigenous tenets outlined in this agreement, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other

international and national documents of note pertaining to the educational well-being of Indigenous peoples. Engagement with Indigenous peoples is built upon mutual respect, trust, and integrity, which sustain these relationships between groups of people working towards shared goals and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and their committees through their representative institutions.

As a partner institution of this alliance, _____, agrees to collaborate in the planning and delivery of innovative education, community engagement service, academic programs, and research activities, abiding in good faith to the purpose and intention outlined in the criteria of the WINU *International Indigenous Education, Research and Engagement Alliance Strategy*.

Specifically, the partner institutions will evidence they can:

1. Collaborate and engage with WINU in the planning and effective delivery of innovative academic programs, research and related activities for all their Indigenous staff and students, through each partner committed to undertaking the following criteria:
 - i. ensure equal access to high-quality education that recognises Indigenous people's diverse cultures and knowledge, and empowers them to deliver such educational programs;
 - ii. promulgate, promote and protect the intellectual and cultural property rights of Indigenous people's knowledges, values, languages, histories, art, stories and research methodologies;
 - iii. promote and adhere to the WINU cultural and research standard's frameworks and policy;
 - iv. assist each other in the development of exemplary education and research policies, programs, practices, curriculum and assessment strategies;
 - v. encourage ongoing sharing of cultural resources and communication about education, academic writing and research using digital and emerging learning tools and technologies; and
 - vi. broaden other potential innovative opportunities for additional academic and research collaborations, including joint and cotutelle/co-badged degrees, that incorporates the supervision of postgraduate research degrees, peer reviewing of articles, chapters and books, and the awarding of postgraduate degrees from both WINU and the partnering institution.
2. Collaborate and engage with the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) in the planning and delivery of innovative education, community engagement service, publishing and research activities and in good faith to the purpose and intention outlined in the criteria of the WINHEC International Indigenous Education and Engagement Alliance Strategy, including the following:

i. Legal and Policy

- affirm support for the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007;

- promote and protect the intellectual and cultural property rights and scholarship of Indigenous knowledges, cultural heritage, languages and cultural practices;
- promote cross-cultural competence of all partner institution's educators and staff that are engaged in teaching, research, engagement, and the development of policies and practices, as they pertain to Indigenous peoples, students and staff; and
- promote increased historical and contemporary understanding between and among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people throughout the world.

ii. Teaching and Learning

- encourage students, teachers, researchers and administrators to pursue improved teaching and learning through mutually recognized and effective pedagogy and practices;
- offer high quality cross-institutional instructional coursework and programs that include exchange opportunities in each of the partnering institution's sites aimed at increased cross-cultural understanding;
- assist each other in the development of exemplary curriculum and assessment strategies; and
- encourage ongoing sharing of cultural resources and communication about educational issues using digital and emerging learning tools and technologies.

iii. Research

- explore opportunities for the development of shared research interests among staff and students from each of the partnering institution, which are founded upon cultural and ethical research standards, practices and principles;
- promoting collaborative research that responds to and has valued impact in addressing Indigenous communities' human rights, education, well-being and cultural environmental sustainability; and
- respond to, and action the mission, goals and objectives of WINHEC; the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU), the World Indigenous Research Alliance (WIRA), as well as the Articles outlined in the UNDRIP.

iv. Engagement

- facilitate national and international exchange of students, staff, researchers, Elders and communities to foster collaborative and innovative scholarship and research;
- develop culturally safe exchange policies and practices;
- broaden other potential innovative opportunities for additional academic and research collaborations, including joint and/or co-badged degrees; and
- facilitate respectful engagement and consultation as a key cornerstone of the community-engagement process that enhances the sustainable social, cultural and economic development of Indigenous peoples, communities, organisation and nations.

Ratification of this Memorandum of Unity by participating institutions will not result in any material, financial, or other obligation for any institutional partners, unless otherwise agreed

upon. Each of the institutions will determine the financing of specific joint initiatives in concert with their respective policies. These activities shall be discussed and agreed upon, case by case.

This Memorandum of Unity aligns with the WINU *International Indigenous Education, Research and Engagement Alliance Strategy*. It is effective for a period, as agreed upon by all partners, and from the date of signature. Any necessary changes to the Memorandum of Unity in Purpose and Intention, or termination of the agreement, requires notice of six-months in advance to all parties.

This memorandum creates an *International Indigenous Education, Research and Engagement Alliance*, as ratified by the partner institution identified herein.

[Name, Title] [Institution]	Date
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[Name, Title] [Institution]	Date
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Chair WINU Executive Committee	Date
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Chair WINU Executive Committee	Date
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