



VERNA J. KIRKNESS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# MAY 2023

## Application Package

### May 2023 Program Dates:

OPTION 1: May 7th – May 12th

OPTION 2: May 14th – May 19th

OPTION 3: May 22nd – May 26th

OPTION 4: May 28th – June 2nd

(\*Students can only participate  
in one program week.)

## Apply Now

## Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program

The VJKF Program offers Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) high school students an opportunity to spend one week conducting research in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math during the month of May. As one of our Kirkness scholars, you'll work with university professors and graduate students from one of our partner universities researching a specific topic of interests. All our students are given an opportunity to let us know which areas of STEM research that most interests them.

### VJKF Program Details

- All expenses are paid if a student is accepted into the VJKF Program.
- As part of our application process students will select which research areas they are most interested in. We will send accepted students a list of research opportunities that will note which university is sponsoring the program, and what week that specific program will run. Students will be able to select their top 5 choices that interest them most. We will do our best to match students with their #1 choice, but can't guarantee that will be possible in all cases.
- Sample Program week can be found on our website. **Student can only participate in ONE week.**
- Accepted students will be emailed a copy of research opportunities and the dates for those specific programs when available. Do not wait to apply as we are accepting applications on a first-come basis. We strongly recommend applying early, as this year's program is capped at 100 students, and we will likely have a waiting list.
- On the final afternoon of the Program, your group will make a presentation about your learnings from the lab for the week. Don't worry there's lots of group time to build a successful presentation.
- All students participate in our certification celebration on Thursday night.

# Program Benefits

There are **NO**  
fees to attend a  
VJKF Program.



## Conduct research

You'll have the opportunity to learn about one of your top three selected research areas.



## Campus life

Get a taste of university life. Work with professors and attend campus tours.



## Receive swag

This year's program includes, swag bags, prizes, games, and team activities.



## Receive certificate

Every student who completes our program receives a certificate of completion.



## Expand your knowledge

You'll have an opportunity to learn about STEM research happening at universities.



## Indigenous service on campus

See what service and supports are in place for students on campus.



## Build your resume

Attending the VJKF program is a noteworthy accomplishment to put on your resume.



## Hands-on science

Students in this year's program will have hands-on experience in university labs.



## Have your questions answered

You'll have an opportunity to ask questions about university and campus life.



## Meet friends

Meet VJKF Ambassadors and talk with other students from across Canada.



## Hear guest speakers

We have a line-up of amazing guest speakers for this year's event.



## Scholarship Opportunities

Students who complete the VJKF Program are eligible to apply for a VJKF scholarship to attend a post secondary institution.

## Become a Kirkness Scholar APPLY TODAY!

Thanks to our generous donors our program is offered to Indigenous students FREE of charge. For further details about our program and application process, [please visit our website](http://www.vernakirkness.org).



**VJKF**  
VERNA J. KIRKNESS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



info@vjkf.org  
[www.vernakirkness.org](http://www.vernakirkness.org)



587.814.0444  
1.888.647.1701



## **Campus Program Sample (Sample of a past UBC in-person program)**

**\*2023 VJKF Program schedule will be available to students early 2023.**

### **Sunday, May 13**

3:30–4:30 Arrival Place Vanier Residences  
6:00–9:00 Dinner in Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Introduction to the Kirkness Program  
10:00 Curfew

### **Monday, May 14**

8:00–8:45 Meet chaperones in residence common room and go to breakfast  
Pick up bagged lunches  
9:00–11:00 Sty-Wet-Tan Hall - Elder Larry Grant and Host Linc Kessler  
11:00–4:30 Mentors/representatives from the labs will meet students in Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Lab time  
4:30 Return to Place Vanier Residence  
5:30 Dinner Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
6:30–9:00 Introduction to Kirkness Program, plus Social Media & Blogging

### **Tuesday, May 15**

8:00 Meet chaperones in Place Vanier Residence common room and go to breakfast  
9:00 Students meet their mentors at Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Lab time  
12:00 Lunch with lab groups  
4:15 Return to Place Vanier Residence  
4:30 Dinner in Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria with chaperones  
7:00–9:00 Kirkness Program T-Shirt Design

### **Wednesday, May 16**

8:00 Meet chaperones in Place Vanier Residence common room and go to breakfast  
9:00 Students meet their mentors at Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Lab time  
12:00 Lunch with lab groups  
4:30–5:00 Return to Place Vanier Residence  
5:30 Dinner with chaperones in Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
6:00–9:00 Homework night in Sty-Wet-Tan

### **Thursday, May 17**

8:00 Meet chaperones in Place Vanier Residence common room and go to breakfast  
9:00 Students meet their mentors at Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Lab time  
12:00 Lunch with lab groups  
4:20 Return to Place Vanier Residence  
6:00–9:00 Traditional Feast–Sty-Wet-Tan

### **Friday, May 18**

8:00 Meet chaperones in Place Vanier Residence common room and go to breakfast  
9:00 Students meet their mentors at Place Vanier Residence Cafeteria  
Prep time for presentations  
12:00 Lunch with lab groups  
1:00–4:30 Student presentations in Lecture Hall  
5:00 Departures–some students may stay over to Saturday for travel



# VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**ON-CAMPUS  
PROGRAM**

## **2023 APPLICATION FORM** for the **VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

The VJKF Program offers Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) high school students in grade 11 and 12 an opportunity to spend one week conducting research in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math during the month of May 2023. Please call our office at 587-814-0444 should you have questions.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 31, 2023**

All applications and supporting materials must be received before the deadline.

Completed applications can be received by:

Mail: Verna J. Kirkness Foundation  
Attn: Application committee  
P.O. Box 1681,  
Cochrane, AB, T4C 1B6  
Email: [morgan.laboucan@vjkf.org](mailto:morgan.laboucan@vjkf.org)

Students can also apply online at:

[www.vernakirkness.org](http://www.vernakirkness.org)

### **ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND INCLUDES:**

**COMPLETED (TYPED) APPLICATION, INCLUDING SIGNED CONSENT FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

Please check here (if you do not have a scanner) to indicate that you will be mailing your Parental Consent separate from the emailed application.

**REFERENCE LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR**

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR**

Fill in the required fields on this application or apply online.

Print the consent form on page 5. Complete and sign the application, then email or mail the completed forms to the address noted above.



# VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## PART 1 – STUDENT INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:    M    F    Other                      Preferred language:    French    English

Pronouns:    He/his    She/her    They/them    Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Year)

I am:    Status First Nation    Non-Status First Nation    Inuit    Métis    I'm currently in grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Personal): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (School): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check box if mailing and street address are the same

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## PART 1 – PARENT/GUARDIAN AND TEACHER/COUNSELLOR INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Counsellor referring and submitting application: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Counsellor phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Counsellor email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_





# VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## PART 3 – PROGRAM CHOICE (on campus program)

In December and January, we will let all successful VJKF student applicants know which universities are participating and research opportunities they are holding for VJKF students. We will try and match students with their research preferences, but sometimes this isn't always possible.

For now, **please select ALL the weeks** you would be available to attend. If you're a successful applicant, **you will only be selected to participate in ONE program week.**

WEEK 1: May 7th – May 12th

WEEK 2: May 14th – May 19th

WEEK 3: May 22nd – May 26th

WEEK 4: May 28nd – June 2nd

## PART 4 – REFERENCE

ASK YOUR TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR TO WRITE A LETTER OF REFERENCE AND LIST THEIR NAME BELOW. Check the guidelines on the website for further information.

Name of Reference:

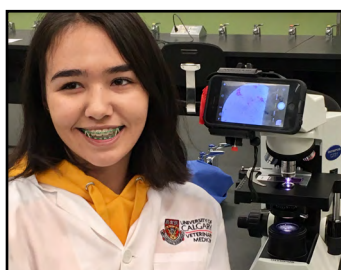
Email:

Phone Number:

## PART 5 – UPDATES

Help us keep our records current while you attend school. This information is crucial in helping us apply for additional funding for the VJKF Program, which will allow more Indigenous students to attend our program in the future.

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, I AGREE TO PROVIDE THE VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION WITH SHORT WRITTEN UPDATES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS ABOUT MY ONGOING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.



P.O. 1681, Cochrane, AB T4C 1B6 | 587.814.0444 | 1.888.647.1701

[www.vernakirkness.org](http://www.vernakirkness.org) | [info@vjkf.org](mailto:info@vjkf.org)



## PART 6—ESSAY

In a maximum of 400 (TYPED) words, please explain why you are interested in attending the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program. **This essay is the most important part of the application.** The more information you provide, the better chance you have of being accepted. Applications with less than 50 words will not be accepted.



## PART 7 – PARENTAL CONSENT

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that \_\_\_\_\_ has applied to participate in the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program (hereinafter called the “Program”) that includes lectures with professors from participating Program universities.

I understand that participation in the Program will involve:

- 1) the applicant spending one week on a university campus and working as part of a research team from a university;
- 2) as part of the participation in the Program, the applicant working with a research team will be provided with materials and basic safety training as arranged by the Program;
- 3) during their involvement the applicant may be mentored and supervised primarily by a graduate student;
- 4) there are learning activities in the evenings that will require student attendance.

I understand that there are certain expectations regarding the applicant’s conduct during their involvement in the Program, which will be explained to the applicant.

These expectations include:

- The applicant following the instructions given to them by the mentor or lab supervisor.
- The applicant following ALL safety protocols in place during the Program.
- The applicant conducting themselves in a respectful and mature manner at all times.
- The consumption of alcohol or illegal substances throughout their participation in the Program is strictly prohibited.
- Violation of any of the above rules may result in the applicant being asked to leave the Program.

I understand that participation in the Program may involve the applicant coming into close proximity with, and working with scientific apparatuses and/or materials that may be dangerous if mishandled. I understand that all participants will be asked to complete a survey at the end of the Program. I further understand that, if the applicant is accepted to participate in the Program, I will be required to sign a situation specific consent form prior to their participation fully indemnifying the host university, as well as the Program planners, administrators and personnel from any and all liability for any injury which may be suffered by the applicant during their participation. Having read the above, I consent to the applicant’s submission of an application to participate in the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program.

Signature

Date (day-month-year)

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Relationship to Applicant

Best Contact Number:

Email:





VERNA J. KIRKNESS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# Our Partner Universities



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY



FIRST NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
of CANADA



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA



University  
of Victoria



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



KWANTLEN  
POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY



University  
of Manitoba



McGill  
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN



MEMORIAL  
UNIVERSITY



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY



uOttawa