

SLOAN INDIGENOUS GRADUATE PROGRAM (SIGP)  
THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (MUS)  
STUDENT APPLICATION

The MUS SIGP committee determines the number of master's and doctoral SIGP scholarships awarded to Indigenous STEM graduate students (Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and original peoples of Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands with U.S. citizenship) for each academic year based on available funding provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Depending upon the need to balance the MUS SIGP portfolio, the numbers of STEM M.S. and STEM Ph.D. awards may vary. The M.S. awards are \$20,000 total and the Ph.D. awards are \$40,000 total. Both awards are paid out over the duration of the degree programs. The Sloan awards are a supplement to a student's existing Teaching or Research Assistantship and tuition waiver. A student can apply for an M.S. award and then apply separately for a Ph.D. award upon completion of the M.S. degree.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_

Student Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number

Academic Program \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Date \_\_\_\_\_

Montana University System Campus (Missoula, Tech or Montana State) \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Sought (master's or doctoral) \_\_\_\_\_

Indigenous Affiliation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please fill out ONE of the enrollment verification forms following this page)**

SIGP considers students for the Sloan Scholars Program based on a recommendation from the student's prospective department. Please provide an advisor's or graduate coordinator's signature that will serve as a recommendation from the student's program that the student named in this application be considered for the MUS SIGP scholarships.

Advisor or Graduate Coordinator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor or Graduate Coordinator's Program \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor or Graduate Coordinator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership

Montana University System  
Student Tribal Enrollment Information

Applicants to SIGP must be U.S. citizens and should provide evidence of enrollment in a federally or state recognized tribe. In the absence of such verification, the applicant must provide a written statement explaining her or his connection to a tribe or indigenous community. Applications from U.S. citizens who belong to tribes in Mexico or Canada will be considered.

Please provide the following information for our files:

Tribal Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Entity Responsible for Enrollment Verification: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number of this Entity: \_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other tribes you affiliate with/have descendency but are not an enrolled member:

This information will be kept confidential and only used as needed for enrollment verification purposes, and reporting enrollment statistics to the Sloan Foundation.

Thank you!

**\*\*\*\*\*If you are not an enrolled member of a tribe, but can claim indigenous descendency, please use the following form rather than this one for tribal affiliation verification.\*\*\*\*\***

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To be filled out by MUS SIGP Staff:

Tribal Enrollment ID verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail TEC form to:

Dr. Aaron Thomas  
32 Campus Drive  
University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812  
**Telephone:** 406-243-2052 | **Fax:** 406-243-4593  
**Email:** aaron.thomas@mso.umt.edu

## Tribal Eligibility Certificate (TEC)

**To be eligible for assistance an applicant:** Must be an enrolled member of a federally or state recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group in the United States, or provide documentation of ancestry to possession of ¼ degree Indian blood of a federally or state recognized tribe.

**Complete this section and send to your Tribal Enrollment Office or USDI-Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency.**

A certificate forwarded by the applicant is NOT VALID. Copies of your Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) or any other documents are NOT ACCEPTABLE as verification. **SIGP will accept a faxed or emailed (.pdf file) Tribal Eligibility Certificate to meet the deadline; however, the original TEC must be mailed to our office.**

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_  
Former Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female  
Parents Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
PO Box/Street Address City State Zip

"I hereby authorize my tribal office/BIA agency to release my tribal information to the Montana University System Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership.

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\* To be completed by Tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Enrollment Office \*\*\*\***

The above named student is applying to the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP) for a scholarship. SIGP is requesting verification of tribal enrollment from your office. The original form must be completed and mailed directly to our office. If faxing or emailing this form to meet a deadline, please also mail the original to our office. SIGP reserves the right to validate all enrollments.

Name of Tribe (If an Alaska Native Group, indicate name of Village): \_\_\_\_\_ Is this tribe U.S. Federally Recognized? Recognized by a State?  
 Yes or  No  Yes or  No

Applicant is an **enrolled member** (check here)

Applicant is a **descendant** of an enrolled member (check here)

Degree of Indian Blood: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree of Indian Blood: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any and all documentation.

Enrollment Officer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

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

To the Tribal or BIA Office: Please sign and date this form. Mail the original form directly to the SIGP office at the above address. Thank you.

For SIGP Use Only:

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

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**These additional application materials should also be included:**

1. A 1,000-word essay written by the applicant that addresses why he or she should be awarded a MUS SIGP scholarship. Include a description of prior academic experience(s), including research (if applicable) and how he or she, as a SIGP scholar, would serve as a role model and/or contribute to the community. Please also include an explanation of the specific research area(s) of interest, and brief statement of commitment to program completion.
2. Academic Record (as evidenced by transcripts, GPA, and other related materials) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. If this documentation resides at the Graduate School, please indicate as such and the Graduate School will locate these materials for the application.
3. Three letters of recommendation that the applicant secured when he or she was applying to the MUS Graduate School/graduate program. If this documentation resides at the Graduate School, please indicate as such and the Graduate School will locate these materials for the application.

**MUS Sloan Guidelines**

Sloan awardees will be referred to the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) who will oversee the distribution of the awards. The requirements and guidelines for each Sloan scholar are outlined below.

- 1) Upon their nomination to NACME and acceptance as Sloan Scholars, students will generate a multi-year plan for projected use of their Sloan funds that will take into account the institutional sources of support the students have been awarded and their prospects for other competitive fellowship programs. Their mentor or campus program director will approve this plan.

The length of the plan will depend on their degree status (e.g. M.S., entering Ph.D., or a Ph.D. student who enters with a M.S. degree or has passed a qualifying exam) as set forth in item 2 below.

These plans are non-binding and intended to begin, and then continue, careful financial planning and resource management on the part of the graduate student. The plans will be reviewed annually by the student and the mentor/program director, and updated as needed. A copy of the approved/modified plan will be sent each year to NACME.

At the end of the first and subsequent years, students will report by general category on their *use* of Sloan funds in the previous year; this information will be used for summary program review purposes only.

- 2) Students will have a maximum number of years to access Sloan funds as follows:
  - for SIGP Master's candidates: four years from date of initial matriculation;
  - for SIGP and MPHD Ph.D. candidates who enter the Ph.D. program with a Master's degree or have passed a qualifying examination in the current field of study: four years from the date of Ph.D. candidacy; and
  - for SIGP and MPHD Ph.D. candidates without prior graduate study in the current field: seven years from date of matriculation into the Ph.D. program.

The maximum number of years includes the total time spent in active student status, on university-approved leave for program purposes, and on any form of university-approved medical, family, or personal leave.

- 3) Students must be, and remain, in good academic standing as defined by their university to receive Sloan funds.
- 4) Once nominations are made and approved by NACME, NACME will establish for each student in a particular cohort a scholarship account with a maximum number of years as indicated in #2 above. Funds in these accounts will be released as stipends directly to the student according to the approved spending plan as per #1 and according to the following schedule:
  - no more than 50% in year 1, 25% in year 2, and 25% in year 3 for Ph.D. students, and
  - no more than 50% in years 1 and 2 for M.S. students.

Within the maximum number of years indicated in #2 above, students may draw down funds only in three years, which may be consecutive or non-consecutive. Stipend checks within a given year may be paid out in no more than three installments, e.g. fall and spring semesters, and summer.

Funds remaining in a student's NACME account established with Sloan funds in excess of \$100.00 will be returned to Sloan accounts at NACME when the student graduates, when the student withdraws or is withdrawn, or when the maximum number of years is reached as indicated in item #2 above, whichever is first.