



# Inuit Nunangat University

## Inuit Nunangat-Wide University Model

Inuit Nunangat University delivers academic and research opportunities rooted in Inuit land, language, and knowledge across multiple jurisdictions where access has long been limited.



### Main Campus

Inuit Nunangat University's main campus in Arviat will serve as the academic and administrative centre, bringing together students and faculty from across Inuit Nunangat, Canada, and the circumpolar world for advanced studies grounded in Inuit knowledge systems and lived experiences. As a gathering place, the main campus will support teaching and research, Inuit-led scholarship, and student services required for academic success, including through advising, wellness, and individual and family services and accommodations. The main campus buildings will reflect Inuit relationships to land while using efficient, resilient building systems suited to Arctic climates.

### Knowledge Centres

Inuit Nunangat University's Knowledge Centres extend university access into communities throughout the four regions of Inuit Nunangat, offering localized learning environments that respect each community's cultural context. These Centres are community-based academic sites that allow students to begin or continue university studies without leaving home for extended periods. Some features include:

- Supporting delivery of degree-level courses through in-person and hybrid formats
- Building on existing local infrastructure and programs rather than duplicating systems
- Centring Inuktitut language use and regional dialects
- Reflect local land, history, and community priorities in teaching and research

This decentralized model reduces geographic, financial, and social barriers to higher education, while ensuring that Inuit learners can pursue university degrees that are academically rigorous and culturally grounded.



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## Backgrounder

Canada is the only Arctic nation without a university in its Arctic region.

The establishment of an Inuit Nunangat University was first identified as a core investment of the National Strategy on Inuit Education of 2011.

Inuit Nunangat University will span multiple jurisdictions to bridge the vast expanse of Inuit Nunangat, which encompasses 40 percent of Canada’s land area across two territories and two provinces.

Inuit Nunangat University will reinforce Canada’s Arctic sovereignty; it will serve as a driving force for Inuit self-determination and leadership, a hub for research and economic growth and a space for vibrant cultural advancement.

It is led by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and rooted in commitments under the Inuit–Crown Partnership Committee.

Work is focused on welcoming the University’s first students in 2030, in faculties concentrating on innovation in environmental protection, sovereignty and economic independence, education and social work, and Inuktut linguistics and literatures.



**The Faculty of Sovereignty** is dedicated to advancing Inuit unity and self-determination across regions and as a collective. Its programs will explore power dynamics, governance structures, modern treaties, and land claim negotiations, while emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. Graduates will be equipped to lead, advocate, and collaborate—fostering agency and shaping pathways toward Inuit self-determination.



**The Faculty of Silatusarniq** (*process of becoming a wise person*) will help grow the next generation of Inuit support workers and educators. The curriculum will bring students into key theories of Inuit culture and society, and build real skills for supporting families and communities. Graduates will confidently engage in the ongoing pursuit of wisdom, bringing knowledge and compassion to their roles as educators, social workers, mental health professionals, community health workers, and more. This is about caring for our people, in our own way.



**The Faculty of Inuktut** is dedicated to strengthening Inuktut language. Students will explore dialectal diversity, cultural connections, and practical applications of Inuktut in governance and professional contexts, ensuring the language thrives as a cornerstone of Inuit identity and education. Inuktut will be integrated in the first course offerings in 2030 and woven into the very fabric of the university.



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*The support and creation of INU can allow Canada to be a world leader in Inuit-led higher education, contributing to Canada’s commitments under UNDRIP.*