



MSWI ADMISSION GUIDE

This guide is designed to assist applicants in the completion of their admission application to the MSW Indigenous Specialization (MSWI) program. All current information is available on our website. Please review the [Application Information page](#) for the most up to date requirements and processes. All required documentation will be hyperlinked on the Application Information page once admissions are open.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 1

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The MSW Indigenous Specialization (MSWI) program is for social workers working in Indigenous social work settings. Social workers working for/with Indigenous organizations work in a fundamentally different historical, cultural and administrative environment in comparison to those working in non-Indigenous settings. The Indigenous Specialization is designed to provide social workers in Indigenous communities with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills within this context. The MSWI program provides students with two completion options: thesis or course-based.

STATEMENT ON ADMISSIONS

The School welcomes and is actively recruiting applicants from communities that experience historical and present-day systemic discrimination and marginalization, and who are committed to social justice, equity, anti-racism and decolonization. In our admissions decisions, we will apply a decolonial equity framework which includes an intersectional lens and will prioritize applicants who are Indigenous, Black and other racialized people.

CONTACT INFORMATION

MSW PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Lucas Baird
swgrad@uvic.ca
250-472-5622

MSW ADMISSIONS & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Saeed Sheshehgar
mswadvise@uvic.ca
250-472-4656

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS & RECORDS CLERK

Kelly Baker
grad19@uvic.ca

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to all our MSW programs is highly competitive. We particularly look for candidates who can evidence a “fit” with our [curriculum](#), [Mission Statement](#), and [Program Objectives](#). Students must ensure that they have read through and reflected on this information and demonstrate in their application that UVic’s MSW program is right for them. Applicants are also advised to complete the [Self-Assessment Exercise](#) to assess whether they have sufficient time and resources to dedicate to graduate studies. Meeting all admission requirements **does not** guarantee admission into our programs.

- **A BSW DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION**

The BSW degree must be completed by April 30th of the MSW entry year. We do not give extensions, nor do we make exceptions to this date. A graduating cumulative GPA of 6.0 (UVic Grading Scale) or higher in the last 30 units/60 credits (approximately 2 years of full-time study) is also required.

- **POST-BSW INDIGENOUS HUMAN SERVICES EXPERIENCE**

Non-Indigenous applicants are required to have a minimum of 6000 hours of human services experience in an Indigenous social services setting, or a closely related field, as of the application deadline date (December 1st). Indigenous applicants are required to have a minimum of 3000 hours of human services experience in an Indigenous social services setting, or a closely related field, as of the application deadline date (December 1st). Paid or volunteer human services experience can include, but is not limited to, work in areas such as health, education, housing, income security, economic development, social justice, justice and public safety, community development, and policy/advocacy work.

- **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED APPLICANTS**

Unless you come from an [exempt country](#), applicants must have a TOEFL score of 575 on the paper-based test or an overall score of 90 on the Internet Based TOEFL (IBT), with the following minimum section requirements: Listening 20; Speaking 20; Reading 20; Writing 20. Equivalent scores on ELTS or MELAB are accepted.

APPLICATION PROCESSES & REQUIREMENTS

The online application and required documents are submitted electronically through Graduate Admissions and Records using the [My UVic Application service](#). Please be prepared to upload all required documentation at the time of applying. Late applications will not be considered. Please direct any questions about the online application process to Graduate Admissions and Records Office (GARO).

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Statement of Intent provides an opportunity for you to outline the degree of compatibility between our MSW Program and your interests and background(s). Before completing the Statement of Intent, please review the School’s [Mission Statement](#) and [MSW Program Objectives](#).

- To complete your Statement of Intent correctly, you **MUST** use the form-fillable PDF and avoid exceeding the maximum 1000-word limit. More importantly, **ONLY** use Adobe Acrobat to open the PDF file and upload your information.

2. EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

All applicants are required to complete and submit a detailed summary of their experience in the field, including the calculation of the total number of hours of experience gained prior to the application date using the Experience Summary form. Information submitted in any other format will be discarded.

Applicants who believe that particular life experiences should be counted towards the experience summary are invited to provide a rationale for including this and articulate the connections of this life experience to social work. This rationale can be included at the bottom of the Experience Summary form.

- Field/practicum/co-op placements/internships **cannot be used** to meet this requirement.
- Again, you **MUST** use the form-fillable PDF to submit your Experience Summary.

3. RESUME

An updated CV/Resume is required. Please ensure that you include: education, employment, volunteer work, and any additional information on accomplishments or initiatives.

4. THREE REFERENCES

Three references are required, of which one is a mandatory Indigenous community-based reference. The other references may be two academic references or one academic reference and one employer reference. Applicants **cannot** submit two employer references. Please see the bottom of our website for [Advice on Obtaining References](#).

You must enter the names and the e-mail addresses of your chosen referees as part of the online application process. GARO will send an e-mail request to each referee with instructions on how to submit a reference electronically. The online reference page allows referees to copy and paste a reference letter or comments additional to those required on the reference form. If one of your referees is having difficulty submitting a reference, please ask that person to contact GARO directly: 250-472-4657 or garo@uvic.ca.

- Academic references **must** be from post-secondary instructors with whom you have taken a graded course, which is NOT a practicum or field placement.
- The employer reference **must** be from someone in a work setting who has/had a supervisory relationship with you.

You are advised to choose referees who can comment on your ability to complete academic work at the graduate level, including writing and critical analysis skills, and can submit a reference by the deadline. Referees have two (2) weeks after the December 1st application deadline to submit their online reference form through the application system. **References received after this date will not be used by the department to evaluate your application.**

5. POST-SECONDARY TRANSCRIPTS

All Transcripts can be submitted as unofficial PDF files at the time of application. Only if you are offered a seat in the program, you will be required to submit sealed official transcripts from your post-secondary education to GARO.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Applicants for the MSW Advanced program will be notified of admission decisions by late March/early April following the application deadline. The notification will be reflected on the applicant's [My UVic Application](#) profile and will be emailed to the address on the application. Please await confirmation until this time.