

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING TO THE WAWATAY PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE WAWATAY PROGRAM?

Wawatay is a program that bridges Indigenous wisdom and Western science to empower students, to cultivate a thriving community and propel students towards extraordinary achievements in science. The program offers academic and personal supports tailored to individual students' needs. These supports include advisor meetings, access to tutors, cultural and professional development workshops, group activities and spiritual care.

WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF APPLYING TO WAWATAY?

Wawatay students will be honoured with the "Wawatay Scholar" title. Research focus will be shaped by a combination of student interests, Indigenous community needs and relevant research in the Faculty of Science. Through hands-on experience, workshops and activities within laboratories, field stations and/or communities, students will have many opportunities to appreciate the real-world application of a science degree. Students who complete a Bachelor of Science degree as a Wawatay Scholar will have a strong connection to their Indigenous community, access to a network of support and future contacts, and professional skills and knowledge of how to apply that degree to a given career.

Before starting at the University of Manitoba, students will participate in a mandatory four-week Wawatay summer orientation (July 7 to Aug 1, 2025). Orientation is designed to help students obtain the necessary information and skills to facilitate entry into University 1 and life away from home.

Orientation activities include:

- Lunches and discussions with researchers, Indigenous scholars, faculty members, Indigenous elders, and knowledge keepers
- Campus tours to familiarize students with the University, including Faculty of Science offices, laboratories, and buildings.
- Engaging with staff and student organizations.
- Participating in professional skill building workshops.
- Group projects to promote teamwork and a cohort spirit.
- Academic assessment so each student can receive tailored academic and personal supports throughout their degree.

During orientation, Wawatay students will be provided with assistance registering for their Fall term courses. Throughout the Fall/Winter semesters of University 1, students will continue to work with the Wawatay Program Lead, Faculty of Science staff, researchers, and advisors to help guide and support students to ensure a successful transition for entry into the Faculty of Science in their second year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO THE WAWATAY PROGRAM?

1. Students must be of Canadian Indigenous Ancestry (Status, Non-status, Inuit, or Metis) with a high school diploma or equivalent.
2. Students must qualify for entry into University 1 or Direct Entry to Faculty of Science (Admissions Requirements).
U1 entry requirements include 5 full credits at the Grade 12 level in courses designated S, G, or U. You will need a minimum average of 70% over the following courses with no less than 60% in each course:
 - a. English 40S;
 - b. Math 40S;
 - c. Two academic 40S courses ([UM Academic 40S courses guide](#)).

HOW DO YOU APPLY TO THE WAWATAY PROGRAM?

Step 1: Fill out the Wawatay application form and submit the application by Tuesday April 1st, 2025 (4 PM Central time).

Application forms are available on the Faculty of Science/Wawatay website: [How to apply to Wawatay](#)

Please read the application carefully and ensure that you include an official transcript, two completed reference forms and proof on Indigenous ancestry with your completed Wawatay application. The application forms and documents can be submitted electronically to wawatay.science@umanitoba.ca

Successful candidates will be selected from the pool of applicants for an interview which will be conducted remotely via Zoom or other online platform (information will be provided beforehand). The Wawatay Lead will contact the candidates to arrange an interview. Interviewees will be notified shortly thereafter whether they have been accepted into the Wawatay program. Wawatay Scholars will be provided with an information packet so they can prepare for our summer orientation (July 7 to August 1, 2025) AND Fall 2025 term start.

Step 2: Once you have confirmation of entry into the Wawatay Program, your next task is to apply for entry into University 1. Application to and acceptance into the Wawatay Program is not an offer of acceptance to the University of Manitoba. We encourage you to apply early, but you must apply no later than June 6, 2025, as this will ensure you have access to course sections for fall semester. Use the following link: [Undergraduate Admissions: How to Apply](#). If you need assistance with applying to University 1, there are several webinars and pre-recorded videos that can assist you using the following link: [Application Assistance](#). Please also be aware that there is a \$100 fee that must be paid for your application to be processed.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Wawatay Lead (Carrie Selin) and Wawatay Development Specialist (Melanie Lalonde).

We would be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Carrie Selin : Phone: (204) 474-8051; email: carrie.selin@umanitoba.ca

Melanie Lalonde : Phone: (204) 218-4509; email: Melanie.lalonde@umanitoba.ca

