

Arctic Indigenous Scholars Program

2020 Call for Applications

Web: <https://www.arcus.org/indigenous-scholars>

Applications due Friday, 21 February 2020 by 5:00 pm AKST

Build relationships with researchers, decision-makers, and policy-makers in Washington DC! Become familiar with navigating the physical and political landscape of DC and have your voice heard in the Capitol!

The [Arctic Indigenous Scholars Program](#), now in its third year, is accepting applications for travel to DC until Friday, 21 February 2020 at 5:00 pm AKST. This program provides an opportunity for Indigenous scholars to advance their work and address interests and concerns on behalf of themselves and their community/region through building relationships with those working in DC. This program aims to provide financial and logistical support for those who have not had many opportunities to become familiar with DC and with relevant governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work and influence decisions that affect the Arctic. This program is also an opportunity for Indigenous scholars to share and inform those working in DC about the Arctic.

What is an Indigenous Scholar?

We define a scholar as an expert within their own knowledge system. This includes hunters, fishers, and gatherers; those that process and store food; health aides; and others. It includes youth, elders, and adults. A scholar's education may have come from the land, the water, or a classroom.

The Arctic Indigenous Scholars Program is facilitated by the [Arctic Research Consortium of the US](#) (ARCUS) and the [Inuit Circumpolar Council \(ICC\) Alaska](#), and supported by the National Science Foundation. This year, three scholars will be selected by a volunteer selection committee to travel to Washington DC in May 2020. For those selected, expenses and per diem will be provided. We strongly encourage those that have not had many opportunities to build these types of relationships, hunters, culture bearers, and those active within their communities to apply. During the visit to DC, the selected Arctic Indigenous Scholars will meet with officials at relevant agencies and organizations, where scholars will be able to share their interests, learn of available resources, build toward collaborative relationships, and provide on-the-ground perspectives to key decision-makers. Additionally, the [Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center](#) will host the scholars for a full day, with opportunities for scholars to present their issues, meet staff, and tour collections.

The selected scholars must be available for travel to Washington DC during the time period of 11–22 May 2020. One week during that period will ultimately be chosen for all three scholars to travel together. Over the course of four to five days, the visiting scholars will be engaged in many formal and informal activities to connect with the Arctic research community located in Washington DC. Depending upon the Scholar's specific expertise and interests, a customized agenda will be scheduled. For example, the following types of activities may be included:

- Seminar (with live-streamed and recorded webinar);
- A full day hosted by the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center;
- Formal and informal meetings with:
 - Senior Arctic research officials at agencies like the US Arctic Research Commission and the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee;
 - Non-governmental organizations like the National Academy of Sciences Polar Research Board and American Association for the Advancement of Science;
 - Federal agencies relevant to the Scholars' work, such as in the Department of the Interior (e.g., USFWS, USGS, USDA, BLM), Department of Commerce, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Education, or Environmental Protection Agency;
 - Policy-makers such as Congress (Alaska Delegation, Indian Affairs Committee members); and
 - Indigenous organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians.

Participating Indigenous scholars will be selected by a volunteer committee composed of Arctic leaders from Alaska and from within Washington DC.

Applicant Qualifications:

- Must be Indigenous;
- Must be US citizens at least 18 years of age;
- Available to work with ARCUS and ICC Alaska in preparation for the trip;
- Available to travel to DC during the time period of 11–22 May 2020 for a seven-day trip;
- Desire to build relationships with relevant people/agencies/institutions within DC to advance/address your and/or your community's/region's interests, concerns, or challenges; and
- Willingness to share about the experience had through this program with ARCUS, ICC Alaska, and, if relevant, your community/region.

How to Apply

To apply for the opportunity, please choose one of the following formats to submit your application **by 21 February 2020**:

1. Online application form: <https://www.arcus.org/indigenous-scholars/apply>
2. Print and mail or download and email the PDF application form (<https://www.arcus.org/indigenous-scholars>) to Lisa Sheffield Guy, Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. 3535 College Road – Suite 101, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3710 or lisa@arcus.org.
3. Submit an audio recording of your answers to Lisa Sheffield Guy at lisa@arcus.org. An MP3 file, such as the type created by a cell phone voice recorder is acceptable.

For any questions regarding the project or application process, please contact Lisa Sheffield Guy, Arctic Indigenous Scholars Project Manager, at lisa@arcus.org or 907-474-1600.

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS 2020

APPLICATION FORM



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Arctic Indigenous Scholar! For the purposes of this opportunity, we define a scholar as an expert within their own knowledge system. This includes hunters, fishers, and gatherers; those that process and store food; health aides; and others. It includes youth, elders, and adults. Your education may have come from the land, the water, or a classroom. We strongly encourage applications from those that have not had many similar experiences, those seeking to build relationships, from hunters, culture bearers, and from those active in their community/region.

Candidates should be Indigenous persons at least 18 years of age, with US citizenship. Candidates must be available to travel for seven days during the time period of 11–22 May 2020, willing to work with ARCUS to complete travel arrangements documents, and willing to share about the experience had through this program with ARCUS and ICC-Alaska.

Further information on the program, application requirements, and an online application form are available at <https://www.arcus.org/indigenous-scholars>.

Please contact Lisa Sheffield Guy at lisa@arcus.org or 907-474-1600, with any questions.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM AKST on Friday, 21 February 2020

SCHOLAR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	
Street Address or PO Box	
City ST ZIP Code	
Phone	
E-mail Address	

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Instructions: Please provide an answer to each question below. There is no minimum or maximum length for your answer. Answers provided in other formats, such as an audio recording, can also be accommodated. Answers written in an Indigenous language are welcomed, but we ask the applicant to provide an English translation for review by our multi-lingual selection committee.

1. **Describe why you are applying for this opportunity.**

2. **What issue(s) is most important to you/your community that you feel decision-makers (e.g., members of congress, government officials, resource managers) in Washington, DC should know more about?** Some examples might be subsistence rights, health concerns, or shoreline erosion, but any issue is welcome.

3. How might you and/or your community benefit from the opportunity to speak about this issue(s) with decision-makers in DC?

An example might be issues in your community with health & safety or infrastructure that have not received the attention they need from government officials or resource managers.



4. When you return home, how do you hope to share your experience with others in your community?

AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE

BY SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, I AFFIRM THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE ABOVE ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

THANK YOU!

Thank you for applying to this opportunity. Please send completed forms via email to Lisa Sheffield Guy, lisa@arcus.org or by mail to Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S., 3535 College Road – Suite 101, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3710.