



NIUSLA | RESEARCH GUIDELINES - 2024

Preamble - Rationale for the Document

The purpose of this document is to guide research driven by NIUSLA and function as an exemplar for collaborative approaches in Indigenous research for institutions and communities. Considering that research with Indigenous communities is on the rise, and there is a colonial legacy of Western research on Indigenous Peoples without ethical engagement, this research guideline has been developed by NIUSLA using Indigenous ethical research principles to guide researchers wishing to engage and/or partner with NIUSLA as an association. NIUSLA strives to be a leader doing Indigenous research with Indigenous communities in good and ethical ways. Therefore, all researchers and their projects must align with NIUSLA research interests and priorities and ethical approaches in Indigenous research.

About NIUSLA

The National Indigenous University Senior Leaders' Association (NIUSLA) was founded in 2019 to bring together Indigenous senior administrative leaders from academic institutions, who have a University wide mandate, to network and to engage in constructive dialogue and actions that pertain to the roles and responsibilities of leadership within the academic university context. NIUSLA members are invested in sharing experiences and information, providing recommendations, and identifying areas of success and need within post-secondary institutions.

NIUSLA strives to:

- Develop a vibrant and recognized leadership association of university Indigenous senior leaders;
- Address challenges and issues relevant to Indigenous senior leaders;
- Increase the communication and resource capacity of NIUSLA;
- Seek to partner with Indigenous colleges / Indigenous higher education institutions and uplift the work of other Indigenous educational partners; and
- Strengthen and enrich capacities of Indigenous senior leader

1) NIUSLA Research Ethical Standards

NIUSLA recognizes that Indigenous research ethics are complex and generally go beyond adhering to institutional research ethics standards alone (TCPS2, 2022) to recognizing the self-determination of distinct Indigenous Nations' ethical standards, contexts, research needs, and cultural protocols relevant to the research and/or where the research takes place (UNDRIP, 2007). Indigenous research methodologists have long argued for distinct approaches to doing Indigenous research that respect Indigenous self-determination and work in collaboration with Indigenous communities (Absolon, 2020; Kirkness & Barnhart, 2001; Kovach, 2021; OCAP, 2014; Wilson, 2009).

2) NIUSLA Research Priority Areas

Recognizing that NIUSLA is a new and evolving body, its research priorities continue to be articulated. While NIUSLA members and meetings are not a site of research, the group is open to informing research priorities and partnering with researchers when appropriate.

Through informal group discussions, NIUSLA has identified the following research areas as preliminary research priorities:

- Indigenous policy development and enactment; Indigenous identity/citizenship policies;
- Indigeneity in leadership and faculty hiring, retention and development strategies;
- Indigenous university governance models including localized approaches to Indigenous engagement and consensus-decision making;
- Indigenous institutional strategic planning approaches;
- Indigenous leadership models, training, and capacity development strategies;
- Indigenous institutional governance and data sovereignty.

3) Process for Ensuring Research by and for NIUSLA

NIUSLA has developed the following three interrelated procedures to support its research and partnership engagement processes.

- A. *Indigenous Research Sub-Group: Terms of Reference* (Appendix A p.4). This Terms of Reference provides background on the role and responsibility of the research sub-group in terms of reviewing research concept proposals and offering feedback to researchers before they are sent to the larger NIUSLA group for approval.
- B. *Pre-Reflection Guide for Prospective Researchers* (Appendix B p.5). This document orients researchers to the requirements that NIUSLA expects researchers to have before they engage with the organization.
- C. *Research Expression of Interest* (Appendix C p.6). This document outlines the proposal process for researchers to express interest in working with NIUSLA on a research project.

References

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