

INDIGST 2IR3 Indigenous Resurgence Walls to Bridges ~ Course Application Form Deadline: October 17, 2022

Email your completed application to:
miri@mcmaster.ca

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

Please ensure you read the following prior to completing or submitting this application.

This is a Walls to Bridges(W2B) course. It takes place inside the Grand Valley Institution for Women (GVI), a federal prison in Kitchener/Waterloo. W2B classes involve equal numbers of incarcerated “inside” students and university “outside” students learning together as peers, earning equal credit.

Of particular note:

- INDIGST 2IR3 is a 3-credit course and full participation in class and group discussions are expected. The pedagogy involves a fuller responsibility toward the course’s learning goal than in a traditional university classroom. This includes consistent attendance, strict punctuality, and participation.
- GVI is a women’s prison but the Walls to Bridges program is open to outside students of all genders.
- Outside students will be escorted between the entrance and classroom.
- Outside students are responsible for their transportation to and from GVI at 1575 Homer Watson Blvd, Kitchener, Ontario. GVI has free parking.
- Students are required to adhere to all rules and regulations dictated by GVI while in their facility. One example includes the prohibition of cell phones, laptops, and tablets etc. Outside students will be provided with a list of regulations and contraband items. There are lockers for small items like phones and car keys. If you’re unsure, always ask your instructor, we’re here to support you.
- Walls to Bridges courses include a final group project.
- The W2B program includes confidentiality guidelines that shape dynamics of privacy and respect inside and out of the classroom. This includes a commitment from outside students to not investigate their classmates’ conviction histories or use last names in the classroom.
- By participating in this course, you consent to a “Walls to Bridges” tag on your student record so we can track the progress of the W2B students at McMaster University.
- This program is a highly unique and innovative educational format. You will be contacted to set a brief interview with the instructors, at which point please share all questions and concerns.
- Finally, and most importantly, we recognize that prisons are oppressive and colonial institutions. The rules and procedures that all W2B participants must follow often feel counterintuitive to the freedoms and rights we’ve grown accustomed to at our post-secondary institutions. We follow these rules to protect our inside classmates from any resulting consequences and preserve the integrity of the W2B program.

Section A: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions:

Name: McMaster Student ID#:

Faculty/Program and Level of Study:

Mailing Address:

Telephone: McMaster student email:

Section B: BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF INTENT

Please answer the following questions:

1. What draws you to this course? What do you think it might offer you? What do you bring to it?

2. What seems most challenging to you personally about taking a course like this? How would you try to meet that challenge?

3. What impressions about prison and jail did you receive growing up? If you think about your current understanding of the Canadian criminal justice system: where does that understanding come from? What various sources shaped your current understanding?

4. What is your impression of higher education? (feel free to give an honest evaluation)

5. Have you ever had the experience of trying to find your way in an unfamiliar environment or with a group of strangers? Please offer comments about this experience.

6. This course includes a lot of sharing opinions and ideas and sometimes people disagree. How do you think you respond to tension or discomfort between people?

7. This course is about Indigenous Resurgence. If you had to guess, what topics might we be discussing?

6. We have unisex Walls to Bridges shirts to gift all students. What is your shirt size?

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

Protection of Privacy – McMaster University collects and retains personal information of students, alumni and other parties, including but not limited to faculty, staff, visiting academics and private citizens using services provided by McMaster University, under the authority of The McMaster University Act, 1976. It will be used for the purpose of application screening, Grand Valley/CPIC Security Clearance, and course registration. Direct any questions about this collection to: Sara Howdle, Assistant Director, McMaster Indigenous Research Institute, 106 Forsyth Ave, McMaster University, howdle@mcmaster.ca.

For MIRI Use Only

Application Status: Approved Not Approved

Notes:

Signature

Date