

## The Claremont Native American (CNA) Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Does the CNA Fellowship really provide full tuition and living stipends to Native Americans who want to earn a teaching credential and MA in education in just 15 months?**

Yes. Through a partnership with the US Department of Education's Office of Indian Education, Claremont Graduate University's Department of Teacher Education is able to award selected Native Americans with a generous support package to help them earn a California preliminary K-12 teaching credential and a master's in education in as little as 15 months.

The support package covers tuition (100%) and provides a living stipend (\$1,400/month for 15 months) and one year of post-program job mentorship.

Native Americans selected as CNA Fellows can earn a K-12 credential in order to teach one of the following:

- Multiple Subjects (Elementary)
- Math
- Science
- English
- Social Studies
- World Languages
- Special Education, mild/moderate
- Special Education, moderate/severe

### **If I earn a California Teaching Credential, can I work as a teacher in other states?**

Yes. California's teaching credentials are thought to be some of the strongest in the US. As such, most states welcome teachers certified in California to teach in their schools and have established "reciprocity agreements." These agreements articulate what a teacher with a California credential needs to do to be certified in a particular state. It often is as easy as taking an exam and a course or two.

For specific information about teaching in another state, please see the following resources:

- <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-teacher-license-reciprocity/>
- <http://nasdtec.site-ym.com/?InterstateAgreements>

### **Can the program be done online?**

No. CNA Participants must base themselves out of Claremont (Southern California) for the core 15-month program. This is in large part because the program is built around a clinical model where our teacher candidates are mentored by Master Teachers. Stated differently, our candidates work with students in area schools for the bulk of their program.

Students moving to our community to complete the program can find housing through CGU housing or through community rentals. For information about housing options at CGU, go to the [Claremont Collegiate Apartments website](#). Spaces start around \$700/month (including utilities).

### **Where is Claremont Graduate University? Tell me about CGU.**

Claremont Graduate University (CGU) is located in Southern California. More specifically, it is located 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles on the border between Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. San Diego is approximately a two-hour drive to the south; Las Vegas is a four-hour drive to the northeast.

The closest airport is Ontario International Airport (ONT), but people often fly in and out of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) as well.

Founded in 1925, CGU is an independent institution devoted entirely to graduate study. As a member of The Claremont Colleges, a consortium of seven prestigious independent institutions (which also includes Claremont McKenna College, Pitzer College, Pomona College, Scripps College, Harvey Mudd College, and Keck Graduate Institute), CGU is able to offer a greater breadth of faculty and campus resources than is

typical of a university with 2,300 students. Being a part of The Claremont Colleges allows CGU students access to more than 550 faculty members and four major libraries with more than 2 million volumes.

CGU's graduate-only education takes place through small classes and seminars and close scholarly relationships between students and faculty. The research aspires to advance knowledge and also to do something more: to convene leaders and scholars to tackle the most important problems facing our region and our world.

Perhaps because of its size and its commitment to diverse perspectives, CGU is uniquely positioned to support underrepresented and culturally diverse groups. It dedicates specific resources to ensuring student success, including the Office of Student Life, Diversity & Leadership; the Center for Writing & Rhetoric; the Career Development Office; the Digital Learning Lab; the Minority Mentor Program; and a host of other student organizations. Additionally, the university provides medical and mental health clinics to serve students.

### **Is there a service agreement? Do CNA Fellows need to do something in exchange for the funding support?**

Yes. In exchange for the 15 months of tuition and living support, CNA Fellows must be employed for at least 15 months in a school serving Native American students. The school does not need to be located in California. If the CNA Fellow fails to meet this service agreement, the total amount of funds given becomes a loan that must be repaid to the Department of Education. Therefore, it is imperative that CNA Fellows are committed to the profession and specifically to working with Native American youth for at least 15 months.

Although CGU will aid Fellows in their quest to secure post-program employment, it will ultimately be the Fellows' responsibility to get a job at a school that serves Native American students.

It is important for the Fellow to realize that finding a school that meets the requirements of the service condition might involve moving to a region/area with higher concentrations of Native Americans. Alaska, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are some of the states that have concentrated populations of Native Americans.

Interested parties can get a sense of the job market in Bureau of Indian Education Schools by looking at <https://www.bie.edu/Jobs/index.htm>. (Please realize, though, that BIE schools are just one of the options for fulfilling the service agreement. Many public schools also serve large populations of Native American youth.)

### **Who is eligible to be a CNA Fellow?**

CNA Fellows must:

- be admitted to CGU's Department of Teacher Education preliminary teaching credential and master's in education program.
- agree to the 15-month service commitment (explained above).
- be able to document that they meet any one of the following requirements in the US Department of State's definition of "Indian."

This is explained in greater detail below.

### **Who is eligible to apply to CGU's preliminary teaching credential and master's program?**

To be admitted into CGU's preliminary teaching credential and MA in education program, CNA applicants must have their bachelor's degree from an accredited university by the time they start the program. As such, seniors working on their bachelor's are eligible to apply assuming they will have their BA or BS by May or June.

All candidates will be asked to show that they do not have tuberculosis and have a “clean” DOJ/FBI record.

See below for more information about applying to CGU’s preliminary teaching credential and MA in education program.

### **How do I show that I agree to the 15-month service commitment?**

As discussed above, in exchange for the tuition, living support, and post-program job support, CNA Fellows are expected to work as a teacher for 15 months in a school that serves Native American youth. This is the “service commitment” (also called the “service agreement”) because the Fellow is committing him/herself to 15 months of service.

Individuals applying to the CNA Program will meet with a staff member at CGU to review the service agreement. The goal of this meeting is to clearly explain the service commitment so that the CNA applicant is fully aware of and comfortable with the expectations associated with CNA funding.

CNA Fellows are asked to sign the service agreement as a way to show that they understand and accept the terms of the agreement.

### **How do I show I meet the US Department of State’s definition of “Indian”?**

The US Department of Education defines an Indian as someone who meets one of the following criteria:

- Be a member of an Indian tribe or band, as membership is defined by the Indian tribe or band, including any tribe or band terminated since 1940, and any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides.
- Be a descendant of a parent or grandparent who meets the requirements described above.
- Be considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose.
- Be an Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaska Native.
- Be a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect on October 19, 1994.

Applicants to the CNA Fellowship Program are asked to submit documentation that shows that they, their parent or their grandparent are a recognized member of a federally or state recognized tribe. Most people submit copies of a CIB card.

### **What type of teaching credential can I earn at CGU through the CNA Fellowship program?**

CNA Fellows can earn one of the following California K-12 Teaching Credentials:

- Multiple Subjects (Elementary)
- Math
- Science
- English
- Social Studies
- World Languages
- Special Education, mild/moderate
- Special Education, moderate/severe

### **What makes CGU’s program special?**

Claremont Graduate University’s Department of Teacher Education program prepares motivated students to become teachers who make a difference in the world.

We are dedicated to preparing a special kind of K-12 teacher: one committed to cultivating the achievement of all students. CGU teachers acknowledge variables like poverty, language fluency, and disabilities are challenges, but they also know that they are not barriers that legitimize a student’s failure or that justify educators lowering their expectations or their own commitment. Instead our teachers

realize that such variables need to be addressed via well-informed, explicit, and purposeful instruction and support—and through policies and practices that cultivate equity and opportunity.

We believe the best way to prepare highly effective teachers is to put theory into practice through mentor-guided teaching experiences in a real-world setting. Our graduates are highly recruited, get promoted more quickly, and are fast-tracked into leadership positions.

### What is the application process?

In order to be a CNA Fellow, one needs to:

- Complete CGU’s on-line application.
- Submit 3 letters of recommendation.
- Submit a short statement of purpose (essay).
- Provide transcripts that show one has earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
- Submit documentation that one has passed the \*[California Basic Education Skills Test \(CBEST\)](#) and has, ideally, passed the \*[California Subject Examinations for Teachers \(CSET\)](#). These examinations can be taken on-line so one need not be in California to take these tests.
- Provide documentation that one meets the definition of “Indian” provided by the US Department of Education for the purposes of this program. (Applicants will be asked to show that they, their parent or their grandparent are a member of a federally or state recognized tribe.)
- Have an interview with faculty from Claremont Graduate University. This interview can be done at CGU or via Skype.
- Sign a “service agreement” saying that one understands that one must plan to work for a minimum of 15 months as a teacher working with a high population of Native American youth.

All teacher candidates will also be asked to show that they do not have tuberculosis and have a “clean” DOJ/FBI record.

For more information about applying, contact Rachel Camacho ([Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu)) and/or visit [cgu.edu/apply](http://cgu.edu/apply).

\*Note: Rachel Camacho can provide you with some free online support sites to help prepare for the CBEST and CSET.

### Timelines? When would CNA Fellows apply? When would CNA Fellows start?

We are currently recruiting CNA Fellows to start classes at CGU in mid-May 2019.

A rough timeline associated with this process is below.

Date	Task
ASAP	Interested parties should contact CGU to learn more about the CNA Fellowship Program by contacting <a href="mailto:DeLacy.Ganley@cgu.edu">DeLacy.Ganley@cgu.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu">Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu</a> .  Webinars are tentatively scheduled for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 19 at noon PT</li> <li>• August 21 at 6:00 pm PT</li> <li>• September 19 at noon PT</li> <li>• October 16 at 6:00 pm PT</li> </ul> Interested parties should register for the webinars with <a href="mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu">Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu</a> .
Summer 2018	Apply to CGU. (See section below for more information)

	<p>Register to take the *<a href="#">California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)</a> so that you will have scores prior to the November 1 priority deadline. (There is a computer-based CBEST testing period that runs from October 15-21, 2018. Scores for tests taken in this period should be released by October 26, 2018.)</p> <p>Register to take the *<a href="#">California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET)</a> so that you will have scores prior to the November 1 priority deadline. (There is likely a computer-based CSET testing period that runs September 3-30, 2018. Scores for tests taken in this period should be released by October 19, 2018.)</p> <p>* <i>These examinations can be taken online so one need not be in California to take these tests.</i></p>
September 2018	CNA Applicants wanting test scores back by the priority November 1 deadline should take their CSET in September.
October 2018	CNA Applicants wanting test scores back by the priority November 1 deadline should take their CBEST in October.
November 1, 2018	Priority deadline for CNA Applicants wanting to start in mid-May 2019. Applications are accepted after this deadline but applying by the priority deadline increases one's chance of receiving funding.
Mid-Nov through December 2018	CNA Admission interviews for those who met the priority deadline. Interviews can be done in person at CGU or done virtually via Skype.
January 2019	CGU officially notifies CNA Cohort 2 applicants of decision. CNA Fellows will be asked to sign a letter of commitment to attend CGU as a CNA Fellow within two weeks of receiving official admission offer.
January-April	CNA Fellows make arrangements to start classes in Claremont in mid-May 2019.
Mid-May 2019	Classes begin.

### **Do CNA Fellows complete CGU'S program as "residents" or "interns"?**

CNA Fellows complete CGU's Preliminary program as a *resident*, not as an *intern*.

In order to maximize success, CNA Fellows are paired with a Master Teacher for their core clinical experience. The Master Teacher and resident co-plan and co-teach. In this way, the Master Teacher ushers the CNA Fellow into the profession.

Residencies are unpaid. In some situations, however, the resident is able to serve as a paid substitute when his/her Master Teacher is absent. (In this instance, the school district allows the CNA Fellow to be part of the district's "sub pool." Some districts do not allow teacher candidates to be part of the sub pool, but many do.)

### **Can I learn about the structure of CGU's program?**

Interested parties will be introduced to the structure of CGU's program during the recruitment process.

In brief, the program is comprised of four terms. [See a sample schedule.](#)

### **Will the CNA funding be sufficient? Will I be able to live off the \$1400/month stipend?**

CGU tuition is covered by the CNA Program.

CNA Fellows are also provided a living stipend of \$1,400/month. Most people will find that they are able to live modestly using \$1400/month living stipend provided by the grant.

There are a number of items that are not covered by the grant (but that CNA Fellows should be able to cover with the living stipend), including the

- The cost of the DOJ/FBI clearance.
- CGU's student fee (which is approximately \$300/term).
- Cost of transportation to/from CGU or to/from the clinical sites.
- Medical insurance.
- Room and board. For information about housing options at CGU, go to the [Claremont Collegiate Apartments website](#). Spaces start around \$700/month (including utilities).

### **Can I work another job while I complete CGU's program?**

Due to the demanding nature of CGU's program and the schedule of being a resident, CNA Fellows cannot work in other jobs full-time. This stipulation is made explicit by the Department of Education (DOE). The DOE will not let a Fellow who has a living stipend work full-time.

Part-time employment may be possible. Some residents, for example, have worked in their school's after school program.

### **I'm interested! What are my next steps?**

If you are convinced that this program is indeed a good program for you the next steps are to...

1. Send [DeLacy.Ganley@cgu.edu](mailto:DeLacy.Ganley@cgu.edu) and [Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu) an email to confirm that you are applying. This is a good time to also ask specific questions about the program.
2. Start an [online application](https://www.cgu.edu/apply/). <https://www.cgu.edu/apply/>.
3. Confirm that you can document Native American. Collect needed documentation.
4. Contact [Melanie.Kerr@cgu.edu](mailto:Melanie.Kerr@cgu.edu) and ask her to go over the service agreement. (It is best to look at this agreement early on in the process so that there are no surprises down the line.)
5. Study and pass the [California Basic Education Skills Test \(CBEST\)](#). This is a basic skills test. There are three sections: reading, writing and math. People who have already passed the CBEST should send confirmation of passage to [Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu).
6. Study and pass the [California Subject Examinations for Teachers \(CSET\)](#). This is the test that the state of California uses to determine if a person knows enough about the subject he/she wants to teach. As such, if somebody wants to be a math teacher, he/she takes the Math CSET. If somebody wants to be an English teacher, he/she takes the English CSET. People who have already passed the CSET should send confirmation of passage to [Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu).
7. Submit college transcripts. Have them sent to [Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu). Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the application process (though official transcripts will eventually need to be submitted.)
8. Write an admissions essay. Specifically, in three pages maximum (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font), respond to the following prompts and upload the response in the "Upload Supporting Documents" section of the online application.
  - a. Describe how your personal and educational background has shaped your desire to be a teacher.
  - b. Explain why you think this program is the best fit for you given what you know about the mission of CGU's Teacher Education Program.
  - c. What personal assets (intellectual, linguistic, physical or spiritual) will you bring with you to the challenges of teaching culturally and linguistically diverse students?
9. Ask three people to write letters of recommendation. Ideally, at least one will be able to speak to the applicant's experiences working with youth and at least one will speak to the applicant's academic abilities.

10. Plan on attending an information session at CGU or one of our webinars. Or, simply call us with questions. Interested parties may also come to CGU for a tour or to sit in on a class. Requests for campus visits should be directed to [Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Camacho2@cgu.edu).

### Whom can I contact for more information?

If you have questions about the program or are interested in applying, please contact:

**Rachel Camacho, MA**  
Senior Assistant Director of Admissions  
Telephone: 909-607-9418  
[rachel.camacho2@cgu.edu](mailto:rachel.camacho2@cgu.edu)

**DeLacy Ganley, PhD**  
Interim Dean, School of Educational Studies  
Professor, School of Educational Studies  
Telephone: 909-621-8075  
[delacy.ganley@cgu.edu](mailto:delacy.ganley@cgu.edu)

Feel free to also reach out to our CNA Mentors:

**Michelle Dymerski, MA**  
[michelle.dymerski@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.dymerski@gmail.com)

**John Ammon (Hupa, Tsnungwe)**  
[jammonsanjose@aol.com](mailto:jammonsanjose@aol.com)

Lastly, you can also reach out to members of our CNA Fellowship Advisory Council:

**Scott Scoggins (Pipil Nahwat), MA**  
Chair, CNA Fellowship Advisory Board  
Assistant Director, Native Initiatives  
Director, Native Youth to College Program  
Pitzer College | Pomona College  
[scott.scoggins@pomona.edu](mailto:scott.scoggins@pomona.edu)  
909-607-8150

**Julia Bogany (Tongva Gabrieleno)**  
Member, CNA Fellowship Advisory Board  
Director, Cultural Affairs, Tongva Gabrieleno  
Elder in Residence, Claremont Colleges  
[juliabogany@aol.com](mailto:juliabogany@aol.com)  
909-264-0309

**Monique Castro (Navajo), M.S., MFTI**  
Member, CNA Fellowship Advisory Board  
Director, Indigenous Circle of Wellness, Inc.  
[moniquecastro25@gmail.com](mailto:moniquecastro25@gmail.com)  
323-203-4868

### Who are the members of the CNA Fellowship Advisory Board?

#### Scott Edward Orellaña Inqles (Pipil Nahwat), CNA Advisory Board Chair

Scott is proud to be of Pipil Nahuat, Pocoman Maya, and English ancestry. He was born into a family that was deeply invested in various political and social movements in Latin America and the United States. This background instilled in him an internal drive, desire, and sense of duty to work towards social justice for all. He is dedicated to implementing multicultural education programs that challenge, inspire, support, and motivate young people to pursue higher education. These comprehensive programs are designed to support students on intellectual, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual levels. His current work specifically connects Native American Indian youth to higher education opportunities that will enable them to take on leadership roles within their tribal communities. His personal motto, "Tradition for Life—Education for Our Future" cuts to the core of his belief in a dual focus on traditional learning and preparation for success in both local and global networks.

*Julia Bogany (Tongva Gabrieleno), CNA Advisory Board Member*

Julia has been a teacher, director and administrator for thirty-five years. She is the Native American Consultant for the Riverside School District and the University of Oklahoma Trauma Center. She is a member of and the Cultural Affairs chair for the [Tongva Gabrieleno of San Gabriel](#). She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is a very respected "Elder" of the tribe as well as the "Elder in Residence" at the Claremont Colleges. She was a preschool director, middle school coordinator and instructed child development classes for home day care professionals. She also has training in child development, Indian child welfare, and Native American studies. She constantly, incessantly and voluntarily enjoys teaching and helping her tribe. She has worked for over 20 years for the American Indian community for her tribe. She has provided cultural, FASD, ICWA, training and workshops in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside areas and Sacramento. She teaches Tongva language, basket weaving and cultural classes. All the work she's done is for her great-grandchildren's future and for the future of her tribe.

*Monique Castro (Navajo), CNA Advisory Board Member*

Monique is a mental health counselor/therapist, consultant, trainer, educator, and social justice advocate. She was born and raised in northeast Los Angeles by her paternal grandparents in the community of Lincoln Heights. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from California State University, Los Angeles, and a master of science degree in counseling psychology from Mount Saint Mary's University. Monique has dedicated her career to serving her Native community, primarily through her work and partnerships with various Native organizations, tribal communities, and higher education institutions.