

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
Evaluation of Graduate Programs
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Faculty of Arts
Cycle: 2020–2021
Date: 2022-04-06

I. Programs

- MA in World Literatures and Cultures

II. Evaluation Process (Outline of the visit)

- The Final Assessment Report for the evaluation of the programs is based on the following documents: (a) the self-study brief produced by the academic unit, (b) the report produced by the external evaluators following their site visit, and (c) the comments from the Department Chair, Luis Abanto, the Director of the program, Jorge Carlos Guerrero, and the Dean, Kevin Kee, on the aforementioned documents.
- The site visit, which took place on March 25 and 26, 2021, was led by Professor Margot Irvine, University of Guelph, and Professor Elena Pnevmonidou, Victoria University.
- Due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the visit was conducted virtually. The reviewers were provided a comprehensive self-study brief that had been previously approved by the program committee on June 26, 2020. The virtual visit included José López from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, as internal delegate.
- During the site visit, the external evaluators met with the Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Claire Turenne-Sjolander, the Vice-Dean, Programs, Marc Charron, the Department Chair, Luis Abanto, the Director of the Programs, Jorge Carlos Guerrero, members of the support staff, regular professors, and graduate students.

III. Summary of Reports on the Quality of Programs¹

1. EMPHASIZING THE STRENGTHS AND IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

Strengths

- Dedicated faculty members who care for the student's progress through the program and beyond.
- Student satisfaction is very high.
- The possibility of completing the master's degree in one year.
- Unique area of focus on lesser spoken languages and cultures, and on multilingualism.
- Proximity to the government, the consulates, and the embassies.

¹ Based on every document prepared during the assessment process, often extracted verbatim.

Challenges

- Need to expand the curriculum beyond its European core, namely, to include Asian literatures and African literatures or Black Studies.
- Course offerings have at times been limited, not allowing students much choice.
- Lack of program visibility and the necessity for a comprehensive recruitment plan.
- More experiential learning projects could be developed.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- The MA in World Literatures and Cultures "trains [students] as global citizens who are aware of local, national, and international issues, and it helps them develop an understanding of the mechanisms through which cultural identity and difference are constructed, reproduced, diffused, and transmitted". This statement is well aligned with University's strategic plan and mandate.
- The learning outcomes appropriate and precisely formulated. They are aligned with the University's statement of Degree Level expectations.

3. CURRICULUM AND STRUCTURE

- The program admission requirements are appropriate for the discipline and aligned with the learning outcomes. Nevertheless, the external reviewers suggest increasing the admission average from 70% to 75%-77%, which is more prevalent for Canadian MA programs.
- The external reviewers praised the diversity of topics in the major research projects (MRPs), which extends beyond its Europe-centred curriculum. Furthermore, this evaluation confirms that the students "are well supported and mentored by the core program faculty and the many other uOttawa faculty in other programs who serve as (co-)supervisors". However, all the stakeholders agree on the need for the program to expand its curriculum beyond its European core." Specifically, the "program has identified a particular need for a faculty member in Asian Studies".
- Lastly, it is recommended that the direction of the program work towards the development of dual degrees with institutions abroad. Such partnerships would enhance the program in several ways. First, it would attract new international students. But also, this aligns very well with the program's mission and University's strategic plan and mandate, "more connected", "becoming leaders in our global village".

4. TEACHING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION METHODS

- In the words of the external reviewers, the "M.A. in World Literatures and Cultures is a cohesive program, carefully structured around the core OUCQUA expectations."
- The program develops, "important transferable professional skills". It equips its students with lifelong learning skills.
- The proximity of the University of Ottawa with the government, the consulates, and the embassies provides a unique opportunity to invite speakers into the courses to broaden the scope of the curriculum. The external reviewers recommend creating a formal speaker's series themed around World Literatures and Cultures.
- The self-study recognizes that the course offering can be limited at time given the small number of faculty members in the program, but also because it depends on the availability of cross-listed courses. Therefore, the reviewers recommend continuing the efforts to create new partnerships with programs on campus.

5. STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND GOVERNANCE

- Student satisfaction is very high. "The reviewers were impressed with the vibrancy of the program and the enthusiasm, sense of community, and passion for the program expressed by faculty, staff, as well as, most especially, past and present students."
- To sustain the proposed enrolment levels, the reviewers recommend developing a comprehensive recruitment strategy. This could include establishing a graduate recruitment committee, but also creating a clear pathway into the MA from the undergraduate major in World Literatures and Cultures.

6. PHYSICAL SPACES AND RESOURCES

- The external evaluation found that the "M.A. program in World Literatures and Cultures makes good use of its faculty resources." They support creating a position in Asian literatures and cultures to diversify the curriculum.
- The reviewers have expressed concerns regarding the new funding model of the central administration that prioritizes doctoral and international students. The program will need to monitor the situation closely and measure the effects of the new policy.
- The staff and faculty members report that that office space has been gradually reduced, although the enrolment has been stable. Therefore, the department's physical space appears to be "severely constrained".

IV. Program Improvement²

The programs under evaluation are in conformity with the standards of the discipline. The following recommendations aim at maintaining or increasing the level of quality already achieved by the programs.

Recommendation 1: Develop a research and teaching profile in Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures to diversify the curriculum and the core faculty.

Recommendation 2: Broaden the scope of the program beyond its European core to diversify the curriculum and the core faculty.

Recommendation 3: Create a cross-listed position and more cross-listed courses for the M.A. program to diversify the curriculum and involve more faculty members in it, from across a range of departments at the University.

Recommendation 4: To reduce the workload of the Program Coordinator and assist in recruitment.

Recommendation 5: Enhance graduate funding by mentoring students in applications for external funds.

Recommendation 6: Create a clear recruitment pathway into the M.A. for students from the undergraduate Major in World Literatures and Cultures.

Recommendation 7: Develop a fuller recruitment strategy.

Recommendation 8: Enhance community engaged learning/teaching/research in order to build professional networks for the students and enhance their professional experience.

² Based on the External Evaluation Report.

Recommendation 9: Regular updating of pedagogical needs and approaches to continue providing the students with an excellent pedagogical experience.

Recommendation 10: To enhance the program's visibility on campus and in the Scholarly community.

Recommendation 11: To maintain a cohesive, collegial department.

Recommendation 12: Formulated as a suggestion. Raising Admission Average to 75%

Recommendation 13: Formulated as a suggestion. Eliminate one of the methodology courses

Recommendation 14: Formulated as a suggestion. Establish ties with a similar or complementary program abroad to establish a dual degree.

V. List of courses not offered for more than three years and the reasons

GPEC is requesting a list of courses that have not been offered for more than three years. Please distinguish between mandatory and optional courses. GPEC also requests an itemized plan towards either offering the courses or removing them from the calendar be included.

VI. Conclusion

The MA in World Literatures and Cultures is a well-run academic program. Its students are acquiring excellent skills, including transferable skills. The past and current students praise the professors for their dedication and the quality of their mentorship. Importantly, she students also "spoke passionately about the need to diversify the faculty complement and the curriculum in the program".

Considering this positive assessment, the committee members would like to thank all participants for the evaluation of the programs. They congratulate the unit on the rigour of the work accomplished and on the quality of the self-study report, as well as that of the report produced by the external reviewers.

Schedule and Timelines

A progress report that outlines the completed actions and subsequent results will be submitted no later than June 15, 2024.

The next cyclical review will take place in no more than eight years, in 2027–2028. The self-study brief must be submitted by June 15, 2027.

Unit Response to the External Review Report and Action Plan

Faculty: Arts

Academic unit: Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Program evaluated: MA in World Literatures and Cultures

Cyclical review period: 2020-2021

Date: June 18, 2021

Note: This document is submitted to the Senate, as well as the Quality Council, and will be published on the University Web site.

General comments

On May 10, 2021, the World Literatures and Cultures program was made aware of the External Review Report produced in the context of the cyclical program evaluation. We were extremely pleased with the positive evaluation of our graduate program. Given that the Master in World Literatures and Cultures has committed to providing an outstanding training and research experience, we were gratified to see that the external reviewers found that “The MA in World Literatures and Cultures is a successful, effective, and broadly appealing program.” They were “impressed with the vibrancy of the program and the enthusiasm, sense of community and passion for the program” on the part of professors, staff and students. They also found that “Student satisfaction is very high”, that students highlighted “the faculty members' passion, kindness, supportiveness, open-mindedness, and overall genuine concern for the students' progress through the program and beyond”, that the program “has a very broad appeal and can accommodate students with different career objectives”. The report also underscores “excellent training through the courses and experiential learning opportunities” as well as “excellent mentorship and supervision”. The reviewers “note and praise the diversity of research topics in MRPs, a high proportion of which lie outside Europe-centered research.” Lastly, they also acknowledge the “success” of the program given “the resource constrained environment in which it operates and the recent disruptions in the undergraduate program offerings,” while underscoring that these disruptions have resulted in a structuring of the undergraduate program that have placed the Master “in an even stronger position to maintain its dynamism and the projected growth”.

The report does not outline any major issues with the program, the learning objectives, courses or management of the program. The report makes 11 recommendations and three suggestions. We take all of the recommendations and suggestions seriously and feel confident that by addressing them, our graduate program will be even stronger. The recommendations and our response, produced jointly by the unit and the Faculty, are included below.

Recommendation # 1: Develop a research and teaching profile in Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures in order to diversify the curriculum and the core faculty.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed. We acknowledge the need for a research and teaching profile in Asian Studies.	2	Advocate for a tenure-track faculty member in Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures	Program Director / Graduate Committee / Chair of Department	Fall 2021	No.

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 2: Broaden the scope of the program beyond its European core in order to diversify the curriculum and the core faculty.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	2	1) Incorporate BIPOC guest lecturers and/or guest speakers into core courses. 2) Secure stable base budget for honoraria and travel for guest lecturers and speakers. 3) Request a new position in Asian Studies 4) Establish relationships with Indigenous faculty/programs 5) Incorporate pedagogical approaches that invite non-Western knowledge systems and epistemologies.	1a) Graduate Director. Creation of a “World Cultures Lecture Series” and organize lectures in the Fall and Winter. 1b) Faculty members: Invite guest lectures. 2) Graduate Director. Apply for funding to the International Office for lecture series and guest lectures. 3) Graduate Director and Chair of the Department. Request new position in Asian Studies. 4) Graduate Director / Graduate Committee: Continue to develop relationships with indigenous faculty/programs. 5) Graduate Director and faculty members: Expand the incorporation of new pedagogical approaches based non-Western knowledge to all courses.	1a) Fall 2021. 1b) Fall 2021 2) Fall 2021 3) Fall 2021 4) Winter 2021 5) Fall 2022	

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 3: Create a cross-listed position and more cross-listed courses for the M.A. program in order to diversify the curriculum and involve more faculty members in it, from across a range of departments at the University.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	2	1)Advocate for New cross-appointed position, e.g. with Translation or some other programs (e.g. new program in African Studies) 2)Create more cross-listed courses with other units, such as Translation 3) Bring in more associated faculty members from other units who could supervise MA projects	1)Graduate Director/ Graduate Committee / Chair. 2) Graduate Director. 3) Graduate Director/Graduate Committee	1) Fall 2022 2) Winter 2022 3) Winter 2022	Yes

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 4: To reduce the workload of the Program Coordinator and assist in recruitment

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	3	Advocate for a second administrative assistant position for the M.A. program and the department.	Graduate Director / Chair	Fall 2023	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 5: Enhance graduate funding by mentoring students in applications for external funds.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed	1	1) Provide SSHRC mentoring to 4th year students 2) Make grant crafting an aspect of experiential learning in the 4th year capstone course	1) Undergraduate Director 2) Undergraduate Director	Fall 2021	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 6: Create a clear recruitment pathway into the M.A. for students from the undergraduate Major in World Literatures and Cultures.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed	2	Create a 4th year capstone course that may be cross- listed with an M.A. course	Graduate and Undergraduate Directors	Winter 2023	Yes

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 7: Develop a fuller recruitment strategy.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed	1	1)To lessen the added workload for the program director, create a recruitment subcommittee 2)Have a designated annual RA position for recruitment support	1)Graduate Director / Graduate Committee 2)Graduate Director	1) Fall 2021 2) Fall 2021	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 8: Enhance community engaged learning / teaching / research in order to build professional networks for the students and enhance their professional experience.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	2	1) Entrench existing community engaged opportunities and/or build new ones 2) Embed community engaged learning/ teaching/ research in a cross-listed undergrad/grad course	1) Graduate Director 2) Graduate / Undergraduate Directors	1) Fall 2022 2) Fall 2022	

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 9: Regular updating of pedagogical needs and approaches in order to continue to provide the students with an excellent pedagogical experience

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	2	1)Institute periodic meetings of teaching faculty (once a term or once a year, at minimum) to share experiences and exchange pedagogical ideas.	1) Graduate Director	1) Winter 2022	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 10: To enhance the program's visibility on campus and in the Scholarly community.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed	2	Institute a periodic conference themed around core areas of the program, which will involve students in the organization.	Graduate Director / Faculty Members. Creation of Annual Confetti Conference.	Winter 2022	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 11: To maintain a cohesive, collegial department.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed	3	Request more and better office space.	Graduate Director and Chair of Department	Fall 2023	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 12: Formulated as suggestion. Raising Admission Average to 75%.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	1	Request changes to admission average to Graduate Office.	Graduate Director / Graduate Committee	Fall 2021	

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 13: Formulated as suggestion. Eliminate one of the methodology courses.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	1	Eliminate methodology course LCM5902.	Graduate Director / Graduate Committee	Fall 2021	Yes

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)

Recommendation # 14: Formulated as suggestion. Establish ties with a similar or complementary program abroad in order to establish a dual-degree.

Unit response	Priority Level*	Actions to be undertaken	Assigned to	Timeline	Curriculum change?
Agreed.	3	Seek to establish ties with programs abroad.	Graduate Director / Graduate Committee	Fall 2023	No

* PRIORITY LEVEL : 1. URGENT-IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED 2. IMPORTANT-ACTION REQUIRED WITHIN 18 MONTHS (MAXIMUM) 3. ADVISED: DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY-ACTION TO BE DISCUSSED AND MUST BE IN PLACE BY MID-CYCLE (WITHIN 4 YEARS)