



# Status Report on the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa

2021-2022



uOttawa

**Cabinet du vice-recteur, International et Francophonie**  
**Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie**

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# Message from the Vice-President, International and Francophonie



I am pleased to present the first annual report on the Francophonie by the Vice-President, International and Francophonie.

In 2021-2022, we undertook a series of consultations on various issues and carried out a number of major initiatives that will shape the future of the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa, in particular the modernization of the *Regulation on Bilingualism*, which will give rise to a training course on linguistic policies that is currently being developed. Other initiatives include the revitalization of community life in French and the careful evaluation of employees' linguistic skills, including professors. In the coming months, we will be sharing the results of our initiatives, which have rallied numerous colleagues around these key issues.

Special emphasis was also placed on the compliance of our undergraduate programs with our designation under the *French Language Services Act*. To that end, action was taken on various fronts with a broad array of stakeholders. Last February, a large-scale evaluation project was launched focusing on the delivery of these French-language academic programs.

Over the past year, significant progress has been made regarding the Francophonie. Among other achievements, the University:

- Welcomed its largest cohort of francophones, who now account for 32.6% of the undergraduate student body. That is the highest proportion of French-speaking students in 14 years.
- Invested \$1.2 million in a new campus in Windsor using a portion of the premises occupied by the Carrefour communautaire francophone. The goal was to meet the needs of French language teachers in central South-western Ontario by offering academic programs in Windsor and Toronto.
- Received the 2022 Boréal Award ("reconciliation" category) presented by the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes on June 9, 2022 for its French Common Law certificate program in Calgary and Saskatoon, headed by Prof. Caroline Magnan, which provides training for francophone lawyers in Western Canada.
- Created a new undergraduate Doctor of Pharmacy program (D.Pharm.) entirely in French to train pharmacists serving minority francophone communities. This program will welcome its first cohort in September 2023.

Above and beyond our institutional mission, we aim to foster a new way of collaborating with all members of the community in a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect. The Francophonie and bilingualism serve as cultural mediators in the construction of a common future that draws vitality from our wide-ranging diversity.

# An institutional Francophonie

In February 2020, the University of Ottawa established the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie. In taking this important step, the University's governing bodies not only reaffirmed their commitment to the institutional Francophonie, but also confirmed their desire to strengthen the institution's links with French-speaking communities across Canada and around the world, thus showcasing its francophone character.

In October 2021, the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, Prof. Sanni Yaya, confirmed the University's commitment, stating that "we consider our commitments towards Franco-Ontarian and Franco-Canadian culture to be elemental, and we wish to play a frontline role in the broader intercultural French-speaking world". On a more personal note, the Vice-President pledged to transform the Francophonie-related discourse within the University "into something more meaningful, vibrant and engaging, and to ensure that it is seen as an added value and enriching our community".

Since the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie was created, a new Francophonie governance model has been established. As one of the Senate's standing committees, the Council on French Services and Programs oversees compliance with the core principles underpinning the success of the University's francophone mission. The Council is also tasked with fostering greater and better accountability with respect to the Francophonie. Its steering committee is mandated with guiding efforts to implement the initiatives of its sub-committees.

As you may know, a number of transformative initiatives are underway to address the priorities dictated by the University's francophone mission. These initiatives are primarily focused on bilingualism in the administrative and academic sectors with a view to improving and preserving the quality of the student experience in French, as well as on ensuring that francophone culture flourishes in community life. The priorities also include numerous issues impeding the full development of the Francophonie on the campus. These same issues were

raised by the university community during consultations led by the Vice-President, International and Francophonie in the spring of 2021.

The Francophonie team worked on modernizing the *Regulation on Bilingualism*. This new regulation, built on a consensus within the community, aims to strike a better balance between French and English in administrative practices, in addition to establishing governance practices focused on responsibility.

The successful completion of these projects requires the mobilization of extensive financial and human resources. For that reason, the Francophonie team works closely with the University's stakeholders to raise the necessary funding for the University's francophone mission. This year marked a major milestone in our institution's francophone history: in March 2022, the University of Ottawa announced a significant investment of \$5 million to support its Francophonie. This funding is designed to speed the recruitment of faculty members capable of teaching in French while improving the offer of academic programs in French and promoting the Francophonie in community life.

The new Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie hopes to transform the University of Ottawa into a national and international leader in the Francophonie. It also seeks to ensure that the University takes its rightful place in public forums in francophone Ontario, Canada and worldwide and to boost partnerships with francophone organizations, primarily serving the interests of its students and administrative/teaching staff, and, more broadly, of minority francophone communities.

# Governance of the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa

The University of Ottawa's mission is to offer instruction in French and English to the Ottawa-area population while fostering the peaceful co-existence of both linguistic communities. Today, the University's reach extends across Canada and around the world. Over the years, its *Regulation on Bilingualism* and its designation under Ontario's *French Language Services Act* as an organization offering French-language services, in addition to its bylaws and administrative/academic procedures, have enabled it to take positive steps to ensure the genuine equality of French and English at the University of Ottawa.

## 1. University of Ottawa Act (1965)

Section 4(c) of the *University of Ottawa Act* (1965) sets out the mandate "to further bilingualism and biculturalism and to preserve and develop French culture in Ontario."

Consequently, the Francophonie, so tightly intertwined with bilingualism, is a central pillar of the University's governance framework. The University's francophone mission is essential—so much so that the same section of the 1965 Act underscores this point via the requirement to "preserve and develop French culture". Accordingly, the Board of Governors, the Senate and the University's other governing bodies are required to take into account the French language and francophone culture in all administrative and regulatory decisions, in accordance with the bilingualism and biculturalism requirements set out in the institution's constituent legislation.

## 2. Regulation on Bilingualism

Following the implementation of the 1965 Act, the University of Ottawa adopted its *Regulation on Bilingualism* in 1974. This regulation sets out the principles of bilingualism and biculturalism governing all its activities, from the language of communications and the delivery of academic programs and services to the operation of its main administrative systems and the various sectors that contribute to university life. The *Regulation* was amended in 2016 to take into account the University's

designation as a "government agency" under Ontario's *French Language Services Act*.

A new version of the *Regulation on Bilingualism* has been adopted. The details are discussed below.

## 3. Designation under Ontario's French Language Services Act

On September 25, 2015, during the Franco-Ontarian Celebrations, the University announced that as of January 1, 2016, the vast majority of its undergraduate programs and all its student services would be delivered under Ontario's *French Language Services Act*. At that time, the University had already asked the Ontario government to grant it the "government agency" designation under the legislation in order to "guarantee the use of the French language" in the delivery of undergraduate programs and student services. This designation came into effect in 2016 and applies to all faculties, except for the science and engineering programs.

## 4. Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie

In July 2020, the University created the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, tasked with fostering the development and growth of the Francophonie in all spheres of institutional activity, from teaching and research to community life, and with promoting the institutional Francophonie among French-language communities in Ontario, across Canada and around the world.

The Vice-President, International and Francophonie is supported by a Francophonie team in charge of coordinating high-priority initiatives aimed at ensuring that the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa continues to flourish and that the francophone perspective is taken into account in University decision-making.



## 5. Council on French Services and Programs

The Council on French Services and Programs, headed by the Vice-President, is in charge of planning and implementing initiatives not only enabling the University of Ottawa to fully carry out its francophone mission, but also fostering the university community's full development in both official languages.

The Council is made up of 21 members directly responsible for delivering French-language student services and academic programs on campus, joined by student representatives, as shown in the following table.

### Members of the Council on French Services and Programs

Vice-President, International and Francophonie (chair)  
Secretary General  
One representative of the Deans  
Two faculty representatives (sciences and humanities)  
Two student representatives (undergraduate and graduate)  
Associate Vice-President, Francophonie  
Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs  
Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations  
University Librarian and Vice-Provost, Knowledge Systems  
Deputy Provost, Planning and Academic Budgets  
Associate Vice-President, Research Development  
Associate Vice-President, Research Support and Infrastructure  
Associate Vice-President, Student Affairs  
Associate Vice-President, International  
Associate Vice-President, Facilities  
Associate Vice-President, Financial Resources  
Associate Vice-President, Human Resources  
Director, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute  
Director, Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone  
Executive Director, Teaching and Learning Support Services  
Executive Director, Communications  
Chief Information Officer  
Linguistic Policy Advisor (Secretary)

Source: Appointments to the Council on French Services and Programs approved by the Senate in October 2020.

Because of the transversal nature of the Council's work in all University sectors and faculties, it is supported by a steering committee responsible for guiding the efforts of the Francophonie governing bodies, in particular the Council and its sub-committees.

## 6. Coordinator positions for Francophonie issues in the faculties

At the University of Ottawa, the Francophonie is a transversal responsibility. Certain faculties have established key positions to support the healthy development of the Francophonie.

At the Faculty of Medicine, the Vice-Dean, Francophone Affairs oversees the smooth roll-out of programs and services in French. These initiatives are supported by the Bureau of Francophone Affairs, which aims to foster excellence in the area of French-language medical education, in addition to promoting the Francophonie across the continuum of learners and patients and overseeing the advancement of medical knowledge via pedagogical research and innovation in clinical/scientific settings in French.

Within the Faculty of Arts, the Special Advisor on the Francophonie, appointed in September 2021, is in charge of implementing the recommendations set out in the report of the Faculty of Arts' Working Group on the Francophonie and coordinating francophone initiatives listed in the Faculty's 2030 action plan.

Since 2020, one of the Vice-Deans in the Faculty of Education with responsibility for the francophone sector has been tasked with mapping out links between the Faculty of Education and public/community organizations in the Franco-Ontarian education sector, as well as with chairing the Working Group drawing up the action plan for francophone affairs to be implemented in the Faculty of Education in the coming years.

# Profile of the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa

Bilingualism is fundamental to the University of Ottawa; this reality is reflected in its entire community, staff and student body. This section presents data on the level of bilingualism among faculty members, administrative/ support staff and students.

## 1. Faculty members

The following figures are taken from the institutional dashboard for 2022. According to this data, 91.08% of the professors hired for positions requiring “active bilingualism” (i.e. the ability to teach in both official languages) had achieved that level upon tenure. This works out to 724 positions out of 798.

**Table 4.1 Level of bilingualism among regular professors who are APUO members (not including replacement professors or continuing special appointment professors) — data provided by Faculty Affairs, February 2022**

Level achieved at tenure	Level required for tenure			
	Active	Passive	Undocumented*	Grand total
Active	724	60	14	798
Passive	7	237	6	250
Not acquired	4	4	0	8
Undocumented*	30	27	8	65
Non-permanent	20	67	2	89

Source: Faculty Affairs, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, August 2022.

In addition, the humanities-related faculties are noteworthy for their higher numbers of professors with an active level of bilingualism upon obtaining tenure. In contrast, the faculties with a more vocational emphasis have lower levels.

**Table 4.2 Level of bilingualism upon obtaining tenure, by faculty, February 2022**

Faculties	Level of bilingualism upon obtaining tenure				
	Active	Passive	Undocumented*	Grand total	% Active
Arts	169	25	9	203	83.3
Common Law	44	23	3	70	62.9
Civil Law	33	0	0	33	100
Education	31	23	1	55	56.4
Engineering	74	37	4	115	64.4
Medicine	34	28	14	76	44.7
Science	74	55	7	136	54.4
Health Sciences	92	25	4	121	76.0
Social Sciences	204	4	23	231	88.3
Telfer School of Management	39	30	8	77	50.7
Professors in senior Management positions	4	0	0	4	100
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1 121</b>	<b>71.2</b>

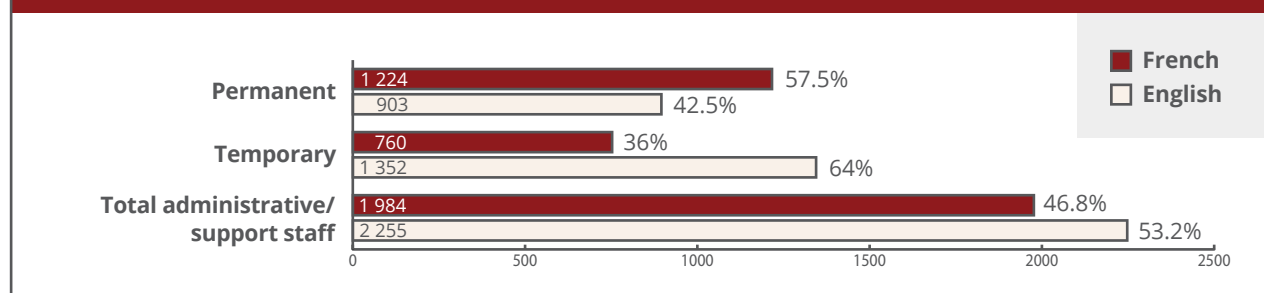
\* “Undocumented” means that the data is not archived in the servers or not mentioned in certain hiring letters but was certified by the faculties.

Source: Faculty Affairs, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, August 2022.

## 2. Administrative/support staff

According to the 2021-2022 data provided by Human Resources, 46.8% of the employees, i.e. 1,984 out of 4,239 staff members, have French as their preferred language of correspondence. Although employees may indicate a preferred official language for correspondence, bilingualism is essential for most positions at the University of Ottawa.

**Table 4.3 Language of correspondence, administrative/support staff, 2021-2022**



Source: Human Resources, August 2022.

A working group created by the Francophonie team, Human Resources and the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute is studying the development of a new evaluation model for linguistic skills when filling administrative/support staff positions, as well as Management positions.

## 3. Students

Students are the most important group in the university community. Hailing from a variety of backgrounds, they are noteworthy for their multiculturalism. However, as regards language of study, they select one of the two program delivery languages. In recent years, the number of Francophone students has declined. For the first time since 2004, the proportion of students enrolled in French-language undergraduate programs was 32.6% of the student body in 2021. This works out to an increase of 20% at the undergraduate level and 12% at the graduate level.

The chart below shows the proportion of francophone students at the undergraduate (32.6%) and graduate (23%) levels in the student community.

**Table 4.4 Proportion of francophones students at the University of Ottawa by level of study, September 2021 entry cohort**



Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.





# Academic programs in French

According to a study by the research firm Sociopol, over half of the students enrolled in a French-language program outside Quebec are studying at the University of Ottawa. In addition, the University of Ottawa offers nearly half of the 800 postsecondary programs offered in French outside Quebec, Canada-wide. (Sociopol, *Études postsecondaires dans la langue de la minorité : Portrait et analyse des enjeux*, March 2021)

## 1. French-language programs

All students enrolled in undergraduate programs falling within the University of Ottawa's designation under Ontario's *French Language Services Act* must be able, if they so desire, to complete their studies by taking only courses in French. This designation applies to most undergraduate programs.

In the following faculties, all programs, including specializations and majors, are "designated":

- Faculty of Law (Common Law and Civil Law)
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Arts, not including Department of English programs
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Telfer School of Management
- Faculty of Medicine

In the Faculties of Science and of Engineering, only certain programs are designated:

- Honours BSc in Biomedical Science and majors in the Faculty of Science.
- Joint Honours BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics, Honours BSc with specialization in Computer Science, major in Computer Science, BAsC in Computer Engineering, BAsC in Software Engineering (Faculty of Engineering).

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Today, the University of Ottawa offers 265 bachelor's programs entirely in French, as well as 88 master's programs and 22 doctoral programs.

**Table 5.1: Number of programs offered entirely in French, by faculty, 2021-2022**

	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Arts	78	29	7
Law	-	3	-
Law - Common Law	8	-	-
Law - Civil Law	5	-	-
Education	8	17	1
Engineering	16	-	.
Medicine	4	-	.
Science	45	-	.
Health Sciences	12	10	3
Social Sciences	74	27	11
Telfer School of Management	15	2	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>22</b>

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

In addition, several non-designated programs are partially available in French, i.e. most of the second and third-year bachelor's courses are offered in French, while for subsequent years, only certain courses are available in French. This works out to a total of 118 programs offered partially in French, as shown in the table below.

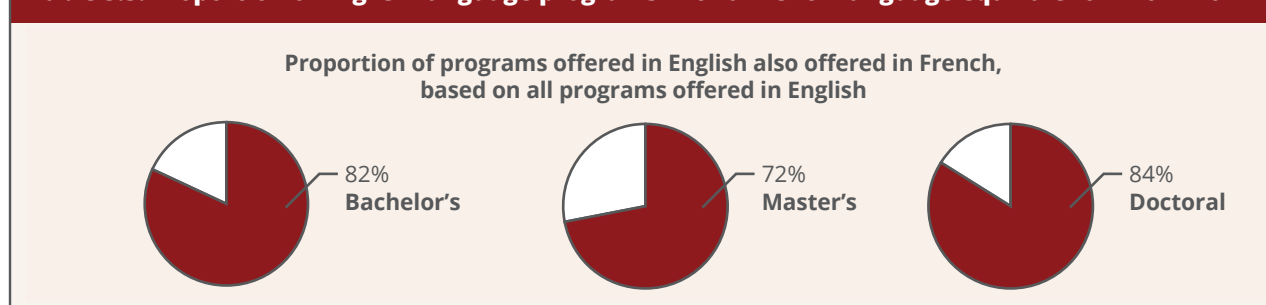
**Table 5.2: Number of programs partially offered in French, by faculty, 2021-2022**

	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Arts	32	4	4
Law	.	2	1
Law - Common Law	2	.	.
Law – Civil Law	.	.	.
Education	.	.	.
Engineering	5	22	9
Medicine	.	13	9
Sciences	23	8	6
Health Sciences	6	.	2
Social Sciences	39	.	3
Telfer School of Management	11	3	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

In parallel, 82% of the English-language undergraduate programs have a French-language equivalent, according to the 2021-2022 data. In addition, certain programs are offered in French only (see next section).

**Table 5.3: Proportion of English-language programs with a French-language equivalent in 2021-2022**



Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.



**Table 5.4: Number of courses offered in French, by faculty, in 2021-2022**

	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Arts	361	38	23
Law	-	12	3
Law - Common Law	45	-	-
Law - Civil law	91	4	-
Education	67	47	17
Engineering	94	-	-
Institute of the Environment	-	1	2
Medicine	21	-	-
Sciences	133	1	-
Health Sciences	122	82	5
Social Sciences	285	70	31
Telfer School of Management	74	19	-

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

The Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, which traditionally have the highest student enrolments, offer the largest number of programs entirely or partially in French.

During the announcement of the designation request, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, said: “For the University of Ottawa, this designation is not a ceiling, but rather a minimum standard. The University intends to pursue the development of courses and programs in French, regardless of whether they are covered by the designation.” In addition, under the *Regulation on Bilingualism*, the Senate is required to take into account the contribution of each program to the development of bilingualism and French culture in Ontario, as well as the potential contribution of the University's bilingualism to program excellence.

The University of Ottawa is currently studying the possibility of extending the designation to all its sciences and engineering programs, as well as to certain graduate programs.





## 2. Programs offered exclusively in French

Among the University of Ottawa's numerous academic programs, 57 are offered solely in French to meet the specific needs of minority francophone communities, as shown in the following table:

**Table 5.5: Programs offered exclusively in French, with no English-language equivalent (2021-2022)**

Faculty	Type of program	Program
Arts	Bachelor's	BA with major in Indigenous Studies
		BA with minor in Environmental Studies
		BA with minor in French Literature
		BA with advanced minor in English as a second language
		BA with major in Spanish
		BA with major in French Literature
		BA with minor in Spanish
		BA with minor in Art History
		Joint Honours BA in Communication and French Literature
		Honours BA with major in English as a second language
		Honours BA with major in Spanish
		Honours BA with major in French Literature
		Honours BA with major in French Literature/ BEd
		Honours BA with major in Music
		Honours BA in Spanish
		Honours BA in French Literature
		Honours BA in French Literature/ BEd
	Master's	Master's in French Literature
		Master's in Bilingualism Studies in association with the University of Lyon 2, France
		Master's in Communication in association with the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
		Master's in Communication in association with the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
		Master's in French Literature
	Doctorate	PhD in French Literature
Law - Common Law	Bachelor's	Juris Doctor and Canadian Law
Law - Civil law	Bachelor's	Licentiate in Law, Honours BSocSc in International Development and Globalization
		Licentiate in Law
		Licentiate in Law/Master's in Business Administration
		Licentiate in Law and Canadian Law

<b>Education</b>	Bachelor's	BEd (integrated)
		BEd (technological education)
		BEd (intermediate/senior divisions)/ Honours BA
		BEd (junior/intermediate divisions)/ Honours BA
		BEd (primary/intermediate divisions)/ Honours BA
	Master's	MEd with concentration in Societies, Cultures and Languages
		MEd with concentration in Health Education
<b>Science</b>	Bachelor's	BSc with minor in Chemistry
<b>Health Sciences</b>	Bachelor's	Honours BSc in Nutrition Sciences
		Honours BSc in Food and Nutrition Sciences - dietetics
		Honours BSc in Nursing - offered in association with La Cité
		Honours BSc in Nursing - for LPNs (in association with La Cité)
	Master's	MSc in Health Sciences Audiology
		MSc in Health Sciences Occupational Therapy
		MSc in Health Sciences Speech Therapy
		MSc in Health Sciences Physiotherapy
<b>Social Sciences</b>	Bachelor's	Bachelor of Social Sciences (minor in aging studies)
		Joint Honours BSocSc in Feminist/ Gender Studies and Sociology
		Honours BSocSc in International Development and Globalization Licentiate in law
	Master's	Maîtrise ès arts Criminologie , en collaboration avec l'Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgique
		MA in Criminology in association with the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
		MA in Women's Studies
		MA in International Development and Globalization
		Master of Social Work
<b>Telfer School of Management</b>	Bachelor's	Honours Bachelor of Commerce
		Honours Bachelor of Commerce (entrepreneurship)
		Honours Bachelor of Commerce (International Management)
		Honours Bachelor of Commerce (management information systems)
	Master's	Master of Business Administration/Juris Doctor

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

In addition, the doctoral program in pharmaceutical sciences will be offered in September 2023, providing that ministerial approvals are obtained.

In certain integrated programs, students can obtain two degrees at the same time that are offered solely in French:

- Honours Bachelor of Social Sciences in Political Science and Juris Doctor (Common Law)
- Honours Bachelor of Commerce and Juris Doctor (Common Law)
- Licentiate in Law and Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Development and Globalization
- Honours Bachelor of Arts in French Literature and Bachelor of Education

“

Students who meet the requirements of the French immersion stream receive a diploma bearing the mention **“French Immersion”**.

### 3. French immersion stream

Numerous students who have enrolled in the French immersion stream are aware of bilingualism's contribution to university culture, its role in our perceptions of the world and, above all, its relative importance in terms of job prospects.

Since 2006, the University of Ottawa's French immersion stream has enabled anglophone and allophone students who so desire to pursue their university studies partially in French. The immersion stream option is offered in over 75 academic programs in the six “direct entry” faculties, namely Arts, Engineering, Telfer School of Management, Science, Health Sciences and Social Sciences.

Students who meet the requirements of the French immersion stream receive a diploma bearing the mention “French Immersion”.

The growing number of admission requests and enrolments in the immersion stream attests to students' sustained interest. Since its creation in 2006, when 247 students enrolled in the immersion stream, the number of new students rose from 572 in 2012 to 697 in 2020. In September 2021, over the combined four years of the undergraduate program, a total of 2,345 students were enrolled in the immersion stream.

**Table 5.6: Number of students enrolled in the immersion stream, undergraduate level (2012-2022)**

Year	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
2012-2013	1 485	572	391	254	268
2013-2014	1 612	564	470	293	285
2014-2015	1 820	659	490	356	315
2015-2016	1 828	652	507	319	350
2016-2017	1 947	594	550	423	380
2017-2018	1 986	638	537	408	403
2018-2019	2 032	642	542	422	426
2019-2020	2 087	620	601	438	428
2020-2021	2 313	697	623	476	517
2021-2022	2 345	645	639	526	535

Source: Immersion stream, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.



**Table 5.6: Number of students enrolled in the immersion stream, undergraduate level (2012-2022)**

Faculty	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Arts	331	347	369	320	299	275	258	279	294	284
Common Law	-	-	3	4	6	5	14	19	27	32
Engineering	-	-	5	10	17	31	35	40	66	98
Sciences	152	205	277	301	316	347	380	353	393	400
Health Sciences	189	192	199	188	222	237	242	262	292	305
Social Sciences	643	680	738	773	826	823	845	858	927	903
Telfer School of Management	170	188	229	232	261	268	258	276	314	323
<b>Total enrolment, by faculty</b>	<b>1 485</b>	<b>1 612</b>	<b>1 820</b>	<b>1 828</b>	<b>1 947</b>	<b>1 986</b>	<b>2 032</b>	<b>2 087</b>	<b>2 313</b>	<b>2 345</b>

Source: Immersion stream, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

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A total of seven faculties offer immersion programs. The Faculty of Social Sciences is noteworthy for having the largest number of students enrolled in the stream. The enrolment figures are divided between students of Canadian origin (94%) and international students (6%).



# The evolving francophone student body

## 1. Soaring French-language enrolments

Francophone enrolments at the University of Ottawa continue to rise, in absolute numbers. In 1995-1996, 9,026 students at the University of Ottawa were francophone, (38% of enrolments), while the University welcomed 14,697 anglophone students (62% of enrolments). A decade later, in 2005-2006, the University was home to

10,370 francophone students, an increase of more than 1,300.

Subsequently, for several years, francophone enrolment remained “stuck” at under one-third of the total enrolment. However, in September 2021, the University welcomed 13,563 students enrolled in French-language programs. This represents a significant increase (20 percentage points) over the previous year.

**Table 6.1. Number of students enrolled in French-language programs at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels (2012-2022)**

Year	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
2012 - 2013	10,039	684	190
2013 - 2014	10,042	710	215
2014 - 2015	10,065	700	261
2015 - 2016	10,101	702	271
2016 - 2017	10,331	680	281
2017 - 2018	10,282	636	294
2018 - 2019	10,393	578	282
2019 - 2020	10,709	597	286
2020 - 2021	11,482	650	287
2021 - 2022	12,534	726	303

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

**Table 6.2. Number of francophone students (French as language of communication) enrolled in French-language programs at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels (2012-2022)**

Year	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate
2012 - 2013	9,174	655	174
2013 - 2014	9,115	674	198
2014 - 2015	9,093	659	248
2015 - 2016	9,029	663	254
2016 - 2017	9,218	641	266
2017 - 2018	9,091	581	276
2018 - 2019	9,091	550	263
2019 - 2020	9,288	564	262
2020 - 2021	9,975	617	264
2021 - 2022	10,916	682	278

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

## 2. Origin of francophone students

Of the 13,563 francophone students at the University of Ottawa in 2021-2022, approximately 74.8% were Canadians. The table below shows their place of origin.

**Table 6.3 Number of francophones at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels according to their place of origin and their relative weighting in relation to all francophones enrolled (2010-2022)**

Year	Ontario		Quebec		Other provinces and territories	
2010-2011	7,001	56.9%	4,333	35.2%	980	8.0%
2011-2012	7,155	56.2%	4,548	35.7%	1,024	8.0%
2012-2013	7,163	55.5%	4,688	36.3%	1,064	8.2%
2013-2014	7,088	54.8%	4,752	36.8%	1,089	8.4%
2014-2015	6,809	52.8%	4,778	37.1%	1,302	10.1%
2015-2016	6,545	51.4%	4,654	36.5%	1,544	12.1%
2016-2017	6,504	50.3%	4,649	36.0%	1,769	13.7%
2017-2018	6,319	50.2%	4,422	35.2%	1,838	14.6%
2018-2019	6,380	50.9%	4,171	33.3%	1,973	15.8%
2019-2020	6,534	51.9%	3,945	31.3%	2,106	16.7%
2020-2021	6,960	52.1%	4,018	30.1%	2,392	17.9%
2021-2022	7,271	50.1%	4,130	28.5%	3,114	21.5%

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

At the same time, the University of Ottawa is actively pursuing its international student recruitment strategy created a few years ago, in particular thanks to its tuition fee waiver program for international francophone students. In 2021-2022, out of 13,563 francophone students, international students from all regions of the globe accounted for 26.8% of these enrolments at the University of Ottawa. Most of these students came from Africa.

**Table 6.4 Origin of international francophone students (by continent)**

Year	2012-2013	2017-2018	2021-2022
Africa	282	1,271	2, 973
Europe	233	301	329
Asia	18	83	155
North America (not including Canada)	5	12	27
South America, Latin America and the Caribbean	24	51	127
Unidentified	3	14	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>3,631</b>

Source: Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.





### 3. University's ability to attract francophone students

Each year, the University of Ottawa plans student recruitment activities in Canada as well as abroad. In addition, new targeted initiatives seek to attract francophones and francophiles in an increasingly competitive market.

The Liaison Office, in association with the Outreach Office, has adopted a strategy focused on guiding students throughout their experience, from selecting their institution of higher education to embracing university life. A team of ambassadors supports these activities year round.

#### **Initiatives involving francophones communities in Ontario and across Canada**

Each year, the University organizes “uOttawa Day”, which gives high-school students an opportunity to discover the academic programs via faculty presentations, online information sessions addressing various issues (admissions, enrolment confirmation, housing, financial aid, etc.). Students can also arrange meetings with a liaison officer. Due to the pandemic, on-site visits to francophone secondary schools were held online over the past two years.

Last year, the liaison team gave presentations in 37 secondary schools in Eastern Ontario and over 55 secondary schools in other regions of the province. During these presentations, emphasis is placed on the availability of French-language programs and services, as well as on the importance of pursuing French-language education. Secondary schools with immersion programs are also targeted by the liaison team. It should be noted that francophone students in Ontario who live at a significant distance from Ottawa can apply for a \$250 travel grant to visit the campus.

In Quebec, the liaison team maintains a high profile in secondary schools and CEGEPs. It also plays a key role at the Salon national de l'éducation de Montréal and organizes an information evening for parents and students in Quebec interested in studying at the University of Ottawa.

In New Brunswick and Western Canada, the liaison team visited 10 secondary schools last year.

#### **Outreach Office initiatives**

The Outreach Office was created in April 2021 to coordinate outreach initiatives – existing or under development – for university-level studies. The Outreach Office works closely with the Liaison Office, the various faculties and the university departments, as well as with external partners to help students and parents discover the various programs of study and provide information on how to access them and get prepared.

#### **Destination réussite**

The University of Ottawa is a partner institution of “Destination réussite”, a program designed to foster the continuity of French-language education among students enrolled in French-language schools in Ontario. Launched by Ontario's Ministry of Education, this initiative also involves French-language school boards and francophone/bilingual postsecondary institutions. The following projects have been carried out to date:

- Since 2020, the University has taken part in the “Foire provinciale des destinations postsecondaires” in the fall, an online activity for Grade 11 and 12 students.
- Online workshops are offered in Grade 7-12 classes by University of Ottawa experts. In 2020 and 2021, over 150 workshops were presented.
- In association with La Cité college, postsecondary transition support workshops were held for Grade 12 students in the Ottawa region and Eastern Ontario. The University of Ottawa is in charge of the university component.
- An “early bird” camp enables Grade 10 and 11 students from Eastern and Central Southwestern Ontario to attend workshops and explore various fields of study for two days in May.
- In fall 2021, the University of Ottawa launched an “Introduction to Education” course geared towards Grade 12 students. Some 40 students took part and obtained three university credits upon successful completion. This activity ties in with Ontario's strategy for recruiting and retaining francophone teaching staff.



## Regional mentoring

The Regional Mentoring Centre employs 15 mentors from various regions of Canada, half of whom are dedicated to francophone students. The mentors guide new students during their university transition by providing support as soon as they accept their admission offer and until the end of their first year. Various initiatives have been organized:

- One-on-one conversations (via telephone, in person and on social media) to answer new students' questions.
- Assistance with registration.
- In-person meetings during Canada-wide information sessions in the weeks preceding back-to-school.
- Social activities on campus and online to help new students develop social networks.

## Enrichment Mini-Courses Program

The Enrichment Mini-Courses Program is offered each year during the first week of May. Approximately 3,000 high-school students from around the region take a week-long series of courses at the University of Ottawa. In 2019 (the most recent edition), 725 francophone students took part.

## Destination Clic

The University of Ottawa takes part in Destination Clic, a three-week summer program specially designed to help young francophones (outside Quebec) develop a sense of belonging and identify with their francophone community, in Canada and abroad.

## Financial aid for Canadian francophone students

The University offers over 50 different bursaries and scholarships to support Canadian students hoping to continue their studies in French. In 2021-2022, the Financial Aid and Awards Service assisted some 6,885 recipients and distributed more than \$7 million to Canadian students.

Two types of bursaries/scholarships are offered specifically to Canadian francophones. The first is large-scale, while the second is based on specific criteria, following a selection process. These scholarships/bursaries are usually funded by donors, along with other sources.

## Type 1: Large-scale bursaries

**The French Studies Bursary** is automatically awarded to students who are:

- Enrolled full-time in the first year of an undergraduate program.
- Admitted in French or French immersion.
- Enrolled in three courses in French (two courses if enrolled in the immersion stream).

This bursary is renewable for the following three years if the initial criteria are maintained. The bursary is automatic and no application is required. It is valued at \$4,000 for the bachelor's program, which works out to \$1,000 per year. There is no cap on the number of these bursaries.

**Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language** give Canadian students whose first official language is English an opportunity to improve their knowledge of French with a view to contributing to bilingualism in Canada. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Must be enrolled full-time in the first year of an undergraduate program.
- Must have English as the first official language.
- Must hold a diploma from an English-language institution.
- Must be admitted in French to the University of Ottawa or into the French immersion stream.
- Must provide a transcript of grades certifying that courses were taken in French for at least two years.
- Must be currently enrolled in 6 credits in French.
- Must demonstrate financial need.

Unlike the French Studies Bursary, students must apply for the Bursary for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language, which is valued at \$3,000 per recipient. More than 250 of these bursaries are awarded each year. This bursary is granted for the first year of studies only and is not renewable.

**Table 6.5 Bursaries awarded for the first year of studies only, 2021-2022**

Year		French Studies Bursaries	Bursaries for French as a Second Language Studies	Total
2012-2013	Amount	\$ 3 543 500	-	\$3 543 500
	Number of recipients	3 543	-	
2013-2014	Amount	\$ 4 531 500	-	\$4 531 500
	Number of recipients	4 532	-	
2014-2015	Amount	\$ 5 018 000	-	\$5 018 000
	Number of recipients	5 018	-	
2015-2016	Amount	\$ 4 921 500	-	\$4 921 500
	Number of recipients	4 922	-	
2016-2017	Amount	\$ 5 103 500	-	\$5 103 500
	Number of recipients	5 104	-	
2017-2018	Amount	\$ 5 509 000	-	\$5 509 000
	Number of recipients	5 927	-	
2018-2019	Amount	\$ 5 112 000	-	\$ 5 112 000
	Number of recipients	5 585	-	
2019-2020	Amount	\$ 5 205 500	-	\$ 5 205 500
	Number of recipients	5 630	-	
2020-2021	Amount	\$ 5 646 000	\$ 750 000	\$ 6 396 000
	Number of recipients	6 099	252	

Source: Financial Aid and Awards Service and Info-Service, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.



## Type 2: Scholarships/bursaries from donors and other initiatives

The Financial Aid and Awards Service offers over 50 other scholarships/bursaries to students who elect to study in French at the University of Ottawa. These scholarships/bursaries are funded by donors' contributions or are associated with various initiatives, as shown in the table below.

Table 6.6 Francophone scholarships/bursaries from other sources, 2021-2022		
	Amount	Recipients
Fleur de Lys admission scholarship, Telfer School of Management	\$ 92 500	42
French for the Future essay contest scholarship	\$ 46 500	33
Place à la jeunesse scholarship	\$ 28 500	25
Immersion Clip contest, ACPI	\$ 33 000	22
CPA Accounting Capstone award	\$ 9 000	30
TD green bursaries (CAFO)	\$ 30 300	10
Montfort scholarship fund for a healthy Francophonie	\$ 23 150	10
National public speaking contest, Canadian Parents for French	\$ 18 500	8
Dr. Hubert Patenaude memorial scholarship	\$ 5 750	6
Dr. Gilles Hurteau scholarship (FFIEEO)	\$ 5 975	5
Noëlla Larocque and Louis-David-Major bursary for students from Northern Ontario (FFIEEO)	\$ 4 700	4
Allard-Henry scholarship (FFIEEO)	\$ 3 150	4
Office of Francophone Affairs fund, Faculty of Medicine (FFIEEO)	\$ 3 775	3
Émile-Lizé bursary in French	\$ 1 250	2
Founders bursary	\$ 5 000	2
Mujawamariya-Bizimana scholarship	\$ 500	2
Edgard Demers II memorial fund	\$ 10 000	2
Caisses Populaires Desjardins of Ontario bursary (FFIEEO)	\$ 2 450	2
Denis Carrier scholarship	\$ 2 600	2
Nadine Saumure bursary in French literature (FAEO)	\$ 2 850	2
Christian Navarre Project Management award	\$ 2 000	2
Canadian Parents for French public speaking contest (Ontario)	\$ 1 000	1
Administrative staff scholarship, Faculty of Social Sciences	\$ 1 460	1
Music education scholarship for francophone students	\$ 2 000	1
Welton Beauchamp scholarship	\$ 1 320	1
RIFAS scholarship (Regroupement des intervenants francophones contre l'agression sexuelle)	\$ 615	1
Michel Bastarache endowment fund	\$ 5 200	1
McArthur Medical Centre fund (FFIEEO)	\$ 630	1
Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate bursary (FFIEEO)	\$ 1 050	1
Nadine Saumure bursary in history (FAEO)	\$ 5 000	1
Iain Beaudoin memorial award (FAEO)	\$ 1 000	1
Pelletier-Bigras fund	\$ 1 930	1
Robert Dubuc scholarship in translation	\$ 2 000	1
Patrick Imbert scholarship	\$ 1 000	1
Hélène Laporte award of excellence for French-language legal drafting	\$ 1 000	1
Félicienne Beausoleil scholarship	\$ 1 000	1
Faculty of Education staff award (francophone undergraduate students)	\$ 250	1
Fonds of scholarship bilingual in Health Sciences (Jeannine-Lefebvre-HGH)	\$ 5 000	1
May M. Cheng award of excellence	\$ 1 000	1
Réjeanne Landry admission scholarship	\$ 1 000	1
Antoine Proteau memorial scholarship	\$ 1 000	1

Source: Financial Aid and Awards Service and Info-Service, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.



### **Recruitment initiatives aimed at French-speaking international students**

Over the past few years, the University of Ottawa has invested significant efforts in recruiting French-speaking international students. In line with its strategic plan *Transformation 2030* and reflecting its desire to play a key leadership role in the Francophonie in Canada and abroad, the University of Ottawa has adopted a diversified recruitment approach focused on diversity and excellence. This approach is backed by two specific initiatives:

- The University is pursuing diversification efforts for student recruitment by focusing on francophone regions.
- The University is entering into partnerships to extend its recruitment efforts to emerging countries and is diversifying its efforts by targeting multiple countries.

These efforts have resulted in a significant increase in the number of students from Africa, where the University has obtained “destination of choice” status, particularly among francophones.

### **Differential tuition fee exemption scholarships for international students studying in French**

Since 2014, the University of Ottawa has offered a partial tuition fee exemption for international students who elect to study in French. In 2021, this exemption took the form of a scholarship with the same objective, i.e. offering francophone international students the opportunity to study in French at the University of Ottawa while paying the same tuition as Canadian students.

For 2021-2022, the budget envelope for all tuition fee exemption scholarships amounted to over \$35.9 million. Strong growth was observed among international francophones with respect to undergraduate recipients of these scholarships, i.e. rising from 587 in 2018-2019 to 1,287 in 2021-2022. A similar trend was observed at the graduate levels. Although smaller in scale, these scholarships were awarded to 97 recipients in 2021-2022. Another success indicator of the University's major investment is the retention rate of tuition fee exemption recipients, i.e. 84% after one year, 74% after two years and 68% after three years.





# Promoting the Francophonie at the University of Ottawa

## 1. Space for living and thriving in French at the University of Ottawa

In keeping with its francophone mission, the University of Ottawa is redoubling its efforts to offer a space for living and thriving in French for francophones and francophiles in its community.

Thriving in French depends on the availability of spaces, activities and services dedicated to furthering the Francophonie on campus.

Since 2011, the Carrefour francophone has organized social activities for the francophone community on campus, in partnership with other University stakeholders. This gathering space fosters dialogue between cultures, including both official language communities. Its mission is to:

- Serve as a crossroads for francophone socio-cultural life among the University of Ottawa's francophone and francophile students.
- Promote and support the development of French culture in Ontario by facilitating access to a broad array of related resources and information, taking national and international francophone cultures into account.
- Foster the consolidation, reinforcement and networking capacity of the University's francophone community thanks to a variety of activities organized in collaboration with stakeholders from the academic community and the Ottawa area.

To support these efforts, the Francophonie team set up a working group on community life tasked with reflecting on various options regarding planning for francophone spaces and resources dedicated to social and cultural activities in French on campus.

## 2. Delivery of French-language services at the University of Ottawa

### Student services in French

The *Regulation on Bilingualism* stipulates that the University's general services must be able to communicate in both official languages with members of the university community. In addition, its general services and academic units must ensure that all services are available in both official languages.

As a general rule, the administrative and academic services provided on campus place special emphasis on the high quality of service delivery in both official languages, including the Office of the Registrar, the Centre for Student Academic Support and the various faculty secretariates. Francophone students are generally satisfied with the services they receive, as confirmed by this 2020-2021 end-of-program survey.

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**Table 7.1: Satisfaction with facilities and services**  
*To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the following University of Ottawa facilities and services?*

	<b>Very satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Very dissatisfied</b>
University residences	22%	51%	21%	6%
Libraries	37%	53%	8%	1%
University bookstore	31%	60%	6%	2%
Food services	31%	51%	14%	4%
Sports services	31%	54%	11%	4%
Online registration	32%	55%	10%	3%
University website	34%	56%	8%	2%
Web-based services (e.g. InfoWeb, UoZone, WebMail, virtual campus)	44%	48%	6%	2%
Computer labs	34%	60%	5%	1%
Wireless network	49%	43%	6%	2%
IT assistance centre (6555)	39%	50%	8%	2%
Financial aid and awards service	34%	52%	11%	3%
InfoService (i.e. information on tuition fees, general information, student cards, official documents, admission)	33%	58%	8%	1%
Academic planning services provided by academic advisors and/or teaching assistants	36%	46%	13%	6%
Counselling and coaching service	33%	41%	15%	11%
Career development centre	37%	51%	11%	2%
Coop education program services	27%	47%	17%	8%
Experiential learning services	35%	55%	10%	1%
Student mentoring program services	33%	59%	6%	1%
Writing centre	37%	52%	8%	3%
Community life services	26%	63%	8%	2%
Health services	30%	52%	13%	5%
Accessibility services (for students with disabilities)	44%	46%	7%	4%
Protection services	37%	51%	6%	7%

Source: 2020-2021 end-of-program survey, Institutional Research and Planning, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, June 2022.

Various University services are embracing innovation in terms of institutional bilingualism. For instance, the Residence Life Service has developed a training course for new community advisors to explain bilingualism and the Francophonie at the University and the best approaches to fostering residence life in both official languages. In addition, pilot projects are underway to designate certain residence floors as living spaces in French.

### 3. Faculty services

Since 2006, faculty members have had access to the services of the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI), including custom-tailored training activities to achieve fluency in both official languages. OLBI works closely with the various faculties, departments and professors to develop linguistic training plans designed to meet their needs and offer them ongoing support to facilitate their success. In addition, OLBI offers support services for writing teaching materials, including revising course outlines and other relevant documents.

### 4. Staff services

OLBI offers complimentary French as a second language courses to administrative/support staff so they can meet the bilingualism requirements of their positions. These courses are supported by conversation workshops so learners can acquire the necessary fluency for oral communication while carrying out their duties.

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Faculty members receive a range of essential help and resources from Teaching and Learning Support Services, where satisfaction with bilingual services is high. In addition, the guidance activities and advisory services provided by the Centre for University Teaching are greatly appreciated in both official languages, as are the support services for online course development in both official languages by the Centre for e-Learning and the online availability of documents, course content and exam administration via the Brightspace platform.



# Tradition of excellence in Francophonie research

The University of Ottawa is ranked among the Top 10 research universities in Canada. In fact, it was #8 on the list of Canada's 50 best research universities in 2021, according to the celebrated Research Infosource ranking in January 2022. Its research activities are based on excellence, relevance and impact in a spirit of equity, diversity and inclusion.

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) is a proud contributor to the creation, mobilization and dissemination of knowledge relating to the Francophonie and the French language. OVPRI supports eight research facilities and institutes tasked with conducting research in French on the francophone world, together with the Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone and international research partnerships. The following examples attest to the vitality of Francophonie research.

## 1. Research facilities and institutes supporting the Francophonie

The University of Ottawa champions research excellence and innovation. The following descriptions are taken or adapted from the respective websites of these research facilities.

The **Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française** continues to garner distinction and play a leading role thanks to its research, publication, dissemination, acquisition and conservation functions, stemming from its wide-ranging collection of archival material. As a scientific and cultural organization, the Centre is the main curator of French Ontario's collective memory, which is showcased via interuniversity initiatives, colloquia, exhibitions, conferences and publications with a view to furthering the advancement and healthy development of this culture.

The **Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Citizenship and Minorities** is a hub for researchers at the University of Ottawa concerned with citizenship and minority issues. Its mission is to offer a research setting and intellectual exchanges in French for the University of Ottawa community. The Centre also hosts Canadian and foreign researchers wishing to conduct research at the University of Ottawa.

The **Centre on Governance** is mandated to work with organizations to better understand governance mechanisms in order to analyze implementation problems and provide better services. In fulfilling its mandate, the Centre studies the phenomenon of governance in the public, private and social sectors from a perspective of intersectoral and inter-governmental collaboration.

The **Centre for Law, Technology and Society** is Canada's leading research hub for law, ethics and policy surrounding technology. The efforts of this team of researchers are focused on privacy, access to justice, equity, inclusion, innovation and development in the digital age.

The **Research Centre on the Future of Cities** offers a unique interdisciplinary research environment in Canada designed to address the pressing challenges of the 21st century by tackling the relationship between the transformation of cities, the climate/social crisis and the Anthropocene.

The **Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability** aims to promote policy-relevant environmental law research and teaching, to encourage collaboration amongst faculty and students on research, teaching and community outreach relating to environmental law and to recruit, assist and train the best environmental law researchers and students.

The **Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health** is Canada's first university-based centre fully dedicated to the study of the biological, social and cultural determinants of health of Black communities in Canada. It is a leading research and training space, based on excellence and interdisciplinarity, that guides the efforts of federal, provincial, territorial and municipal agencies to understand, reduce and eliminate racialized health disparities.

The **Music and Health Research Institute** seeks to explore the interactions between music and health, and to develop solutions that can improve well-being for individuals and communities. Multidisciplinary research teams at the confluence of music, Health Sciences, social sciences, engineering and medicine study the impact of music on sensorial, cognitive, physical and mental health problems,



using an innovative, action-based approach.

The above facilities are affiliated with the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation. There is also a faculty-based institute, namely the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, within which the Canadian Centre for Studies and Research on Bilingualism and Language Planning (CCERBAL) plays a key role in terms of research. In particular, CCERBAL promotes theoretical and methodological advancement in the field of bilingualism studies.

## 2. Research chairs seeking to understand and transform the world around us

For over 15 years, the University of Ottawa has been ramping up its Francophonie-related teaching and research. In 2003, it instituted the Canadian Francophonie Research Chairs program, thanks to which over 15 researchers have promoted research in French and contributed to the training of graduate and postdoctoral students. Over the years, this program has strengthened the foundations of a major research network.

In 2019, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation set out to renew this program, now known as the Chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone. The program has been enhanced with new chairs, brought together within the Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone, confirming the University's desire to pursue a legacy of teaching and research for the Ontarian, Canadian and international communities. The chairs are described below.

## Chair holders in 2020-2021

### Francophonie in Ontario

**Louise Bouchard:** Co-holder of the University of Ottawa and Institut du Savoir Montfort research chair on francophone health in Ontario.

**Jacinthe Savard:** Co-holder of the University of Ottawa and Institut du Savoir Montfort research chair in francophone health in Ontario.

**Luisa Veronis:** Research chair on immigration and Franco-Ontarian communities.

### Canadian Francophonie

**François Larocque:** Canadian Francophonie research chair on language rights and issues.

**Martin Meunier:** Research chair on Quebec, Canadian Francophonie and cultural transformations.

**Marie-Claude Thifault:** Canadian Francophonie research chair on health.

### International Francophonie

**Marie-Ève Desrosiers:** International Francophonie research chair on political aspirations and movements in francophone Africa.

**Jonathan Paquette:** International Francophonie research chair on cultural heritage policies (until August 2022).

**Marie-Hélène Chomienne:** International Francophonie research chair on the health of immigrants and refugees from sub-Saharan francophone Africa.

**Sylvie Grosjean:** International Francophonie research chair on digital technologies in health.

Joining the Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone is the first University of Ottawa Senghor chair, part of the Francophonie's International Network of Senghor Chairs (RICSF). Located in Africa, America, Asia and Europe, the 20 RICSF chairs encourage independent research while advancing knowledge of the Francophonie. Prof. Sanni Yaya, Vice President, International and Francophonie, holds the University of Ottawa Senghor chair on health and development in sub-Saharan Africa.

The chair holders contribute to research internationalization by forging links with stakeholders in the Ontarian and Canadian Francophonie, as well as with research institutions in numerous francophone countries. The tangible benefits of the research chairs may be seen in the creation of vast networks of researchers contributing to the training of hundreds of graduate and postdoctoral students.

**Table 8.1. Collège des chaires: key statistics – 2020-2021**

10 research chairs	In addition:	Production by the Collège's 10 chair holders, 2020-2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 research chairs on Ontario's Francophonie</li> <li>• 3 research chairs on the Canadian and American Francophonie</li> <li>• 4 research chairs on the international Francophonie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Senghor chair on health and development in sub-Saharan Africa</li> <li>• 1 international mobility chair with 5 chair holders</li> <li>• 1 administrative team made up of a director and a coordinator, assisted by students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 book editing projects</li> <li>• 5 book chapters</li> <li>• 63 peer-reviewed scientific articles</li> <li>• 16 reports, briefs and other publications</li> <li>• 43 conferences, webinars and scientific presentations</li> </ul>

### 3. Partnerships with international francophone institutions

On the international stage, the University of Ottawa has developed numerous partnerships that are strengthening Francophonie research, including the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, which opened its first Canadian office in January 2022 at the University of Ottawa; the France-Canada Research Fund; the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie; and the Jacques Cartier Centre. The University also maintains solid collaborative links with Claude Bernard University, Lyon 1, Sorbonne University, the Catholic University of Louvain, the University of Liège, the Free University of Brussels, the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar and the University of Luxembourg, to name just a few.

### 4. Mobilizing knowledge in French at the national and international levels

Mobilizing knowledge in French, in particular via scientific publications, is a key activity that lies at the heart of the University of Ottawa's mission, culminating in the work of the University of Ottawa Press (UOP), the oldest French-language university presses in Canada. Via the editorial program, the translation program and various marketing initiatives, the UOP provides solid support for the mobilization of knowledge in French, not only in national and international publishing, but also in political and cultural circles.

In this regard, the University of Ottawa is proud to host the ACFAS conference in 2024.

# Initiatives to develop the institutional Francophonie

Since taking up his position, the Vice-President, International and Francophonie has identified the most pressing needs with a view to developing the institutional Francophonie. Over the past year, the following initiatives were prioritized to meet those needs.

## 1. Modernizing the *Regulation on Bilingualism*

In October 2021, the Vice-President announced in a press release that the university community stands to benefit from “new, more enforceable policies on bilingualism to further clarify our practices, working on ensuring and encouraging a better balance between the two languages.” Following this announcement, a drafting committee was formed with a mandate to modernize the *Regulation on Bilingualism* in order to : “promote greater autonomy and vigour in advancing the Francophonie.”

This new Regulation is expected to:

- Ensure better oversight of linguistic practices on campus.
- Ensure and foster a better balance between the two languages.
- Implement new governance modalities and an accountability framework.

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The *Regulation on Bilingualism* was modernized after thorough consultations with all the relevant stakeholders on campus to ensure a university-wide consensus. The new version was enacted by the Senate and the Board of Governors in October 2022.

## 2. Ensuring a consistent training offer in French

The University of Ottawa is located in the Canadian province that is home to the largest number of French speakers outside Quebec (750,000 francophones). Our institution seeks to be the world’s largest bilingual university (French/English) where students may elect to study in either of Canada’s official languages, i.e. entirely in English or French. To keep this promise, we still need to set out a clear framework to effectively guide program delivery in keeping with our bilingual mission and our designation as a French-language service provider under Ontario’s French Language Services Act (FLSA).

During the Senate meeting in February 2022, the University, represented by the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, launched an evaluation of its undergraduate program delivery covered by the LSF designation. This large-scale evaluation of undergraduate academic programs should be completed in 2023.

## 3. Enhancing bilingualism among faculty members and employees

Compliance with the LSF cannot be fully achieved without bilingual employees and faculty members. Two working groups were established for each of these categories to consider the practical aspects of this issue. Nevertheless, it proved necessary to set out the principles in the Regulation on Bilingualism to support the implementation process.

The Working Group on Faculty Bilingualism, headed by the Provost, has developed guidelines for designating faculty positions in accordance with the University’s bylaws, collective agreements and designation-related obligations under the LSF.

The Working Group on Faculty Bilingualism hopes to submit its recommendations to the President’s Administration Committee in 2023.

The Working Group on Employee Bilingualism, headed by the Associate Vice-President, Francophonie, aims to make recommendations aimed at updating the various required bilingualism levels for administrative/support staff (including senior Management), based on their types of interactions with the university community.

#### 4. Better informing the community about its linguistic obligations

One of the objectives of the mandate of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, is to inform the University of Ottawa community on institutional Francophonie and bilingualism. A working group is putting together a training course on the Francophonie and bilingualism geared towards all employees, so they become more aware of their rights and obligations under the institution's bylaws.

This course will be rolled out in three phases, based on employee category:

- **Phase 1:** Employees and administrative managers
- **Phase 2:** Professors and academic managers
- **Phase 3:** Students

This course will be administered by Human Resources and will be part of the mandatory training.

#### 5. Revitalizing community life in French on campus

The University of Ottawa is a dynamic place, not only for studying and working, but also for personal fulfilment and entertainment. Especially for students, university is a place where meaningful relationships and lifelong memories are formed.

On the initiative of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, a working group was set up to better coordinate life in French on campus and reinvigorate it. Made up of members of the Francophonie team, the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Affairs and the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Human Resources, the group is conducting an in-depth reflection with a view to making recommendations aimed at boosting community life in French, in a francophone social space offering a broad array of social, cultural and intellectual activities. The group must also review the necessary resources and hopes to submit practical recommendations to the Council on French Services and Programs by fall 2022.

#### 6. Working Group on Language Services

Translation plays a pivotal role in the practice of bilingualism on the University of Ottawa campus. In addition, Language Services makes a threefold contribution to the Francophonie by ensuring the healthy development of French, guiding institutional written communications, and advising the community on standards and trends involving the French language.

The Working Group on Language Services is studying the compliance of Language Services' mandate with the *Regulation on Bilingualism*, the effectiveness of the current operating model and the division of roles and responsibilities between this service and the other university faculties and services.

The discussions of this working group were used to inform the principles guiding the offer of translation and revision services in the new text of the Regulation on bilingualism.



# A more effective, dynamic and unifying Francophonie

This first annual report of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, seeks to take into account the place of French and bilingualism at the University of Ottawa, in all its vitality, while outlining the efforts of our university community's numerous architects, who work each and every day to ensure the long-term viability of French. The Francophonie and bilingualism are inextricably bound up with the University's identity, in all its diversity and complexity. Their vitality depends on the deep commitment and intrinsic sense of belonging associated with our governance bodies, faculty, staff and students.

The overview provided in this report outlines the results derived from the resources and strategies put in place to ensure that the Francophonie and bilingualism have a place of choice, not only among the student body, but also in the offer of services and programs and in the support provided to faculty and staff that serve to revitalize them. Certain key indicators are self-evident, in particular the significant increase in the proportion of francophone students, marking noteworthy progress towards the achievement of a critical mass that must be preserved. It should be noted, moreover, that few institutions offer a comparable level of financial and academic support that the University of Ottawa provides on behalf of all individuals who choose to come and study in French or in French immersion on campus, in particular its generous financial aid program for the Francophonie and bilingualism. The University is also recognized for the diversity of its personalized programs and academic pathways; this report attests to the important role played by the Francophonie and the ongoing concern of the University's governing bodies to enhance it. Our community's efforts are also reflected in the reputation and spin-off benefits of our researchers' work on behalf of the Francophonie in Ontario, across Canada and around the world.

Drawing on its achievements and accomplishments, the University of Ottawa will be staying the course regarding its ambitious strategic plan *Transformation 2030* and its francophone mission. Important advances such as the creation of the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, the implementation of the Council

on French Services and Programs as a new governance structure and various other transformative initiatives bode well for a promising future for the Francophonie and bilingualism.

Furthermore, numerous transformative initiatives are underway, including the modernization of the *Regulation on Bilingualism* and the review of French-language programs and faculty/staff bilingualism. Work remains to be done, however, if the University of Ottawa is to become a place of discussion and ideas where both official languages rub shoulders and intermix with a view to enhancing knowledge, ensuring the personal fulfilment of all community members and promoting the University of Ottawa's culture on campus, across Canada and around the world.



# Appendix 1

## Annual report of the Council on French Services and Programs

The Council on French Services and Programs is a new standing committee of the Senate; its responsibilities were approved in October 2020. Its mandate covers the planning and implementation of initiatives enabling the University of Ottawa to fully carry out its mission and its commitment to promoting and developing French culture in Ontario. The Council is also mandated with ensuring the healthy development of the university community in both official languages.

This annual report is the first produced by the new Council on French Services and Programs. In 2021-2022, the Council's members gathered on four occasions to discuss key issues involving the Francophonie, in particular the priority initiatives of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, the modernization of the *Regulation on Bilingualism* and the standardization of linguistic requirements for administrative/support positions project.

At the first meeting of the academic year, the Vice-President, International and Francophonie welcomed the members to this new Francophonie governance body at the University of Ottawa. He also provided an overview of the new Office of the Vice-President's priorities since it was created in July 2020.

The proposed 2021-2022 work priorities for the Council and its two sub-committees were adopted, including the modernization of the *Regulation on Bilingualism*, the review of French language programs, enhanced bilingualism of faculty and employees, the revitalization of community life in French, the development of a training course on linguistic requirements and Language Services' support of bilingualism at the University.

In January 2021, the staff of the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie presented a summary of consultations on the modernization of the *Regulation on Bilingualism* to members of the sub-committee on French-language programs and research. In fall 2021, the Office consulted over 15 groups to gain a better understanding of the university community's aspirations with respect to a modernized regulation. Five main issues were raised: the need for a clearer vision of institutional bilingualism; a better definition of the role of each sector with respect to official languages; a more accessible linguistic formulation of the requirements; guidance on requirements for employees; and a stronger Francophonie. Following discussions with the sub-committee members, the drafting committee tasked with producing the modernized *Regulation* got down to work.

In January 2022, the members of the sub-committee on French-language services attended a presentation by the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute and Human Resources, with the support of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, on the linguistic requirements standardization project for administrative/support positions. It was recommended that standardized positions should reflect the following main considerations: the type of public towards which services are geared, i.e. internal (within the unit) or external (the entire campus community and beyond); the linguistic impact (i.e. situations in which lack of second-language fluency may be harmful); and the type of skills required (passive or active bilingualism). The model puts in place a genuine bilingual culture in which both languages have a symmetrical place throughout employees' careers. The proposal is incentive-based (realistic objectives, available



training, opportunities for progress), above and beyond a regulation-based model. The sub-committee members' comments were noted by the working group, which is wrapping up its technical evaluation of this approach to positions at the University of Ottawa.

In conclusion, in May 2022, the Council on French Services and Programs asked its members to comment

on the draft version of the modernized *Regulation on Bilingualism*. The feedback was wide-ranging and enabled the drafting team to make major textual clarifications while pursuing dialogue with stakeholders to reach a consensus on the provisions of the modernized Regulation. A new draft of the *Regulation* was unanimously approved by the University's governing bodies in Fall 2022.



## Appendix 2

### Annual report on the complaint process

Number of complaints by category	
Category	Number of complaints
Bilingualism of communications	18
Equality of French quality level	14
Working language of choice	12
Predominance of French in communications	11
Areas not covered by the Regulation	10
Work tools in French	8
Proactive offer of French-language community services	5
Bilingualism of pedagogical resources	3
Bilingualism of signage and social media publications	3
French-language instruction in accordance with the course calendar	2
French-language course offer	2
Bilingualism of documentary resources	2
Bilingualism of courses	1
Exams/assignments in the language of choice	1
Delivery of French-language student services	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

Complainants	
Category	Number of complaints
Faculty	38
Students	31
Other	14
Staff	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>



Number of complaints by sector	
Sector	Number of complaints
Faculty of Social Sciences	8
Human Resources	8
Communications	7
External sources	7
Common Law section	7
Teaching and Learning Support Services (TLSS)	7
Faculty of Science	6
Faculty of Arts	5
Research	5
Facilities service	5
Central administration	4
Libraries	3
Financial resources	3
Health services	3
Sports services	3
Sociocultural programming	2
Food services	2
TLSS mentoring	2
External relations	1
Campus store	1
Civil Law section	1
Careers services	1
Counselling services	1
Protection services	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>



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