



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Program(s):	German Studies, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor Business German: Minor German Studies in English: Minor Al and Malka Green Yiddish Program: Minor German Literature, Culture and Theory, M.A., Ph.D.
Division/Unit:	Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Paul Lützeler, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Washington University 2. Professor John Smith, Department of European Languages and Studies, University of California, Irvine 3. Professor David Wellbery, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Chicago
Date of review visit:	February 6-7, 2014
Date reported to AP&P:	October 28, 2014

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Excellent range of undergraduate course offerings and well-structured curriculum
- Premier graduate program ranked among the top in North America
- Increase in undergraduate and graduate enrolment over the past eight years
- Outstanding faculty with diverse areas of expertise
- Remarkable faculty research output, funding, publication record, and citation frequency

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Strengthening graduate student training as future language teachers
- Reviewing best practices for graduate comprehensive examinations
- Exploring the provision of increased support for conference participation and mentoring of graduate students
- Examining graduate student funding and time to completion rates
- Assessing the availability and cost of undergraduate study abroad programs and evening courses
- Expanding the use of technology for language instruction and addressing classroom space concerns

4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Department to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Strengthening graduate student training as future language teachers
 - A language coordinator was hired in the Summer, 2014 and has introduced a number of initiatives for language training.
 - Reviewing best practices for graduate comprehensive examinations
 - The Graduate Program Committee will develop a proposal for changes to the graduate comprehensive examinations, with planned implementation in 2015-16.
 - Examining graduate student funding and time-to-completion rates
 - The Department will continue to make use of the Doctoral Completion Award, and it will find ways to support funding for students in the post-funded cohort, facilitating timely completion of programs.
 - Exploring the provision of increased support for conference participation and mentoring of graduate students
 - The Department will expand its mentoring program to include master's and second-year doctoral students.
 - Assessing the availability and cost of study abroad programs and evening courses
 - The Department has renewed a Visiting Professorship agreement, which will lead to enhanced student advising regarding study abroad opportunities.
 - The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will examine the possibility of increasing the number of language course sections offered in the evenings in 2014-15.

- Expanding the use of technology for language instruction and addressing classroom space concerns
 - The Department will look for alternative classroom options.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Strengthening graduate student training as future language teachers
 - The Department will seek approval from the Faculty of Arts and Science for a permanent teaching-stream position.
 - Examining the availability and cost of study abroad programs and evening courses
 - The Department is exploring the possibility of a Master of Arts exchange program with a partner institution.
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - Expanding the use of technology for language instruction and addressing classroom space concerns
 - The Dean's Office will work with Central Services and St. Michael's College to enhance classroom space to meet Departmental needs.

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the Department to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs as being first-rate. Strengths include an excellent range of undergraduate course offerings and well-structured curriculum; significant increase in undergraduate and graduate enrolment; outstanding faculty; and remarkable faculty research output. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: strengthening graduate student training in language instruction; reviewing best practices for graduate comprehensive examinations; examining graduate student funding in relation to time to completion rates; assessing the availability and cost of study abroad programs and evening courses; and addressing concerns about classroom space. To strengthen graduate student training, a language coordinator has introduced language training initiatives. The Graduate Program Committee will review best practices and propose changes to the graduate comprehensive examinations. The Department is exploring the possibility of a graduate exchange program. As well, it is examining the possibility of increasing the number of undergraduate language course sections offered in the evenings. The Department will find ways to support funding opportunities for doctoral students in the post-funded cohort and will expand its graduate mentoring program. The Department will seek alternative classroom options in the short term and work with other offices over the long term to enhance classroom space. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.