



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

<b>Programs Reviewed:</b>	Croatian and Serbian Studies, B.A., Hons.: Major, Minor Czech and Slovak Studies, B.A., Hons.: Major, Minor German and Ukrainian, B.A., Hons.: Specialist (admissions to this program has been suspended) Polish Language and Literature, B.A., Hons.: Major, Minor Polish Studies, B.A., Hons.: Major, Minor Russian Language and Literature, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor Russian Language, Minor Russian Literature in Translation, Minor Ukrainian Language and Literature, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor Slavic Languages and Literatures, M.A., Ph.D.
<b>Division/Unit Reviewed:</b>	Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Professor Edith Clowes, Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Virginia 2. Professor Karen Evans-Romaine, Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Wisconsin-Madison 3. Professor David Frick, Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of California, Berkeley
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	March 6-7, 2014

**Date reported to AP&P:** March 31, 2015

## 1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

- The Department is “...a jewel in the crown of the University of Toronto, Canada, and North America”
- Stimulating, interdisciplinary curriculum
- Outstanding course offerings at all levels achieved through collaboration and creative teaching
- Notable quality of undergraduate and graduate students
- Stellar mentoring and advising provided for undergraduate and graduate students
- Highly impressive body of scholarship produced by faculty

## 3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Using standardized measures in assessing students’ language proficiency
- Strengthening students’ language proficiency through international experiences
- Continuing to track student and alumni metrics to aid in demonstrating the Department’s strong international standing
- Increasing support for conference participation and professional mentoring for graduate students
- Examining the impact of graduate student funding, especially relative to time-to-completion
- Reviewing faculty areas of expertise as part of the complement planning process

## 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Assessing students’ language proficiency
    - The Department has added a compulsory phone conversation with graduate applicants in their target language to its admissions process.
    - The Department will also continue to assess oral proficiency of graduate applicants using existing methods.
  - Strengthening students’ language proficiency
    - The Department will consult with other departments on ways to provide language study-abroad opportunities for students.
  - Tracking student and alumni metrics
    - The Department will update its alumni webpages using career placement information gathered from its alumni.
    - The Department will expand its job placement webpages, adding alumni profiles.

- Increasing support for conference participation and mentoring for graduate students
  - The Department will increase its involvement with the FAS Backpack to Briefcase initiative, providing career development opportunities for its students.
  - The Department is providing career advising for its doctoral students.
- Examining the impact of graduate student funding
  - The Department will continue to work to raise funds to support graduate student research.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Assessing students' language proficiency
    - The Department will continue to work with programs across Canada to explore cost-effective ways to deliver standardized language assessment.
    - The Department and the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) will continue to emphasize the value of the U of T Language Citation for graduating students.
  - Strengthening students' language proficiency
    - The Department will work with the FAS Dean's Office to identify funding sources for students to study abroad.
  - Examining the impact of graduate student funding
    - The FAS Vice-Dean will work with the Department to understand the factors affecting PhD time-to-completion.
  - Reviewing faculty areas of expertise as part of the complement planning process
    - The Chair, in consultation with the Department, will develop plans for how best to revise the curriculum through complement renewal.

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

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified as strengths the program's outstanding course offerings; notable student quality; student mentoring and advising; and faculty scholarship. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: strengthening students' language proficiency through standardized measures and international experiences; tracking student and alumni metrics; examining the impact of graduate student funding; and reviewing faculty areas of expertise as part of the complement planning process. In response, the Department has added an oral component to its graduate admissions process and will continue to work with other programs to deliver standardized language assessment. The Department will consult with other departments on ways to provide language study-abroad opportunities for students and will work with the FAS Dean's Office to identify funding for them. The Department will update its job placement and alumni webpages and will continue to provide career advising for its doctoral students. The FAS Vice-Dean will work with the Department to understand the factors affecting PhD time-to-completion, and the Chair will explore curriculum revision through complement renewal. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.