



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

<b>Program(s) Reviewed:</b>	International Development Studies, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Specialist (Co-op) International Development Studies, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Specialist (Co-op), Major
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Centre for Critical Development Studies (review of programs only)
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Professor Rick Halpern, Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic), University of Toronto Scarborough
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Dr. Susanna Hecht, Professor, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California 2. Dr. David Nugent, Professor and Director, Master's in Development Program, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	December 12 – 13, 2013
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	October 28, 2014

## 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

- High quality of the programs
- Outstanding calibre of students
- Innovative and unique co-operative programs
- Faculty dedication to ensuring student success
- Deep engagement of program stakeholders
- Vibrant sense of community

### 3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Ensuring first-year students understand relevance of core first-year courses to development issues
- Identifying ways to ensure the needs of students in the Major program are met
- Strengthening the development economics and research methodology content of the curriculum
- Maximizing student learning during international field placements
- Exploring non-traditional models of language learning for students
- Acquiring the necessary resources to transition the unit from an Extra-Departmental Unit: B to an Extra-Departmental Unit: A, which will create greater program stability and enable it to manage faculty resources better
- Developing a Master's program

### 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Ensuring first-year students understand relevance of core first-year courses to development issues
    - The Centre is reviewing its curriculum and redesigning the first-year, introductory course, IDSA01H3 (Introduction to International Development Studies), to further aid students in understanding issues in the field.
  - Identifying ways to ensure the needs of students in the Major program are met
    - The Centre has enhanced its curriculum through the creation of three new D-level courses, including a capstone course, which will be available to non-co-op students.
    - The Centre has established a working group with strong student representation to identify means of expanding its outreach strategies.
    - The Centre will advertise talks and seminars extensively, striving to make students in Major programs feel more welcome.
  - Strengthening the development economics and research methodology content of the curriculum
    - The Centre has negotiated priority status for its students in Economics courses offered by the Department of Management.
    - The Centre will include methods courses offered by other disciplines as electives within the programs.
  - Maximizing student learning during international field placements
    - The Centre will provide greater flexibility by introducing a second option within the Co-op program in which students may complete an extensive new project appraisal instead of field research.
    - The Centre will expand the number of opportunities for co-op and non-co-op students to interact with practitioners during “meet-and-learn” events.
  - Exploring non-traditional models of language learning

- The Centre will examine the possibility of granting a credit to students who pass a proficiency test after engaging in language learning off-campus during their placement.
- The Centre will consider a more active partnership with the University's School of Continuing Studies in the provision of language courses to students.
- Seeking a donor to support the Centre's growth
  - The Centre will work closely with the Dean and the UTSC Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations to intensify its fundraising efforts.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Identifying ways to ensure the needs of students in the Major program are met
    - The Centre will, in collaboration with the Centre for International Experience and the Dean's Office, explore the possibility of developing international exchanges for students in Major programs.
  - Strengthening the development economics and research methodology content of the curriculum
    - The Centre will seek to have a position in development economics filled.
  - Creating greater program stability and an expanded resource base
    - The Centre will engage in an academic planning process, outlining its vision for the future.
    - The Centre will position itself to transition from Extra-Departmental Unit: B (EDU:B) to Extra-Departmental Unit: A (EDU:A) status within the next few years.
  - Developing a Master's program
    - UTSC will explore the possibility of developing a collaborative partnership with existing graduate programs in the University.
    - Upon achieving greater stability and control resulting from becoming an EDU: A, the unit will consider developing a Master's program

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

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as being its high quality; the outstanding calibre of students; innovative co-operative programs; faculty dedicated to ensuring student success; and the deep engagement of program stakeholders. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: ensuring first-year students understand relevance of core first-year courses to development issues; identifying ways to ensure the needs of students in the Major program are met; maximizing student learning during international field placements; exploring non-traditional models of language learning; creating an expanded resource base; and developing a Master's program. In response, the Centre will review its curriculum and redesign its first-year, introductory course. The Centre will take steps to support Major students, engaging them in working groups, talks and seminars. The Centre will introduce an alternative to conducting field research for Co-op students on placements, and it will explore partnering with the University's School of Continuing Studies in the provision of language learning for students. The Centre will work closely with the Dean and senior administrators to intensify its fundraising efforts. Following an academic planning process, the Centre anticipates

moving in a focused way towards becoming an EDU: A. Thereafter, the Centre will consider developing a Master's program. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.