



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

Programs Reviewed:	East Asian Studies, B.A., Hons. (specialist, major, minor) East Asian Studies (M.A., Ph.D.)
Unit Reviewed:	Department of East Asian Studies
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Mikael Adolphson, Japanese Cultural Studies, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta 2. Professor Mary Elizabeth Berry, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley 3. Professor Misumi Sadler, Director of Undergraduate Study, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Date of Review Visit:	January 25 – 26, 2016
Date Reported to AP&P:	November 1, 2016

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report to address various departmental initiatives, including ways to address the financial health of the Department and alternative approaches to pedagogy. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2017-18.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Programs reflect the emerging state of the field of Asian Studies, which positions East Asia in regional and global contexts
- Innovative undergraduate curriculum that accommodates an enormous number of students
- High enrolments with the potential to grow based on demand
- Potential to become a leading program in preparing students for careers

- Commendable effort to address ELL students' reading and writing needs through a project developed in consultation with the WIT Program

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

Curriculum & Program Delivery

- Rethinking language instruction, which is currently offered in lecture courses and tutorials—out of step with current innovations
- Expanding language requirements and offering more advanced language and text-based courses in East Asian languages
- Enhancing the undergraduate program, including adding an undergraduate thesis option, changing assessment methods, and tracking career outcomes
- Revamping graduate funding and TA-ships
- Addressing the high attrition rate for Ph.D. students
- Reconsidering academic staffing resources to better support programs and courses offered (including Chinese history and Japanese literature), provide advising for students, and create more opportunities for faculty to advance their careers
- Increasing advancement activity at the department and division levels to support the department's mission and programs
- Collaborating more with cognate units to support programs and expanding the scope of its mission

4 Implementation Plan

Immediate Term (6 months)

- Rethinking language instruction
 - The Department and the Dean's Office have initiated a review of the EAS base and OTO budgets with the aim of exploring a plan to accommodate more students interested in EAS language courses. This budget and enrolment review is considering the expansion of language capacity in first year Japanese and Korean by roughly 100 students for each language.
 - EAS has begun to reduce the size of its tutorials. Over the next two years the Department will seek to extend this to first year Korean and Chinese first year language courses.
 - With the encouragement of the Department, one of their language teachers has applied to the Learning and Education Advancement Fund (LEAF) program to explore the possibility of using an inverted classroom and various web-based technologies for language study
- Enhancing the undergraduate program

- The EAS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) has been tasked with exploring the possibility of an undergraduate thesis option, and the UCC will assess the advisory capacity to accommodate a thesis for the approximately 130 majors and specialists who graduate with an EAS degree each year
- EAS will be taking part in an initiative to track the outcome (and impact) of B.A. graduates with an EAS major
- Revamping graduate funding and TA-ships
 - The Faculty of Arts & Science has introduced an increase to base funding for all doctoral-stream students in the funded cohort, through which they will receive at least \$2,000 more in 2018-19. The increase is composed entirely of fellowship funds, which reflects an ongoing effort on the part of the Faculty to reduce the proportion of hourly work that is included in the base funding amount, with the goal of improving time to completion and supporting students to focus on their core research.
- Addressing the high attrition rate for Ph.D. students
 - The Department has determined that the true attrition rate is 31%, which is still too high but significantly better than the national average for humanities of 44%, as reported in University Affairs (2013). EAS has changed its graduate curriculum and diversified course offerings, enabling students to pursue a wider range of interests. Supervisory capacity has increased from six to 13.
 - EAS is currently undertaking a number of measures to improve their graduate student experience, including an emphasis on the SGS supervisory committee model in order to decrease a culture of depending largely on a single supervisor; the creation of a Graduate Curriculum Committee (2016); an event series to help students with writing; and collaboration with the EASGSU to develop a series of workshops to encourage presentation of research among their peers
- Reconsidering academic staffing
 - The Department is now participating in the SSHRC bridge funding opportunity offered by the Dean of Arts and Science; seven EAS faculty members have already applied for research funding through this program. The Department will resurrecting a speaker series led by one junior and one senior faculty member.

Medium Term (1-2 years)

- Rethinking language instruction
 - The EAS Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) will consider how to incorporate advanced language study into the graduate program. The aforementioned budget and enrolment review is examining the possibility of the creation of advanced professional language courses at the undergraduate level.
- Revamping graduate funding and TA-ships
 - In addition to the base funding increase, in 2017-18 the Faculty of Arts & Science will introduce new program-level fellowship pools in each of its graduate

academic units, which will be scaled to the number of funded cohort students in a unit

- Reconsidering academic staffing
 - The Department is funding and organizing manuscript workshops for EAS assistant professors: one will be held in the spring 2017 and another in fall 2017
- Increasing advancement activity
 - The Department of EAS is working closely with the Faculty of Arts and Science's Advancement office to explore available options and initiatives
- Collaborating with cognate units
 - The Department plans to formalize these research and teaching relationships by taking further advantage of the opportunity to appoint faculty from other units as associate members of our graduate faculty. The Department's Graduate Curriculum Committee is currently conducting a comprehensive study to trace which faculty outside the department commonly work with EAS students.

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

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as reflecting the emerging state of the field of Asian Studies; an innovative undergraduate curriculum that accommodates an enormous number of students; high enrolments with the potential to grow; the potential to become a leading program in preparing students for careers; and commendable effort to address ELL students' reading and writing needs through a project developed in consultation with the WIT Program. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: rethinking language instruction; expanding language requirements and offering more advanced language and text-based courses in East Asian languages; enhancing the undergraduate program; revamping graduate funding and TA-ships; addressing the high attrition rate for Ph.D. students; reconsidering academic staffing resources; increasing advancement activity at the department and division levels; and collaborating more with cognate units. The Department and the Dean's Office have initiated a review of the EAS base and OTO budgets with the aim of exploring a plan to accommodate more students interested in EAS language courses. EAS has begun to reduce the size of its tutorials. EAS is currently undertaking a number of measures to improve their graduate student experience. The Department is now participating in the SSHRC bridge funding opportunity offered by the Dean of Arts and Science. The EAS Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) will consider how to incorporate advanced language study into the graduate program. The Department of EAS is working closely with the Faculty of Arts and Science's Advancement office to explore available options and initiatives. The Department plans to formalize these research and teaching relationships by taking further advantage of the opportunity to appoint faculty from other units as associate members of our graduate faculty. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report to address various

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departmental initiatives, including ways to address the financial health of the Department and alternative approaches to pedagogy. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2017-18.