

York University

Notice of Intention to Develop a Program Proposal

Submission of a notice of intention to develop a curriculum proposal of any kind, with the exception of course changes and minor modifications, must be submitted before the development of a fuller formed proposal.

This form is to be completed and sent electronically to YUQAP@yorku.ca prior to the development of a program proposal. Authorization to begin development of a proposal will be given by the Vice-Provost Academic within six weeks of submission of this form.

Faculty Name AMPD

Program Name MA Dance

1. Outcome of the Proposal

Major modification of an existing program

2. Intended start date: (example: Fall 2017, Summer 2018)

Fall 2019

3. Location: (example: Keele campus, Markham campus, Glendon)

Keele Campus

4. Short Description of the proposal (maximum 250 words):

The Department of Dance proposes to modify its current MA in Dance program from five terms (with thesis, MRP, and coursework options) to three terms (with a coursework option only).

5. Provide a short statement about the proposed program's alignment with University plans, including evidence has been provided about the program's alignment with the university's Strategic Mandate Agreement, evidence of student demand, evidence of societal need, justification of duplication with existing programs at York and in Ontario and any legal requirement for graduates in a program to be certified, registered, licensed. (maximum 250 words)

This proposal aligns with the University's plan of meeting enrolment targets and of furthering the undergraduate education of its graduates. For the past years, our dance majors consistently expressed interest in pursuing an MA degree after their BFA Honours in Dance. However, what stopped them from applying to the MA is the current length of our 5-term MA, because majority of them intend to

additionally pursue a concurrent education degree and other post-graduate degrees. Our MA in Dance is the only English degree of its kind in Canada. Thus, the proposed 3-term MA will not duplicate any existing program at York and in Ontario. Moreover, this new MA will tremendously help solve the Department's problem of dwindling full-time faculty members. At present, professors in the Department are maximally loaded with supervising the thesis and dissertation committees of students in the MFA in Dance and PhD in Dance Studies programs. The proposed MA will free up our professors from supervising Major Research Papers and Theses at the MA level. To prepare students in this new, 3-term MA for the PhD, all of their dance studies courses will have a major research component. During their first term, they will be required to take a Research Methods course for which they will have to identify a topic that they will continue researching on throughout their studies. An accumulation of these papers from various courses will provide them with a research training that is equivalent to the production of a Major Research Paper.

6. **Summarize any new or reallocation of resources** (financial, physical and/or administrative) required implementing the proposal.

The Department of Dance does not anticipate nor require any new or reallocated resources financially, physically and/or administratively in implementing this proposal. The current 5-term MA has a coursework option within it. Therefore, the above resources for this proposal are already in place. The only change that this proposal will require is the steady offering of one or two graduate courses in both the summer and spring terms, in order for the MA students to complete their degree in one year. Some full-time faculty members have already firmed up their commitments in teaching courses during these terms.

7. **Consultations:** Provide details regarding consultations with other programs and or Faculties at York University or outside of York University including information about potential collaboration or possible duplication. Include an explanation of the consultation process, the names and roles of those consulted and a summary of the feedback provided. (maximum 250 words)

This 3-term MA proposal was a major agenda item during our Department's latest annual retreat on April 21, 2017. Approval for it among full-time faculty members was unanimous. Most of our faculty members are associate faculty members in departments and research centres such as: Cultural Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, Centre for Feminist Research, and the York Centre for Asian Research. Based on the feedback they received from these institutions, the one-year MA is in keeping with the changing climate of treating an MA degree as a preparation for the PhD, and not as a terminal degree. As indicated above, the Department of Dance conducted an informal survey last academic year among its graduating seniors about this proposal. Overwhelming they were in full support of it; and in fact they requested that the Department inform them once the proposal has been approved, as they would proceed with their MA applications.

Name and title of the proposal proponent:

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Graduate Program Director,
MA in Dance and PhD in Dance Studies

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Signatures required:

Program Proponent 

Date 1 Feb 2019

Dean/Principal of the Faculty 

Date Feb 11, 2019