

**Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics  
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies**

**Statement on York University's  
Suspension of Admissions as of fall 2025 to our Undergraduate Programs in  
*German Studies*  
*Italian Studies*  
*Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Studies*  
*Spanish Studies***

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics (DLLL) is home to diverse language and cultural studies and linguistics programs, including four language programs with majors: German Studies, Italian Studies, Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Studies, and Spanish Studies. These four programs provide a unique multicultural perspective and foster development of intercultural communication, equipping students with knowledge and skills for a globalized world.

Recently, news has spread that the admission of declared majors to these four undergraduate language and cultural studies programs has been suspended as of fall 2025.

Importantly, these DLLL programs and courses have *not* been cancelled and will continue as scheduled for 2025-26. We have been assured that existing majors “can complete their degree on track with minimal disruption.” The suspension applies *only* to future undergraduate students considering entering our language programs as *majors*. Students in all years may continue to enroll in our courses and take a minor or pursue certificates in the programs listed above.

The York administration maintains that it is taking this suspension action in programs where enrolment trends have been stable or declining in order “to help address program sustainability concerns and to create the necessary time and space for faculty members to consider how to enhance and relaunch a more viable degree offering,” as well as “curriculum renewal.”

The ability to speak more than one language and a nuanced understanding of the cultural contexts and social and political histories that have shaped and continue to inform our increasingly interconnected world are valuable assets. Suspending admission to multilingual cultural studies programs equates with the loss of a wide range of multicultural perspectives. DLLL welcomes the opportunity to work with the LA&PS Administration to continue to strengthen and enhance its commitment to global and local communication, to navigating the intersections between language and cultures and to offering students subtle perspectives on world issues that transcend single regions, nation-states or linguistic zones.

If you wish to support any of our four language programs with suspension of majors, please write to the University President, Professor Rhonda Lenton (rlpvc@yorku.ca) and to the Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, Professor JJ McMurtry (deanlaps@yorku.ca).

Students with general concerns may contact the DLLL Chair (Professor Gabriela Alboiu) at llchair@yorku.ca or the Undergraduate Program Director, Languages and Literatures (Professor Saskia Van Viegen) at langlit@yorku.ca. Students with more specific program concerns should contact their respective language program Coordinator, as follows:

- For *German Studies*, Professor Christina Kraenzle (kraenzle@yorku.ca)
- For *Italian Studies*, Professor Saskia Van Viegen (saskia@yorku.ca)
- For *Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Studies*, as well as for *Spanish Studies*, Professor Emiro Martinez-Osorio (mosorio@yorku.ca).