

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

German Studies

BA, iBA

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Cyclical Program Review – 2012 to 2020

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

Program(s) Reviewed:

German Studies, BA and IBA

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Charlotte Schallié, Chair/Professor, German Studies, Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada

Dr. Markus Biehl, Professor, Management Science Specialization, Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Canada

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 2019

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: April 2021

Date of the Site Visit: June 21-22, 2021

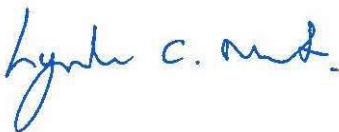
Review Report received: July 2021

Program Response received: October 2021

Dean's Response received: April 2022

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 2022.

Submitted by Lyndon Martin, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2013.

SITE VISIT: June 21-22, 2021

The visit was organized around a set of interviews, held via Zoom, that included Lyndon Martin, Vice Provost Academic; JJ McMurtry, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies; Sean Kheraj, Associate Dean, Programs, and Anita Lam, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning.

In addition, the reviewers met with Maria Joao Dodman, Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics; Ahouva Shulman, Undergraduate Program Director; Gabriele Mueller, Coordinator, German Section; and Christina Kraenzle, faculty member.

The following York University librarians were also consulted: Jack Leong (AD, Research & Open Scholarship) and Patti Ryan (Content Development and Analysis Department).

OUTCOME:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and has approved an implementation plan.

A report on the progress of the initiatives undertaken in response to recommendations in general and as specified in the implementation plan will be provided in the Follow-up Report which will be due in December 2023, 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2027 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2028 or Winter of 2029.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS:

The German Undergraduate Program at York came into existence in 1960. In 1995, it was changed into the German Studies Undergraduate Program to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum and more contemporary approaches to the field. Currently, the German Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program that offers an Honours BA, an Honours International BA, as well as a Certificate of Language Proficiency in German.

The reviewers noted, “The German Studies curriculum at York University reflects the current state of the discipline as it is actively committed to decolonizing the curriculum.”

Based on the previous external review in 2012, the program added two General Education courses and the reviewers noted that these are extremely popular with undergraduate students. They noted that “GER 1790: Nationalism, Authority and Resistance: Perspectives on German Culture and Society is a timely and important addition providing students with critical tools and skillsets to engage with today’s

divisive and partisan political environment.” The reviewers noted that all feasible recommendations from that review had been implemented.

The reviewers noted that the two full-time tenured professors are top-tier scholars actively engaged in research and they plan and coordinate all course offerings.

The reviewers made note of the positive and enthusiastic feedback from students and that retention rates have improved due to the “excellent pedagogical approaches used and the instructors’ caring attitudes.” The reviewers did note that the final year experience is sometime compromised by the lack of available courses. The reviewers write, “the GEST program is tenuously staffed and therefore exposed to significant risk” because of the small number of tenured faculty members and the focus on counting majors as opposed to course enrolments. However, the reviewers state, “The lack of student interest in a German Studies degree is symptomatic of a larger trend in North America.”

The reviewers recommend support for the possibility of a new interdisciplinary degree program in culture and media studies and note that this major undertaking will need resources “for it to be successfully conceptualized and implemented.” They conclude, “Striving to work outside ethno-national contexts—while co-developing a unified academic vision—should be a core initiative of this new and innovative pan-departmental program structure.”

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in May 2022

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That additional experiential learning components be integrated into the curriculum.	The German Studies program should seek to offer its existing Study Abroad courses when feasible. The program coordinator should consult with the Faculty's Associate Director, Experiential Education for further information on the internship program and how to promote it among students in German Studies.	GEST program coordinator; Associate Director, Experiential Education	No specific timeline.
2.	That the program seek to collaborate with other German departments across Canada.	German Studies should continue discussions with the Associate Dean, Programs concerning consortium teaching within the existing protocols for inter-institutional teaching via letters of permission.	GEST program coordinator; Chair, DLLL; Associate Dean, Programs	No specific timeline.
3.	That the program consider e-learning micro-credentials, including a one-year proficiency certificate in Global Languages and Cultures	The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (DLLL) should continue with its work to develop a new certificate in Global Languages and Cultures.	Chair, DLLL; Associate Dean, Programs; Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum	December 2022: DLLL to submit proposal for a new certificate in Global Languages and Cultures to the

		The German Studies program should consider continuing to offer online sections of its courses to help expand access to language learning		Faculty curriculum committee for review.
4.	That a third section of GER 1000 be offered.	The German Studies program should continue development of an online version of GER 1000. The Chair should consult with the Associate Dean, Programs and LA&PS Director of Strategic Enrolment Management regarding course planning for GER 1000 regarding the possibility of an additional online section in the next academic year.	Chair DLLL; German Studies program coordinator; Associate Dean, Programs; LA&PS Director of Strategic Enrolment Management	Fall 2022: Consultations regarding course planning for GER 1000. December 2022: Program finalizes plans for online section of GER 1000
5.	That the two full-time faculty members be provided a robust support network.	Continue support of the eServices Office, Experiential Education staff, curriculum development staff, and instructional designers.	Program and staff supports identified in the action item.	Ongoing
6.	Seek out mechanisms to avoid individual study courses.	Recruitment initiatives for language majors to continue. Although not sustainable in the long run, low-enrolment required courses are already offered to ensure student degree progress.	No specific action required.	Ongoing
7.	That German Studies work with other programs in the department on a pan-department program in world cultures and	See Recommendation 3 regarding the Certificate in Global Languages and Cultures.	Chair, DLLL; Associate Dean, Programs; Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum	December 2022: DLL to submit proposal for a new certificate in Global Languages and Cultures to the

	languages.			Faculty curriculum committee for review.
8.	That German Studies work collaboratively with the Dean's Office on restructuring efforts.	See above recommendations related to e-learning and a new certificate option.	See above.	See above.
9.	That one more Teaching Stream appointment be authorized.	The unit should develop its faculty complement plan and hiring request through regular channels.	Program lead, Chair, DLLL, Associate Dean Faculty Affairs.	Ongoing