

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

**Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Studies,
Undergraduate Program (BA)**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2020

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

Program(s) Reviewed:

BA

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Patricia Vieira, Professor, Spanish & Portuguese, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

Dr. Susan Warwick, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 19, 2019

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: May 3, 2021

Date of the Site Visit: June 25, 2021

Review Report received: August 24, 2021

Program Response received: October 2022

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 25, 2021

The visit included discussions with the following individuals: Lyndon Martin, Vice Provost Academic; John-Justin McMurtry, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LAPS); Sean Kheraj, Associate Dean Programs; and Anita Lam, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning.

Representing the program were the following: Maria Joao Dodman, Chair of the Department of Literatures and Linguistics, Ahouva Shulman, Undergraduate Program Director; Catia Martins, Visiting Professor; and Aida Jordao, part-time instructor.

The reviewers also met with University Librarians, Jack Leong, Associate Dean, Research & Open Scholarship and Patti Ryan, Content Development and Analysis Department.

OUTCOME:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance has received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and 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 18 months (December 2023), after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

As per the York University Quality Assurance Procedures, the next Cyclical Program Review should launch in the Fall of 2027 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2028 or Winter of 2029.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS

The Program of Portuguese & Luso-Brazilian Studies is the most recent foreign language program in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics (DLLL) and only one of two of this nature in Canada. The creation of the program was the result of ongoing conversations with York's long-standing partner, the Camoes Institute, a Portuguese cultural institute of high regard.

The program offers three levels of language learning, from elementary to advanced, a course that serves as an introduction to Luso-Brazilian Cultures and Cinema, upper-level courses in literature and cinema and an experiential education course. A Certificate of Language Proficiency is also offered.

The reviewers said, "Through its engagement with the Portuguese-speaking community of the GTA—for instance, by offering experiential learning courses, by promoting internship opportunities and by encouraging student participation in Lusophone events in the community—the program also draws student attention to the cultural diversity of

the GTA, as well as to the diversity of cultures in the various Portuguese speaking countries.”

The reviewer remarked on the course solely dedicated to the literature and culture of the Azores, the region from which most Portuguese immigrants to Canada come from, noting that it is one of very few such courses in North America.

The reviewers summed up the issue of enrolments and resources succinctly, “Without an increase in resources, additional courses cannot be offered, but additional resources cannot be provided given low application and enrolment numbers.”

Collaboration between the Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Studies program and the Spanish program was suggested as an opportunity to be explored. This pairing has been successful in other universities in North America.

In their final summary, the Reviewers noted, “This is a small but vibrant program that suffers from poor student enrolment. Raising the visibility of Luso-Brazilian studies within the University population and among incoming students would be one way to attract more students to the program. Partnering with other programs and institutions within the University, including partnerships with the Schulich School of Business or participation in the Certificate of Global Languages and Cultures that is currently being developed by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics is another way to recruit students. The hiring of a second full-time instructor, possibly a teaching stream appointment, would also be important to ensure the viability of the program in the long run.”

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 more robust recruitment for the major be undertaken.	Discussions between faculty members and administrative staff should be undertaken to establish a plan for recruitment to language programs.	Associate Dean, Programs; Director of Strategic Enrolment Management; Assistant Director, Student Recruitment, and Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	September 2022 for meetings
2.	That the program partner with other programs, including business programs, to offer "Portuguese for Business" courses.	Discuss development of a general education course, open to all students, with the Associate Dean, Programs.	Associate Dean, Programs; Chair, DLLL	Discussions to take place by the end of Summer 2022.
3.	That the program join with other DLL programs in the development of a Certificate in Global Languages and Cultures.	Continue collaborative work to develop proposal for a new certificate in Global Languages and Cultures.	Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics; Associate Dean, Programs; Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum	Submission of proposal for certificate by December 2022 to the Faculty curriculum committee.
4.	That the program explore the expansion of on-line course offerings.	Develop PORL 1000 as a fully online course. Exploration of further online	PORL program coordinator; Associate Dean, Teaching and	PORL 1000 fully online for September 2022.

		course offerings in future should be undertaken, keeping in mind that a change of delivery mode will also require the submission of major modification proposal.	Learning, along with those supporting instructional design for eLearning.	
5.	That the program explore enhanced recruitment of international students.	Faculty and program to continue ongoing recruitment initiatives to attract international students.	Dean's Office, York International, Central Recruitment in the Division of Students	ongoing
6.	That the program explore enhanced experiential education options.	Program to meet with the Experiential Education director to learn more about paid internship or other experiential education opportunities.	PORL coordinator; Associate Director, Experiential Education (LA&PS)	Meet when feasible.
7.	That the program expand the range of course offerings focused on Brazilian literatures and cultures.	No further courses to be added at this time. Ongoing work to recruit students will continue.	Dean's Office, Department, and Program.	Ongoing monitoring of Fall 2022 enrolments.