YORK UNIVERSITY
Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

LINGUISTICS & APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Department of Languages, Literature & Linguistics
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Graduate Programs (MA and PhD)

Cyclical Program Review – 2012 to 2019

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

Program(s) Reviewed:
MA
PhD

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. John Alderete, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Linguistics/Cognitive Science
Dr. David Wood, Professor, Carleton University, Linguistics and Language Studies
Dr. Jacob Beck, Associate Professor, York University, Philosophy/Cognitive Science

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:
Cyclical Program Review launch: September 19, 2019
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: June 25, 2021
Date of the Site Visit: October 14, 2021
Review Report received: November 17, 2021
Program Response received: January 31, 2022
Dean's Response received: July 21, 2022

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

Submitted by Alice Pitt, Acting Vice-Provost Academic, York University

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

SITE VISIT: October 14, 2021

The site visit was organized around a set of interviews with multiple stakeholder groups that included:

- Vice-Provost Academic Lyndon Martin
- Dean and Associate Vice-President Graduate Studies Thomas Loebel, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Dean JJ McMurtry, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies Ravi de Costa, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Department Chair Maria Joao Dodman
- Graduate Program Director Geoff Lawrence
- Faculty members teaching in the Linguistics and Applied Linguistics graduate program
- Departmental administrative personnel, including Graduate Program Administrator Rose Frezza Edgecombe, Undergraduate and TESOL Administrator Kasia Mastek, and Administrative Coordinator for the Department Josie Sansonetti
- Current and graduated students from both the MA and the PhD programs
- Librarian Teaching and Learning Norda Bell, Associate Dean Research and Open Scholarship Jack Leong, and Director Content Development and Analysis Patti Ryan.

As this site visit was organized in conjunction with the visits of other related programs (the UG Linguistics program and the Linguistics & Language Studies program at Glendon), some of the meetings with the parties above took place one or two days earlier (on October 12th or 13th 2021) and covered more than just the graduate Linguistics and Applied Linguistics program.

The site visit took place online due to the ongoing pandemic, so the reviewers did not see any facilities.

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 February 2024, 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 Graduate Program in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics is housed within the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics (DLL) in the Faculty of Liberal Arts &

Professional Studies (LA&PS). Combining the two fields of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, the program is primarily delivered by faculty from the undergraduate Linguistics Program, from the English as Second Language (ESL) section, from Glendon College, and from the Faculty of Education. The student body is diverse, with younger students entering the program directly from undergraduate studies and other more mature students entering with years of teaching experience. The program has historical ties to bilingual Glendon College and to the Faculty of Education which affords students some flexibility with respect to courses and supervisors. The Graduate Program in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics leads to two possible degrees:

- M.A. in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics
- PhD in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics

As indicated in the self-study, the program aims to "foster conceptual, interdisciplinary understanding and methodological competence in research relevant to language in context: variation, change, pedagogy, and policy" (p. 8) and to prepare students for contributions and careers in research, teaching, government, and the private sector.

The review committee noted that the objectives of the program were well articulated and link clearly to the University's strategic plan, in particular the priorities of Innovative, Quality Programs for Academic Excellence and Enhancing Quality in Teaching and Learning. They also highlighted the areas of sociolinguistics, theoretical syntax and phonology, psycholinguistics, and language education as particular areas of excellence within the program.

The reviewers noted that the requirements and learning outcomes are clearly the result of a great deal of focused effort on the part of the faculty, and that the alignment among curriculum, expectations, and requirements is excellent. They found that the applied linguistics graduate program offers a relatively broad range of courses in areas related to language education, which includes a new effort to incorporate technology-mediated instruction and critical perspectives on language education including plurilingualism and translanguaging. The courses also include innovative content related to perspectives on language and society, and the language education content is current in its approach and is poised to make the program a centre of excellence in these areas. They also found the linguistics curriculum to be equally strong and broad, and students have opportunities to develop state of the art skills and theoretical perspectives that will inform their research. The program has developed new courses to meet the needs of their students in psycholinguistics and language and the law, and in many existing courses students receive hands-on training in necessary skills.

In the PhD program in both the linguistics and applied linguistics streams, the reviewers also noted a clear logic in the research requirements, and they found the program to be well set up to ensure quality in student work and timely completion of the degree.

Finally, the reviewers noted that the faculty in both the linguistics and applied linguistics streams are excellent researchers in the key areas of focus for the programs. They have been successful in obtaining funding for their work and they are involved in a range of

research and professional activity which clearly contributes to the success of the programs.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	Develop a proseminar to facilitate project-based research, including major research papers and theses for MA students, and dissertation proposals and other work for PhD students.	Examine the program's current research-related curricula, resources and potential innovations within the program to identify how these could be leveraged, along with university resources, faculty expertise and supports, to best meet the varied professional and program-related research needs of MA and PhD students in both fields. The program is encouraged to contact the Office of the Associate Dean, Graduate and eServices to discuss what advanced software may be needed.	Program Executive Committee, Graduate Program Director, Dean's Office	By end of 2022-23 academic year, assess existing resources and identify whether and how additional resources can constitute a comprehensive response to the recommendation and opportunity. This would include redeveloping and resubmitting the Academic Innovation Fund application, which the Dean's Office understands was not successful in 2021-22.
2.	Systematically review how graduate students of different types (both in the linguistics and applied linguistics streams) are trained in the practices of their research and strategize to better institutionalize this training. Consider curriculum innovation that allows for more flexibility in delivery	Same as for Recommendation 1 above.	Same as for Recommendation 1 above.	Same as for Recommendation 1 above.

	methods so that students can develop skills as their needs change, including innovation in areas of demonstrated strength that can attract students from outside York and enhance distinctive elements of the program.			
3.	In collaboration with all stakeholders, refresh the program statement on the website and other media for advertising the graduate program in a way that balances establishing research foci with demonstrating the breadth of the programs, and takes every opportunity to use the different forms of excellence to attract new students.	• Meet with the Office of the Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies to discuss ways to improve the approach to attracting the strongest applicants. • Engage with the Faculty of Graduate Studies to begin discussions about refreshing the website.	Graduate Program Director, Associate Dean and Graduate Manager, Faculty of Graduate Studies.	In early Fall 2022: meet with the Office of the Dean to discuss recruitment activities. At the same time if not earlier, open discussions with FGS about the website.
4.	Within the relevant group or groups, systematically evaluate how the graduate program prepares different kinds of students for both academic and non-academic work. Develop ways for current graduate students to connect what they learn in their courses and research to future work, including	Discuss graduate employment outcomes and work with Faculty and University offices to identify additional resources and metrics, before undertaking an assessment of the value of existing initiatives. This will further advance the recruitment initiatives the Program has already undertaken.	Program Executive Committee, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis (OIPA).	By end of academic year 2022-23, conduct internal discussion about graduate employment outcomes and contact University offices including FGS and OIPA for additional information. By end of academic year 2023-24, assess the

				existing supports for career preparation and consider if additional supports may be needed.
5.	Systematically review the relationship between the two streams and consider more flexibility in program structure (e.g., applied linguistics students doing a MRP paper) and course availability between streams.	Continue to examine opportunities and synergies between the Program's fields as part of the action taken in response to Recommendations 1 and 2 above. Examine how research curricula can support all students in a sustainable manner, including the limited number of MA Applied Linguistics students interested in a research-focused pathway.	Program Executive Committee	By end of 2022-23 academic year
6.	Engage with key stakeholders at both graduate and undergraduate levels to develop a plan for renewal of faculty in the next seven years. Such a plan should first identify the principal goals of the hires and then identify appropriate criteria for searches. Given the difficulty of hiring and retaining faculty with all the right skills, Linguistics can engage with the Dean on a plan for multiple hires that will give the program the flexibility to mix and match the talents of new faculty with the complex needs of the program.	Meet with the Dean's Office to outline a comprehensive multi-year plan for faculty renewal.	Chair, Undergraduate Program Director, Graduate Program Director, Dean, Associate Deans Faculty Affairs, Research & Graduate Studies, and Programs	Early Fall 2022