

York University

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

International Development Studies, Department of Social Science

Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2016

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

Program(s) Reviewed

Specialized Honours BA in International Development Studies
Honours BA in International Development Studies
Honours (Double Major) BA in International Development Studies
Honours (Double Major) Interdisciplinary BA in International Development Studies
Honours (Major/Minor) BA in International Development Studies
Honours (Minor) BA in International Development Studies
BA in International Development Studies
Dual Degree in Engineering and International development Studies (with Lassonde)

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

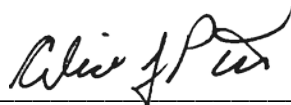
Dr. John Cameron, Associate Professor, International Development Studies, Dalhousie University
Dr. Jane Parpart, Professor Emeritus, International Development, Gender and African History, Carleton University
Dr. Anne Rubenstein, Associate, History, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones

Cyclical Program Review Launch: September 2015
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 19, 2016
Date of the Site Visit: October 24-25, 2016
Review Report received: January 9, 2017
Program Response received: June 30, 2017
Dean's Response received: May 2018

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 2018

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



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

Outcome:

An implementation plan has been approved that addresses the recommendations. The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance concurred with the recommendation of the Vice-Provost Academic that a post-CPR review involving the Department of Social Science is required in light of the departmental omnibus statement and the Dean's statement on departmental challenges. The outcomes of this departmental review, which will be undertaken collaboratively with the Office of the Vice-Provost, the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the Department, will form part of the 18 month program Follow-up Report for International Development Studies as well as other programs housed in the Department. The Follow-up Report will provide an update on specific aspects of the implementation plan resulting from the cyclical program review as well as any further recommendations or action plans made in consideration of the Departmental Review.

The Follow-up Report will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (January 2020).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2023 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2024 or Winter of 2025.

Program Description and Strengths:

The IDS program was launched at in York University in 2001. The Review Report said of the program, "The International Development Studies (IDST) undergraduate program at York University is well-designed and innovative program with faculty members who are highly committed to the field of study and to the intellectual and professional development of their students..... Through a process of curricular renewal and careful allocation of faculty resources we see enormous potential for IDST to become a flagship program at York with direct ties to core components of the university's strategic plan, particularly regarding internationalization and the professional development of students."

Regarding the program curriculum, the Review Report states the following, "The IDST curriculum is well-designed and reflects a coherent vision of international development and the learning outcomes that students are supported to achieve. Learning outcomes are clearly defined and the methods of evaluation used are appropriate for those outcomes."

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendation 1: That the IDST program develop a strategy to provide IDST students with up-to-date lists of courses offered by other departments that fulfil IDST degree requirements.

Using coherent articulation of DLE's and SLO's, the program will review curricular

offerings with an eye towards dramatically reducing the number of offerings in the “IDS Courses by Area of Concentration” in order to a) create greater curriculum coherence and b) reduce the efforts required to keep lists up to date and secure space for IDS students in other programs. Revised list will be developed by the IDST and Social Science Curriculum Committee and be approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee and sent to the University Curriculum Committee (ASCP) for final approval.

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Recommendation 2: That the IDST program work with other levels of administration to ensure that IDST students have access to adequate advising services.

No action required: significant improvements have been made, and the Faculty is monitoring progress at the Faculty level.

Recommendation 3: That the IDST program conduct a comprehensive curriculum review involving thematic content as well as the academic and professional learning outcomes for students who graduate from the program. The review should identify key learning outcomes (academic and professional) and map out pathways through IDST course offerings that will ensure that all IDST students develop competency in the core skills.

See Recommendation 1. The program will undertake a thorough review of the curriculum and provide a report on proposed actions to the Dean’s Office. At the same time, the program will review its articulation of program level expectations and student learning outcomes and work. Consultation with the Teaching Commons will support development of an effective and developmental mapping of the learning outcomes to courses.

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Recommendation 4: That the IDST program specifically review the emotional challenges associated with the study of international development and revise the curriculum in order to better support students to confront these challenges. In particular, this curricular review should involve increased efforts to confront the sense of pessimism and despair that students seem to develop as the result of a heavy emphasis on critical analysis.

No action required: this recommendation will be integrated into activities under Recommendations 1 and 3.

Recommendation 5: That the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies provide financial incentives to other academic units that would enable the secondment of appropriate faculty members from other academic units into the IDST program on a part-time or full-time basis.

No action required: This recommendation is not addressing a clear need.

Recommendation 6: That the Department of Social Science and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies prioritize new joint positions in the IDSTT and DVST programs in combination with other Social Science programs.

One professorial appointment to the Department of Social Science, with responsibilities to Development Studies & Business and Society, has been made with July 1, 2018 start. A CLA has been renewed for 2018-2019. Future proposals will be considered on a yearly basis. IDST/DVST should submit a request for hire(s) based upon the Dean's four pillars – enrollment and retention numbers, curricular clarity, collaboration, and curricular innovation.

Recommendation 7: That the IDSTT program consult with students through survey(s) and focus groups to better understand student concerns with the program and design strategies to address those issues.

In addition to program level in-class input, the Faculty will co-ordinate with the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis to develop Faculty-wide student surveys that will include and benefit International development Studies.

Fall 2018 and Ongoing