

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report - Executive Summary

Études françaises (BA, iBA)

Études françaises (MA)

Études francophones (PhD)

Department of French Studies

Glendon College / Collège universitaire

Glendon

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

Études françaises (BA, iBA)
Études françaises (MA)
Études francophones (PhD)

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic

Kirsty Bell, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Modern Languages and Literature, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick
Margot Irvin, Associate Professor, Director, School of Languages and Literatures, College of Arts, University of Guelph, Ontario
Ganaële Langlois, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Communication & Media Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 16, 2020
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: (GR program) October 20, 2021; (UG Program) December 23, 2021
Date of the Site Visit: May 25, 2022
Review Report received: June 28, 2022
Program Response received: October 6, 2022
Principal's Response received: January 30, 2023

Implementation Plan and FAR received by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, June 2023.



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

This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2020.

SITE VISIT: May 25, 2022

The reviewers met virtually with the following individuals and groups:

- Vice-Provost Academic, Lyndon Martin
- Dean and AVP Graduate, Thomas Loebel
- Principal of Glendon, Marco Fiola
- Associate Principal Academics, Audrey Pyée
- Associate Principal Research & Graduate Studies, Colin Coates
- Undergraduate Chair, Christine Besnard
- Graduate Program Coordinator, Marie Christine Pioffet
- Language Program Coordinator, Muriel Péguret
- Full-time faculty
- Part-time Instructors
- Administrative staff
- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Associate Dean, Research & Open Scholarship Jack Leong, and Content Development Librarian Leigh Jackson.

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 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (in March 2025).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2028 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2029 or Winter of 2030.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS

The Département d'Études françaises/Department of French Studies was one of the founding departments of York University in the 1960s, and subsequently Glendon College. The undergraduate program leads to the Honours BA or iBA and the 90-credit BA. In 1994 the first graduate program was established, the MA in Études françaises, which led to the PhD in Études francophone in 2010.

In their report, the reviewers “acknowledge the many strengths of the department, particularly its broad range of engaged faculty research and its focus on robust linguistic development for students.” The Department offers a rich variety of courses in French language, literature and linguistics (both applied and general linguistics) and students consider this to be one of the strengths of the program.

The reviewers note that the relatively small class sizes offer “opportunities not only for enhancing language learning [...], but also for building student community and increasing access to necessary learning accommodations.”

They also note that the Department is committed to diversity, and in their report they encourage “colleagues to consider various ways to enhance EDI and decolonization initiatives, by aiming for a diverse faculty complement and curriculum that reflects the diversity of Toronto itself”.

The reviewers provide some suggestions for improving the time to completion for undergraduate degrees, focusing on how the French language skills levels could be reinforced and students accommodated in well-designed courses for the major. They encourage “the department to balance the need for students to complete their degrees in 4 years and the value the department places on high linguistic fluency.” This work aligns with some of the aims of work underway by the Department as part of the ongoing Glendon revisioning exercise.

The reviewers also encourage more experiential forms of assessment for undergraduate students, stating, “Involving undergraduate and graduate students both in more student-led activities and in more faculty research projects could also enrich their experiential learning, whether they be counted for credit or not.”

The reviewers state that the requirements for the MA and PhD programs are appropriate and consistent for degrees in the discipline, noting that the MA can be completed through coursework, or a combination of course work and an MRP or a thesis. The reviewers also highlight that the bibliography of research and creative publications by graduate students “provides evidence of successful research collaborations and mentoring of students through the publication process.”

The reviewers also commended the “collegial and collaborative approach to decision making amongst colleagues which is essential for quality enhancement and program renewal.” The relationship between the Department and the Centre de formation linguistique (CFL) has been improved since the last review and the reviewers suggest further clarification and consolidation to help alleviate administrative complexity. They also note that it could be beneficial for the Department to explore administering the same placement test as the Centre and to count certain languages courses offered by the CFL towards its majors.

The reviewers’ recommendations are indicated below along with a plan for implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in June 2023.

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That the Department of French Studies allow additional French language courses to count towards the major.	The Department should consider which French as a second language courses might count towards the major, improving timely degree completion and internal transfer rates. Curricular changes should be made in alignment with Glendon's ongoing revisioning exercise.	Chair, Département d'Études françaises (DEF), Coordinator of Language Courses, Director, Centre de formation linguistique (CFL)	Prepare change proposals for approval in Fall 2023.
2.	That for-credit Explore program courses be encouraged and considered for transfer credit.	The Department should identify Explore transfer credit options and promote the opportunity to students.	Chair, DEF, Academic Services	Identify credit options by end of Summer 2023.
3.	That the research methods course be required for all graduate students.	The Department should consider making the research methods course a requirement for all graduate students, unless they can demonstrate they have achieved equivalent learning outcomes in previous studies.	Chair, DEF, Graduate Program Coordinator	Prepare change proposals for approval in Fall 2023.
4.	That faculty renewal be a priority to maintain program excellence.	A thorough complement plan should be developed once administrative restructuring at Glendon has been completed.	Chair, DEF, Office of the Principal	Plan developed by Fall 2024
5.	That experiential learning opportunities be incorporated into both undergraduate and	The Department should work with the Glendon Experiential Education Office and consider partnering with the Centre de formation linguistique	Chair, DEF, Glendon Experiential Education Office	Implementation for September 2023 and ongoing.

	graduate courses.	to develop opportunities for students.		
6.	That recruitment efforts for francophone and “franco-dominant” students be enhanced.	The Department should review and develop recruitment strategies for the French-speaking and French-learning communities.	Chair, DEF, Director of Communications, Director of Student Services/Recruitment	New promotion and recruitment strategies in place for Fall 2023 and ongoing.
7.	Principles of EDI and decolonization must underpin all of the curricular and hiring decisions in the DÉF. Curriculum should be reviewed with an eye to updating courses, making classes welcoming and inclusive, and to including diverse perspectives and cultural products.	The Department should continue its efforts to decolonize the curriculum and further promote equity, diversity and inclusion in pedagogy.	Chair, DEF	EDI and decolonization syllabus changes in place for Fall 2023, drawing on the University strategy as appropriate. Additional work ongoing.