

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive
Summary

Global Health, BA, BSc

**School of Global Health
Faculty of Health**

Cyclical Program Review – 2014 to 2021

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

Program(s) Reviewed:

Global Health, BA, BSc

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Susan J. Elliott, Professor, Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Ontario

Simon Rushton, Professor of International Politics, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield, UK.

Daniel Cohn, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy and Administration, York University, Ontario

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 16, 2020

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: May 4, 2022

Date of the Site Visit: June 13 & 16, 2022

Review Report received: September 26, 2022

Program Response received: November 21, 2022

Dean's Response received: December 13, 2022

Implementation Plan and FAR received by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, March 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: June 13 & 16, 2022

The virtual site visit consisted of a series of conversations with the following individuals and groups:

- Vice-Provost Academic Lyndon Martin
- Interim Dean of the Faculty of Health, Susan Murtha
- School of Global Health Director, Adrien Viens
- Undergraduate Program Director, Kathleen Fallon
- Full-time faculty members
- Part-time faculty members
- Undergraduate students
- Associate Dean, University Libraries, Jack Leong, and Teaching and Learning Librarian Ilo Maimets.

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 September 2024).

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 BA/BSc programs in Global Health first launched in 2014, predating the creation of the School of Global Health which launched in 2020. Global Health degree options include the Honours degree and the Specialized Honours degree.

The reviewers found the objectives of the program to be clear and distinctive when compared with the Global Health programs at most other Canadian universities. In particular, the program puts an emphasis on interdisciplinarity, seeking to provide students with the knowledge and skills to be able to understand and analyze global health issues from a wide range of perspectives. The reviewers note in their report that “It was clear from our conversation with current students in the program that [the program’s] interdisciplinary nature was a big attraction, and they greatly appreciated the opportunity to examine global health from social science as well as natural science perspectives”. In addition to interdisciplinarity, the program has developed a strong curriculum based in blended and experiential learning.

The practicum in Global Health is described by the reviewers as “the ‘jewel in the crown’ of the program, although by its nature it is resource intensive – especially in terms of

building and sustaining the necessary partnerships.” They noted that international placements in particular in Global Health are in short-supply and are reliant on the existing networks/contacts of faculty members. As such, the reviewers encourage additional support and resources for the practicum be made available when possible, writing that “providing more support to the practicum would be a worthwhile target for investment.”

The lack of capacity to deliver a full complement of courses for the program was identified as a concern of the review committee, as it was by faculty, student and support staff as well. Currently there is a reliance on part-time and non-tenured faculty, and the reviewers note that not all faculty have teaching obligations. However, they write in the report that, “the caliber of faculty is impressive in terms of both their research and teaching, and the diversity of their academic backgrounds reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the program, as well as its global focus. We found a strong sense of community within the School. In particular, we heard extremely positive feedback from students about the responsiveness and supportiveness of faculty.”

The review report also makes note of the impressive library resources and support of the library staff, noting “There are opportunities to make more use of the available expertise on information literacy in an integrated way within individual courses.”

The reviewers commented briefly on the plans outlined by the School in the Quality Enhancement section of the self-study and supported many of the ideas raised. Action to implement those plans has been included as item 6 in the implementation plan below.

In addition to their comments on the program’s plans, the reviewers made the following recommendations.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That a pro-active strategy for the marketing of the Global Health program be developed and implemented.	The School should align recruitment tactics with the Faculty of Health Strategic planning exercise and strategic enrollment plans. It should also collaborate with the Director of Communications and Planning, as well as York central Marketing to influence marketing materials.	Director and UPD, School of Global Health Associate Dean Students, Faculty of Health Director of Communications and Planning, Faculty of Health, York Central Marketing	Winter and Summer 2023 and ongoing
2.	That the basic science admission requirement for the BA and BSc degree be reviewed.	For students who may not have the required high school science courses, the School should ensure students are guided to alternate first-year courses to satisfy this requirement.	Director and UPD, School of Global Health OSAS staff, Faculty of Health	Winter and Summer 2023 and ongoing
3.	That the range of provision within the School be expanded to ensure an appropriate range of electives tailored to Global Health students is accessible.	The School should prioritize creating and offering electives that will satisfy a student's stream requirement, particularly in the popular Health Promotion and Disease Prevention stream. Teaching load and complement requests should be made that align with enrolment, recruitment and retention targets. The School should focus on	Director, School of Global Health Dean, Faculty of Health Executive Officer, Faculty of Health	Winter 2023 through to Fall 2025. Curricular approval processes should be followed in 2023-24 with goal to launch in Fall 2025.

		recruitment and retention as well as finalizing a teaching load document and submitting curricular proposals. Also explore space for faculty and students in buildings other than the Dahdaleh Building.		
4.	That support for partnerships, including international options on which the practicum depends, be adequately resourced.	The School should advocate for any new resources through the faculty strategic planning process.	Director, School of Global Health Dean, Faculty of Health Associate Deans, Faculty of Health	2023-24
5.	That the varying teaching loads from different 'home' departments be addressed.	The School should continue to develop a teaching load document.	Director, School of Global Health, Dean, Faculty of Health	2023 and ongoing
6.	That the initiatives and plans identified by the School in its self-study continue to be developed and implemented.	The School should continue the development of plans and initiatives identified in the self-study and endorsed by the external reviewers.	Director, School of Global Health, Faculty and staff, School of Global Health, Dean, Faculty of Health	Ongoing