

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

History, Undergraduate (BA, iBA)

Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Public History

(in collaboration with the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies)

Glendon College/Collège universitaire Glendon

Cyclical Program Review – 2013 to 2021

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

Program(s) Reviewed:

History BA, iBA
Certificate in Public History

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Professor Nathalie Kermaal, Professor and Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta.

Professor Sandra den Otter, Professor, Department of History, and Vice Provost International, Queen's University.

Dr. Jean Michel Montsion, Associate Professor, Canadian Studies Program, Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Glendon College, York University.

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 16, 2020

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: December 5, 2021

Date of the Site Visit: March 29-30, 2022

Review Report received: April 18, 2022

Program Response received: June 15, 2022

Dean's Response received: October 11, 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: March 29-30, 2022

A virtual site visit for the history programs in Glendon College was organized in conjunction with the review of the history programs in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS). The site visit for Glendon's programs consisted of interviews with the following individuals:

- Vice-Provost Academic, Lyndon Martin
- Principal Marco Fiola
- Associate Principal Academic, Audrey Pyée
- Chair, Mark Jurdjevic
- Full-time faculty
- Part-time faculty (course directors)
- Undergraduate students
- Associate Dean of Libraries, Jack Leong and University Library Director for Content Development and Analysis, Patti Ryan.

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 History Department at Glendon College was established at the College's inception in 1966, and it offers honours degree options leading to a BA or iBA, a minor option, and a 90-credit degree option for the BA. The program also offers a Certificate in Public history in collaboration with the History Department in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS). Glendon's faculty are also active members of York's graduate program in History.

The reviewers note that the Glendon History department demonstrates "serious commitment to bilingual and bicultural teaching [...]. It actively trains students and offers an intimate study environment through small classes, which students appreciate and value." They also indicate that "instructors take exceptional care in student assessment and the smaller classes means more individualized assessments." In response to students' request for more digital media-oriented assignments in the curriculum, the reviewers suggest the unit take advantage of the tremendous technological and

pedagogical resources provided by the Glendon Digital Media Lab.

Efforts to incorporate experiential education opportunities have been undertaken since the last review, including opportunities to work in the Archives of Ontario and the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at the Keele campus and the Glendon Digital Media Lab (GDML).

The reviewers also note that the relatively small number of courses creates some challenges in comfortably supporting the program learning outcomes. In addition, students have indicated they would like more options for French-language courses. However, the Glendon History department has defined priority areas to teach, and students may pursue other areas through the Faculty of LA&PS on the Keele campus. The reviewers were optimistic that the work being undertaken on bilingualism and the structure of the Glendon BA will help foster new directions for Glendon's programs. Efforts to review curricula should be conducted in alignment with the goals of Glendon's revisioning exercise.

It is clear to the reviewers that there is a challenge with the small number of francophone students and the few international students. However, they note that Glendon's mid-Toronto location, combined with its small classes, individualized teaching environment, and beautiful setting, make Glendon a compelling choice for international students. These features, along with the core curriculum in development, are important elements of international student recruitment.

The reviewers remarked on the scholarly engagement among faculty members that was clearly demonstrated in the CVs provided as part of the review and underscore that support for early researchers and new faculty members will be important to maintain this engagement. They also flag the importance of ensuring resources in both languages for historians studying at Glendon, and that support from the libraries is critical to the effectiveness of the history programs at both Keele and Glendon campuses. Space also remains an issue at Glendon especially for contract faculty who do not have an office or a space of their own.

The report concludes with the following statement, "The History department at Glendon, even though small, with a limited budget has continuously made a very significant contribution to Glendon College by the quality of its programs, the quality of its teaching (faculty and contract faculty), the quality of the research endeavors of tenure-track and tenured faculty, the friendly environment (due to lower enrollment in classes) conducive to a great learning experience for students, and the many projects the History department has pursued, such as the Digital Media Lab."

The reviewers explained that making recommendations was a challenge prior to the results of the College-wide rebranding and revamping exercise, as well as an imminent report on administrative services. Given the fluidity of the situation, the reviewers focused their recommendations on the qualities and attributes of the existing program.

They also noted their appreciation of “the self-study, which reflected careful self-examination and willingness to think imaginatively about the future of the program and also the high degree of engagement by faculty, staff and students.” They state that “this jewel (the History department) nestled in the Glendon campus should receive continual support to help map the future of Glendon College in different areas.”

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 plans for faculty renewal be put in place and a new appointment in Indigenous History be considered.	The Department should create a 5-year complement plan for faculty renewal for submission to the Principal.	Department Chair, Glendon	Complement plan to be complete by July 2023
2a.	That the Department continue to explore greater collaboration for graduate teaching opportunities between the Glendon and LA&PS history departments.	The Department should continue conversations regarding collaboration between Glendon and LA&PS History at all levels, working with Principal's Office as needed.	Department Chairs, Glendon and LA&PS Others as needed	Ongoing
2b.	That the Department explore possibilities for collaboration through online or virtual teaching.	The Department should continue to explore collaborative options with LA&PS as well as broader learning networks.	Coordinator for Mobility Initiatives, Department Chairs, Glendon and LA&PS	Discussions to take place through 2023; implement pilot initiatives 2023-2024
2c.	That the university consider a specialist librarian for History.	The History Departments at Glendon and LA&PS should initiate discussions with the libraries, supported by the Principal and Dean.	Department Chairs, Glendon & LA&PS, Graduate Program Coordinator, Glendon Principal, Dean of LA&PS, Dean of Libraries	Discussions to begin in Winter 2023
2d.	That the possibility of joint hires with LA&PS be considered.	The History Departments at Glendon and LA&PS should consider undertaking discussions about joint	Department Chairs, Graduate Program Coordinators,	Discussions to begin in Winter 2023 and beyond as necessary

		hires.	Glendon Principal, Dean of LA&PS	
3.	That supports for the valuable Certificate of Public History be explored.	The department should work with the GDML to support experiential education initiatives, and it should further explore global opportunities.	Department Chair, GDML IT position (forthcoming Summer 2023), Office of Experiential Education	Discussions to begin in Winter 2023
4.	That the History Department contribute to the Core Curriculum at Glendon.	The department should continue planning for participation in the Glendon Core Curriculum.	Department Chair, Core Curriculum Lead, Associate Principal Academic	2022-2023 and ongoing
5.	That the Department consider offering summer courses or cross-listing courses to increase students' exposure to history content.	The department should continue with existing summer offerings and continue with plan to review existing cross-listed courses.	Department Chair, other Department Chairs in Humanities and Social Sciences	2023 and ongoing