

# **YORK UNIVERSITY**

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

**Linguistics and Language Studies**  
**BA, iBA**

**Glendon College**

**Cyclical Program Review – 2013 to 2020**

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

**Program(s) Reviewed:**

BA, iBA

**Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:**

Dr. John Alderete, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Linguistics/Cognitive Science  
Dr. Jeff Good, Professor, University at Buffalo, Linguistics  
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 20, 2021  
Date of the Site Visit: October 12, 2021  
Review Report received: December 6, 2021  
Program Response received: February 25, 2022  
Principal's Response received: March 28, 2022

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



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

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

## **SITE VISIT: October 12, 2021**

A virtual site visit for the Linguistics and Languages Studies program at Glendon was conducted in conjunction with the site visits for the Linguistics undergraduate program and the Linguistics and Applied Linguistics graduate program in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS).

Meetings regarding the Glendon program were held with the following individuals and groups:

- Vice Provost Academic, Lyndon Martin
- Dean and Associate Vice-President Graduate Studies, Tom Loebel
- Glendon Principal, Marco Fiola
- Glendon Associate Principal Academic, Audrey Pyee
- Coordinator for Linguistics and Language Studies, Bruce Connell
- Administrative Coordinator Linguistics and Language Studies Lydia Dosu
- Full-time faculty members
- Part-time instructors
- York Librarian, Teaching and Learning, Norda Bell
- Associate Dean, Research and Open Scholarship Jack Leong
- Director, Content Development and Analysis Department, Patti Ryan
- Students

## **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 May 2024). 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 Linguistics and Language Studies Program at Glendon was created in 2003 as a joint program comprising courses from four departments: English, French Studies, Hispanic Studies, and Philosophy. In 2017, the majority of the linguistics courses in the English Department were transferred to the Linguistics program, allowing the program to have greater visibility in its own right.

The Linguistics program offers honours options in the BA and iBA, including a stream in Language Endangerment, Documentation and Revitalization and a 90-credit BA. Students are provided with fundamental training in linguistics as an academic discipline, and the program offers bilingual options (French-English or Spanish-English) as well as a trilingual option in the iBA.

The reviewers note that the program structure is somewhat unusual in comparison to other undergraduate linguistics programs in North America but makes sense given the nature of Glendon College. They also state, “The most notable area of innovation in the program involves the development of a stream in Language Endangerment, which, to the best of our knowledge, is unique at the undergraduate level in North America (and, perhaps, globally). Courses in Anishnaabemowin language and culture are also distinctive and significant in the context of broader efforts within the Canadian higher education system to support Canada’s Indigenous languages.”

Overall, the external reviewers were impressed with the Linguistics and Language Studies program and believe that it has significant potential to grow and to offer a curriculum that is distinctive and which can also prepare students for a variety of careers. The reviewers note that the recommendations below were made with this in mind.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That the curriculum be revised from a student-centred perspective.	The program should undertake a review of the curriculum and plan changes to address the complicated structure of the program and create flexibility for students to complete requirements.	Linguistics Program Coordinator; Associate Principal, Academic	Review to take place in 2023, with relevant curriculum changes to be in place for Fall 2024.
2.	That the program be updated to enhance student training opportunities.	The program should continue to develop experiential education opportunities that are accessible to all students as part of the core and unique aspects of the program. The program should also consider which courses could be taught in hybrid mode, in collaboration with LA&PS, and whether continuing education workshops focussing on Glendon's unique strengths could be developed.	Linguistics Program Coordinator; Associate Principal Academic; Glendon Office of Experiential Education; Director, Continuing Education and Business Development	Development of EE opportunities and exploration of opportunities for hybrid-mode course delivery and continuing education workshops to take place in Winter and Fall 2023.
3.	That a systematic approach to cross-department collaboration between Glendon and LA&PS be developed.	The Principal's Office and impacted departments should work to ensure coordination of cross-listed courses.	Associate Principal, Academic; Linguistics Program Coordinator; Related Program Coordinators and Department Chairs	Plan for collaboration in place by March 2023.

4.	That the Linguistics program develop a strategic plan for growth and enhanced excellence in research and training.	That the program consider ways to clarify the distinctive stream in Language Endangerment, Documentation and Revitalization and other curricular enhancements.	Linguistics Program Coordinator; Associate Principal, Academic	Discussions to take place in Winter 2023 and ongoing.
5.	That program planning be harmonized between Glendon and LA&PS.	The program should continue discussions about how to coordinate course offerings and plans for program enhancements.	Linguistic Program Coordinator, Glendon; Linguistics UPD, LA&PS	Discussions to continue in Winter 2023 and ongoing.