

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report - Executive Summary

Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA)

Glendon Campus/Campus 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 REVIEWED:

Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA)

REVIEWERS APPOINTED BY THE VICE-PROVOST ACADEMIC:

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Professor and Jean Monet Chair, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

Brooke Geffrey, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

Markus Biehl, Professor, Management Science Specialization, Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Ontario

CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW KEY MILESTONES:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 15, 2021

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: March 21, 2023

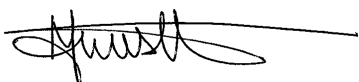
Date of the Site Visit: April 24-25, 2023

Review Report received: June 30, 2023

Program Response received: October 16, 2023

Dean's Response received: November 8, 2023

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, March, 2024.



Submitted by Marcia Annisette, Vice-Provost Academic, York University

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

SITE VISIT: APRIL 24-25, 2023

The Review Committee met virtually with the following groups and individuals, beginning with Lyndon Martin, Vice-Provost Academic and Thomas Loebel, Dean and Associate Vice-President, Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Principal's Office at Glendon was represented by Audrey Pyee, Associate Principal Academic, and Swann Paradis, Associate Principal Research and Graduate Studies. The reviewers met with Francis Garon, Chair of the MPIA and with a group of MPIA full-time faculty members, a group of part-time faculty members and a group of graduate students. Librarians who met with the reviewers were Andrea Kosavic, Associate Dean, Digital Engagement and Strategy and Leigh E. Jackson, Content Development Librarian, Glendon College.

Marco Fiola, Principal of Glendon College, had to cancel the scheduled meeting with the Review Committee.

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

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2029 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2030 or Winter of 2031.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS

The bilingual Master of Public and International Affairs was established in 2008. Students have three options for completing the two-year degree: course work only, course work with a major research paper, or course work with study abroad, through exchange programs. Students may also pursue internships with a term abroad. The reviewers noted core innovations in the program which include the summer internship and teaching by professionals in related areas of specialization in the public sector.

The reviewers said, however, that there is a need for better clarity for students about degree options, the major research paper and the experiential learning options in the program.

The reviewers note that the faculty complement of the MPIA program is strong and carries a research program that is clearly above average. Noting that there are few law or public administration scholars, the reviewers indicate that disciplinary representation is good. The reviewers note that there is a need for coordination in the program to ensure engagement by faculty members with the broader degree program.

Regarding the program's bilingualism, the reviewers noted that "the linguistic balance favours courses being taught in English." They further suggest that "the 'international' public affairs focus of the program is underdeveloped" as it is uniquely focussed on one option of studies in France. The reviewers also noted that, the program's leadership "should not lose sight of the MPIA's original design, which remains excellent: It brings together academic/theoretical knowledge and practice. Students' work is likely to bring together practice-informed theory in almost all of their research done in classes and resulting in the Major Research Papers stream."

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in March 18, 2024.

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That the leadership structure of the MPIA be reviewed to ensure a unified focus on the core goals of the program.	<p>The program will work with the Principal's Office to ensure that colleagues who are currently loosely associated with the MPIA have a more direct affiliation and predictable participation in the leadership of the program.</p> <p>The program will explore mechanisms to strengthen governance and leadership of the program.</p>	Director, MPIA Principal	Implementation by the end of Fall 2024.
2.	That plans to re-establish the School of Public and International Affairs be re-examined so that confusion for prospective students is not compounded and recruitment / conversion efforts are not impeded.	<p>A decision has already been made to re-establish the GSPIA and the (part-time) position of the Director of the GSPIA has just been filled as of September 2023.</p> <p>The program will work with the Communications Office at Glendon and the Associate Director Graduate Communications and Recruitment (FGS) to intensify conversion and recruitment efforts. The</p>	Director, MPIA Director, CEBD Glendon; Executive Director, Strategic Communications and Community Engagement Associate Principal, Research and Graduate Studies	December 2023 to June 2025

		program will also work with the Director of Continuing Education and Business Development to identify funding opportunities for recruitment initiatives.		
3.	That faculty and staff in the MPIA program meet at least once per term to better coordinate the major components of the program in terms of intent, execution, expected outcomes and alignment with the goals of the Program.	Faculty and staff will meet at least one per term to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the program and ensure that all faculty understand the how courses and activities contribute to the achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes. This should happen on an ongoing basis.	Director, MPIA, with support of Associate Principal, Research and Graduate Studies	Fall 2023 and ongoing
4.	That information on all components of the program be made readily available, including timetables, key program milestones and tasks, as well as resources for students.	The program will finalize the eClass site that includes all relevant program information, including clear guidelines for the MRP, working with the Executive Director, Communications and Community Engagement to ensure that the site is clear and readable.	Director, MPIA Graduate Program Assistant, MPIA Executive Director, Strategic Communications and Community Engagement	December 2023 to June 2024
5.	That the program review its goals with an eye to a potential redesign of the	Rather than program redesign, recruitment and conversion efforts should be	Director, MPIA Executive Director, Strategic Communication	See recommendation 2 and ongoing.

	program to differentiate it from competitors	reinforced. See also Recommendation 2 above. Consultations for ongoing enhancements to the program should continue on an ongoing basis and changes flow through established governance processes.	and Community Engagement	
6.	That the process for curriculum changes and course development be streamlined.	<p>It has been noted that the bottleneck is in finding appropriate faculty to teach new courses, rather than with their development and approval.</p> <p>The program will work with the Principal's Office to find colleagues whose affiliation could be linked to the program to ensure that newly developed courses can be offered (See Recommendation 1).</p>	Director, MPIA Principal	Implementation by the end of Fall 2024.
7.	That the balance of English and French within the program be reviewed.	In order to support the development of bilingual graduates, the program will ensure that readings in both official languages are part of all courses, especially those taught in French. The program will consider including messaging framing	Director, MPIA	Immediately and ongoing

		bilingualism as an advantage.		
8.	That the program explore how to better integrate the internship and MRP with the program goals.	See Recommendation 3	See Recommendation 3	See Recommendation 3
9.	That the complementarity of the policy and research outcomes of the program be strengthened, in each of the three program options.	<p>The program will consult colleagues about the possibility of orienting the MRP topics toward policy questions coming from the public sector.</p> <p>The program will consider mechanisms to broaden the impact of MRPs and Study Abroad reports.</p>	<p>Director, MPIA Graduate Program Assistant Executive Director, Strategic Communications and Community Engagement, Glendon</p>	For Fall 2023/Winter 2024 and ongoing.