

Second Language Examination Policy & Procedure – PhD in Canadian Studies

Passed at FC Board 4 December 2015

All graduate students are required to demonstrate research competence in a second language as a requirement of the PhD degree in Canadian Studies. No student shall graduate from the PhD program in Canadian Studies without fulfilling the requirement of research competence in a second language.

Normally the second research language is French, but a language other than French that is related to the student's research area may be substituted with approval of the Board. All second language competency skills must be demonstrated by formal evaluation, normally undertaken by the end of the first year of the PhD program. In all cases other than French, the evaluation process must be approved by the Board in advance of the examination.

In the case of French, competence shall be demonstrated by a language comprehension test. All students shall sit the French exam at the same time, normally held during the last week of August. The following policies shall govern the test:

- a) The exam shall be administered by a faculty member in the Canadian Studies graduate program, appointed by the Director, who has sufficient competence in French to oversee the exam.
- b) The exam shall consist of rendering from French to English of three academic abstracts from a Canadian scholarly Humanities/Social Science journal (such as the Journal of Canadian Studies) selected by the student from a pool of six, as chosen by the examiner in consultation with the Director.
- c) The exam will take place over two hours.
- d) Dictionaries are permitted.
- e) The exam shall be graded as pass/fail, with the only criterion being whether the English iterations demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the examiner, sufficient understanding of the French text in terms of correct vocabulary, syntax and meaning. In the case of a failing grade being assigned, the Director will then automatically consult with both the examiner and a second reader to confirm or overturn the result. There is no appeal.
- f) If a student fails the exam, then further attempts may be taken every six months with new texts administered in the same manner as defined in steps (a) through (e).