

***SUBMITTED TO OUCQA FOR INFORMATION – October 22, 2020***

***APPROVED BY TRENT UNIVERSITY’S SENATE COMMITTEE – October 20, 2020***

# Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

# French Studies BA

# Completed by the Cyclical Program Review Committee (CPRC)

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| **Degree Programs Being Reviewed** | **French Studies BA** |
| **External Reviewers** | **Dr. Thierry Bissonnette, Université Laurentienne**  **Dr. Sophie Beaulé, Saint Mary’s University** |
| **Internal Representative** | **Dr. Margaret Steffler, Department of English Literature** |
| **Year of Review** | **2019-2020** |
| **Date of Site Visit** | **March 10-11, 2020** |
| **Due Date for Implementation Report by the Program** | **October 1, 2021** |
| **Date Prepared by CPRC** | **September 30, 2020** |
| **Date Approved by Provost & VP Academic** | **October 8, 2020** |
| **Signature of Provost & VP Academic** | **Provost Khan** |

The Bachelor of Arts in French Studies program provides a broad education in French, cultural insights and linguistic competency that together prepare students for successful participation in the Canadian and global communities. French Studies offers an array of courses in French language and writing, and Francophone cultures and literature. The program offers course topics ranging from modern France to contemporary Franco-Ontarian, Francophone, or Indigenous literature, but with a strong emphasis on the Canadian context.

Students have the opportunity to study Quebec culture, Acadia and Franco-Ontarian literatures including Indigenous writers and an exploration of the French and Francophone world from Africa and the Caribbean, through major literary and cinematographic works.

As a central feature, the Year Abroad program in Nantes, France, gives students majoring in French an opportunity to develop and refine their knowledge of French in a European context, in a city that has a strong connection with Canada. This opportunity ensures total immersion for the participating students.

**Summary of Process**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the BA in French Studies program underwent a review. Two arm’s-length external reviewers (Dr. Thierry Bissonnette, Université Laurentienne and Dr. Sophie Beaulé, Saint Mary’s University) and one internal representative (Dr. Margaret Steffler, English Literature, Trent University) were invited to review the self-study documentation. The site visit took place at the Peterborough campus on March 10-11, 2020.

This Final Assessment Report (FAR), in accordance with Trent University’s Institutional Quality Assurance Policy (IQAP), provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the graduate degree programs. The report considers four evaluation documents: the Program’s Self-Study, the External Reviewers’ Report, the Program Response, and the Decanal Response.

A summary of the review process is as follows: the academic unit completed a self-study that addressed all components of the evaluation criteria as outlined in Trent’s IQAP. Appendices included: Curriculum Vitae, Course Syllabi, Data Tables, Student and Alumni Surveys and a Library Statement of Support. Qualified external reviewers were invited to conduct a review of the program that involved a review of all relevant documentation (self-study, appendices, IQAP) in advance of the site visit. A two-day site visit took place where reviewers met with senior administration, faculty, students and staff.

Once the external reviewers’ report was received, both the Program and Dean provided responses to the Report. The Cyclical Program Review Committee (CPRC) reviewed and assessed the quality of the degree program based on the four review documents and reported on significant program strengths, opportunities for improvement and enhancement, and the implementation of recommendations.

The Implementation Plan identifies those recommendations selected for implementation and specifies the proposed follow-up and the person(s) responsible for leading the follow-up. Academic units, in consultation with the respective Dean(s), will submit an Implementation Report in response to the recommendations identified for follow-up. The Report is due October 1, 2021.

**Significant Program Strengths**

* The external reviewers were impressed by the quality and flexibility of the program’s structure to offer its students opportunities to study the French language, literature and culture, as well as current trends and theoretical issues.
* Students have the unique opportunity to participate in the Nantes Program, which allows them to experience linguistic and cultural immersion while traveling throughout France and Europe.
* Students and Alumni were highly satisfied with the program and the transferable skills they acquired during their education, including: written and verbal communication, organizing and planning, bilingualism and critical thinking.

**Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement**

* The department should explore opportunities to collaborate with related departments (Canadian Studies, Cultural Studies) to strengthen curriculum offerings for students in French and Francophone Studies.
* To reinforce the presence of the program in the university and the community, some discipline-based courses could be developed, such as French for Business or French for Social Work.
* The external reviewers indicated that online course offerings could be more robust to provide education in technical French or other language oriented courses.
* Consideration should be given to developing more flexibility in the Nantes program. For example, students might be interested in the opportunity to travel abroad during the summer or for only one term.

**Complete List of Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1**

**That three new tenure-track positions be created.**

**Program Response**

The Program agrees with this recommendation. Additional faculty would provide the program with more stability, long-term sustainability and ensure the continuity of the program. The reviewers suggest adding one position in literature, culture and language, and two language-orientation positions, one in Peterborough and one in Durham. Further discussion is needed to determine if Durham would like to offer more courses that could lead to a French major. The number new faculty positions should reflect the number of courses and scope of the French program.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the importance of French and Francophone Studies continuing to be consistent and of high quality, and the difficulty in running this program with LTAs. The recommendation to increase the permanent (TUFA) faculty complement in the department is a resource issue closely linked to program enrolment that will be considered as part of the annual staffing plan discussions under the purview of the Dean.

**Recommendation 2**

**That (a) the Trent Centre for Language and Linguistics be separated from French and Francophone Studies, and (b) a permanent Coordinator/Director of the Centre for Languages and Linguistics be secured to stabilize the Centre.**

**Program Response**

The placement of Trent Centre for Language and Linguistics (TCLL) within French and Francophone Studies (FFST) was to be temporary. Separating TCLL from FFST would be beneficial for languages and linguistics at Trent making them more visible and would help both units to define their identities. A permanent coordinator/ director of the Centre for Languages and Linguistics would stabilize the Centre and ensure its governance. FFST would continue to maintain a cooperative structure with TCLL.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the need for consideration of the relationship between FFST and TCLL. The Dean encourages the Program to consider interdisciplinary opportunities with other programs that could facilitate the recommendation to separate TCLL. A discussion about changing the department structure of FFST and TCLL will be undertaken under the purview of the Dean.

**Recommendation 3**

**That consideration be given to broadening the course offerings at Trent-Durham.**

**Program Response**

The Program agrees that a dialogue with Trent Durham should be reinitiated to ensure a broader course offering. The Program believes that marketing and promotion of French at Trent Durham is needed to discover student demand and serve it better.

**Decanal Response**

The Dean agrees that there may be opportunities to explore expanding Durham to explore course offerings in French and Francophone in Durham.

**Recommendation 4**

**That a) the Language Laboratory return to its original location in Bata Library and b) a French “hub” be created.**

**Program Response**

Returning the Language Laboratory to its original location in Bata Library instead of Blackburn Hall and creating a French hub would be instrumental in concentrating the Francophone energy at Trent, favouring the use of the French language, and creating a sense of community for students and faculty.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about a sense of community for FFST students and faculty. The Program is encouraged to discuss space allocations with the Dean.

**Recommendation 5**

**That:**

1. **the budget allotted to French and Francophone Studies be increased**
2. **original publications in French be purchased along with the English translation**
3. **An institutional licence for Antidote software be installed on designated computers in the Bata Library.**

**Program Response**

The Program agrees with the reviewers that the budget allotted to Francophone acquisitions should be increased. The Program believes the original versions of French-language books should be purchased along with English translations. This would provide students with access to readings in French and the ability to practise their reading skills. The Program also supports an institutional licence of the Antidote software should be installed in some designated computers in the Bata Library to help students with their writing.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the need for additional resources for acquisitions and software. The Program is encouraged to submit a proposal for increasing the budget allotted to FFST acquisitions and Antidote software licence.

**Recommendation 6**

**That funding continues to be directed at the Nantes program, and that enhancements be implemented.**

**Program Response**

The Program agrees that the same model of funding for the Nantes program be retained. It would be beneficial to diversify the program by finding new creative partnerships including collaboration with the School of Education and finding locations other than Nantes University. However, the Program does not want to undermine or dilute the current program.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the importance of continuing and enhancing the Nantes program. The Dean is in agreement and will look forward to the program’s efforts in this regard.

**Recommendation 7**

**That a concerted effort be applied to better promote the French and Francophone Studies programs inside and outside the Trent community.**

**Program Response**

The Program believes that the website and recruitment material should be made bilingual or include dual versions to maximize potential student interest and recruitment. The Program is in the process of developing a French version of the website. As the report says, French Studies needs to be more visible within the institution, thus strengthening the French Club and building stronger relationships with International Students as well as maintaining and improving the connection between faculty interested in French language and cultures. Outside the Trent community, French language and immersion high schools should be targeted, and a Francophone or French-speaking student ambassador should be hired. Additionally, there may be opportunities to network with the new Université de l’Ontario français school to increase the French offerings in the region.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the potential to better promote FFST. The Program (Chair) is encouraged to meet with the Dean and Marketing and Communications to discuss possible opportunities, including increased promotion of the Nantes program.

**Recommendation 8**

**That French and Francophone Studies continue to explore ways of diversification and enhancement through course creation, collaboration with other programs, and, if possible, cross-appointments.**

**Program Response**

The Reviewers recommend various strategies to diversify, adapt and enhance the program. The Program will consider:

* reorganizing and developing more in-person and online
* Moving some third-year courses to second year to better balance the structure of the program
* exploring experiential learning and practicum with creation of new courses such as French-Canadian Current Affairs
* offering refresher courses in French and including elements of language acquisitions throughout the program.

Collaboration with other programs and possible cross-appointments with Education, Cultural Studies and Canadian Studies could be investigated provided we continue to meet the standards of our field and maintain the integrity of the program.

**Decanal Response**

The Reviewers and Program raise valid points about the need for enhancements to the FFST program. The Dean recommends the program undertake a review of its curriculum and required courses, which will be an important and constructive response to the review. The Dean recommends the Program continue to consider increased collaboration and cross-appointment with other programs, including as a means of facilitating potential changes to department structure.

**Implementation Plan**

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action. The Academic Unit in consultation with their Dean will be responsible for moving forward with the recommendations to ensure that each is completed within the recommended timeframe.

The Academic Unit will submit an Implementation Report to their Dean reporting on the completion and/or status of each recommendation. The Dean will review the Implementation Report prior to submitting the report to the Office of the Provost.

**DUE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION REPORT: OCTOBER 1, 2021**

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| **Recommendation** | **Proposed Follow-Up**  If no follow-up is recommended, indicate ‘No follow-up report is required’ and provide rationale | **Position Responsible for Leading Follow-up** |
| **Recommendation 1**  That three new tenure-track positions be created. | No follow up required. New tenure-track hires are a resource issue and are part of annual staffing plan discussions under the purview of the Dean. |  |
| **Recommendation 2**  That:  a) the Trent Centre for Language and Linguistics be separated from French and Francophone Studies, and  b) a permanent coordinator/director of the Centre for Languages and Linguistics be secured to stabilize the Centre. | Program to discuss changes to FFST department structure with the Dean.  No follow up required regarding the permanent position for TCLL. New hires are a resource issue and are part of annual staffing plan discussions under the purview of the Dean. | Dean |
| **Recommendation 3**  That consideration be given to broadening the course offering at Trent-Durham. | Program is encouraged to explore possibilities with Trent University Durham. Some resource issues could arise which will then be under the purview of the Dean. | Chair, in consultation with the Dean, Humanities & Head/Dean, Durham |
| **Recommendation 4**  That a) the Language Laboratory return to its original location in Bata Library and  b) a French ‘hub’ be created. | Program to discuss possible locations and space with Dean, as well as additional opportunities to create French hub. | Chair, in consultation with the Dean |
| **Recommendation 5**  That:   1. the budget allotted to French and Francophone Studies be increased 2. original publications in French be purchased along with the English translation 3. an institutional licence for Antidote software be installed on designated computers in the Bata Library. | 1. No follow up required regarding the FFST department budget, which is a resource issue and is part of annual budget allocation discussions under the purview of the Dean.   b,c) Program to submit proposal for funding new acquisitions and software licence. | Chair |
| **Recommendation 6**  That funding continues to be directed at the Nantes program, and that enhancements be implemented. | Program to explore enhancements for the Nantes program.  No follow up required regarding the Nantes budget, which is a resource issue and is part of annual budget allocation discussions under the purview of the Dean. | Chair |
| **Recommendation 7**  That a concerted effort be applied to better promote the French and Francophone Studies programs inside and outside the Trent community. | Program to meet with Marketing and Communications. | Chair, in consultation with the Dean |
| **Recommendation 8**  That French and Francophone Studies continue to explore ways of diversification and enhancement through course creation, collaboration with other programs, and, if possible, cross-appointments. | Program to conduct a curriculum review for the BA in French and Francophone Studies.  Program to explore increased collaboration and cross-appointments with other programs. | Chair, in consultation with the Dean |