



Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan for the Academic Programs Offered by the Department of Classics

**Programs Reviewed: BAH, MA Classics
 BA, BAH Classical Studies**

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation, internal responses and assessment of the above programs. This report identifies the significant strengths of the programs, and opportunities for program improvement. It sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

An implementation plan is attached that identifies:

- who will be responsible for acting on and monitoring progress on the recommendations,
- any resource or governance implications resulting from the recommendations, and
- timelines for implementation of the recommendations.

Summary of Review

- 1) The Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, the Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) reviewed the department's self-study. It was approved on 4 February 2019.
- 2) The review team visit took place on 21st – 22nd March 2019. The review team members were:
 - i. Dr. Michele George, Professor of Classics, McMaster University
 - ii. Dr. Carol Merriam, Professor of Classics and Dean of Humanities, Brock University
 - iii. Dr. Donato Santeramo, Head, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Queen's University
- 3) The visit included meetings with
 - i. Students (undergraduate and graduate)
 - ii. Faculty
 - iii. Staff
 - iv. Department Head
 - v. Cognate Department Heads
 - vi. Dean and Associate Deans, Arts and Science
 - vii. Vice-Provost and Dean and Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies
 - viii. Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

- 4) The review team reported on 3 April 2019. The Department Head, the Dean (Arts and Science) and the Vice-Provost and Dean (School of Graduate Studies) provided responses to the review team report.
- 5) The Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee considered all the documentation at its meeting on 13 June 2019, and reported to the Provost on the programs' strengths, opportunities for enhancement and recommendations for improvement.

The following strengths were noted:

- Unique curricula offering courses in ancient science, ancient humour, and archaeology. These courses add to the dimensions of globalism, diversity, and inclusion
- Joint-appointments in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Geography, History, Philosophy, and Religion enrich the student learning experience and provide opportunities for collaborative research
- Student experience enhanced by experiential learning opportunities (e.g. archaeological excavations and hands-on study of coins and other artifacts)
- Unit has embraced innovative modes of delivery such as blended, online, tutorials and discussion groups lead by TAs
- Graduate program designed around a strong base of two mandatory professional development courses: CLST 800 (fields of the discipline and key research tools and methods); CLST 802 (select topics, design research programs, present findings)
- Introduction of innovative assessment methods
- High degree of camaraderie within the department
- Many international research collaborations
- Faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching evident in number of nominations for teaching awards
- Commitment to promoting academic integrity

The following opportunities for enhancement were noted:

- Investigate the reasons for high grades in large courses
- Explore the possibility of offering courses in the roots of medical terminology and in ancient medicine
- Explore the possibility of decreasing tutorial group size to 20 in large first-year courses
- Explore the possibility of expanding ancient history curriculum in upper years to include courses on social issues such as slavery, ethnicity, and colonization (Greek Social History) as well as biographical courses (Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Alexander) to push the boundaries of the field
- Explore new approaches to learning Latin such as variety of, alternative Latin textbooks, online learning resources, and quizzes
- Increase engagement with Canadian Classics through the Classical Association of Canada

- Begin local outreach such as public presentations or having a 'Classics Day' at the Kingston Public Library; collaboration with QUILL (Queen's Institute for Lifelong Learning), the Kingston Historical Society. Expand use of social media (e.g. Instagram). Involve students on your communication team
- Increase the number of applications for SSHRCC funds by consulting with the School of Graduate Studies and University Research Services. For grant proposals involving graduate students explore the possibility of leveraging the expertise in the writing centre to assist students
- In conjunction with the wider curricula review, revisit the number of papers assigned in each course. Classics is lower than both the average in other humanities at Queen's and the national average
- Given the emphasis on research projects across all years, build on partnership with the departmental liaison librarian
- Ensure that all instructors and staff undertake mental health training
- Encourage undergraduate students to display their projects for the Ancient Science and Greek Archaeology courses at Inquiry@Queen's
- Frame specific funding projects with Advancement with the assistance of graduate students
- Explore the possibility of revitalizing the departmental journal "Ceres"
- Continue to apply for a Queen's National Scholar position

The academic programs in the Department of Classics have been approved to continue.

Date of next review:

2026-2027

Prepared by Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

22 June 2019



Implementation Plan

Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Resource or Governance Implications	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
1. The Reviewers recommend that a Departmental Retreat be held to discuss curriculum, staffing priorities, and the future leadership of the Department	Organize departmental retreat. Invite educational developer from the Centre for Teaching and Learning	Department Head	Human Resources to be provided by Department and CTL	By October 2019
2. The Reviewers recommend that the Ancient History Curriculum be revised to use the upper year courses to discuss issues in social history, supported by discussion opportunities that allow students to make connections to current issues	Create and implement a strategic plan to revitalize the curriculum. Consult with the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Leverage Departmental Retreat to begin process	Department Head	Human Resources to be provided by Department and CTL	By September 2020
3. The Reviewers recommend that the lower-level Latin curriculum be revised	Create and implement a strategic plan to	Department Head	Human Resources to be	By July 2020

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to develop a more dynamic and engaging introductory experience and get students to reading and discussing texts sooner in their university career	revitalize the curriculum. Consult with the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Leverage Departmental Retreat to begin process		provided by Department and CTL	
4. The Reviewers recommend that the revision of the Ancient History curriculum be supported with a tenured or tenure-track appointment of a Social Historian of Ancient Greece, with consideration given to a candidate with administrative experience	Recommendation for faculty hiring is not supported by the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Requests for tenured or tenure-tracked appointments are made to the faculty dean by the department and if supported, a position request is made to the provost. Faculty hiring does not fall under the purview of the QUQAP cyclical program review processes.			
5. The Reviewers recommend that the revision of the Ancient History (recommendation 2) and Latin (recommendation 3) curriculums be supported with a tenure-track appointment of a scholar in Latin language and literature, specializing in gender and sexuality in the Roman world. If administrative experience is not	Recommendation for faculty hiring is not supported by the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Requests for tenured or tenure-tracked appointments are made to the faculty dean by the department and if supported, a position request is made to the provost. Faculty hiring does not fall under the purview of the QUQAP cyclical program review processes.			

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considered in other appointments (recommendations 4) it should be considered in this one.				
6. Reviewers recommend that a tenure-track appointment in Greek Archaeology be given to someone in a leadership position in an active excavation, to build upon the MA field in Archaeology	Recommendation for faculty hiring is not supported by the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Requests for tenured or tenure-tracked appointments are made to the faculty dean by the department and if supported, a position request is made to the provost. Faculty hiring does not fall under the purview of the QUQAP cyclical program review processes.			
7. The Reviewers recommend that an enhanced community engagement and social media strategy be developed to establish a higher local profile and clear identity for Queen's Classics. The department should take advantage of the information exchange offered by the Classical Association of Canada	Develop strategic community engagement and social media/communication plan. Leverage expertise from Communications and current students	Department Head	Human Resources provided by Department with assistance from Communications	By December 2019
8. The Reviewers recommend that SSHRCC funding opportunities be explored and applied for in order to nurture greater research intensity,	Work with the School of Graduate Studies and the Office of Research Services to:	Department Head	Human Resources provided by Department, School of	Ongoing

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drawing on the Grants and Institutional Programs unit of University Research Services	explore potential research funding, to build research capacity and productivity, and enhance the student learning environment especially for graduate students		Graduate Studies and Office of Research Services	
9. The Reviewers recommend that the Department Head receive a 6 unit (1.0 credit) release from teaching in order to concentrate on the administrative work of the Department	Arrange meeting between Department Head and Dean	Department Head	Human Resources provided by Department and Faculty Office	By December 2019
10. The Reviewers recommend that the department work with QUFA and the University administration to improve resources for term adjunct faculty, specifically, access to online systems and library access for research and course preparations	The Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) will review this matter. Responsibility does not rest with the department and or QUFA.			

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11. The Reviewers recommend that given the large size of the graduate student cohort, more space and secure storage of books and research materials is necessary for them to do their work safely and effectively	Recommendation not supported by Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Graduate students already have access to secure lockers and additional study space in Watson 417.			

The Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation plan. The details of progress made will be presented in writing to the Provost and Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and filed in the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Monitoring reports are required 18 months and 4 years after receipt of this document. All monitoring reports will be posted on the university web site.

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Approval Date – 10 July 2019

Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)



Signature

Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies



Signature

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science



Signature

**Final status of academic programs in the
Department of Classics**

Approved to Continue

Date of next program review

2026-2027 Academic Year

