

Two Year Progress Report

East Asian Studies Program (EAS)

December 2015

The self-study for the East Asian Studies Program (EAS) was submitted on July 1, 2013. A site visit took place on November 7, 2013, and the review team submitted its report on November 29, 2013. The EAS program director submitted a response and an implementation plan, endorsed by the Principal of Renison University College, on February 27, 2014.

This two-year report outlines the progress to date with the implementation plan and the response to the review team's recommendations to build the program's strengths. The language programs continue to grow, and demand for courses is steadily increasing. The total enrollment in East Asian Studies language and culture courses for Fall 2015 is the highest it has ever been, with 1098 students registered (compared to 872 [2014], 916 [2013], 732 [2012] and 703 [2011]). In response, EAS has increased the number of lectures and tutorials to accommodate more students in language courses.

The reviewers made four recommendations after their visit in 2013.

Recommendation 1: Consolidate the program ("build our strength") by making some teaching staff permanent and providing resources to enhance coordination of the program.

The following measures have been taken with respect to improving staffing:

- A new tenure-track faculty member in English has been cross-appointed to East Asian Studies because of his expertise in diaspora literatures of the area.
- Continuing and extended term contracts have been offered to four members of the teaching faculty who have been driving forces of the language programs as the language and/or program coordinators.
- Two formerly sessional lecturers were offered one-year contracts (from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016) to teach eight courses each within East Asian Studies.
- The working hours of the Administrative Assistant were increased from 20 to 35 hours/week as of September 2014, and the position title was renamed Advisor and Administrative Assistant in 2015, in consultation with Renison's Human Resources Department.

Recommendation 2: Identify plans to increase space and teaching support as required (both for lectures and tutorials), particularly for accommodating student demand.

Office and teaching space have been increased to meet needs:

- A new Renison building opened in Spring 2015, doubling the number of classrooms available for teaching and providing much needed office space where EAS instructors can meet and work with students more privately.

Recommendation 3: Develop a unified plan for expanding the program beyond its current level in a specific area of focus (Socioeconomic? Cultural? Exchanges? Business?). Given the uniqueness the program has in offering Korean content, expansion of that component should be considered very seriously. Collaborative expansion capitalizing on other initiatives should also be considered.

The following steps and measures are being taken to develop a unified plan for expanding the East Asian Studies program:

- As indicated in our response to the recommendations in 2013, the expansion of the EAS program must address student demand as well as maintain integrity. The following courses have been added to the catalogue since 2013:
 - EASIA 231R – Calligraphy to Conceptual Art – effective Jan 1, 2015
 - EASIA 260R – Modern Chinese Literature (1917 - present day) – effective Jan 1, 2015 (renumbered to EASIA 361R effective Sept 1, 2016)
 - EASIA 291R – Special Topics in East Asian Studies – effective May 1, 2016
 - EASIA 302R – Chinese Foreign Policy since 1949 – effective Sept 1, 2015
 - EASIA 304R – Korean Law and Society – effective Jan 1, 2016
 - EASIA 362R – Introduction to Pre-Modern Japanese Literature – effective Jan 1, 2016
 - EASIA 363R – Introduction to Early Modern Japanese Literature – effective Jan 1, 2016
 - EASIA 377R – Cold War in East Asia – effective May 1, 2015
 - CHINA 391R – Special Topics – effective May 1, 2016
 - JAPAN 391R – Special Topics – effective May 1, 2016
 - KOREA 391R – Special Topics – effective May 1, 2016
- A student survey of current and former students in Spring 2015 showed strong interest in new course topics in the areas of culture, literature, and religion, findings confirmed by comparison with those of similar post-secondary programs worldwide. The survey results have led to the proposal for a new course cross-listed with Religious Studies entitled “Monsters and Magic in Japanese Popular Culture,” which is currently making its way through the approval process. Its effective date would be January 2017.
- An upper-year EASIA/ENGL course (EASIA 246R/ENGL 246R: Global Asian Diaspora) is being proposed to take advantage of the expertise of our new cross-appointed colleague. Its effective date would be May 2017.
- New special topics courses have been created to test the interest in focused courses in language and culture. The topic each term will be determined according to the expertise and subject area available at the time. For example, a special topics course in Korean pop culture will be offered in Fall 2016. One of the recommendations in the review

identified the potential for expansion of the Korean component. In addition to exploring emerging opportunities for funding, (e.g. from the Korea Foundation or the King Sejong Institute), advanced courses in Korean language, KOREA 301R (Third-Year Korean 1) and KOREA 302R (Third-Year Korean 2) will be proposed in Winter 2016 to allow students to earn a second-level certificate in Korean Language Studies in line with certificates offered in Japanese and Chinese languages. The proposed courses will also allow non-degree and post-degree students to earn the Diploma in Korean Language. Effective dates for the new certificate and diploma would be September 2017.

Recommendation 4: After all of the above and only then, consider what it will take to change this into a major program.

The Spring 2015 survey posed the question of interest in a major for past and current students, who responded positively. Changes in the structure of the minor are currently being considered at the program level to provide focus and help the program determine its future. Funding opportunities are being assessed, and consultation with concerned parties (i.e. EAS faculty members and Renison senior administration) is continuing in order to determine whether solid support exists for developing the infrastructure and courses required for a major program.

Conclusions

EAS has made substantial progress in responding to the recommendations of the 2013 Program Review Report. Demand for EAS courses is high and continues to grow.

Despite its small size, East Asian Studies continues to enjoy a high profile, both within the university and within the greater community; it contributes significantly to internationalization initiatives both at Renison and at Waterloo. Tenured faculty members maintain a strong presence in terms of international research and publications (reputable books, prestigious grants, invited talks, government consultations etc.).

At the same time, the program continues to add to its reputation in language education as exemplified by exceptional results at various speech contests. In 2015, our students won first place in the beginner, intermediate, and advanced categories at both the Ontario and Canadian National Japanese speech contests. Also in 2015, one of our students was awarded the Grand Prize at the International Korean speech contest hosted by the King Sejong Institute in Seoul. In the meantime, our Chinese language students have won first place four times at the Ontario Provincial University Student Chinese Competition since Renison started participating.

In terms of the timeline presented in response to the program reviewers' report (see attached), the EAS program is clearly on track in attending to the recommendations.



Timeline	Recommendations	Responsibility	Resources Required
September 2014	Consolidate the program ("build our strength") by making long/definite-term contracts with some teaching staff and providing additional resources for program coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director• Renison Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admin Support• Funding for additional staff work hours
2014-2015	Identify plans to increase space and teaching support as required (both for lectures and tutorials), particularly for accommodating student demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director• Renison Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space availability• Funding for additional hires and increased teaching hours
2014-2017	Develop a unified plan for expanding the program beyond its current level in a specific area of focus (Socioeconomic? Cultural? Exchanges? Business?). Given the uniqueness the program has in offering Korean content, expansion of that component should be considered very seriously. Collaborative expansion capitalizing on other initiatives should also be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admin Support
2016-2018	After all of the above and only then, consider what it will take to change this into a major program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admin Support• Funding for additional hires



Date of next program review: July 1, 2020

Signatures of Approval:



Chair/Director

January 8, 2016

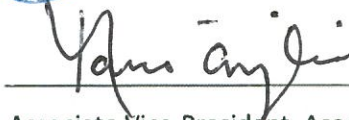
Date



Faculty or Administrative Dean

January 8, 2016

Date



Associate Vice-President, Academic
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)

Jan 11, 2016

Date

Associate Provost, Graduate Studies
(For Graduate and augment programs)

Date