

Final Assessment Report

Global Governance (MA)

August 2018

Summary of the Program Review:

In accordance with the University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response of the Master of Arts (MA) in Global Governance program delivered by the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA). A self-study (Volume I) was submitted to the Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs on July 14, 2017. The self-study presented the program descriptions and learning outcomes, an analytical assessment of the program, including the data collected from student and alumni surveys, along with the standard data package prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis & Planning (IAP). The CVs for each faculty member associated with the program were included in Volume II of the self-study.

Two arm's-length external reviewers were selected from Volume III of the self-study. Dr. Randall Germain, Professor of Political Science at Carleton University, and Dr. David Black, Professor of Political Science at Dalhousie University were selected by the Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, as well as one internal reviewer, Dr. David Rose, Professor of Biology.

Reviewers appraised the self-study documentation and conducted a site visit to the University on January 4-5, 2018. The visit included interviews with the Vice-President, Academic & Provost; Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs; Faculty of Arts Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and the Director of the Program. The review team also had the opportunity to meet with Faculty members, staff and current graduate students.

This final assessment report is based on information extracted, in many cases verbatim, from the self-study, the external reviewers' report and the program response.

Program characteristics:

The Master of Arts in Global Governance program (MAGG) is a multidisciplinary program that draws on the core disciplines of Political Science, History, and Economics, as well as complementary disciplines such as Environment and Resource Studies, and Sociology. The main objective of the MAGG Program is to provide world-class instruction and learning experiences that help to advance intellectual leadership in the emerging field of global governance.

Summary of strengths, challenges and weaknesses based on self-study:

Strengths:

- High student demand for the program
- Academically rigorous curriculum
- Excellent time to completion and retention numbers
- Current funding arrangements
- First-rate faculty who are leading scholars in their fields
- Dynamic internships and experiential learning opportunities for students
- Excellent learning environment at the BSIA
- Intellectually stimulating events offered through BSIA's Research Cluster Areas
- Deep partnerships with leading academic and non-academic organizations

Challenges:

- Insufficient funding to support international internships, many of which are unpaid

Weaknesses:

- Because of the funding model in Ontario, the program is restricted in the number of international students it can admit
- Students in the MAGG are required to pay full-time tuition while on their internships, whereas students in a co-op program only pay a co-op fee while on placement

Summary of key findings from the external reviewers':

The MAGG is a world-class program in overall good standing. It boasts a superb complement of faculty, including many world-class scholars as well as a large number of strong, younger emerging scholars. The research capacity of the faculty in this program is first rate, and the evolution of the research profiles of those connected to the program speaks to what we see as the enduring as well as timely challenges of global governance. The student body is also outstanding, and happily the application numbers are robust. The curriculum of the program is entirely appropriate to the field of global governance studies, and the experience of faculty in delivering it and of students in learning about the field is wholly satisfactory. Finally, the facilities are exceptional, and the funding provided by the program to its students is among the best for a program of its kind in Canada. This program adds real value to the University of Waterloo.

Program response to external reviewer recommendations:

Recommendations

1. Curriculum:

- 1) consider adding a methodological requirement

- 2) examine core course content overlap
- 3) recalibrate the economics core requirement
- 4) reconsider role of fields in program
- 5) specify with more precision processes and benchmarks pertaining to Internship/Fellowship components of program.

Response

- 1) The reviewers suggested that the program add a required methods course. The program respectfully disagrees with this recommendation for a number of reasons. First and foremost, the MAGG is an interdisciplinary program that draws on multiple disciplines, all of which have their own particular methodological approaches to research. To incorporate all of these approaches into one 12-week course would not do justice to any one of the approaches, and would be of questionable value pedagogically. As such, the program directorship believes that students who wish to have methodological training in a particular discipline would be better served by taking a methods course offered by one of the program's partner departments. Moreover, students are already required to complete political science, history, and economics requirements, as well as a core course in global governance, which provides an overview of the field of global governance. Adding a mandatory required methods course would mean that five of the six courses in the program are required courses, thereby limiting students' elective options and potentially negatively affecting our future enrollment. However, the MAGG steering committee agreed that, on a case-by-case basis, it would allow students to take a methods course offered by partner departments.
- 2) In response to concerns that there was a fair amount of overlap between GGOV 600 and HIST 605, the reviewers asked the program to consider merging the two. The committee agreed that this was neither desirable nor necessary given that with the removal of the ECON requirement students will have greater course selection going forward. Nonetheless, for 2018-2019, MAGG will allow students to substitute HIST 605 for another graduate history course that has an international focus. This curricular change does not require any new resources, and has been submitted for approval.
- 3) In its current form, the economics core course is not working well for the program, the instructor or students. In lieu of offering ECON 637 in 2018-2019, MAGG will ask students to take either a Global Political Economy or an alternative Economics course from a pre-determined menu of courses. This curricular change does not require any new resources, and has been submitted for approval.
- 4) The reviewers noted that the fields in the program do not play a crucial role in the curriculum of the program. While this is true, the fields do give prospective students a sense of the types of issues that are addressed in the program. The MAGG Steering Committee decided that it would follow the lead of the PhD Global Governance program, which is also revisiting the place of the fields in the program as part of its

- cyclical review. The PhD Global Governance program has conducted its review and has concluded that all six do add value to the program. In order to remain consistent with the PhD program, the MAGG program will not be modifying the fields.
- 5) The Committee noted that the reviewers seem to have conflated the Global Affairs Canada Graduate fellowship and internship component of the program. Although students can use their fellowship as their internship, the two are quite separate, and the reviewers' comments really only pertain to the fellowship since the students whom they consulted with had only finished one term of course work at the time of the site visit. The Global Affairs Canada (GAC) fellowship is an integral part of the MAGG, and the program will do all that it can to ensure that all students have a consistent and meaningful experience.
- 2. Communication:** communicate availability of and process to register in courses outside the MAGG program. Revisit communication of program requirements, events, processes and deadlines to students in a more systematic fashion.

Response

The program already communicates a great deal with students, including in the summer prior to beginning the program. All students receive a program handbook that contains program requirements in July, along with information about course offerings. Once in the program, students receive a weekly bulletin listing events and other opportunities. However, good communication is an ongoing issue and the program will strive to have open and clear communication on all matters relating to the program.

- 3. Faculty renewal:** reconsider governance arrangements and a budgetary model to better enable alignment between financial and programmatic needs of MAGG. Reform here should enable faculty renewal to proceed. Existing arrangements make MAGG an orphan program, and orphan programs rarely survive beyond their initial funding cycle.

Response

Given that Global Governance is a program and not a department, faculty renewal is not something the program has any direct control over. However, it is a serious issue for the long-term success of the MAGG as well as the PhDGG. Moreover, there is no appetite at UW to create a "BSIA unit" that would have some say on new hires. Given these structural constraints, the MAGG and PhD program directors would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Deans of the Faculties of Arts and Environment and the Provost to discuss ways in which the needs of the global governance programs can be taken into account when partner departments hire new faculty.

Implementation Plan:

	Recommendations	Proposed Actions	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions	Timeline for addressing Recommendations
1.	Curriculum: 1) consider adding a methodological requirement; 2) examine core course content overlap; 3) recalibrate the economics core requirement; 4) reconsider role of fields in program; 5) specify with more precision processes and benchmarks pertaining to Internship/Fellowship components of program.	The program has acted on items 2 and 3 (see the program’s webpage for such changes and course flexibility offered), and is acting on item 5 (it is currently under consideration and being discussed by Global Governance committees. It does not believe that item 1 would be beneficial to the program (see note above), and is following the lead of the PhD-GG program on item 4.	Suzan Ilcan, Andrew Thompson, and Shelby Davies	Spring 2019
2.	Communication: communicate availability of and process to register in courses outside the MAGG program. Revisit communication of program requirements, events, processes and deadlines to students in a more systematic fashion.	The program already has extensive and regular communications with students, including regular meetings throughout the year, and does provide them with a handbook prior to beginning the year. The handbook includes more than course information, such as information regarding office space, safety protocols, exchanges, getting a library card, etc. Going forward, it	Suzan Ilcan, Andrew Thompson, and Shelby Davies	Ongoing

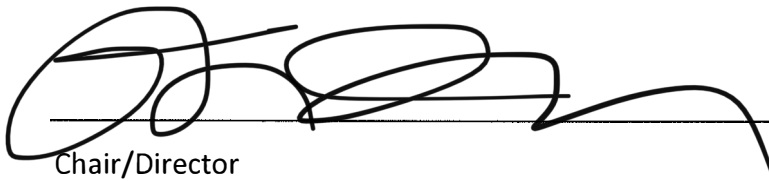
		will strive to improve communications by holding additional group and individual meetings with the students, professionalization workshops, and making the handbook available on-line (such improvement to communications has been addressed this year, 2018, and will continue in the future).		
3.	Faculty renewal: reconsider governance arrangements and a budgetary model to better enable alignment between financial and programmatic needs of MAGG. Reform here should enable faculty renewal to proceed. Existing arrangements make MAGG an orphan program, and orphan programs rarely survive beyond their initial funding cycle.	This is not something that the program has any direct control over. However, the program will discuss with relevant stakeholders possibilities for having some input on new faculty hires in partner departments	Suzan Ilcan	Ongoing

The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.




Date of next program review: _____ 2024-2025
Date

Signatures of Approval:


Chair/Director _____ Date


AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (For AFIW programs only) _____ Date


Faculty Dean _____ Date
23/x/18

Note: AFIW programs falls under the Faculty of ARTS; however, the Dean does not have fiscal control nor authority over staffing and administration of the program.

Associate Vice-President, Academic _____ Date

(For undergraduate and augmented programs)


October 10, 2018

Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs _____ Date

(For graduate and augmented programs)