

Two-Year Progress Report Global Governance (MA) June 2021

Background

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, Resources and Sustainability, and Sociology. MAGG is one of three academic programs housed at the [Balsillie School of International Affairs \(BSIA\)](#), an institute for advanced research, education, and outreach in the fields of global governance and international public policy.

The Final Assessment of the MAGG program's 2017 cyclical review was completed in August 2018. The "summary of key findings" from the external reviewers' assessment was the following:

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.

Progress on Implementation Plan

Recommendations

1. Curriculum

1.1 Consider adding a methodological requirement.

Status: **Completed**

Details: 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 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 directorship of the program agrees that, on a case-by-case basis, students may take a methods course offered by partner departments.

1.2 Examine core course content overlap.

Status: Completed

Details: 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 program directorship understands that this is neither desirable nor necessary. Instead, the program now allows students to choose from a menu of graduate level History courses.

Eligible courses include but are not limited to:

HIST 605 Global Governance in Historical Perspective
HIST 606 International Development in Historical Perspective
HIST 607 Human Rights in Historical Perspective I
HIST 608 Human Rights in Historical Perspective II
HIST 612 Indigenous Rights and Claims: A Global Perspective
HIST 660 Transnational and Global History: Old Problems and New Directions

Senate Graduate Research Council approved this curricular change in December 2018 and it took effect in Spring 2019.

1.3 Recalibrate the economics core requirement.

Status: Completed

Details: The program directorship agrees completely with this recommendation. Like with the History requirement, students may now fulfill the economics requirement by taking

either a Global Political Economy or an alternative Economics course from a pre-determined menu of courses.

Eligible courses include but are not limited to:

GGOV 610/PSCI 688/ PACS 630 Governance of Global Economy
GGOV 611/PSCI 686 Emerging Economies in Global Governance
GGOV 613/PSCI 668 The Politics of National Innovation Systems
GGOV 614/PSCI 614 Global Business and Development
GGOV 615/PSCI 615 Global Poverty
GGOV 618 Special Topics in Global Political Economy
GGOV 619 Readings in Global Political Economy
GGOV 621/PSCI 606/ERS 606 Governing Global Food and Agriculture Systems
GGOV 663/PSCI 619 China and Global Governance
PSCI 683 Topics in International Political Economy
ECON 637 Economic Analysis and Global Governance
ECON 631 International Trade
ECON 635 International Trade and Development
ECON 673 Special Topics in Economics

Senate Graduate Research Council approved this curricular change in December 2018 and it took effect in Spring 2019.

1.4 *Reconsider the role of the fields in the program.*

Status: **Completed**

Details: 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. They do serve a very important role with respect to recruitment. As such, the program remains unchanged in this regard.

1.5 *Specify with more precision processes and benchmarks pertaining to Internship/ Fellowship components of program.*

Status: **Completed**

Details: The Committee noted that the reviewers seem to have conflated the Graduate Fellowship program that is run in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, and internship component of the program. Although students can use their fellowship as their internship, the two are quite separate, and the reviewers' comments 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 Graduate Fellowship Program is an integral part of the

MAGG, and the MAGG program has taken strides to improve all communications pertaining to the Fellowship Program, such as providing more information about the program on the BSIA website.

2. *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.*

Status: Completed

Details: 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, including those outside the MAGG program. This information is also easily accessible on the BSIA website. 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.*

Status: In progress

Details: Given that Global Governance is a program and not a department, faculty renewal is not something the program has any direct control over. Because the program cannot hire its own faculty, staffing courses and finding suitable supervisors for graduate students is an ongoing challenge. However, since the external examiners submitted their report, we have been able to recruit several new scholars from UW to teach courses for the program, such as Dr. Katherine Bruce-Lockhart in the Department of History, and Dr. Philip Boyle in the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies. We are tremendously grateful for the ongoing support of our partner departments.

Update: We continue to work with partner departments and have had some success. Since the review was completed, the History department has hired Dr. Katherine Bruce-Lockhart. She visited with BSIA when she was interviewing, and since being hired has become the lead instructor for the MAGG section of HIST 605. Although not a new hire, Dr. Susan Roy, from History, is now a regular contributor to the program. Dr. Andrea Collins from ERS has been added to the MAGG steering committee and will be teaching GGOV 620 Global Environmental Governance in September 2021. Unfortunately, much more needs to be done to support the MAGG program on a sustainable basis as the

current efforts are merely piecemeal. Whenever faculty members take sabbaticals or when they do not have an interest in teaching a global governance related course for whatever reason, it is often very difficult for us to secure replacement courses for the MAGG program.

I believe a strong effort needs to be done to rectify the insecurity of the program due to limited faculty availability. For example, the Provost and respective Deans (such as Arts, Environment) might be in a position to help secure faculty members directly for the MAGG program, which is what the two assessors recommended in their report. In the interim, a 3-year sessional appointment would be helpful.

Explain any circumstances that have altered the original implementation plan:

N/A.

Address any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review process, or that were not contemplated during the review:

We are constantly trying to improve the MAGG program. Since the final assessment of the program in 2018, we have established a new interdisciplinary field in “Peace Integration,” which we will be offering in partnership with four other UW graduate programs (Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, Master of Development Practice, Master of Climate Change, and Master of Science in Public Health and Health Systems). We have also established a pathways program with American University (AU) in Washington, DC, that grants MAGG graduates to advanced standing at AU’s School of International Service, the biggest school of international affairs in the United States. Last, we are in the process of creating a co-op stream that would complement the internship stream in the program.

Report on anything else you believe is appropriate to bring to Senate concerning this program:

As mentioned above, the faculty resource issue identified in recommendation 3 is an ongoing issue. Senior administration will have to ensure that the MAGG has the necessary faculty support if it is to remain a world-class program in the future.

Updated Implementation Plan

	Recommendations	Proposed Actions	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions	Timeline for addressing Recommendations
1.	Curriculum: 1.1 Consider adding a methodological requirement; 1.2 Examine core course content overlap; 1.3 Recalibrate the economics core requirement; 1.4 Reconsider role of fields in program; 1.5 Specify with more precision processes and benchmarks pertaining to Internship/Fellowship components of program.	The program has acted on all five recommendations	Suzan Ilcan, Andrew Thompson, and Maha Eid	Completed in 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 has adopted more robust, regular and systematic communications with students	Suzan Ilcan, Andrew Thompson, and Maha Eid	Completed
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 continue to discuss long-term staffing with 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:

2024-25

Date

Signatures of Approval:

8 July 2021

Chair/Director

Date

AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (For AFIW programs only)

Date

14 January 2022

Faculty Dean of Arts

Date

Note: AFIW programs fall 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
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)

Date

28 October 2020

Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
(For graduate and augmented programs)

Date