

# Two-Year Progress Report

## Italian Studies (Minor)

### March 2021

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#### **Background**

A first self-study report for the Italian Studies Minor was submitted in July 2018, just months after the retirement of the last remaining full-time faculty member in Italian. The site visit took place on January 23, 2019, and the two reviewers submitted their report the following month. The Department's response to the Final Assessment Report was submitted in December 2019.

Two recommendations were made by the program reviewers. Most urgently, the immediate replacement of the recently retired faculty member was deemed necessary if the Italian Studies program was to survive. The second recommendation encouraged the Department to launch its first online courses, including culture courses capable of attracting large numbers of students.

#### **Progress on Implementation Plan**

We are pleased to report that a search for a tenure-track faculty member in Italian Studies began in September 2019, and we had the good fortune to complete the interview process by March 12, 2020, the day before provincial lockdown due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Our new faculty member began their tenure-track appointment on September 1, 2020, at the rank of Assistant Professor.

Additionally, in Spring 2020, the Department submitted to UGAG a number of requests for calendar changes and new courses in Italian Studies, as well as a new Diploma in Italian Language; all requests were approved and changes now appear in the undergraduate calendar. In 2021-22 we will be offering three new 100-level culture courses, including one which will be prepared as an online course.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Institutionally, if the program is indeed 'Mission Critical' to SJU, it should receive proportional consideration and support. The Review Team feels that this support would be most directly demonstrated by the immediate replacement of at least one of the two retired Italian Studies full-time faculty members with at least one tenure-track position. The

long-term survival of the program depends on this being made a top priority. Replacing both retired faculty members should be a longer-term goal.

**Status: In progress**

Details: One full-time tenure-track faculty member has been hired and we hope to make a second hire by 2025-26, possibly at the rank of Lecturer.

2. The Department of Italian and French should also consider offering some key culture courses online to attract larger numbers of students. The development of such courses requires, however, support from the administration in the form of a tenure-track faculty member who can manifest a longer-term commitment to the program and the institution.

**Status: In progress**

Details: An online beginner's language course (ITAL101) is currently being prepared by our new faculty member in collaboration with CEL, and it will be offered every term (Fall, Winter, Spring) as of September 2021. Work on our first online culture course, ITALST100: *Understanding Modern Italy*, will begin this summer under the guidance of the full-time faculty member in collaboration with a CAS member, and, at the earliest opportunity, with CEL.

**Explain any circumstances that have altered the original implementation plan**

We are well on track with our implementation plan. A silver lining of the current pandemic is that we have been forced to explore new pedagogical approaches and to design innovative online activities. As a result, after three consecutive "remote" offerings of ITAL101, it is now possible to launch a CEL-approved online course in a relatively short period of time.

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

As mentioned above, in 2021-22 we will be offering three new 100-level culture courses, and introducing a Diploma in Italian Language. Additionally, we have pursued a number of collaborative projects with Italian Studies at the School of Languages and Literatures, University of Guelph. For example, we are currently finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement for the shared teaching of our low-enrolment intermediate-level language courses, using a blended teaching model (online instruction and on campus tutorials). As a result, we will be able to offer both ITAL201 and ITAL202 each year (this is essential to our Diploma program), one taught by a SJU instructor and one by a Guelph instructor; students from both campuses may enroll in both courses with each university receiving tuition from its own students. Last year, we also collaborated with Guelph on a 5-week study abroad program in Sorrento, Italy, to be held at the Sant'Anna Institute in May and June 2020. We had recruited six students from Waterloo

and 10 from Guelph when the program had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. All parties hope to renew this collaboration in spring 2022.

At the University of Waterloo, we have met with the departments of Spanish and Latin American Studies, and Germanic and Slavic Studies regarding the contributions Italian Studies could make to the proposed major program in Cultural Identities.

**Report on anything else you believe is appropriate to bring to Senate concerning this program**  
N/A

### Updated Implementation Plan

	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions</b>	<b>Timeline for addressing Recommendations</b>
1.	The immediate replacement of at least one of the two retired full-time faculty members with at least one tenure-track position. Replacing both retired faculty members should be a longer-term goal.	The first hire has been made and a second is planned in the next five years.	VPAD and Department Chair	Assuming budgetary approval, by 2025-26.
2.	Consider offering some key culture courses online to attract larger numbers of students	ITALST100 will be offered remotely in fall 2021 with the intent of developing an online version as soon as CEL support is available.	Faculty member in Italian Studies, Department Chair	By 2023, assuming CEL availability.

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: \_\_\_\_\_ **2025-26**  
Date

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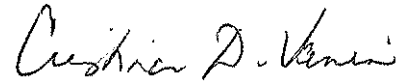
### Signatures of Approval



February 22, 2021

Chair/Director

Date



March 9, 2021

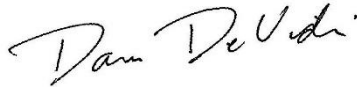
AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (*For AFIW programs only*)

Date

Faculty Dean

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.



April 12, 2021

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

Date

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

Date