

November 29, 2002

Professor Carolyn Tuohy  
Vice-President, Policy Development  
and Associate Provost  
Room 206, Simcoe Hall  
27 King's College Circle  
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Tuohy:

At its meeting of November 26, 2002, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

**THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations to change the admission requirements to its four-year Ph.D. program, effective September 2003, as follows:

That a candidate admitted to this program require a University of Toronto Master of Arts degree in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, or its equivalent from a recognized university, with an A- standing.

The motion and rationale are attached. The proposal was approved at the meeting of the Division I Executive Committee held on November 7, 2002.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees, as appropriate, for approval.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice  
Secretary to SGS Council  
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl.  
/smr

c.c.	S. Girard	C. Johnston	B. Katz
	S. Moore	J. Reilly	L. Yee

**Motion**  
**School of Graduate Studies Council**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2002**

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Item 8.

**Proposals to change admission requirements for the following programs:**

**8.1: Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations**

**MOTION** (    /    ) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations to change the admission requirements to its four-year Ph.D. program, effective September 2003, as follows:

That a candidate admitted to this program require a University of Toronto Master of Arts degree in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, or its equivalent from a recognized university, with an A- standing.

**NOTE:**

Candidates admitted to the four-year program currently require a University of Toronto Master of Arts degree, or the equivalent from a recognized university, with at least a B+ standing.

This proposal was approved by the Division I Executive Committee at its meeting of November 7, 2002.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval and to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies for information.

## **Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations**

### **Rationale for the proposal made by the NMC Department to raise the admission standard to its Ph.D. programme from B+ to A-**

There are several reasons for this proposal:

- 1) The NMC funding policy requires Ph.D. students to maintain an A- average minimum to remain eligible for funding.
- 2) The NMC funding policy gives priority to PhD students. The funded cohort includes all students newly admitted and continuing in the PhD program who maintain an A- average and Direct Entry students (students admitted directly from the BA to the PhD program).
- 3) The NMC Calendar entry, in which B+ is stated to be the minimum average for entry to the PhD program, must be brought into line with the NMC Departmental Awards Policy which states that "New students must have an A- average or better in the final years of their previous program at the University of Toronto, or its equivalent from an approved university."
- 4) The major external funding competitions (SSHRC and OGS) eligibility requirements specify an A- average or better. All NMC students are required by the Department to apply to the major external awards to be eligible for U of T funding.
- 5) The Department receives many applications for the Ph.D. programme every year. The University has now imposed a quota on the number of new Ph.D. students that our Department may accept. The Department can accept only the most highly qualified students as determined in part by grade point average.
- 6) Applicants with an A- minimum average in their MA or previous programme are better prepared for doctoral studies than those with a B+ average.

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James A. Reilly  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations  
University of Toronto