

November 7, 2003

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

Dear Professor Tuohy:

At its meeting of October 28, 2003, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

**THAT** SGS Council approve the program requirement change to the Ph.D.  
Program of the Department of East Asian Studies, as detailed below, effective  
September 2004.

The motion sheet and supporting documentation are attached. Division I Executive Committee approved the proposal on May 8, 2003.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Encl.  
/smr

c.c.	R. Guisso	A. Drummond	C. Johnston	B. Katz	S. Moore
	A. Sakaki	L. Yee	S. Zaky		

## **Motion**

### **School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, October 28, 2003**

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Item 8.

#### **Proposals to change program requirements:**

##### **8.1: East Asian Studies**

**MOTION** (   /   ) **THAT** SGS Council approve the program requirement change to the Ph.D. Program of the Department of East Asian Studies, as detailed below, effective September 2004.

##### **Proposal:**

- 1) That candidates for the Ph.D. be required:
  - (a) to complete a total of four full-course equivalents as approved by the Department; and
  - (b) to complete two full-course equivalents in the first year of the program, with an average grade of at least an A-minus, and the remaining required courses by the end of the second year of the program, maintaining an average of at least an A-minus.
- 2) That candidates for the Ph.D. be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency in two languages other than English relevant to their areas of study before taking their qualifying examinations, the level of proficiency as well as the two languages to be determined by the Department.

Note: The Department will assist students to acquire the necessary language skills in a timely manner.

*Rationale and Calendar entry attached.*

##### **NOTE:**

Division I Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of May 8, 2003. With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for information.

Item #8.1

**East Asian Studies Ph.D. Program Requirement Changes**

The rationale for Item 1) is only to elevate the level of excellence to A- so as to further motivate the students to accomplish their work at a higher level, and to make the program more competitive.

The rationale for Item 2) is to mandate the language requirements, which hitherto have been recommended or suggested to the students. The reason that the two languages should be required of each and every Ph.D. student is that he/she needs to master the primary language used in the area of his/her study (China, Korea, or Japan, most typically), and to acquire a working proficiency of the research language in which most significant scholarly works have been produced in the study of the area of his/her specialty (again, China, Korea, or Japan). While what deems the primary language for each student is obvious, the research language needs to be chosen in light of a given student's research interest, defined by factors including the area, the discipline, and the historical period. (Normally, students in pre-modern Chinese studies should acquire a level of proficiency in Japanese, as scholarship in Japanese excels in the field. Students in modern Chinese studies may opt for Japanese, French, German or Russian. Students in pre-modern Korean studies should choose classical Chinese. Students in modern Korean studies should choose modern Japanese. Students in pre-modern Japanese studies should choose classical Chinese. Students in modern Japanese should choose French, German or Russian. There may be other options depending upon research interests of a given student.) It is for that reason that the second language is not specified in the motion, and rather is stipulated so as to be individually determined in consultation with the department.

In consideration of the limited resources for East Asian language acquisition provided at the University of Toronto, and varying opportunities to study languages abroad, the regulation should be phrased with a degree of flexibility as to the level to be achieved by a given student, as it is in the motion. Ideally, the level should be sufficient for the student to read the required texts (primary and scholarly) in the languages. Given the fact that East Asian languages require more than a few years of study for any non-native speaker to functionally use, however, the department may be compelled to make a realistic decision on occasions.

**8.1     East Asian Studies:   Calendar Entry, Revised:**

**Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

The normal requirement for admission to the Ph.D. program is completion of the M.A. program in the Department of East Asian Studies, or its equivalent from a recognized university, with an average grade of at least A minus. Departmental assessment may also permit registration directly from a B.A. degree in the most exceptional cases where, for instance, there is a very high grade-point average or a well-documented demonstration of capacity for original research.

The Department requires *that candidates for the Ph.D. be required to complete a total of four full-course equivalents, as approved by the Department; and to complete two full-course equivalents in the first year of the program, with an average grade of at least an A-, and the remaining required courses by the end of the second year of the program, maintaining an average of at least an A-.* One course in bibliography and reference sources is required of all students and is usually taken at the M.A. level. If not, with departmental permission, this course may be counted as one of the courses required for the major area. Students are encouraged to take some of their courses outside the department.

A comprehensive qualifying examination is normally undertaken within three months of completion of course work and must be taken by the beginning of the fourth year of study. *The candidates are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency in two languages other than English relevant to their areas of study before taking their qualifying examinations, the level of proficiency as well as the two languages to be determined by the Department.* Please consult the Web site for details of this and other requirements. All programs are designed in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator. In certain circumstances extra course work may be required.