



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: October 18, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 3

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Faculty of Arts and Science: Language Citation**

### **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section 4.3 of the Committee's terms of reference, Academic Regulations, state that "the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has authority for approval of changes to academic regulations and other matters affecting divisional calendars."

### **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences wishes to enhance study in languages and especially to encourage students to pursue language study at more advanced levels. The undergraduate Language Citation is intended to provide an incentive to students who are interested in intensive study of a particular language but who do not necessarily wish to complete the major or minor program in the language. The Citation signals on the transcript that a student has completed through the third-year of language study and achieved the grade point average required for the citation.

The language citation is neither a substitute for a minor program in a language, nor does it impede a student wishing to complete such a minor. The citation is different from a minor in two critical elements: it requires that courses be taken in language study and it requires that students meet a high grade point requirement. A minor typically has more course selection flexibility (e.g. courses in literature, cinema, and culture) and the grade point requirement is only that students meet the minimum passing grade. It is important to note that students fulfilling the requirements for a language citation in a particular language would have this achievement noted on their transcripts. Also, students completing a minor or major program in a language who at the same time meet the minimum grade requirements for a language citation would have both the citation and the minor noted on their transcripts.

The University of Toronto is an ideal place for students to pursue advanced study of languages. Our students live in a country that promotes multiculturalism and our university is located in one of the world's most diverse cities. We offer significant language opportunities in both ancient and modern languages. We also offer a variety of international academic programs and the number of such programs will expand. As our students seek further international study, work opportunities, and post-graduate study, the intensive study required for the language citation would allow students to take better advantage of our rich language offerings and to acquire greater proficiency in any one of a large number of languages needed for work opportunities or post-graduate study in fields ranging from Anthropology, Classics, Economics, History, History and Philosophy of Science, Medieval Studies, Languages and Literatures, Law, which require knowledge of a language other than English.

The U of T undergraduate Language Citation can be earned in any language, modern or ancient, which provides sufficient advanced training at the University of Toronto. Students must take two

FCEs beyond the first year of language instruction and must earn a minimum grade of B- in each of the courses. Students may also count advanced literature or linguistics courses towards the citation if they are taught in the target language and recognized as sufficiently advanced for the purposes of the language citation. Hence for languages in which the University offers a sequence of only two years of language instruction, a language citation could be earned through taking two years of courses in that language plus an advanced course in literature or culture taught in the language. Students wishing to earn credits in the country where the language of study is spoken, should discuss study abroad programs with the appropriate department or college.

The language citation is not a program. It is distinguished from a minor in that it stipulates that 2 FCEs in upper level courses count towards achieving a citation and, crucially, that a high grade in each of those courses is essential. Furthermore, the Language Citation focuses on language acquisition whereas a minor includes a broad range of disciplines including, for example, courses in literature and cultural studies. It should be clear that the Citation and a major or minor in a language program are complementary, not conflicting. The Student who achieves the Language Citation is recognized for level and quality of achievement.

The following departments, colleges and programs on the U of T's three campuses have already indicated their wish to offer a language citation: Aboriginal Studies/UC; Celtic Studies/SMC; Centre for Medieval Studies; Classics; East Asian Studies; French; Germanic Languages and Literature; Italian Studies; Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations; Slavic Languages and Literatures; Spanish and Portuguese; Department of Humanities UTSC; Department of French, German and Italian UTM; and Department of Historical Studies UTM. These units offer the intermediate and advanced courses needed for a language citation in at least the following languages: Akkadian, Ancient Greek, Arabic, Aramaic, Bengali, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Yiddish.

The option of earning a language citation would be available to students in faculties other than Arts and Science. Details regarding the implementation and administration of the citation are included in the attached Appendix.

The language citation was approved by the Arts and Science Faculty Council on October 3, 2006.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no new/additional financial resources required.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Subject to approval by the Arts and Science Faculty Council,

THAT, with effect for the 2006-07 session, the certification of completion of the requirements of a language citation be approved for students in the Faculty of Arts and Science who have completed at least two full courses or equivalent in that language beyond the introductory University-level course with a minimum grade of at least B- in each course; and

THAT comparable certification be approved for students in any other division of the University upon approval of such certification by the Council of that division.