



FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-2122, vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: As Above

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: February 6, 2014 for February 25, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for the closure of the Major in Italian Second Language Learning within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, Faculty of Arts and Science.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves the closures of undergraduate programs within an existing degree, as defined by the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process. (*AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.b.i.*)

GOVERNANCE PATH:

Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (February 25, 2014)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

This proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts & Science Council February 5, 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for the closure of the current Major in Italian Second Language Learning within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science. The decision to close the Major comes out of the ongoing Curriculum Renewal process in the Faculty of Arts and Science. As part of this process, the Department of Italian Studies has recognized that the academic requirements and learning outcomes of the Major in Italian Second Language Learning are virtually indistinguishable from those of the existing Major in Italian. Demand for

the former has also always been low and the Department did not feel that there was sufficient demand to warrant bringing forward a significant revision to the Major in order to establish it on a stronger and differentiated academic footing.

The Department will continue to offer the Specialist, Major, and Minor in Italian. As a consequence, students in progress in the Major in Italian Second Language Learning will be able to access the individual courses required to complete their program.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the proposed Major in Italian Second Language Learning within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, as described in the attached proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated December 13, 2013, be approved, with an effective date of April 2014 for the closure of admissions and an anticipated program closure date of May 2017.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Proposal for the Closure of the Major in Italian Second Language Learning

University of Toronto
Closure of an Existing Program Proposal (Undergraduate)

(This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process.)

Section 1

Closure Proposed: Italian Second Language Learning - Major

Department / Unit: Italian Studies

Faculty / Academic Division: Arts and Science

Faculty / Academic Division contact: Anne-Marie Brousseau

Department / Unit contact: Mirella Pasquarelli Clivio (italian.undergrad@utoronto.ca)

Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: April 2014

Effective date of full closure of program: May 2017

Version Date: December 13, 2013

Section 2

Brief Summary

The Department of Italian Studies proposes the closure of the **Major in Italian Second Language Learning**. The proposed closure will not impact the students currently enrolled in the program, who will be able to complete their program as planned, or potential students interested in Italian Studies. The reason for closing the program is its lack of specificity. The only differences between the Major in Italian Second Language Learning and the Major in Italian are the following 1) one course which is required in the former (JFI225Y1) is an only option in the latter; 2) among the 1.0 FCE required from a selection of 300- and 400-level ITA courses, the selection is less limited in the Major in Italian. The two program lack distinctiveness and do not provide a clear roadmap to students choosing a POST in Italian Studies.

The closure is coherent with the efforts made by the Faculty of Arts & Science to streamline programs in the context of the Curriculum Renewal and the UTQAP framework, as well as with the effort of the department to strengthen their programs according to their academic priorities and resources.

All students enrolled in an Italian Studies program were invited to attend a consultation meeting (November 18, 2013) and to share their concerns by email. Students did not respond to the invitation, which we interpret as a lack of concerns.

1. Rationale

In 2008-09 the Faculty of Arts & Science participated in a curriculum review process and developed the degree level expectations for its undergraduate degrees. Since then, the Faculty's academic units have been reviewing all of their programs to align them with degree level expectations and degree requirements, as required by the UTQAP framework. Several factors play a role in decisions about the appropriateness and viability of a set of POSTs: academic rationale, student demand, and unit-level support.

There is no academic rationale to support the continuation of the Major in Italian Second Language Learning in its current format, given its lack of specificity with regards to the Major in Italian. The

only differences between the Major in Italian Second Language Learning and the Major in Italian are the following 1) one course which is required in the former (JFI225Y1) is an only option in the latter; 2) among the 1.0 FCE required from a selection of 300- and 400-level ITA courses, the selection is less limited in the Major in Italian. Students enrolled in the program would achieve identical learning outcomes and competencies by enrolling in the corresponding Major in Italian. The two programs lack distinctiveness and do not provide a clear roadmap to students choosing a POST in Italian Studies.

Since its inception in 1998, student demand for this program has not been high. With a total of 12 for all years combined (see table in section 3 below), the program is by far the less popular within Italian Studies. In other programs, enrolment is as follows: Major in Italian (55 students), Specialist (14) Minor in Italian (125), Minor in Italian Culture and Communications (20).

The Department considered strengthening the program and making it distinctive, with the addition of a series of specific core courses, including a capstone course in fourth-year providing the integrative, inquiry-based required for all majors and specialist. However, the Department does not currently have sufficient resources needed to continue offering or strengthening the program nor can the Department create new core courses focusing on second language learning and teaching. The unit has been undertaking a review of all its courses (language, literature, cinema, linguistics, culture, Italian-Canadian studies) to be able to better address and serve the needs of the students today and in the immediate future. The closure of the Second Language Teaching and Learning Major reflects our efforts to streamline and strengthen our offerings. Given that enrolment has consistently been low in the program and that the resources needed to continue offering it would be too onerous for the Department, it was decided that the best solution is to delete the program altogether.

2. Impact on Other Programs/Units of the Proposed Closure

Students in the Second Language Learning Major can pursue the very same learning trajectory within the Major in Italian, but the latter program offers a wider choice of courses in the required groups, hence providing more flexibility for students to develop breadth and depth of knowledge. There are no negative implications of the planned closure neither within the department nor within programs which include courses from the department, as these courses are still part of the offerings.

3. Student Accommodation and Consultation

Current enrolment – November 1st, 2013

	<i>Year one</i>	<i>Year two</i>	<i>Year three</i>	<i>Year four</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Current enrolment</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>

All students will be allowed to complete their program as planned. As all the courses required for the program are also offered for the Italian Major and Italian Specialist, there will be no impact on the students currently enrolled in the program, even if their time to completion extends beyond the expected date of May 2017. There are no inactive students in the program at this time.

Starting April 2014, students interested in Italian Studies POST will have one specialist, one major, and two minors from which to choose.

All students currently enrolled in ITA Specialist and Major programs have been notified by e-mail of the proposed closure. The email provided a rationale for the change along with a FAQ, and an invitation to express their opinions, comments, and concerns. A meeting was called on Nov. 18, 2013 in Carr Hall to provide a forum in which students could gather more information and have their

questions answered. No students attended the meeting and no communication, by email or otherwise, was received from them.

4. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

No impact.

5. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing specialist or major)
<i>Submission to Provost's Office</i>	
	AP&P (approval of program closures: undergraduate specialists/majors)
	Academic Board (approval of degree closures)
	Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, graduate program, diploma closures)
<i>Inclusion in Annual Report to Quality Council</i>	
<i>Inclusion in Annual Report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</i>	