



FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Planning & Budget Committee

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DATE: April 2, 2025 for April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for the Academic Restructuring of the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The *Policy and Procedures for Faculty and Librarians on Academic Restructuring* “applies to the disestablishment, amalgamation, or relocation from one campus to another campus of Academic Units¹ requiring the recommendation or approval of the Academic Board, the Executive Committee of Governing Council or the Governing Council as the case may be (referred to hereinafter as “Academic Restructuring”).” (Section 2)

The Planning and Budget Committee “recommends to the Academic Board on plans and proposals to... disestablish, or significantly restructure academic units.” (Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.1).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Planning & Budget Committee [For Recommendation] (April 9, 2025)**
2. Academic Board [For Recommendation] (April 24, 2025)
3. Executive Committee [For Endorsement and Forwarding] (May 6, 2025)
4. Governing Council [For Approval] (May 22, 2025)

¹ Defined in the Policy as “Divisions, Faculties, Departments, Institutes, Centres or Schools with Extra Departmental Unit A or B status, and Colleges where the primary appointment of a faculty member is held within the College.”

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The *Policy and Procedures for Faculty and Librarians on Academic Restructuring* was approved by Governing Council on February 26, 2015.

The Faculty of & Arts and Science approved the Proposal for Academic Restructuring of the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at its Faculty Council meeting on March 19, 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This restructuring proposal is to amalgamate the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese into a new Department named the Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. The proposal also amalgamates the two associated graduate units: Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish, resulting in the new graduate unit named Department of Italian and Spanish Studies. Faculty and staff, undergraduate and graduate programs will be moved to the new Department with an expanded remit. The Faculty of Arts and Science, which has administrative and budgetary responsibility for both entities, will continue to have this responsibility for the restructured entity.

The academic case for amalgamation centres on the disciplinary complementarity of Italian Studies and Spanish and Portuguese, as well as the advantages of scale and competitiveness that joining together will offer a new unit. In a unified department, the linguistic, historical and cultural relations that link Latin America, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and their respective diasporas can be more effectively leveraged to provide innovative courses and to renew existing programs. While retaining the specificity of each language program, the department will be able to create courses on these cultural contact zones, as well as on other topics of common interest such as language pedagogy that will enhance teaching of the various programs, provide more choice and flexibility to students, and allow the new unit to extend its offerings in areas into which the individual departments would otherwise not have the resources to expand. Finally, a unified department would also be particularly attractive to graduate students, who would benefit from enriched and diversified courses and research opportunities, as well as a more dynamic academic environment with greater cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Guided by the University's [*Policy and Procedures for Faculty and Librarians on Academic Restructuring*](#), between May and September 2024 the two departments embarked on a series of consultations with stakeholders to investigate the academic merit of an amalgamation. Specifically, the discussions considered if amalgamation would position the two Departments to more effectively fulfill their potential and advance the University's reputation in terms of education, research and impact in the fields of Italian Studies, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, and if so, what form amalgamation should take. Dean Melanie Woodin appointed Professor Gillian Hamilton, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and her team to support the consultation process.

On November 8, 2024, a draft proposal for academic restructuring was released and all faculty members in the two units were notified in writing on November 8, 2024 that academic restructuring was being

proposed. As required under the Policy, this triggered a 120-day period of consultation, during which the Departmental Chairs were asked to establish and communicate a process to engage faculty members in collegial discussion. The two Chairs hosted a series of meetings with faculty members, students and staff from their units to hear the details of the proposal and provide input. In Winter 2025, a draft of the proposal was presented to both the tri-campus Deans and the Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The draft proposal was also circulated for feedback to cognate departments at UTM and UTSC via their respective Dean's offices. Supportive written comments were received and feedback incorporated into this proposal. At the conclusion of the 120-day period, which ended on March 8, 2025, no alternatives to the proposed restructuring were received.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The operating budgets of the two existing Departments are provided by the Faculty of Arts & Science. At the time of amalgamation the Faculty will combine these budgets, without reduction, into a single budget to fund the new Department. Post-amalgamation budgetary allocations will be made in accordance with the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts & Science.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended:

THAT the academic restructuring described in the Proposal for Academic Restructuring of the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (March 10, 2025), be approved, effective July 1, 2025.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Proposal for Academic Restructuring of the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Proposal for Academic Restructuring of the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Faculty of Arts & Science

Executive Summary

Proposal: Amalgamation of two departments in the Faculty of Arts & Science

Current Departments: Department of Italian Studies and Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Proposed Amalgamated Department: Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Proposal Date: March 10, 2025

The Department of Italian Studies is a department within the Faculty of Arts & Science, offering a Master of Arts and a PhD in Italian, and undergraduate programs in Italian (Specialist, Major, Minor) and Italian Culture and Communications Studies (Minor). The Department of Italian Studies is the largest of its kind in Canada, and one of the largest in North America. The intellectual focus of the department has moved in the direction of interdisciplinary work and collaboration with other units. Enrollments in the department have fallen in recent years, consistent with larger trends across Humanities and Language departments as well as a shift in demographics with the end of major migration from Italy to the GTA in the 1970s.

In the 2021 external review of the Department of Italian Studies and its programs, reviewers noted the disciplinary strength of the Department, yet indicated that:

There is no denying, however, that given enrollment decline, the program must find ways to prosper on a new scale, in new configurations. We have the strong impression that the faculty recognize that this evolving landscape will require of them a set of innovative proposals for the Department's reinforcement.... [It] would certainly make sense to pursue close relationships with language and literature departments - particularly since ITA seems to value its role in both linguistics and language pedagogy.

The Department of Spanish & Portuguese is a department within the Faculty of Arts & Science, offering a Master's and a PhD in Spanish, and undergraduate programs in Spanish (Specialist, Major, Minor), Portuguese (Specialist, Major, Minor) and Latin American Studies (Major, Minor). Since 2019, the Department of Spanish & Portuguese has been the administrative home of the previously freestanding Latin American Studies programs.

Spanish is the largest Spanish program in Canada, with a rich range of courses in literature and culture (Iberian and Latin American), history and linguistics. Portuguese is a unique

academic program in Canada, with a very interdisciplinary and transnational curriculum, offering courses in linguistics, film, environmental humanities, and literature in a Transatlantic context, Portuguese, Brazilian and Luso-African texts and contexts, as well as courses that reflect on the African diasporic experience. Latin American Studies is the largest undergraduate Latin American Studies program in Canada (by enrollment), with a deep engagement with students and a large community.

The Department of Spanish & Portuguese will be undergoing UTQAP review in 2025. In the previous external reviewers' report (2017-18), the reviewers noted the disciplinary strengths of the Department, as well as the innovative approaches taken to establish resiliency in a time of declining enrollments, yet also noted the high percentage of faculty serving in administrative roles in the Department, and the deleterious effect this can have on faculty workloads.

Both Departments face challenges with respect to building committees and supporting service, due to relatively small faculty complements. The Departments have already established a practice of supporting each other through acting on tenure and promotion committees, and this close relationship has led to reflection and consultation regarding the relationship between the two departments and a possible amalgamated future.

Guided by the University's [Policy and Procedures for Faculty and Librarians on Academic Restructuring](#), between February and September 2024 the two departments embarked on a series of consultations with stakeholders to investigate the academic merit of an amalgamation. Specifically, the discussions considered if amalgamation would position the two Departments to more effectively fulfill their potential and advance the University's reputation in terms of education, research and impact in the fields of Italian Studies, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, and if so, what form amalgamation should take.

Dean Melanie Woodin appointed Professor Gillian Hamilton, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and her team to support the consultation process. These deliberations and input have been carefully considered in the drafting of this proposal, which outlines the consensus of the departmental and Faculty of Arts & Science leadership about the optimal way forward to build on the distinctive and complementary strengths of the two units.

Based on a compelling academic rationale, outlined below, and widespread support within the two departments and the Faculty of Arts & Science, this proposal recommends amalgamation, specifically that the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese be disestablished, and that the faculty, staff and programs move to a newly constituted department, named Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. The Graduate Units called the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish will similarly be disestablished and a new graduate unit named Department of Italian and Spanish Studies be created through this proposal.

These are the only changes proposed. The academic programs associated with each Department will remain as is.

If approved, we propose that the academic restructuring take place effective July 1, 2025.

Consultation Process

Commencing February 2024, the leadership of the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese began undertaking a collegial, inclusive and deliberative process of consultations with stakeholders in both Departments.

Dean Melanie Woodin appointed Professor Gillian Hamilton, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning and her team to support the consultation process. Guided by the University's Policy and Procedures for Faculty and Librarians on Academic Restructuring, these consultations focused on the faculty appointed to these two units and on their academic leadership, and expanded to include groups of students, leaders of cognate units and other stakeholders. A total of 11 internal group meetings, as well as individual meetings with faculty members took place, and the departments received written comments and feedback from their faculty. As well, an academic rationale drafted by the chairs of the respective units, Luca Somigli and Ana Perez-Leroux, in favour of amalgamation was shared with the academic community. Graduate and undergraduate students across both departments were invited via email, social media, and printed posters to attend an in-person town hall on October 2nd led by both Chairs. In addition, written input was received from stakeholders across the University.

These deliberations, input and concerns were taken into consideration by the leadership of the respective units, which has been closely involved in the drafting of this proposal. There has been wide support from the faculty and staff of both departments, with any concerns framed around logistical matters such as space, which this proposal also addresses. Although, as noted earlier in this proposal, some cognate Chairs raised concerns about the precedent this change might set, others who had also previously undergone amalgamation or academic restructuring spoke in favour of the changes. The discussion paper was circulated to tri-campus colleagues and graduate faculty members for information and feedback (see Appendix 3).

The students had logistical questions about their programs and post-amalgamation structures of student unions, graduate TA and teaching appointments, and were broadly supportive of the proposed change.

In Winter 2025, a draft of the proposal was presented by Vice-Dean Hamilton to both the tri-campus Deans and the Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The draft proposal was also circulated for feedback to cognate departments at UTM and UTSC via their respective Dean's offices. Supportive written comments were received and feedback incorporated into this proposal.

See Appendix 2 for complete list of consultations.

Academic Rationale

The strong academic case for amalgamation centres on the ***disciplinary complementarity*** of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese, as well as the advantages of ***scale and competitiveness*** that joining together will offer a new unit.

The disciplines of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese studies have evolved significantly in recent decades. In both teaching and research, the traditional structuring of language programs around the study of literature divided along broad chronological periods is increasingly showing its limitations. The research conducted within language departments has transcended the nation-state model, and is not circumscribed within a particular time and space. Intellectual trends in literary and cultural studies encourage thinking outside of the historical model, and looking at literary and cultural production from a thematic, rather than periodized, perspective. The work done by specialists in Romance linguistics focuses on microvariation within languages and the theoretical consequences of such variation, with the issues of language contact, linguistic diasporas, and bilingualism becoming central in their research.

The existing departments have both been at the forefront of these disciplinary transformations, moving away from the historical/regional model towards different areas of research, in part through cross-appointments with other A&S departments and centres, including Linguistics (Spanish & Portuguese), the Centre for Comparative Literature (Spanish & Portuguese), the Centre for Medieval Studies (Italian Studies; Spanish & Portuguese), the Cinema Studies Institute (Italian Studies), the Centre for Caribbean Studies (Spanish & Portuguese), the Renaissance Studies programs at Victoria College (Italian Studies) and at the Centre for Diaspora & Transnational Studies (Italian Studies). In addition, faculty members in both departments collaborate extensively with colleagues from other units, including the above as well as (but not limited to) the A&S Departments of Philosophy, History, French, and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine's Department of Speech-Language Pathology, Victoria University's Centre for Renaissance & Reformation Studies, the Centre for Global Disability Studies at University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), UTSC's Culinary Research Centre, and University College's Cognitive Science programs. These collaborations underscore further the limitations of the traditional models described above, but also the opportunities that can arise from working across disciplinary boundaries. Finally, it should be noted that the interdisciplinary work of the departments of Italian Studies and of Spanish and Portuguese has been facilitated by their strong ties with colleges and their programs, also as a result of being housed at St. Michael's College and Victoria College respectively. Members of the two departments teach in college programs such as Renaissance Studies, Book and Media Studies, and Canadian Studies, and also serve in administrative capacities within various colleges (e.g., Robert Davidson is the director of the Northrop Frye Centre at Victoria College; Eva-Lynn Jago is Vice-Principal of Innis College).

In terms of the complementarity of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese in particular, it is useful to reflect on the linguistic, historical and cultural relations that connect Italy, Spain, Portugal,

Latin America and the various diasporas. The complementarity and interconnections encourage interdisciplinary work while at the same time providing cohesion and a sense of shared mission for the new unit ensuing from this amalgamation. From a linguistic perspective, for instance, the four languages taught in the units – Catalan, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish – are the main languages within the Italo-Western subfamily of the Romance languages. The cultures that share these languages are likewise linked by long-standing and enduring relations and points of contact. In Europe, the Mediterranean has always been a space of encounter and exchange linking the Iberian and the Italian peninsulas. At different times from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, parts of modern-day Italy have been under the direct or indirect rule of Spain, with a lasting impact on the cultures of both nations. In the Americas, Spanish was the dominant language of the conquest and colonization, followed by the emergence of Portuguese colonies in mid-sixteenth century. However, figures like Colombo/Colón and Vespucci attest to the interconnection of the Italic and Iberic peninsulas in the transatlantic project. A substantive Italian diaspora arrived early to Portuguese - and to Spanish - speaking Latin America, while in the twentieth-century diasporas from Latin America, Spain and Italy have shared common experiences in the United States and Canada.

In a unified department, the linguistic, historical and cultural relations that link Latin America, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and their respective diasporas can be more effectively leveraged to provide innovative courses and to renew our existing programs, while continuing to support the differences. While retaining the specificity of each language program, the department will now be able to create courses on these cultural contact zones, as well as on other topics of common interest such as language pedagogy that will enhance teaching of the various programs, provide more choice and flexibility to students, and allow the new unit to extend its offerings in areas into which the individual departments would otherwise not have the resources to expand. Finally, a unified department would also be particularly attractive to graduate students, who would benefit from enriched and diversified courses and research opportunities, as well as a more dynamic academic environment with greater cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Across North American universities, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese often share an academic home, as a single department or as part of a Romance language or modern language department. In addition, there is historical precedent at the University of Toronto for this unit organization, as Spanish and Italian were taught under the same department on the St. George campus from 1887 until the early 1970s. In 1947-48 the Department was renamed as Department of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. In 1973, the Department of Italian Studies constituted an independent unit, and the complementary unit was renamed as Department of Spanish and Portuguese in 1978. At the time, the trend was for language departments to differentiate their departmental structures to be more specialized. In addition, specific circumstances made it advisable and feasible to split the unified department into two units. For Italian, the large immigration from Italy well into the 1980s and the ensuing high demand for courses and degrees as well as the extensive offering of Italian in the secondary school system fostered a growth in its faculty. Spanish and Portuguese remained as a single unit, which also teaches the Catalan language. This unit

saw substantive growth into the twenty-first century, supported by the continuing diaspora from both Lusophone and Hispanophone Iberia, and from Brazil and various countries in the Spanish-speaking Americas. In 2019, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese became the administrative home of the previously freestanding Latin American Studies programs.

Half a century after the initial departmental split, and in very different circumstances, bringing the two units back together provides a unique opportunity to diversify the curricula and conceive new courses as well allow for stronger support of teaching and administrative responsibilities, as the full complement will be supporting the administrative overhead of a single unit, and the teaching needs can be coordinated to support student and program needs. In the long term, the programs that can better meet the needs of students and therefore contribute to stemming the reduction in enrollments that has characterized most language and culture programs in North America over the last decade. Indeed, the two units have already been actively sharing faculty on departmental and thesis committees given common interests and limitations in faculty complement. Amalgamating the two units allows a practice of necessity to turn into a formalized opportunity for growth and collaboration. It can also help the unit pursue more effectively its recruiting and outreach needs by freeing up staff resources that can be redeployed to improve its community presence.

This proposed unit aims to leverage the combined complements of the two departments to strengthen the integration between teaching the disciplinary content of courses (literary, cultural and linguistic studies) and first-rate language teaching in the southern Romance languages currently taught and to develop new courses to explore topics of contemporary relevance. This unit will strive to become a world-class hub of inquiry into the cultural and linguistic contact zones inhabited by speakers of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese in both Europe and the Americas.

Throughout the consultation process, two models of an academic relationship between the two entities were considered by the leadership and other stakeholders.

OPTION 1: SEPARATE GOVERNANCE (STATUS QUO, NO CHANGE)

The first option was to retain two separate entities that preserve their current Departmental statuses, with potential opportunities to develop synergies in key disciplinary areas, with continued collaboration on tenure and promotion committees, structured by the faculty and administrators responsible.

OPTION 2: AMALGAMATION (ACADEMIC CHANGE) – THE PROPOSED APPROACH

The second model is a formal amalgamation or merger between the entities, which would require disestablishing both the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, as well as the current graduate units, and moving the undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty, and staff to a newly-created Department.

In consultations with cognate departments, Chairs in the languages raised concerns about the amalgamation of the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese acting as a ‘thin wedge’ towards amalgamating all language departments in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Professors Perez-Leroux and Somigli assured the cognate Chairs that this was not their intent nor under consideration, and that this proposed amalgamation is built on the particular disciplinary complementarities of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese, as well as their existing collaborative relationships. The amalgamated academic organizational structure would support the new Department in filling academic administrative roles and supporting committees, drawing from the larger appointed faculty complement.

Informed by the widely supportive feedback from faculty and staff in both the Department of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese, as well as the disciplinary complementarity of the two units, the two Chairs made the decision to pursue amalgamation. The scale and competitiveness of this new unit will allow Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese to flourish together.

Proposed Academic Restructuring

The Faculty of Arts & Science proposes to disestablish the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and move their faculty lines, staff, graduate programs, and undergraduate programs, to a new Department with an expanded remit. We further propose that the new Department be named the Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies to reflect the expanded remit.

The Faculty of Arts & Science, which has administrative and budgetary responsibility for both entities, will continue to have this responsibility for the restructured entity.

Relevant Information and Implications Pertaining to the Rationale

Following amalgamation, the budgetary Department will be named as the Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies.

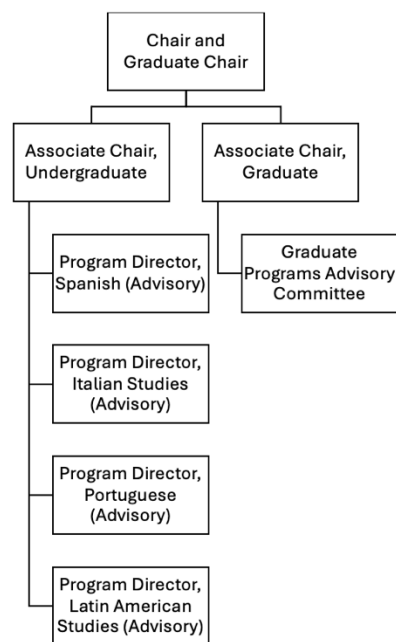
The Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies will be headed by a Chair appointed in accordance with the University of Toronto’s [*Policy on the Appointment of Academic Administrators*](#) (PAAA). A search for the Chair of the new department will commence upon the effective date on the amalgamation.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science has begun consultations to identify an interim Chair, pending approval of the academic restructuring, to lead the new department from July 1, 2025 until such a time as the Chair is appointed.

As per the PAAA, the Chair will have responsibility for the management of the Department and for the implementation of University policy in all aspects of its operation. However, in the development and implementation of policy, the Chair shall seek the advice of the teaching staff expressed through either a representative committee or regular meetings of the members of the Department. The Chair will have responsibility for implementing the appropriate committee structure, but there should be regularly scheduled meetings of a representative committee and of the members of the department. All members of the teaching staff of the newly established unit will be provided with opportunities to serve on committees in a manner that is fair and transparent.

Currently, both departments are led by a single Chair, serving as both the budgetary and graduate chair of their respective departments. Each department has an Associate Chair, Undergraduate, and an Associate Chair, Graduate. In the new department, this leadership structure will be maintained. Hence, in consultation with faculty, the Chair will appoint Associate Chairs, Undergraduate and Graduate, with advisory program directors and a Graduate Programs Advisory Committee to support the unique academic goals of the different programs of study at the undergraduate and graduate level. (see Figure A for the proposed structure, which will be finalized pending consultation with the full faculty complement).

Figure A: Proposed Academic Governance Structure of the Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies



There are few implications for the undergraduate and graduate programs within the existing Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese. None of the programs, undergraduate or graduate, will be modified in content or structure as a result of this change; they will simply be administratively transferred “as-is” into the new department. As both Departments are in the process of, or have recently undergone UTQAP review, in the future the department and the Dean’s office will assess the possibility of combining the review of all the programs. Below is a list of the programs and units offering or supporting them:

Programs offered by the Department of Italian Studies

Undergraduate programs

Italian Specialist

Italian Major

Italian Minor

Italian Culture and Communications Studies Minor

Graduate programs

Master of Arts in Italian

- Field:
 - Italian Literature

Doctor of Philosophy in Italian

- Fields:
 - Middle Ages and Renaissance;
 - Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries;
 - Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

The MA and PhD programs participate in the graduate collaborative specialization in Sexual Diversity Studies.

Programs offered by the Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Undergraduate programs

Spanish Specialist

Spanish Major

Spanish Minor

Portuguese Specialist

Portuguese Major

Portuguese Minor

Latin American Studies Major
Latin American Studies Minor

Graduate programs

Master of Arts in Spanish

- Fields:
 - Hispanic Linguistics;
 - Hispanic Literatures and Cultures

Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish

- Fields:
 - Hispanic Linguistics;
 - Hispanic Literatures and Cultures

The MA and PhD programs participate in the graduate Collaborative Specialization in Diaspora and Transnational Studies; Women and Gender Studies and the PhD participates in the Collaborative Specialization in Food Studies.

In addition, both Departments participate in the following graduate collaborative specializations:

Book History & Print Culture

There are no implications for the research and public engagement entities and activities of the current Departments. Research grants administered by the current departments will continue to be administered under the same terms by the new Department until such a time as the terms may be evaluated.

Public engagement activities currently under the purview of the two current Departments will fall under the purview of the new Department.

Department of Italian Studies Public Engagement Activities and Research Chairs

The Emilio Goggio Chair in Italian Studies

Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies

- Queer Italian-Canadian Artists
- Indigenous-Italian-Canadian Connections
- Italian Canadiana

Global Languages Initiative

Osservatorio degli Italianismi nel Mondo - Accademia della Crusca

Sciascia Archive Project

Toronto Italian Comics Studies

Department of Spanish & Portuguese Public Engagement Activities and Research Chairs

Partnership with the Camoes Institute/Leitorado program
Collaboration with Community NGOs: Inspirad@s, Canada Habla Español, Collective 65, Celebracion Cultural del Idioma Español, LusoCan Tuna, El Club Hispano
Annual departmental lecture series free and open to the general public (e.g. 2023-2024 Lecture Series: 20 public lectures, 2 book launches)
Collaborations on various activities with: Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto, Consulate General of Brazil in Toronto, Instituto Guimaraes Rosa, Consulate General of Argentina in Toronto, Embassy of Portugal in Canada, Consulate General of Portugal in Toronto
Global Languages Initiative

Faculty Members and Other Teaching Staff

Faculty members, including part-time and Contractually-Limited Term Appointed (CLTA) faculty, who currently hold budgetary appointments in the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese will have their appointments transferred to the new unit.

Faculty members with minority appointments in Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese will have their minority appointments transferred to the new unit, and will be assigned teaching and university service duties in a manner consistent with their percentage appointment in their majority-appointed departments and the new unit.

As soon as practicable after their appointment, the Chair of the new Department will establish a Unit Workload Policy Committee to establish a new Unit Workload Policy. Given the alignment between the current workload policies for Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese, there is no significant difference between teaching and service expectations in each unit.

Currently, the Chair of the Department of Italian Studies is also appointed as the Emilio Goggio Chair in Italian Studies. In an amalgamated department, the Department Chair may be drawn from faculty members in multiple disciplines. This necessitates making changes to the Goggio Chair Terms of Reference to allow the Goggio Chair to be a senior faculty member in Italian Studies who may from time to time, when appropriate and desired, also be Chair of the amalgamated Department, appointed through a process that lines up with the appointment of other named Chairs across the Faculty. This will be undertaken after the amalgamation is approved, with a target implementation date of no later than December 31, 2026, which is the end of the current Chair's term. Likewise, the Chair of the Department of Italian Studies is currently ex officio also the director of the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, a research centre with the mandate to study the cultural and social life of the Italian Canadian community. The terms of reference governing the Iacobucci Centre will need to be revised accordingly. As with the Goggio Chair, this can be undertaken after amalgamation is approved and with a target implementation date of no later than December 31, 2026.

All other terms and conditions of appointment for faculty members holding budgetary appointments in both departments, including tenure and promotion criteria for tenure stream and teaching stream faculty will remain the same. Any active recruitment lines at the time of amalgamation will be moved to the new unit,

There are no librarians directly affected by this amalgamation..

ITALIAN STUDIES FACULTY COMPLEMENT & CROSS-APPOINTMENTS						
TYPE	Rank	Italian Studies	Cinema Studies	Diaspora & Transnational Studies	Medieval Studies	Total
TEACHING STREAM	Associate Professor, TS	1.00				1.00
	Assistant Professor, TS, Contractually Limited Term Appointment	1.00				1.00
TENURE STREAM	Professor	0.75			0.25	1.00
		1.00				1.00
		1.00				1.00
	Associate Professor	0.67	0.33			1.00
	Associate Professor, Part-time Continuing	0.75				0.75
	Assistant Professor	0.51		0.49		1.00
		1.00				1.00
	Assistant Professor, Part-time Continuing	0.75				0.75
	Assistant Professor. Contractually Limited Term Appointment	1.00				1.00
	Total FTE:	9.43				

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE FACULTY COMPLEMENT AND CROSS-APPOINTMENTS							
TYPE	Rank	Spanish & Portuguese	Caribbean Studies	Comparative Literature	Linguistics	Medieval Studies	Total
TEACHING STREAM	Assistant Professor TS	1.00					1.00
		1.00					1.00

	Associate Professor, TS	1.00					1.00
	Assistant Professor, TS, Part-time continuing	0.50					
	Assistant Professor, TS, Contractually Limited Term Appointment	1.00					
TENURE STREAM	Professor	0.60			0.40		1.00
		0.60		0.40			1.00
		1.00					1.00
		0.60	0.40				1.00
		1.00					1.00
		1.00					1.00
	Associate Professor	1.00					1.00
		1.00					1.00
		0.60			0.40		1.00
		1.00					1.00
		0.75				0.25	1.00
	Assistant Professor	1.00					1.00
	Total FTE:	14.65					

Sessional Lecturers

After the departments amalgamate, Sessional Lecturers currently in the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese will retain their rank and corresponding entitlements in accordance with the CUPE 3902 Unit 3 Collective Agreement.

Graduate Units

The Italian Studies graduate unit and the Spanish graduate unit will be disestablished and a new graduate unit called Italian and Spanish Studies will be created. The new graduate unit would be categorized as Division I – Humanities, which is the same SGS Division both units are currently assigned to.

The budgetary Chair will be the graduate chair of the new graduate unit. The Graduate Chair will appoint, from the members of the appropriate faculty complement, an associate chair to oversee the graduate programs (Italian and Spanish) consistent with the provisions outlined in the Constitution of the School of Graduate Studies, and with the same delegated authority as exists in the units currently. Pending consultation with the graduate faculty complement across both graduate programs, the Chair will appoint a Graduate Programs Advisory Committee to support and guide the work of the Associate Chair. Graduate quotas for each program within the wider departmental quota will be set out in an internal Memorandum of Understanding, which reflects the quotas currently assigned to the separate departments.

All graduate faculty memberships held in the Department of Italian Studies and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese will automatically transfer to the new graduate unit.

As the graduate programs are not changing in the proposed amalgamation, students currently enrolled in the programs and incoming students will have the same opportunity to complete programs in the new department.

Graduate student transcripts will reflect the name of the new graduate unit.

Other Members of the Community:

The impact on students will be limited but positive, granting them opportunities for participation in a larger intellectual community that expands their disciplinary horizons. The programs will remain as they are (subject to the usual curricular review) and will continue to be resourced as they are. Students in all programs will enjoy expanded options and increased interdisciplinarity, as described in the academic rationale.

In the consultative town hall with students from both departments, they raised primarily logistical questions related to space, teaching appointments (for graduate students) and the structure of an amalgamated department. Professors Perez-Leroux and Somigli shared that the programs of study would not change, and that students in all fields would continue to have the support of expert faculty in their area to discuss and advise on courses of studies.

Undergraduate and Graduate Program Enrolment Counts:

Below are program enrolment counts for the current departments:

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT							
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
MAJOR IN ITALIAN	55	43	28	19	24	22	23
MINOR IN ITALIAN CULTURE & COMMUNICATION STUDIES	13	12	12	12	9	10	9
MINOR ITALIAN	125	112	99	83	82	70	66
SPECIALIST IN ITALIAN	10	8	7	<5	<5	<5	5

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT							
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
MAJOR IN PORTUGUESE	13	11	11	13	12	<5	<5
MAJOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES	19	21	21	17	19	18	14
MAJOR IN SPANISH	58	62	59	65	50	43	36
MINOR IN PORTUGUESE	16	24	21	23	16	14	13
MINOR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES	37	34	29	36	27	31	23
MINOR IN SPANISH	213	204	212	240	202	195	165
SPECIALIST IN PORTUGUESE	<5	<5	<5	<5		<5	<5
SPECIALIST IN SPANISH	11	11	12	11	8	<5	<5

As the undergraduate programs are not changing in the proposed amalgamation, students currently enrolled in the programs and incoming students will have the same opportunity to complete programs in the new department.

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAM ENROLMENTS (FTES)			
	Masters Program		
	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL	Total
FALL 2017	1.3	0.0	1.3
FALL 2018	3.0	0.0	3.0
FALL 2019	3.0	0.0	3.0
FALL 2020	3.0	0.0	3.0
FALL 2021	3.0	0.0	3.0
FALL 2022	2.0	0.0	2.0
FALL 2023	1.0	0.0	1.0

	Doctoral Program		
	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL	Total
FALL 2017	14.0	7.0	21.0
FALL 2018	13.0	8.0	21.0
FALL 2019	13.0	7.0	20.0
FALL 2020	9.0	6.0	15.0
FALL 2021	7.0	7.0	14.0
FALL 2022	7.0	9.0	16.0
FALL 2023	7.0	9.0	16.0

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE GRADUATE PROGRAM ENROLMENT			
	Masters Program		
	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL	Total
FALL 2017	4.0	2.0	6.0
FALL 2018	8.0	0.0	8.0
FALL 2019	3.0	0.0	3.0
FALL 2020	2.0	0.0	2.0
FALL 2021	3.0	1.0	4.0
FALL 2022	1.3	0.0	1.3
FALL 2023	2.0	1.0	3.0
	Doctoral Program		
	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL	Total
FALL 2017	30.0	2.0	32.0
FALL 2018	27.0	4.0	31.0
FALL 2019	27.0	6.0	33.0
FALL 2020	22.0	7.0	29.0
FALL 2021	23.0	8.0	31.0
FALL 2022	20.0	7.0	27.0
FALL 2023	18.0	5.0	23.0

The impact on the departments' alumni will be limited. They will be welcomed into the new, broader Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies community, and enjoy the resources and affiliation with the expanded unit.

Currently there are 2.5 administrative FTE staff in the Department of Italian Studies and 3.5 in Spanish & Portuguese. The amalgamation will generate a need to identify operational requirements based on the objectives of the new Department, and it is expected that the

current staff complement (i.e. the number of FTEs) will be retained. Notification to all administrative staff will take place after formal approval of the amalgamation, and must be implemented in accordance with applicable employment policies and collective agreements.

The operating budgets of the two existing Departments are provided by the Faculty of Arts & Science. At the time of amalgamation the Faculty will combine these budgets, without reduction, into a single budget to fund the new Department. Existing donations to the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese will continue to be administered according to their respective terms, with adjustments as may be necessary to recognize the new amalgamated entity. Such changes will follow appropriate consultation and agreement from donors and the academic leadership of the newly-constituted Department.

Post-amalgamation budgetary allocations will be made in accordance with the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts & Science.

The Dean's Office will work with the current leadership of the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese to explore potential space options for the amalgamated department, where the complement of faculty and graduate students can be placed together to enhance collaboration and bring together the scholarly community. Plans are in development to locate the new Department in the currently under construction Academic Wood Tower at Bloor Street and Devonshire Place.

In the interim, the sites currently occupied by the two departments at St. Michael's College and Victoria College will be retained.

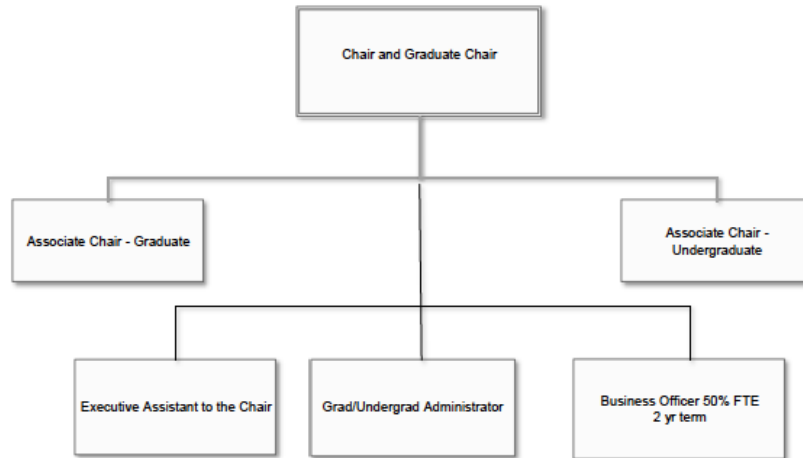
There are no MOAs, LOIs, MOUs etcetera associated with programs or units involved in the proposed academic restructuring that will be affected.

As previously discussed, the Terms of Reference for the Emilio Goggio Chair and the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Canadian Studies will be amended to reflect the new administrative structure. The agreement between the Instituto Camoes and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese will be amended to transfer the application of the agreement to the new Department.

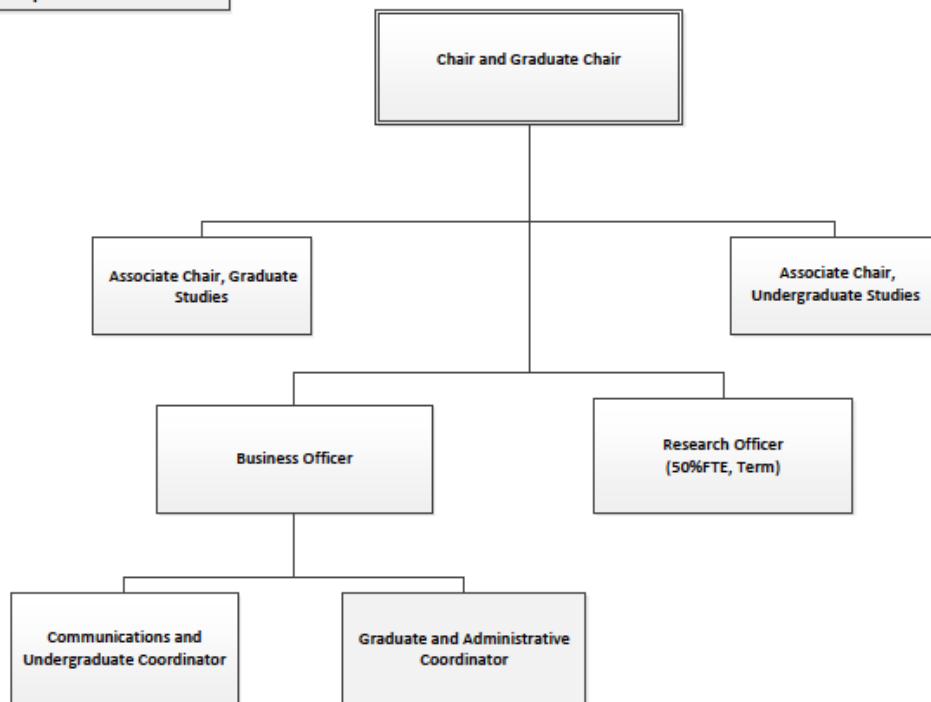
Awards will not be impacted by this amalgamation. Awards will be administered under the same terms by the new Department.

APPENDIX 1 – Organizational Charts for the Department of Italian Studies and Department of Spanish & Portuguese

University of Toronto
Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Italian Studies
Last Updated: Sept 2024



University of Toronto
Faculty of Arts and Science
Spanish & Portuguese Department
Last Updated: September 2024



APPENDIX 2 – List of Consultation Meetings

A. Group Meetings

1.	Department of Italian Studies – Department Council meeting (all faculty)	January 25, 2024
2.	Department of Spanish & Portuguese – Full professors	February 14, 2024
3.	Department of Italian Studies – Faculty with full and partial appointments; senior academic leadership	March 14, 2024
4.	Department of Italian Studies – Faculty with full and partial appointments	September 12, 2024
5.	Department of Spanish & Portuguese – Faculty with full and partial appointments	March 1, 2024
6.	Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese – Associate Chairs, Undergraduate and Graduate, of both departments	April 10, 2024
7.	Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese – Faculty with full and partial appointments	September 13, 2024
8.	Chairs of Cognate Units	June 12, 2024 June 24, 2024
9.	Principal of St. Michael's College and President of Victoria University	June 20, 2024
10.	Department of Italian Studies - Town Hall*	October 2, 2024
11.	Department of Spanish & Portuguese - Town Hall*	October 2, 2024
12.	Draft proposal presented to tri-campus Deans	January 23, 2025
13.	Department of Spanish & Portuguese – Department meeting	January 24, 2025
14.	Department of Italian Studies – Department meeting	January 26, 2025
15.	Draft proposal presented to Faculty of Arts and Science Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors (CPAD)	February 7, 2025

**includes graduate and undergraduate students*

B. One-on-One Meetings

One-on-one meetings were held with faculty with full and partial appointments in the Departments of Italian Studies & Spanish & Portuguese between February and June 2024. Meetings were also held with the program lead of Latin American Studies, who is seconded from the Department of History, as well as the language coordinators in Spanish & Portuguese. The discussion paper was shared for feedback with graduate faculty members of both departments, including tri-campus colleagues. It was also shared with the Chair of UTM Language Studies, the Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies, and colleagues from other departments who had previously taught in the Latin American Studies Program. The proposal was circulated to cognate departments at UTM and UTSC via their respective Dean's offices in late January, 2025. Comments and feedback were gathered by the respective Departmental leadership, and were in support of this proposal.

Appendix 3 – Discussion Paper/Academic Rationale circulated to faculty & staff in the Departments of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese in June 2024

The strong academic case for amalgamation centres on the *disciplinary complementarity* of Italian Studies and Spanish & Portuguese, as well as the advantages of *scale and competitiveness* that joining together will offer a new unit.

The disciplines of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese studies have evolved significantly in recent decades. In both teaching and research, the traditional structuring of language programs around the study of literature divided along broad chronological periods is increasingly showing its limitations. The research conducted within language departments has transcended the nation-state model, and is not circumscribed within a particular time and space. Intellectual trends in literary and cultural studies encourage thinking outside of the historical model, and looking at literary and cultural production from a thematic, rather than periodized, perspective. The work done by specialists in Romance linguistics focuses on microvariation within languages and the theoretical consequences of such variation, with the issues of language contact, linguistic diasporas, and bilingualism becoming central in their research.

The existing departments have both been at the forefront of these disciplinary transformations, moving away from the historical/regional model towards different areas of research, in part through cross-appointments with other departments and centres, including Linguistics (Spanish & Portuguese), the Centre for Comparative Literature (Spanish & Portuguese), the Centre for Medieval Studies (Italian Studies; Spanish & Portuguese), the Cinema Studies Institute (Italian Studies), the Centre for Caribbean Studies (Spanish & Portuguese), the Renaissance Studies program at Victoria College (Italian Studies) and at the Centre for Diaspora & Transnational Studies (Italian Studies). In addition, faculty members in both departments collaborate extensively with colleagues from other units, including the above as well as (but not limited to) the Departments of Philosophy, History, French, and Speech-Language Pathology, the Centre for Renaissance & Reformation Studies, the Centre for Global Disability Studies, the Culinary Research Centre and the Cognitive Science Program. These collaborations underscore further the limitations of the traditional models described above, but also the opportunities that can arise from working across disciplinary boundaries. Finally, it should be noted that the interdisciplinary work of the departments of Italian Studies and of Spanish and Portuguese has been facilitated by their established strong ties with colleges and their programs, also as a result of being housed at St. Michael's College and Victoria College respectively. Members of the two departments teach in college programs such as Renaissance Studies, Book and Media Studies, and Canadian Studies, and also serve in administrative capacities within various colleges (e.g., Prof. Robert Davidson is the director of the Northrop Frye Centre at Victoria College; Prof. Eva-Lynn Jago is Vice-Principal of Innis College).

In terms of the complementarity of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese in particular, it is useful to reflect on the linguistic, historical and cultural relations that connect Italy, Spain, Portugal, Latin America and the various diasporas. The complementarity and interconnections encourage

interdisciplinary work while at the same time providing cohesion and a sense of shared mission for the new unit ensuing from this merger. From a linguistic perspective, for instance, the four languages taught in the units – Catalan, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish – are the main languages within the southern romance subfamily. The cultures that share these languages are likewise linked by long-standing and enduring relations and points of contact. In Europe, the Mediterranean has been since time immemorial a space of encounter and exchange linking the Iberian and the Italian peninsulas. At different times from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, parts of modern-day Italy have been under the direct or indirect rule of Spain, with a lasting impact on the cultures of both nations. In the Americas, Spanish was the dominant language of the conquest and colonization, followed by the emergence of Portuguese colonies in mid-sixteenth century. However, figures like Colombo/Colón and Vespucci attest to the interconnection of the Italic and Iberic peninsulas in the transatlantic project. A substantive Italian diaspora arrived early to Portuguese - and to Spanish - speaking Latin America, while in the twentieth-century diasporas from Latin America, Spain and Italy have shared common experiences in the United States and Canada.

In a unified department, the linguistic, historical and cultural relations that link Latin America, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and their respective diasporas can be more effectively leveraged to provide innovative courses and to renew our existing programs. While retaining the specificity of each language program, we will now be able to create courses on these cultural contact zones, as well as on other topics of common interest such as language pedagogy that will enhance teaching of the various programs, provide more choice and flexibility to students, and allow the new unit to extend its offerings in areas in which individual departments would otherwise not have the resources to expand. Finally, a unified department would also be particularly attractive to graduate students, who would benefit from enriched and diversified courses and research opportunities, as well as a more dynamic academic environment with greater cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Across North American universities, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese often share an academic home, as a single department or as part of a Romance language or modern language department. In addition, there is historical precedent at the University of Toronto for this unit organization, as Spanish and Italian were taught under the same department on the St. George campus from 1887 until the early 1970s. In 1947-48 the Department is renamed as Department of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. In 1973, the Department of Italian Studies constituted an independent unit, and the complementary unit was renamed as Department of Spanish and Portuguese in 1978. At the time, the trend was for language departments to differentiate their departmental structures to be more specialized. In addition, specific circumstances made it advisable and feasible to split the unified department into two units. For Italian, the large immigration from Italy well into the 1980s and the ensuing high demand for courses and degrees as well as the extensive offering of Italian in the secondary school system fostered a growth in its faculty. Spanish and Portuguese remained as a single unit, which also teaches the Catalan language. This unit saw substantive growth into the twenty-first century, supported by the continuing diaspora from both Lusophone and Hispanophone Iberia, and from Brazil and various countries in the Spanish-speaking Americas. In 2019, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese successfully integrated the Latin

American Studies Program, previously a stand-alone program. Half a century after the initial departmental split, and in very different circumstances, bringing the two units back together provides a unique opportunity to diversify our curricula and conceive new courses as well as rationalize faculty and staff resources, and, on the long term, programs that may better meet the needs of students and therefore contribute to stemming the reduction in enrollments that has characterized most language and culture programs in North America over the last decade.¹ Indeed, the two units have already been actively sharing faculty on departmental and thesis committees given common interests and limitations in faculty complement. Joining the two units allows us to turn a practice of necessity into an opportunity for organic growth and collaboration. It can also help us pursue more effectively our recruiting and outreach needs by freeing up staff resources that can be redeployed to improve our community presence.

This proposed unit aims to leverage the combined complements of the two departments to strengthen the integration between teaching the disciplinary content of courses (literary, cultural and linguistic studies) and first-rate language teaching in the southern Romance languages currently taught and to develop new courses to explore topics of current relevance. This unit will strive to become a world-class hub of inquiry into the cultural and linguistic contact zones inhabited by speakers of Spanish, Italian, Portuguese in both Europe and the Americas.