

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Economics	
Degrees Offered:	MA, PhD	
Approved Fields:	Development Economics, Econometrics, Industrial Organization, International Economics, Labour Economics, Macroeconomics/Monetary Economics, Microeconomic Theory, Public Economics	
External Consultants:	Dr David Blau, Professor and Chair of Economics Ohio State University	Dr Katherine Cuff, Associate Professor of Economics and Chair of Graduate Studies Committee McMaster University
Internal Reviewers:	Dr Erika Chamberlain, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Law, Western	Dr Matthew Fox, Postdoctoral Scholar, Western
Date of Site Visit:	1-2 December 2015	
Evaluation:	<i>Good quality</i>	
Approved by:	<i>SUPR-G on March 21, 2016</i> <i>SCAPA on March 30, 2016</i>	

Executive Summary

The graduate program in the Department of Economics has high academic standards, and is well-led by a Department that is among the best in Canada. Students obtain a breadth of expertise during the first two years of the program before concentrating on their own research. There is an active scholarly community which meets regularly to present and critique current projects, and students valued this opportunity both to receive critical feedback and to prepare them for the academic job market. Graduates of the program have a high rate of publication and are typically able to secure academic appointments at well-respected universities. Thus, the program seems to be meeting its overall goals.

The program is currently constrained in its recruitment of international students, and has been forced to turn away many high-quality applicants. There was general consensus that a greater proportion of international students would improve the quality and reputation of the program. At the same time, the program recognizes that it already receives a disproportionate share of the Faculty's allocation of international students.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- faculty are of extremely high quality and comprise a dynamic scholarly community to which graduate students are welcomed
- students have high rates of publication and job placement in academic positions as well as in government and the private sector
- high level of support at both the Faculty and institutional level

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement:

- recruitment of a faculty member in econometrics to replace the sudden departure of an active, senior faculty member
- expansion of the student computing facility
- review the number of required courses, especially in the second year of the program
- recruit a larger number of international students

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Open discussions with the Dean's Office about increasing the allocation of international students	Department, Dean	Budgetary	3 years
Review and consider reducing the number of required courses	Department	None	3 years