Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Instructions and Report Template

As part of the protocols outlined in Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), to facilitate the continuous improvement of academic programs between review cycles, in connection with the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan, a monitoring process will include an Ongoing Improvement Progress Report. The outcomes of this report will be considered as part of the program's next cyclical review.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the operationalization of the implementation plan following a Cyclical Program Review (or the review of a New Program). This should include a brief summary of actions taken by the Program and the Dean's Office since the completion of the review (usually about three years), as well as an update on the stage of implementation for all applicable items. These include:

- whether the action item(s) are in progress, complete or no longer applicable (with a brief explanation);
- the timelines of each item and how they are progressing or expected to progress, particularly if they are diverting from original timelines in the FAR and Implementation Plan, and;
- a short description of any other program developments and improvements that have taken place following the review.
- For new programs only, an evaluation of the initial administration and resourcing of the program.

The following report template has been created for the program to report on progress made regarding recommendations presented in the Implementation Plan, and any other relevant program developments and enhancements.

- The program will complete the template and submit it to the faculty Dean's Office for sign-off.
- The program will then submit the completed Ongoing Improvement and Progress Report to the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE). Reports are due by June 21, 2024.
    - The OAQE will present all Ongoing Improvement and Progress Reports to SUPR-U/G. Any follow-up questions or concerns will be communicated to the program and Dean's Office by the OAQE.
    - It should be noted that as per the requirements of the province's Quality Council, progress reports will be posted on the reports page of the OAQE website.

Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Linguistics M.A. / Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Program	Linguistics M.A	**Faculty / Affiliated University College**	Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Approval Dates of the Review	SUPR-G: November 8, 2021 SCAPA: November 24, 2021 Senate: December 3, 2021	**Year of the Next Review**	2028-2029
Link to the Programs Final Assessment Report (FAR)	https://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/iqap/academic_programs/iqap_reports/artsgrad/2021%20Linguistics%20Program%20Review.pdf		
If applicable, submission of follow-up report(s)	*n/a*		

	Name	**Signature**	**Date**
Program Chair/Director	David Heap		2024.07.25
Dean (or delegate)	Ileana Paul		2024.07.25

Progress Update on the Implementation Plan

Recommendations #1 & #7	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Improve the recruitment of domestic students (recommendations #1 and #7 are combined here)	Review the specific language used in the admission requirements and highlight the importance of having a proper background in linguistics rather than a specific cut-off average. For the next round of recruitment: - send more ads promoting the program to linguistics websites (departments, journals, linguistlist.org); - revamp the website of the program by dedicating a section for potential students; - schedule information zoom meetings for students outside of London, as well as promoting individual meeting with the director of the program if students have specific question regarding the program; and -continue to target promising 4th year students from the undergraduate program	Director of the Graduate Program in Linguistics	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024August 31, 2022
Recommendation Implemented **√** Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No			

Progress

What specific actions have been taken?
The Linguistics website now has a section for potential students, and the language regarding admissions is reviewed yearly. It is now very clear about admissions expectations, including areas where we cannot offer supervision.

In addition to the video testimonial put online by SGPS (of a 2023 graduating MA student) our instagram and tiktok pages (created in 2023) carry testimonials and other material generated by current MA student (a few applicants mentioned these. Since our priority are Canadian citizens and permanent residents, recruitment posters and fliers we sent to linguistics programs in Canada, and follow-up calls or e-mails were placed with specific colleagues elsewhere.

The director had phone or Zoom conversations with potential applicants elsewhere (both domestic and international); in a couple of cases, a Linguistics colleague joined the Zoom conversations to evaluate candidates' background and/ or English proficiency.

We held events in the fall and winter terms for Linguistics undergraduates, and a few have made promising applications for admission in January 2025: we hope to make them offers soon.

Next Steps (if applicable)

What actions remain? Is there further follow-up?
We hope to continue with undergrad Linguistics (LTW or Linguistics Talks at Western) events over the coming year.

We have yet to find a way to attract non-local students to a general Zoom session about admissions to our MA program.

Our fliers / posters need to be revised / updated.

Additional Comments

If applicable. In addition to the above, two Linguistics colleagues did talks at other Ontario universities (York, Toronto) in 2024, with the specific goal of highlighting research conducted by our faculty as a way of attracting potential students.

Our admissions are up to four (three domestic + one international) for September 2024, plus two deferrals (one domestic, one international) so our cohort beginning in September 2024 should once again be in the target range for this program.

Recommendation #2	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Make clear in course advertisements what language the course will be offered in.	Clarify the language of instruction on the program website and through counseling with students.	Director of the Graduate Program in Linguistics	May 1, 2022

Recommendation Implemented

√ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Progress

What specific actions have been taken?

All course descriptions are clear regarding language of instruction, and all MA students are counselled on this and other aspects, as they make their course choices.

Next Steps (if applicable)

What actions remain? Is there further follow-up?
Course counselling will continue with each new cohort.

Additional Comments

If applicable
Linguistics grad course descriptions have been reviewed overall. I do not foresee this recommendation being applicable in the future.

Recommendation #3	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
Provide funding for one international student a year	The Program has secured a one-time funding from the Faculties of A&H and SS to Director of the Graduate Program in Linguistics May 1, 2022 support two international students for the current academic cycle. Negotiate with the two Faculties to continue long-term funding (equivalent to domestic funding packages) to recruit international students (GTA + a smaller WGRS).	Director of the Graduate Program in Linguistics Dean of Arts and Humanities	May 1, 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes ☐ No **√** Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? **√** Yes ☐ No

Progress

What specific actions have been taken? The 2022 MOU with Social Science provides for GTA support for two international MA students per year. We have not been able to recruit sufficient international MA students in recent years, so these GTA positions have

been filled by year X PhD students (from doctoral programs in French and FIMS) where they are needed for courses (Anthro 1027ab, mostly).

Next Steps (if applicable)

What actions remain? Is there further follow-up? The MOU with SocSci will need to be renegotiated in 2025. This year we may have an international student to take up one of these positions.

Additional Comments

If applicable: Some "leftover" WGRS support (originally allocated to students who did not use all of their funding) has been carried forward for new students. One remaining term of WGRS support (from A&H) has been offered to an incoming international MA applicant; the two leftover terms of WGRS from SocSci were offered (but not taken up) in 2023, but that offer was not forthcoming this year (for 2024).

Note: The total number of expandable text boxes will be dependent on the number of prioritized recommendations appearing in the program's most recent Final Assessment Report (FAR).

Continuous Program Enhancement

What additional initiatives or changes has the program been working on in relation to continuous program improvement?

In March 2024, our showcase student event, the Western Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language Research returned to mostly in-person presentations (WISSLR has always been partly hybrid) for the first time since the pandemic. The event, including the keynote speaker and our own students' presentations and posters, was well received, and brought many of our students together around research.