

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Under Nipissing University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Universities Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 29, 2023 and ratified by the Quality Council on May 5, 2023

In academic years 2020-2021 a program review was scheduled for History. This was the 2nd program review for this program. The timeline of the review was as follows.

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY		
MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY	SEPTEMBER 10, 2021	PROVOST & VICE-PRESIDENT

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	October 23, 2020
2. Site Visit Conducted	January 18, 20, 22, 25, 2021
3. Reviewer's Report Received	February 3, 2021
4. Department's Response Received	March 30, 2021
5. Dean's Response Received	March 30, 2021

A. REVIEW SUMMARY

Two external reviewers conducted the review. During the in-person site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals:

- Provost & Vice-President, Academic and Research
- History Chair & Internal Review Committee
- Dean & Associate Dean of Arts & Science
- Dean of Graduate Studies & Research
- Harris Learning Library – Executive Director & Librarian
- Registrar & Associate Registrars
- History faculty

- History graduate & undergraduate students

The academic programs offered by the Department which were examined as part of the review included:

- Bachelor of Arts in History
- Master of Arts in History

The follow program strengths were noted:

The History department's programs support the university's mission by emphasizing student-centered learning in small classes. They focus on developing critical skills such as analyzing and constructing arguments, and provide high-impact experiences through opportunities like travel study, research assistant training, and organizing an annual undergraduate research conference.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The recommendations emphasize strengthening the department's faculty by restoring five tenure-track positions, prioritizing hires in key subject areas, and developing flexible hiring plans that reflect evolving strengths in the discipline. They also encourage collaboration with other departments through shared appointments. Alongside staffing, the department is urged to expand and promote its Master of Arts program (as well as Orientation to a Master of Arts in History) through targeted marketing strategies, including digital outreach and engagement with professional organizations, to increase enrollment and attract international students.

A major focus is the growth and visibility of the Centre for the Study of War and Genocide (C-WAG). Recommendations include organizing a high-profile launch, increasing promotion through media and online platforms, ensuring accessibility of resources to students, fostering partnerships such as with university archives, and exploring future certificate programs. Securing stable long-term funding and maintaining adequate physical space for the centre are also key priorities.

In terms of teaching and curriculum, the department is encouraged to maintain small, seminar-style first-year courses while exploring alternative teaching methods to manage faculty workload. The expansion of certificate programs is also recommended, including flexible, non-credit options aimed at professionals and lifelong learners, with any revenue reinvested into departmental initiatives.

Support for students is another central theme. The university is advised to restore funding for MA student research and conference participation, implement a formal graduate orientation, and foster stronger community-building activities among students. At the same time, improved marketing and media outreach are suggested to highlight departmental successes, promote events, and enhance the university's public profile.

The recommendations also call for expanding fundraising efforts, including creating an endowment for C-WAG, enabling departmental-level fundraising initiatives, and strengthening alumni engagement for ongoing support. Additionally, increased investment in library resources and tailored research support for History students are seen as essential for academic success.

Finally, the report highlights the need for improved administrative and physical support, including hiring dedicated administrative staff and creating a shared common space for faculty and students to encourage collaboration and community.

Status:

Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2023

Date of next Cyclical Review: 2028

B. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Below are the recommendations that require specific action as a result of the Review, along with the identification of the position or unit responsible for the action in question. Notwithstanding the position or unit identified as being responsible for specific recommendations, the Dean of the Faculty has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the recommended actions are undertaken

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
1 - Department continues identify and define (cross) appointment needs and opportunities through the annual academic planning process.	Department	Annual
2, 7 - Department continues to collaborate with, and advise, Recruitment and Marketing on how to promote its programmes	Department, Registrar, Marketing	Annual
3 - C- WAG falls under the Nipissing Policy on Centres and Institutes and is expected to be externally funded.	C-WAG	As per Funder requirements
4 - Department is encouraged to continue to develop and identify innovative, effective and financially sustainable models of programme delivery.	Department	Annual
5- Department is encouraged to develop both minors for degree seeking students at Nipissing and certificates for other learners. It is expected that NU will have a framework for micro-credentials in place by December 2021, and that the currently proposed SIT certificate will align with that framework	Department, Dean, Provost	Annual, May 2022 for SIT
6 - Department will advise graduate students to apply through School of Graduate Studies	School of Graduate Studies	Annual
8 - Department support and collaborate with the Nipissing University capital campaign to identify goals and strategies that support the academic mission of the University	Department, Advancement	Annual
9 - Department works with the Library to advise on the best use of the resources available.	Department, Library	Annual
10 - No additional administrative staff will be hired for the Department at this time.	n/a	n/a
11 - No departmental common rooms can be allocated at this time	n/a	n/a

