

# English

## Department Overview

The [English Department](#) has a wealth of course offerings for students of all levels. Options include courses in Literature, Creative Writing, Communications and ESL/Academic Preparation. The English Department also offers two Associate of Arts degrees: an [Associate of Arts in English](#); and, an [Associate of Arts in Creative Writing](#). Department faculty include published authors in academic and creative fields.

## Self-Study

English launched its program review in academic year 2019/20 with a Self-Study. Mono Brown was the primary Self-Study writer on behalf of the rest of the department's faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Kina Cavicchioli (Department Chair)
- Kathleen Oliver (Assistant Department Chair)
- Tess MacMillan (Division Chair, Humanities)
- Julie Longo (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in December 2020.

## External Review

The English Department's External Review took place on January 15, 2021. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Paul Tyndall, PhD, Department of English, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (External Review Chair)
- Suzanne James, PhD, Department of English, University of British Columbia
- Michael Lo, Department of Mathematics, Langara

## Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, the English Department created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Program and course development.
- Goal 2: Teaching and learning excellence.
- Goal 3: Community building.

## Examples of Post-Review Successes

### **2021/22**

The department offers 2000-level courses in a mix of on-campus and online formats. The Langara Foundation has funded a Writer-in-Residence position for the department.

### **2022/23**

Funding was secured to offer *Writing Lives: the Residential School Survivors' Memoir Project* in 2022-23. The two-part course was well-promoted on campus and in local media, particularly after the launch of Sam George's book, *The Fire Still Burns*. The two-part course is running again in 2023-24.

Marking bees were held in April 2023. The department continues to offer our 2000-level courses in a mix of on-campus (the majority) and online formats.

The inaugural year of the Writer in Residence program was a huge success, with Rawi Hage providing manuscript consultations, classroom visits, and a very successful public event in conversation with David Chariandy in March.

### **2023/24**

The department created new second-year courses for Writing Lives I (ENGL 2226) and Writing Lives II (ENGL 2286) and Indigenous Literature (ENGL 2228). In AY 2024-25, these courses are being offered in collaboration with Capilano University. External funding has been secured to ensure that this program can continue to run.

Annual professional development activities and course meetings, and an annual compilation of grading statistics helped ensure standardization among faculty. New instructors are gaining leadership and advising skills each year through continued Advising Positions.

The second year of our Writer in Residence program was a huge success, with Evelyn Lau providing manuscript consultations, classroom visits, and a very successful public event in conversation with Jen Sookfong Lee in March. Close to one hundred people attended, more than half of them members of the general public.