

Modern Languages

Department Overview

The [Department of Modern Languages](#) teaches foundational language courses, the basis for developing superior language skills, along with some higher level literature courses.

In an expanding global economy your multi-lingual skills will give you a competitive advantage when seeking employment in most professions either in Canada or abroad. A command of French, one of Canada's two official languages, is an essential qualification for entry into the Canadian civil service and politics. University graduates capable of communicating in Spanish, the unofficial second language of the United States, are in demand throughout North and South America.

China, one of the world's leading economic powers, provides tremendous scope for career options in almost any field for professionals who are fluent in Mandarin. Japan, one of Canada's major trading partners, is a dominant economic force in Asia alongside China and India. Fluency in Japanese opens career opportunities in commercial ventures as well as industries in which Japan excels: high tech, film animation and communications.

Self-Study

Modern Languages launched its program review in academic year 2022/23 with a Self-Study. Mirabelle Tinio, the Department Chair, led the Self-Study and was the writer for French. Additional support was provided by:

- Wei Xia (Assistant Department Chair/Self-Study writer for Chinese)
- Dolores Gambroudes (Instructor/Self-Study writer for Spanish)
- Yayoi Shinbo (Instructor (Instructor/Self-Study writer for Japanese)
- Tess MacMillan (Division Chair, Humanities)
- Darren Bernaerdt (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Instructional assistants survey

The Self-Study was completed in April, 2023.

External Review

Modern Languages' External Review took place on May 12, 2023. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Lauren Vedal, Instructor, Langara College (External Review Chair)
- Fanny Boulesteix, Instructor, Douglas College

- José Lara, Instructor, Douglas College
- Jia Fei, Senior Lecturer, Simon Fraser University
- Nina Langton, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Action Plan Goals

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

- Goal 1: Create a Departmental Goals and a Plan that contributes to College priorities (Academic Plan) in areas like promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Intercultural Competencies; etc.
- Goal 2: Consult with Indigenous and JEDI experts, scholars, and curriculum consultants for faculty/staff professional development and curriculum development
- Goal 3: Harmonize course delivery, assignments, and evaluation to ensure consistent and effective instruction
- Goal 4: Create further opportunities for conversation/speaking practice
- Goal 5: Improve existing courses and develop new courses to meet student demand, including cultural-content courses and language courses for professions
- Goal 6: Raise the Department's profile within the College and in the Community

Examples of Post-Review Successes

Forthcoming.