

# Memorandum

**Office of the Dean**

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**To:** Alice Pitt  
Vice Provost, Academic

**From:** J.J. McMurtry  
Associate Dean, Programs

**Date:** April 18, 2017

**Subject:** Program Closure: Latin and Caribbean Studies and South Asian Studies

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On behalf of Dean Murkherjee-Reed I am writing in support of the Department of Social Science's submission to close both the Latin American and Caribbean Studies and South Asian Studies Programs. The rationale for the closures (lack of majors, lack of interest of faculty, lack of co-ordinators for the programs, lack of viability) is compelling. There also seem to be no negative impacts of the closures on students.



# York University

## Notice of Intention to Develop a Program Proposal

Submission of a notice of intention to develop a curriculum proposal of any kind, with the exception of course changes and minor modifications, must be submitted before the development of a fuller formed proposal.

*This form is to be completed and sent electronically to [YUQAP@yorku.ca](mailto:YUQAP@yorku.ca) prior to the development of a program proposal. Authorization to begin development of a proposal will be given by the Vice-Provost Academic within six weeks of submission of this form.*

Faculty Name \_\_\_\_\_ LAPS \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name \_\_\_\_\_ Latin American and Caribbean Studies; South Asian Studies; South Asian Studies Certificate (Department of Social Science) \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Outcome of the Proposal

- New degree type, degree program, graduate diploma or undergraduate certificate
- Major modification of an existing program
- Closure of a certificate, diploma, degree or degree program

Please refer to the YUQAP site for information on *new program proposals* and *major modifications*: <http://yuqap.info.yorku.ca/>.

### 2. Intended start date: (example: Fall 2017, Summer 2018)

Fall 2018

### 3. Short Description of the proposal (maximum 250 words):

Closure of LACS; SAST, SAST Certificate due to lack of full-time faculty committed to teaching in the programs; enrolment numbers cannot support hiring additional resources to make the programs viable.

4. **Provide a short statement about the proposed program's** alignment with University plans, including evidence has been provided about the program's alignment with the university's Strategic Mandate Agreement, evidence of student demand, evidence of societal need, justification of duplication with existing programs at York and in Ontario and any legal requirement for graduates in a program to be certified, registered, licensed. (maximum 250 words)

LACS courses (2460, 3410, 4450 and 4452) will remain under the aegis of International Development Studies (IDST), so no change to academic programming other than it no longer being an independent degree granting program. Majors have been grandparented out; IDST students may still specialize by taking the relevant courses.

SAST had three courses (2435, 3970, 4435) which were developed based on the interest of the lone faculty member in the program; that faculty member has now retired and the courses are no longer offered. There is a lack of faculty outside the program able to devote time or energy to maintain or build the program.

SAST Certificate: required 2435 and 4435, which are no longer offered. Only 1 student enrolled in past three years.

5. **Summarize any new or reallocation of resources** (financial, physical and/or administrative) required to implement the proposal.

As above: LACS courses will now fall under the aegis of IDST; SAST courses no longer offered.

6. **Consultations:** Provide details regarding consultations with other programs and or Faculties at York University or outside of York University including information about potential collaboration or possible duplication. Include an explanation of the consultation process, the names and roles of those consulted and a summary of the feedback provided. (maximum 250 words)

None required.

Name and title of the proposal proponent: Amanda Glasbeek, Chair, Dept of Social Science

E-mail: [aglasbee@yorku.ca](mailto:aglasbee@yorku.ca)

Telephone: 77812

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**Signatures required:**

Program Proponent

*A. Loske*

Date *May 3, 2017*

Dean/Principal of the Faculty

*J. M. Murty*

Date *May 2/17*

## Closure of an Undergraduate or Graduate Program

### I. Program Information

Name and Type of Program	LACS – Latin American and Caribbean Studies Degree Program SAST – South Asian Studies Certificate & Degree Programs
Home Academic Unit	SOSC for both
Year Program Established	LACS – prior to 1986 SAST - 2002

### II. Enrolment Data

Insert in the table below the enrolments in the program the past three academic years.

#### LACS

2016-17 (April 12)	1 double major*
2015-16 (Oct 7)	8 majors, 3 minors
2014-15 (Sept 30)	8 majors, 3 minors

- All students grandparented out; no new admits since 15/16.

#### SAST

2016-17 (April 12)	0 students*
2015-16 (Oct 7)	4 majors, 1 minor
2014-15 (Sept 30)	3 majors, 1 minor

- All students grandparented out; no new admits since 15/16.

#### SAST Certificate

2016-17 (April 12)	0
2015-16 (Oct 7)	1
2014-15 (Sept 30)	0

### III. Reasons and Impact

1. Provide the rationale for the closure of the program.  
For both: Lack of full time faculty committed to teaching in the program; lack of an in-department coordinator; numbers cannot support hiring additional resources to make the program viable.
2. Comment on the alignment between the closure with Faculty and/or University

academic plans.

For LACS: the program courses (2460, 3410, 4450 & 4452) will remain under the aegis of International Development Studies (IDS) as a minor within IDS.

For SAST, the last program faculty member has retired; the courses are also retired.

3. Does the closure affect other programs / units? If yes, describe the impact of the closure on them.

For LACS: see answer to #2, above; for SAST, no impact

4. Are there courses that were established specifically to support the learning outcomes of the program? If so, describe the status of those courses after the closure of the program.

LACS courses will still support the learning outcomes as established earlier.

SAST: program courses were developed given the interest of the faculty member in the program; while the program executive committee included members from other departments, few outside the department were prepared to devote time or energy to build the program.

5. Describe the impact of the closure on students currently enrolled in the program, including an outline of the provisions for students to complete it, the timelines and availability to transfer credits to other programs.

LACS: courses are continuing and will be maintained within IDS.

SAST: the currently enrolled students will be advised to take other courses on offer in other departments that can be substituted for SAST requirements. All will be written and asked to come in for an advising appointment.

6. What is the impact on faculty members affiliated with the program?

LACS: one retiree still teaching and one full time faculty member also associated with IDS and the graduate program in Development Studies. No impact.

SAST: only 1 faculty member, now retired.

7. What are the general implications for the diversity and availability of academic programming?

LACS: continues in a different form, little implications for diversity or academic programming.

SAST: there were 3 courses affiliated with SAST: 2435, 3970, 4435. There are numerous courses in other departments on various topics with a focus on South Asia (e.g. in HUMA, DLLL) and in a number of disciplines under the general social science umbrella (ANTH, ENGL, GEOG, POLS, SOCI, etc.). Therefore, the general implications for diversity and academic programming are minor.

Template revised, August 1, 2016