



SUBJECT	Tuition Bachelor of Arts in Romance Studies
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 22, 2022
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	REQUESTED – APPROVAL IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition of \$187.23 per credit for domestic students and \$1,371.88 per credit for international students for the Bachelor of Arts in Romance Studies program, in alignment with other Faculty of Arts programs for 2021-2022, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Simon Bates, Associate Provost Teaching & Learning

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies (FHIS) in the Faculty of Arts is proposing the development of a new Major’s program in Romance Studies (RMST). The program will appeal to students who do not necessarily have advanced proficiency in all the Romance languages, but who are interested in gaining a comparative understanding of the cultures, languages and literatures of the Romance-speaking world of yesterday and today. The Major’s program will leverage the existing Honours program and is complemented by the creation of Major and Minors’ options. The new Major, new Minor and curriculum updates to the Honours were approved by the UBC Vancouver Senate in February 2022.

Pending approval from the Board of Governors the program will admit its first cohort of students in September 2022. The program will be presented to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training but, because UBC offers the existing Honours program, we do not anticipate full Ministry approval being required (the Ministry’s Degree Quality Assessment Board will make this final determination).

In the 2021-2022 academic year, proposed per-credit tuition fees for the program (consistent with other Faculty of Arts programs) are \$187.23 for domestic students and \$1,371.88 for international students. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with the Bachelor of Arts program leading up to the program’s launch. The program anticipates enrolling 30 students in the first intake with an expected 60 students per year at steady state. No new seats are required to support the program.

The Office of the Vice-President Students conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy LR4). The e-consultation was conducted from November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021. A submission was not received from either the Alma Mater Society or Arts Undergraduate Society.

Key elements of the Romance Studies program that are in alignment with UBC’s strategic plan include:

- Strategy 4: [Inclusive Excellence](#): The broad coverage of the program allows the examination of the dynamics of power between languages and cultures at play through centuries and aspires to include the voices of those traditionally marginalized to develop awareness on issues connected with cultures, languages and diversity.
- Strategy 8: [Student Research](#): The program connects undergraduate education with current research trends and develop learning practices that engage students to come together around global social, cultural issues.
- Strategy 9: [Knowledge Exchange](#): Research competency is integrated and supported throughout the program.
- Strategy 14: [Interdisciplinary Education](#): The specialization draws on the wealth of expertise of faculty members from multiple programs and creates a stronger sense of community.
- Strategy 19: [Global Networks](#): The global comparative approach of the program helps students broaden their perspectives, learn about cultures around the globe and how to participate in a positive way to an international context.

The program will allow students with a general socio-humanistic bent to combine work in multiple Romance literatures and cultures and develop their knowledge of the diverse Romance world. Our intention with the proposed updates and additions is to emphasize Romance studies’ comparative approach, and in doing so, modernizing the field for the 21st century and a postcolonial world, thereby creating wider, more welcoming opportunities, that could give a sense of identity and belonging to students who gravitate around the FHIS.

We anticipate the program will be beneficial to students who intend to pursue careers in medicine, law, public administration, foreign service and business, or any other field in the social sciences and humanities that requires strong writing skills combined with superior understanding of the relevant cultural and socio-historical contexts across a global scope, which complement and connect with the diversity of the Canadian context.

APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report

Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Bachelor of Arts in Romance Studies

Anticipated Start Date: September 2022

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$187.23	\$1,371.88
Application fees (undergraduate) – Note 2	\$73.00	\$123.00
Non-refundable acceptance deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1000.00
Other faculty and course fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition reflects approved 2021/22 tuition for the Bachelor of Arts program and will be subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with the Bachelor of Arts program leading up to the program's launch.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2022W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

<p style="text-align: center;">BACHELOR OF ARTS – MAJOR IN ROMANCE STUDIES STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT</p>
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The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculties of Arts, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for the Bachelor of Arts – Major in Urban Studies. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback.

Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)

Mode of Consultation

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face/zoom meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

Basis of Consultation: The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

Timelines: The e-consultation was conducted over the period of Monday November 1, 2021 to Monday November 30th, 2021.

Summary of Student Feedback: Submission was not received from the AMS or the AUS.

No individual student submissions were received.

APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Hello everyone,

There is a proposal by the Department of French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies in the Faculty of Arts to create a new BA Major in Romance Studies.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **tuition proposal** for this program, the University is undertaking a consultative process to get your comments as student representatives, and provide an opportunity for students to provide individual comments on the tuition proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the tuition proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the tuition proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments and student organization submissions on the tuition proposal can be provided to Tlell Elviss – Senior Program Strategist, Vice President Students Office (tlell.elviss@ubc.ca).**

2. Face to Face/Zoom meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face/Zoom meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2021 AT MIDNIGHT.

Confidentiality

- Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Vice President Students Office know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation.
- Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible program leads and Board of Governors verbatim.
- Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and Board of Governors as received. There will also be a summary report of the consultation developed for the Faculty and Board of Governors.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you,

Tlell

Tlell Elviss BSc | MA (She, Her, Hers)

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS, MAJOR IN ROMANCE STUDIES
TUITION CONSULTATION**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies (FHIS) in the Faculty of Arts is proposing the development of a new Major's program in Romance Studies (RMST). This program will leverage the existing Honours program (which will undergo some curricular updates) and will be complemented by the creation of a Minor's option.

Programs in FHIS connects Romance language studies to literature and culture through a variety of interdisciplinary methods, while enhancing your active communication skills and appreciation of different cultures. The Department currently offers a wide range of programs in French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, as well as the existing Honours program in Romance Studies.

Introducing the RMST Major option will help create wider, more welcoming opportunities, that could give a sense of identity and belonging to students who gravitate around FHIS. The new Major, Minor, and revisions to the existing Honours, will appeal to students who do not necessarily have advanced proficiency in all the Romance languages, but who are interested in gaining a comparative understanding of the cultures and literatures of the Romance-speaking world of yesterday and today.

We anticipate the program will be appealing to students who intend to pursue careers in medicine, law, public administration, foreign service and business, or any other field in the social sciences and humanities that requires strong writing skills combined with superior understanding of the relevant cultural and socio-historical contexts across a global scope, which complement and connect with the diversity of the Canadian context.

The RMST Major will allow us to diversify our course offering, meet different needs over and beyond those of our current Spanish and French Minors and Majors and Italian Minor, and target a larger audience that will benefit from a broader cultural perspective and knowledge of the Romance world without heavy language requirements (examples: students interested in political science, international relations, history, art history, sociology, philosophy, classics). It will also offer an alternative for students interested in a dialogical program showcasing the different languages, cultures and literatures represented in our department.

Proposed educational outcomes:

1. Identify the variety of languages and cultures of the Romance world from the past and present.
2. Recognize key periods, genres, modes and techniques in the literatures written in Romance languages.
3. Proficient in at least one Romance language to communicate and to explore Romance culture
4. Interpret and analyze various cultural, linguistic, and creative texts and objects related to the Romance world.
5. Compare literary works across the Romance world with each other, and relate them to other forms of representation.
6. Critically assess comparative theories and methods of analysis used to examine Romance cultures, languages and literatures.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

During the summer of 2020 a student survey was deployed to gather feedback. With 700 responses, feedback suggests a widespread interest in literature and culture courses taught in English, as 74% would consider taking them, and 55% expressed an interest in comparatist courses in Romance languages taught in English. The breakdown of that interest covers all areas of the Romance world.

When asked about the possibility of taking more comparatist and trans-national perspectives on Romance languages, literatures and cultures, the answers were distributed as follows: agreement (55%), disagreement (17%), neutrality (28%). Based on these figures and the accompanying comments (below), there is evidence of a strong interest in our current Spanish and French Minors and Majors and Italian Minor which focus on proficiency in one specific language and culture, and an equally strong potential interest in a comparative approach.

The survey therefore indicates that complementing our current offerings with a new, comparative stream of programs is a move in the right direction, one that may well respond not just to a generic interest on the part of the students, but more specifically to a need for a versatile program that leads to a variety of job opportunities. The following comments were submitted by students:

- *It's important to understand the connections between cultures to help better understand one's culture and how it relates to the greater society. In providing this extension of research it gives way for students to contribute to the academia of this field.*
- *I believe there is a benefit to study culture and literature in the language of said culture, however by offering courses in English it does open up opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching of history and culture, without the language barrier for some people.*
- *European history and culture are an essential part of our modern western world. Being able to understand such cultures without having to reach high proficiency in the language will offer more opportunities to broaden our knowledge while also being able to focus on our own studies.*
- *As a minor, it would be interesting to take courses where I'm learning about other cultures and their languages especially if I ever plan to visit these places for co-op or some type of work experience in the future.*
- *One of the most interesting things about Romance languages culture is how interconnected they are, and I think it would be fascinating to have courses focused on examining two languages together*

TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

In the 2020/21 academic year, tuition fees per credit for the program (consistent with other faculty of Arts programs) are:

- Domestic students: \$ 187.23
- International students: \$ 1,371.88

These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with tuition rates for the Bachelor of Arts leading up to the program's launch in September 2022.

Table 1: Sample Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs in Canada

University	Program	Approx. \$ Per Credit: Domestic/International (CAD, 2021-2022)
University of Alberta	Modern Languages and Cultural Studies (Faculty of Arts)	\$101.52/ \$401.36
McGill University	Languages, Literatures and Cultures (Faculty of Arts)	\$90.84 (Domestic Québec) / \$283.52 (Domestic Canadian) / \$883.34
Simon Fraser University	World Languages and Literatures (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)	\$231.67/ \$1048.67
University of Montreal	Comparative Literature (Faculty of Arts and Science)	\$90.84 (Domestic Québec) / \$283.52 (Domestic Canadian) / \$622.06

PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Program Description: Bachelor of Arts, Major in Roman Studies

Anticipated Start Date: September 2022

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$187.23	\$1,371.88
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$73.00	\$123.00
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Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

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