

Medieval & Renaissance Studies (MARS)

Year 2 (2024) - FAR Implementation Report

Undergraduate Programs

(reviewed 2021/22)

Recommendation #1

That all possible avenues be explored to further publicize the MARS program and associated events within the University and the broader community.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. With pandemic-related restrictions lifting, the Centre has already resumed promotions and event planning.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Dean
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-2023.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Active exploration of a variety of avenues to promote the program and associated events.	Centre	T	T	

Comments 2023:

In 2022-23, the Centre organized two talks as part of the MARS Speaker Series, and had one invited speaker from Montreal. All events were open to the public. They were promoted through the usual university channels, and invitations were extended to community partners. The Centre also collaborated with the MARS student club on several occasions (including an Archive Crawl) to offer the Brock community further exposure to pre-modern documents. A photo shoot coordinated by the Strategic Initiatives and Outreach Officer in the Faculty of Humanities is planned for March 2023 in Archives and Special Collections to provide high quality images that will be used for promotion.

Comments 2024:

In 2023-24, the Centre organized a talk as part of the MARS Speaker Series, and co-organized two other events in collaboration with other units (CLAS, MLLC, MIWSFPA), including a film screening and roundtable with community partners. All events were open to the public. The Centre pursued its active collaboration with the MARS student club (BUMARS) to expose the Brock community to pre-modern culture (including a fencing event). New promotional materials (including a brochure) were created, and the Centre's website was updated with high quality images. Members of the Centre met with the Recruitment Office to help high school recruiters promote the program to future Brock students.

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Recommendation #2

That steps be taken to offer MARS study abroad opportunities on a regularized, stable basis at least once every 2-3 years.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee believes that the Centre, in consultation with Brock International, is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to move forward with regularized and stable study abroad opportunities for students.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2023-2024.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Development of strategies to offer study abroad opportunities.	Centre	T	T	
Action #2 Creation of study abroad courses.	Centre	T	T	

Comments 2023:

In consultation with Co-op, Career and Experiential Education (CCEE) at Brock, other units in the Faculty of Humanities and the Dean of Humanities’ Office, the Centre decided to offer a study abroad course every two years (even years). Consultation is ongoing to support all aspects of study abroad initiatives. A new study abroad course, MARS 3F51 *The Viking and Medieval Isle of Man*, is currently in development for May 2024.

Comments 2024:

Consultation regarding study abroad courses is ongoing. MARS 3F51 *The Viking and Medieval Isle of Man* was well promoted, received support from Brock International, and is popular with students across the University. It is full and will run in May 2024.

Recommendation #3

That MARS explore opportunities to make further links between its curriculum and local historical resources, including museum and library collections housing pre-modern texts and/or artifacts.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee believes that the Centre is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to rebuild linkages to local historical resources and resume field trips.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Centre
 Responsible for resources: Centre
 Responsible for implementation: Centre
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-2023.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Continued support and exploration of links between curriculum and local resources.	Centre	T	T	
Action #2 Development of off-campus field trip opportunities.	Centre	D	T	

Comments 2023:

The Centre is committed to nurturing existing and new links with local museums and collections housing pre-modern material. Several MARS courses (such as MARS 4P01 *Sources and Methods of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*) include visits to Archives and Special Collections and/or the Concordia Lutheran Seminary at Brock University.

Field trips to off-campus locations have not occurred this year due to the temporary closure of some sites and lack of temporary exhibits on pre-modern material.

Comments 2024:

Collaboration with Archives and Special Collections at Brock University continues in several MARS courses. It should be highlighted that a course instructor and the head of Archives and Special Collections won the MLA-EBSCO Collaboration for Information Literacy Prize for their work in MARS 4P01 *Sources and Methods of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* in 2023.

The Centre is actively investigating off-campus field trip opportunities with local museums.

Recommendation #4

That MARS collaborate with Library and IT services personnel to develop further “Digital Humanities” initiatives aimed at enhancing research, teaching, and/or experiential learning.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Centre will work with the Library, Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Brock LINC and move forward as appropriate in the development of digital initiatives.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-2023.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Further development of “Digital Humanities” initiatives.	Centre	T	T	

Comments 2023:

This year, MARS 2P95 *Reading the Middle Ages: the Heroic and the Chivalric* is offering new experiential and professionalization opportunities to students through research and design of an ArcGIS website on courtly love and knighthood in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*.

Comments 2024:

Consultation with the Brock LINC and conversations about further developing a culture of Digital Humanities in MARS are ongoing. Two of our faculty direct ongoing well-regarded digital Humanities projects in their respective disciplines (the Decima project and the Pulter project). A new course focusing on Medieval and early-modern themed video games, 2P58 *Gaming History*, was added to the 2024-2025 MARS course bank through cross-listing with the Department of History.

Recommendation #5

That the MARS program be provided with the institutional support and acknowledgement necessary to continue its excellent work.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the program will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted as it lies outside of the jurisdiction of the Committee.