

COVID-19 Pandemic and Academic Continuity

Extending Use of Duolingo Language Placement Test

11 December 2020

The Senate Executive Committee continues to monitor the impact of the pandemic-related disruption under the auspices of the *Senate Policy on Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes* (the Disruptions Policy).

With recruitment activities in progress for the Summer 2021 session, and planning underway for the FW 2021-2022, the Senate Executive Committee has authorized extension of a temporary change to policies and practices.

Extended use of the Temporary Language Proficiency Testing Model for Admission to Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, language testing centers have remained closed around the world. To provide a reliable alternative for international students and the University, Senate Executive has authorized the following:

The use of the **Duolingo English Language Placement test** for the **Summer 2021** and **Fall/Winter 2021-2022** sessions as an acceptable language proficiency test for admission to undergraduate and graduate programs for students who cannot access existing University-recognized language tests.

Maintaining the requirement of **115 as the minimum test score** on the Duolingo placement test as the basis for admission in the **Summer 2021** and **Fall/Winter 2021-2022 sessions**; and that students entering York University through a bridge program must have a Duolingo score that aligns with the program's required IELTS or TOEFL score and will undergo additional assessment from York to confirm that written and verbal submissions meet institutional standards.

Senate Executive will continue to meet to assess the academic implications of the disruption in conjunction with the Provost. Further adjustments to regulations, schedules and deadlines may also be made in response to evolving circumstances and any further decisions deemed necessary by the University to ensure the safety of all community members.

Members of the community are urged to familiarize themselves with the Senate Policy, and to watch the University and Senate websites for updates.

Senate "Disruptions Policy"

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-implications-of-disruptions-or-cessations-of-university-business-due-to-labour-disputes-or-other-causes-senate-policy-on-the>

Alison Macpherson,
Chair of Senate