



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Pathway development in Cinema and Film

Type: Pathway Development

Project Number: 2019-26 or P1926

Project Lead: University of Ottawa

Collaborators: Senior academic administrators, project coordinators, subjects matter experts and curriculum specialists at both Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa were involved in various discussions regarding the development of this collaboration.

Project Summary

With the recent approval for the development of a \$40-million soundstage campus and creative hub in Ottawa, the city will become an important player for both the local film industry as well as for Canadian and international filmmakers. The increased opportunities to Ottawa's film industry (estimated 500 new full-time jobs in the film, TV and animation industry) will make the area of Media & Film a high-interest area of study in the region. This project supported the development of a collaborative program between Algonquin College's new program in Film and Media Production and the University of Ottawa's BA with Major in World Cinemas and enhanced collaboration and transfer opportunities between the two institutions in the area of Cinema and Film.

Project Rationale

The development of a formal pathway between the two institutions will reduce barriers for students who are transferring in this area of study. Students will benefit from taking courses both at the university, which provide theoretical, analytical and critical foundations, as well as at the college, which focus on practical training. They will also be able to obtain both a college and a university credential through this transfer model.

Outcomes

The project aimed to enhance collaboration and transfer opportunities between the two institutions through the development of a viable transfer model. The proposed new program that is being developed is achieving that goal. The program builds on a similar collaborative model already in place between the two institutions.

An articulation agreement between the two institutions formalizing this collaboration is another outcome we are working towards in this project. Once the new program passes all necessary approval stages, a formal agreement will be developed to help implement and promote the new program.

Pathway(s) Development

Key Steps

The exploration of this pathway built on the two previous collaborations the University of Ottawa already has in place with Algonquin College, which are all offered through the same department of the University of Ottawa. Subject matter experts from both institutions discussed the alignment between the two programs. As mentioned, the proposal of a new, collaborative program structure was also facilitated by the fact that a revision of the original University program was underway, and that the college program was still in development.

Pathways Created

We are proposing a collaborative BA program in Film Studies and Production including two years of study at the University of Ottawa and one intensive year of study at Algonquin College (equivalent to two years). This model is similar to two other 2+2 collaborations between the two institutions that have been running successfully for the past ten years.

Challenges

Because the project led to the development of a new program, the timeline for the last part of the project, implementation of the pathway, is longer than anticipated. The project aimed to develop a reciprocal transfer model. While our existing 2+2 collaborative programs with Algonquin College provide students with the opportunity to start either at the college or at the university, the proposed program structure starts at the university and finishes at the college. This was determined to be the optimal sequence to ensure students obtain the best practical and theoretical experience needed at the end of all sessions of study.

Student Outcomes

Students will benefit from taking courses both at the university, which provide theoretical, analytical and critical foundations, as well as at the college, which focus on practical training. The proposed program will also allow students to obtain both a college and a university credential in a shorter amount of time.

Student Credential

This pathway will lead to a new program, in collaboration between Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa. Courses will be followed in both institutions.

Student Time Savings

At Algonquin, the students will have to follow an intensive year (equivalent at two college years).

Student Financial Savings

Because of the intensive year, the students will finish their degree faster and, if they want, join the labour market.

Student Flexibility

There is no agreement at the present in cinema and film between Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa. This new program will benefit students by facilitating transfer between both institutions.

Student Work Alignment

Multiple jobs in the film industry will open in the future years in Ottawa and the students who will follow the new program in cinema and film will benefit from those opportunities.

Institutional Outcomes

The project aligns very well with the University of Ottawa's recent initiative to revitalize its undergraduate and graduate programs in order to better meet student and market demands. We are hoping similar collaborations will continue to be developed in the future in other key areas of study.

Sector or System Implications

ONCAT is working towards a more seamless and student-centered transfer system. Does this project provide any insights, cautions or recommendations for a more seamless system? Please describe.

The 2+2 collaborative program is a good model of college-university collaborations. In this case, the analysis and curriculum alignment exercises were facilitated by the fact that a revision of the BA with Major in World Cinemas University program was underway, and that the Film and Media Production college program was still in development. This allowed for a more flexible process of analysis and alignment of the two programs.

Tips/Advice

Building on the experience provided by already existing, successful collaborative models is important. As well, developing a collaborative program during the revision of a current program can facilitate the analysis and alignment process as changes are already being considered.

Tools and Resources

An articulation agreement will be developed once the program undergoes all internal and external quality assurance processes and will be shared with ONCAT at that time.

