



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Pathway development from the Early Childhood Education college program to the Second Language Teaching university program

Type: Pathways development

Project Number: 2019-28 or P1928

Project Lead: University of Ottawa

Collaborators: La Cité collégiale

Project Summary

This project aimed to increase Francophone student mobility and access to postsecondary programs in French through the development of an efficient pathway from the Éducation en services à l'enfance program at La Cité to the BA spécialisé en Didactiques des langues secondes (DLS) offered by the University of Ottawa. The DLS program allows students to better understand the development and acquisition of languages in a plurilingual context. This training is very important for future early childhood educators and teachers at the elementary level, both in French-language as well as immersion schools in Ontario. The pathway developed as part of this project will therefore be very beneficial to graduates of the Éducation en services à l'enfance program who want to pursue a Bachelor of Education after the DLS program.

Project Rationale

The goal of the project was to increase Francophone student mobility and access to postsecondary programs in French by developing an efficient pathway between an Early Childhood Education college program and a Second Language Teaching university program.

Main Collaborators

Senior academic administrators, project coordinators, subjects matter experts and curriculum specialists at La Cité and the University of Ottawa were involved in various discussions regarding the development of this pathway.

Outcomes

The project aimed to increase Francophone student mobility and access to postsecondary programs in French by developing an effective pathway in Didactiques des langues secondes. The proposed pathway is achieving that goal. An articulation agreement between the University of Ottawa and La Cité formalizing this pathway is another outcome we are working towards in this project. A formal agreement is currently being developed and will be signed by the partners in the next few weeks.

Pathway(s) Development

Key Steps

An extensive analysis and approval of advanced standing was undertaken by several internal university stakeholders (department, undergraduate studies office, admission office) to ensure an accurate list of course equivalencies. Existing collaborations between the University of Ottawa and La Cité in various fields that also grant college graduates 60 credits of advanced standing served as good examples in developing this pathway.

Pathways Created

A pathway has been established from the Éducation en services à l'enfance program at La Cité to the BA spécialisé avec majeure en Didactiques des langues secondes (DLS) offered by the University of Ottawa. More specifically, sixty (60) advanced standing credits will be granted to graduates of the college program towards B.A. spécialisé avec majeure en enseignement des langues secondes* (DLS) et mineure en français (FRA), which consists of 120 credits.

*Please note that the name of the University of Ottawa program has changed since the submission of the project proposal (i.e. from Didactique des langues secondes to Enseignement des langues secondes).

Challenges

The last part of the project, development and implementation of the pathway, took longer than anticipated. Some college courses underwent modifications during the project and thus the analysis took these changes into account. In addition, several internal university stakeholders are involved in validating the proposed equivalencies (department, undergraduate studies office, admission office) as well as subject matter experts at the college level and this process took longer than anticipated.

Student Outcomes

This project has expanded the list of available pathways for Francophone college students looking to continue their postsecondary education in French. Students can benefit from two years of full-time study in advanced standing as a result of this pathway.

Student Credential

Students will obtain a college diploma in Éducation en services à l'enfance from La Cité and a B.A. spécialisé avec majeure en enseignement des langues secondes (DLS) et mineure en français (FRA) from the University of Ottawa.

Student Time Savings

Students will obtain the college and the university credential in four years rather than six years.

Student Financial Savings

The reduction in the time completion for the University credential will also result in financial savings for students.

Student Flexibility

This pathway has expanded the list of available pathways for Francophone college students looking to continue their postsecondary education in French. In addition, a formalized agreement in this field will help reduce barriers for students looking to transfer from college to university.

Student Work Alignment

This pathway is important because the DLS training is very relevant for students looking to pursue a teaching career in French-language and immersion schools, where there is great demand for qualified teachers. The DLS program allows students to better understand the development and acquisition of languages in a plurilingual context. This training is very important for future early childhood educators and teachers at the elementary level, both in French-language as well as immersion schools in Ontario. The pathway developed as part of this project will therefore be very beneficial to graduates of the Éducation en services à l'enfance program who want to pursue a Bachelor of Education after the DLS program.

Institutional Outcomes

The project aligns very well with the University of Ottawa's recent renewed interest in exploring potential pathways and collaborations with both college and university partners. The University is also continuously improving its internal processes to facilitate pathway development and projects such as this one are helpful in this respect.

Tools and Resources

The final version of the proposed equivalencies will be shared with ONCAT once all approvals are finalized in the next month. An articulation agreement is currently being developed and will be posted on the ONTransfer.ca site once the approval process is complete.

