



Request for Program Discontinuation

Summary:	
Name of Program being Discontinued:	Master of Arts in Geography
Academic Unit housing the Program:	Department of Geography and Tourism Studies
Date Discontinuation to become effective:	May 1, 2026
Name of person submitting:	Christopher Fullerton (Chair, Curriculum Committee) David Goldblum (Department Chair)
Email of person submitting:	chris.fullerton@brocku.ca , dgoldblum@brocku.ca
Date of Submission:	November 3, 2025

The Request for Program Discontinuation shall include:

Rationale for the Proposed Discontinuation
Provide a clear rationale for the request, documenting the results of program committee discussions.
<p>There has been a pause in intake of new students into the program for three consecutive years (2024-25 through 2026-2027). Prior to this, enrolment numbers were largely supported by international students and there has been no growth in the number of domestic students. Enrolment target numbers were met for 2023-24; however, four international students were not successful in obtaining student visas, thus dropping program registrations below the enrolment target. With increasing challenges facing international students to obtain student visas and limited demand from domestic students, the decision was made to discontinue the MA in Geography through a unanimous vote of the Departmental Committee on March 20, 2025. Additionally, potential retirements in Human Geography and Tourism Studies will reduce the ability of the program to function.</p>
Details of Resource Implications
Describe how resources of the program (human, physical and budgetary) will be redistributed.
<p>There are no new resource implications. Departmental faculty members will return to a full teaching load in the various undergraduate programs offered in the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies. This will reduce the requirement for sessional instructors and allow additional undergraduate courses to be offered by faculty. The GDP position ceased to exist as of July 1, 2025. All matters related to the proposed program discontinuation will be managed by the Department's Curriculum Committee.</p>
Termination Plan and Timing of Discontinuation
A phased closure plan and timeline for the program discontinuation, taking into account the requirements of those students currently enrolled in the program to allow them to meet requirements for graduation.
<p>There has been no intake for two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) and there will also be no intake in 2026-2027. The discontinuation of the program will not impact current students. There are only three students remaining in the existing program, and they are on track to complete their program requirements by April 2026.</p>

Evidence and Documentation of Consultation

Include the results of any consultation with other units (academic and/or administrative) that will be impacted by the program discontinuation.

The non-intake of new students since 2024-2025 has been carried out in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs. No other units will be impacted by the program discontinuation, and the program does not offer a Co-op option.

Decanal Comments

Please see the accompanying letters of support for the program discontinuation from Dr. Dawn Zinga, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Dr. Suzanne Curtin, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.

Memo

To: Brian Power, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic, and members of the Academic Review Committee (ARC)

Copies to: Suzanne Curtin, Vice-Provost, Graduate Studies and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Affairs
Atsuko Hashimoto, Department of Geography and Tourism Studies
David Goldblum, Chair, Department of Geography and Tourism Studies
Rebecca Raby, Acting Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, Faculty of Social Sciences

From: Dawn Zinga, Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Date: October 23, 2025

Subject: **Discontinuation of the MA in Geography**

I am in support of the discontinuation of the MA in Geography. It is an appropriate step for the reasons outlined in the document and is compatible with the strategic priorities of the Faculty of Social Sciences.



DZ/lb



**Faculty of Graduate Studies
and Postdoctoral Affairs**

Brock University
Niagara Region
1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way
St. Catharines, ON
L2S 3A1 Canada

brocku.ca

To: Dr. Christopher Fullerton, Professor, and Dr. David Goldblum, Professor and
Department Chair, Faculty of Social Sciences
Copies to: Dr. Rebecca Raby, Associate Dean, Dr. Dawn Zinga, Acting Dean, and Dr. Brian
Power, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic
From: Dr. Suzanne Curtin, Vice Provost & Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral
Affairs (FGSPA)
Date: October 28, 2025
Subject: Program Discontinuation of the MA in Geography

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (FGSPA) has reviewed the request for program discontinuation for the Master of Arts in Geography. As the proponent noted, the decision to discontinue stems from low enrolment due to challenges in international students obtaining student visas and limited interest from domestic students. The no intake of new students for the past two years has allowed for careful consideration of the program discontinuation.

I appreciate all the work that went into this decision and support the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Curtin".

Dr. Suzanne Curtin
Vice-Provost & Dean
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs