

## ***Nouveau Projet de MELS: Culture et Communication***

**Implementation Date:** The program's implementation dates seem unrealistic. Given that what is called for is a complete redesign of our program, including potential changes to our faculty and facilities, we will need adequate time to work. I cannot imagine our department being ready to accept students into a new version of the program until Fall 2014 or later.

**Name of program:** The program name "Culture et Communications" does not give enough of a sense of the "hands-on" or creative nature of our program, nor does it respond to a need to update the program to include contemporary digital media. It would be advisable to choose a program name which reflects most closely its actual content, and one which is suggestive of the combination of creative and theoretical work that students will do. We would suggest, Art, Medias et Communications. And what will the English translation of the name be?

**Competencies:** Too many of the 9 competencies are aimed at purely theoretical concerns. As most experienced teachers will attest, critical thinking is best taught by a combination of theory and hands-on practice. This imbalance needs to be addressed, either by changing some of the competencies to more practice-based ones, or by adding additional ones that valorize practical work in specific disciplines.

**Contact-hours:** The program's admirable aims are quite simply not achievable with the minimal number of contact hours of 675, compared to the higher numbers of many other programs. Again: cut back on the expectations, or increase the number of contact hours.

**Exceptions to the program:** Visual Arts, Music, and Dance do not need to be exceptions to our program. The exploratory, multi-disciplinary nature of the current system gives students a broad base – a general knowledge of the arts and media – and is one reason why many students choose Creative Arts over the narrower focus of the Fine Arts program. In today's world, we are seeing the merging of many disciplines and a criss-crossing of traditional studio practice with digital technologies and expanding communications media.. A contemporary version of the "Arts et Lettres" program will have to accept and embrace this.

In addition, the broader approach increases the chance that students will "find their life's passion". In the past decade, we have seen talented students who found their place in a particular medium, progressed sufficiently to create a strong portfolio, and were subsequently accepted into Studio Arts, Photography, Animation, or other specialized and elite programs. Why would we limit these possible success stories?

In this regard, we therefore suggest strongly the removal of the line in the first paragraph of the *Projet*: ‘à l’exception des arts visuels, de la danse, et de la musique.’

**Inclusion of Languages:**

The aims of the program and the detailed competencies suggest that Languages should not be part of the mix. We respectfully submit the thought that Languages be split away from the current program.

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