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To Whom It May Concern,

Below is the detailed description of the Foundation Year Programme that peer universities have found helpful for the purposes of assigning transfer credit.

The Foundation Year Programme provides an integrated and interdisciplinary course for first-year students. Literature, history, philosophy, political and social institutions, the history of science, economic forms, religion, art and music are studied together in one course in an integrated manner which sees them as interdependent elements in the development of western culture. The movement of this culture is understood through the examination of some of the most basic works in our history. To learn to deal with these works is to acquire a foundation for studies in the humanities and social science, just as to have a conception of the nature of our society and culture is to have a basis for thoughtful living. To provide these is the aim of the Programme.

Many scientists are acutely aware of the need to understand the relation of science to other aspects of culture and to social life; a stream of the Programme provides a general view of our culture for science students interested in these questions. The form of the teaching is designed to meet the special needs of first-year students. Enrollment in the Programme is limited. All students meet together in the lecture; they break into tutorial groups of approximately 15 students for discussion afterwards. The very favourable ratio of staff to students and the concentration of the student's work within one course permit the course to offer a wide variety of experiences and allow it to help students analyze, focus, and evaluate their experiences. The amount of time spent in small group tutorials permits close attention to be paid to each student's development. The exposure to many different aspects of our civilization, and the number of departments within the Dalhousie/King's Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences which recognize the Programme as a substitute for their introductory classes, gives Foundation Year students both a wider experience from which to judge their interests and wider options for second-year study.

At Dalhousie/King's, the Foundation Year credits are recognized as the equivalent of the first full year courses in English, History, Philosophy and Sociology. The instructors in the Programme are specialists in a wide variety of university subjects. All take the view, however, that first-year study at university can profitably be devoted to attempts to integrate knowledge and understanding rather than to premature specialization in particular subjects.

The Foundation Year Programme forms part of the first-year work for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music (King's/Dalhousie) and for the Bachelor of Journalism (Honours) (King's). A full course load consists of five credits per academic year. Journalism, Arts and Music students take the Programme for four full-year credits (KING 1000.24), attending two-hour lectures and one-hour tutorials four times a week, and taking one additional credit in Journalism, Music or an Arts subject. Most Science students choose the three-credit full year course version (KING 1100.18), and attend six hours of lectures and three hours of tutorials each week, taking an additional two credits in Science subjects.

The Programme runs for the full academic session, which is 34 weeks from early September to late April each year.

Evaluation is based on essays of 1,500 words, which are due every two weeks during the term (with each tutor marking the essays of the students in his or her tutorial), two mid-term examinations in November and February, two major research papers due in December and April, and oral examinations in both December and April.

The readings for the Programme are works written in, rather than about, each period studied. Students are challenged to think about who those people were, how they saw the world in which they lived, and how their thinking and writing might help us to understand our world now, in the twenty-first century.

Beginning with the ancient Greeks and ending with texts written in the 1990s, students read a wide variety of material and study many of the major works of western civilization. The basic core of material studied in the Foundation Year - works such as Plato's *Republic*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Marx and Engels' *Communist Manifesto*, and T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* - does not vary greatly from year to year. Some of the other readings may change depending on the instructors involved. If you have any further questions about the Foundation Year Programme, do not hesitate to contact the Registrar's Office at 902-422-1271 or visit [www.ukings.ca](http://www.ukings.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Green". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Julie Green  
Registrar