



6350 Coburg Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 2A1
T. 902.422.1271
F. 902.423.3357
www.ukings.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

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

The Foundation Year Program 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 Program.

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 Program 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 Program 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 Program 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 Program 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.

At King's, a full course load is 30 credit hours (5 full credits) per academic year. The Foundation Year Program forms a majority of the 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). Journalism, Arts and Music students take the Program for 24 credit hours, or four full-year credits (KING 1001.12 and KING 1002.12). They attend two-hour lectures and one-hour tutorials four times a week, and take one additional credit in Journalism, Music or an Arts subject. Most Science students choose the 18 credit hour, or three full-year credit version (KING 1101.09 and KING 1102.09), and attend six hours of lectures and three hours of tutorials each week, taking an additional two credits in Science subjects. For more information about how Dalhousie/King's define credit hours and course loads, please refer to the current Academic Calendar at <https://academiccalendar.ukings.ca>.

The Foundation Year Program 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 Program 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 Program, do not hesitate to contact the Registrar's Office at 902-422-1271 or visit www.ukings.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J O'Keefe', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer O'Keefe
Assistant Registrar, Academic & Enrolment Services