MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FIRST YEAR AT DAL

FIRST YEAR INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS)

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
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FIRST-YEAR INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS) are a mix of tutorials, study groups, and social get-togethers. Each FIG is a small group of about 15 first-year students who have similar academic interests and are usually taking at least two of the same first-year courses. They’re free, informal, interactive groups that will help you make the most out of your first year at Dal.

Led by senior undergraduate or graduate students, FIGs get together for 50 minutes every week during the fall term to discuss some of the big ideas coming out of your courses and future fields of study. They allow you to delve deeper into the material, bounce ideas off each other, and meet other students who share some of your interests.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FIGS
These First-Year Interest Groups (FIGs) are open to any new student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences who is entering as a first year student.

In these FIGs, you’ll meet other first-year students with similar interests, and you’ll have the opportunity to explore those interests, and future academic and career options, with senior peers and with experts—all in a small group setting.

Why should I enroll in a FIG?
• You’ll get to know other students (and maybe find a study partner)
• You’ll meet Dal faculty and/or professionals who work in your area of interest
• You’ll find out how to get involved in volunteer opportunities, events, and clubs
• You’ll learn about future opportunities for students with your interests (e.g. scholarships, research opportunities, co-op, study abroad)

FIG OPTIONS FOR ARTS STUDENTS:
FIGA 0001: International Politics & Development
You’re coming to Dal to learn more about international relations and Canada’s place in the world. You might be considering a career in international human rights work, development projects, or politics. You’re curious about the political arrangements that structure our world and how to influence them.

FIGA 0002: Literature & Performance
You’re coming to Dal to study literature, drama, or the performing arts. You might be considering a career as an artist or as a teacher of the arts. You enjoy exploring how creative works help us understand ourselves and our world.

FIGA 0004: History & Myth
You are coming to Dal to learn more about how the world came to be as it is and about the stories we tell to make sense of the connections between past and present. You’re planning to take courses in History, Classics, Religious Studies, or Literature. You may not have a clear sense of your future career goals just yet – maybe law? maybe writing or teaching? – but you know you like learning about the past.

FIGA 0007: Human Behaviour
You are coming to Dal to learn more about human behaviour. You may be interested in the underlying triggers of mental illness, or be curious about how children learn to speak or to develop social skills. Or maybe you’re interested in how groups of humans behave – how crowds form and act as they do, why some societies tend to compete while others seem to promote cooperation.

FIGA 0008: Environment & Sustainability
You are coming to Dal to learn about how to engage ethically and responsibly with our natural environment and to acquire the tools you need to effect positive change in the ways we live in our world. Concerned about climate change, you may have a particular interest in water, energy or food security and want to work with other problem-solvers committed to finding solutions to global challenges.

FIGA 0009: Law & Social Justice
You are coming to Dal to learn more about inequality and how to address it, with a particular interest in how law can be used both to promote social justice and to hinder it. You might be planning to take courses in Gender and Women’s Studies, Sociology and Social Anthropology, History and more. You may have an eye to later entering law school.

FIG REGISTRATION
You can sign up for a FIG when you register for your courses! Make sure the FIG time slot doesn’t conflict with any of your other courses.

Visit dal.ca/figs to learn more.