Welcome to our world!

Welcome to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at Dalhousie! You may not realize it yet, but by selecting FASS, you are standing before the doors to new worlds of possibility.

People will tell you that we are living in an increasingly-globalized world...but what does that really mean? Here, our classes will help you answer this question, and help you find your place in a larger society that considers, values and interprets multiple cultural perspectives.

The subjects that you will study are all 'international' in their outlook – because of their content, but also because of the professors who teach them, who themselves are linked through teaching and research with many colleagues around the world.

Try a new language and see for yourself how it can open new doors and provide new understanding into different cultures and societies. Learn about world politics – both historical and current – and discover how competing world views have, and continue to, shape our actions. From philosophy to music, you will start to see connections you hadn’t noticed before, giving you a fuller and richer understanding of the world around you.

So, why is this important?

Pick any large global issue from the news today and you will begin to see the real-world significance of a more global understanding: dealing with climate change is as much about social change as it is about science; reducing war and conflict is as much about values and idea systems as it is about control over resources or territory.

You have an important role to play as a 'global citizen,' someone who understands the ways in which different cultures intersect and collide, and who can look at the bigger picture to help find solutions. Your specific form of global citizenship may be found in Classical studies, in performance, in languages and literatures, in the study of Canadian foreign policy, or through one of our many international exchanges and study-abroad programs. However you choose to contribute to our world, FASS will give you the tools for a deep and global understanding; through this more complete understanding, you will be able to influence meaningful change.

The study of the arts, humanities and social sciences is vital for our shared future, at home and abroad. We are pleased that you are starting your journey to global citizenship here in FASS - welcome to our world!

Sincerely,
Robert Summerby-Murray
Dean

NOW...WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE?

FASS' locations are as varied as our offerings. Here are a few of our hubs...

The McCain - 6135 University Ave

Main administrative building for FASS. Home to: Classics, English, French, German, History, Philosophy, Russian Studies, Sociology & Social Anthropology, Spanish & Latin American Studies, and the Deans Office.

The Arts Centre - 6101 University Ave

Home to: The Fountain School of Performing Arts (Music and Theatre), Home of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Costume Studies is located downtown in City Centre Atlantic on Dresden Row (upstairs from Cora's and Pete's Frootique!)

The Hicks - 6299 South Street

Main administrative building for the University. Home to: International Development Studies, Political Science and the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies.
Through the eyes of a first-year student
By Allie Graham

I come from Burnaby, BC – just a 30 minute train ride from downtown Vancouver. When I started thinking about university, I knew I wanted a completely new experience. I made a list of cities I could see myself living in, which I soon narrowed down to one – Halifax – with Dalhousie and King’s at the top of my list.

When I was awarded a scholarship to Dal, my mind was made up. In late August, I packed my bags and hopped on a plane across the country. Ten hours later, I found myself on the East coast for the first time in my life. A lot of people thought it was foolish to choose a school in a place where I had never set foot. All I can say is that it felt right.

I took part in O-Week, which helped me feel more comfortable transitioning into classes and life in residence. Moving into Shirreff Hall on my own was a little intimidating at first, but the Resident Advisors are super-helpful – it was like living with a parent or guardian, but less overbearing (I love you, mom). Living in residence was great for me socially, but having friends just down the hall or up the stairs from me made it challenging at times to dedicate enough time to my studies and sleep.

Speaking of sleep…

In high school I was involved in every extracurricular imaginable. I was the artsy/socially-aware/student-leader/athlete, and it was difficult to break my tendency to join every club, team, society, and collective that sparked my interest. At Dal – with more options for classes, clubs and societies than you can ever imagine – I had to learn to say ‘no’ to some things. You can have a riveting social life, attend your classes and pursue your interests…but doing too much can take a toll on your body. First year taught me how important sleep is. Reflect on those that are most interesting to you, and focus your attention there.

One thing I did choose to do was get involved with my Faculty as a Member at Large in the Dalhousie Arts & Social Sciences Society (DASSS). I got to know – and make friends with – the executive, and see firsthand how this group contributes to the academic and social life of FASS students. This coming year, I am DASSS’ Vice President Academic, which will include spearheading the Society’s annual conference this winter.

In addition to DASSS and DSU, I had the opportunity to work with and alongside a number of community organizations in my first year, including the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) and the South House (SoHo). South House is a safe house and radical defender for many women, queer, and trans-identifying people in Halifax and beyond. I have been fortunate enough to have been a part of the 2014 ‘Rad Pride’ Collective, as well as an enthusiastic attendee of many of the SoHo’s rallies and marches addressing current intersectional issues.

I also joined an improvisational theatre company in Halifax called “Make ‘Em Ups.” I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to continue my passion for acting and improvisational stage work that began in grade 8, but I am happy to say that I was wrong! Since October 2013, I have been performing and taking classes with the company on a near-weekly basis. This became a home-away-from-home for me; the other performers are like my family.

One way to explore the community outside of campus is through one of the coolest services Dal has: the bike centre. With a valid student ID, you can borrow a bike free of charge for a couple of days at a time. Halifax is an amazing city and my life off campus has made me more at home in the city; I couldn’t be more thankful. Moving from coast to coast has had its rocky moments, but I couldn’t be happier to be where I am now.

Allie Graham is studying International Development Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies at Dal and Journalism at King’s.
Hello and welcome to Dalhousie University! My name is Kaitlynne Lowe and I am a third year student working on a combined honours degree in English and History, as well as a minor in French. I can tell you from experience that there is more to university education than simply attending lectures and doing your readings, especially as a student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). As this year’s Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society (DASSS) President, I would like to welcome you to the DASSS community! You are about to embark on an amazing journey and DASSS will be there to help you.

First of all, what is DASSS? DASSS is the faculty society for all arts and social sciences students. Our priority is to ensure that you have the best university experience possible. We advocate for the needs of our students to the Faculty as well as the Dalhousie Student Union. Our goal is to create a sense of community for all arts students and build a sense of Arts Student Pride (#IStudyArts)!

The DASSS Council is made up of five executives, the chair, and seventeen representatives from each of our member societies that represent many of the departments and programs. This council is designed to help address issues facing arts students and encourage collaboration to help find a solution, whether the issue is adding more microwaves to the McCain building, or addressing funding issues for academic resources and programs.

That sounds great! How do I get involved? Good news! As an Arts student, you are already a member. You have already paid a fee to the society and DASSS uses this money to benefit all arts students. Your level of participation in the society beyond this is up to you!

We have a number of events planned for this year: look to your right and you’ll see a few. Come to our Annual General Meeting in October and see what we’re about. If you are feeling keen, you can run for a position on the Executive (First Year Rep or Member at Large) – no matter what, there will be free pizza!

Getting involved with departmental societies – for example, the History Society – is a great way to get to know students in your classes, get to know professors on a new level, and meet upper year students who know what you are going through and often have great advice (especially when choosing courses).

If you are looking to chart your own course, you can apply for grant funding through DASSS to allow you to attend an event somewhere else. There are so many ways to connect with us – come see what we’re about!

How can I find out more? You can email the society directly at dasss@dal.ca or come by our offices in Room 2013 of the McCain Building or Room 314 of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. I am always more than willing to help address an issue, help someone find whatever information they are looking for, or even just chat about life. You can reach me anytime on my cell 905-925-8098 or my email kaitlynnelowe@hotmail.com. We are so looking forward to meeting you!
First-year Seminar

A seminar is a class that is smaller and more interactive than a “regular” class. Because these classes have limited enrolment – usually only about 25 students – they are generally reserved for students in their upper-levels of study.

That is, until now...

Welcome to the FASS First-Year Seminar. Students who take these classes will become active participants in their own education, contributing to discussions, and learning from both professors and each other.

We have five seminars, each taught by a top professor in the Faculty. These courses are ideal for students looking to meet and interact with their peers, engage with their professors, and study fascinating material.

**FALL 2014**

**Creativity in the Internet Age**
Tuesday/Thursday
10:05a.m. - 11:25a.m.

**Retelling Canada Through Indigenous-Settler Relations**
Wednesdays
10:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.

**Friend, Neighbour, Stranger, Self: The Political Significance of Personal Relationships**
Tuesday/Thursday
10:05a.m. - 11:25a.m.

**Raiders of the Lost Archives**
Tuesday/Thursday
1:05p.m. - 2:25p.m.

**WINTER 2015**

**Performing the Techno-Human**
TBD

For more information and full seminar descriptions, visit http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/programs/first-year-seminars.html

Register using the online academic timetable:
Arts and Social Sciences [ASSC] 1200

How to become an “A...” student

By David Matthias, Assistant Dean, Student Matters

Congratulations on your admission to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University! I’m sure that you are excited, eager, and optimistic as your first term of study approaches, and so you should be, for you are about to embark on a life-changing educational and personal journey.

I’m sure you are also feeling at least a twinge of nervousness and trepidation as well, and again so you should be, for any journey will pose challenges, and will offer up unexpected turns, high points, and low points.

Like every other new student in the Faculty, you are here because you have academic talent and potential. But you are now facing the challenge of transitioning your talents and realizing your potential in a new and unfamiliar learning environment that also poses new personal developmental challenges as you learn to be more independent, to make your own choices, and set your own goals. And unfortunately, not every student navigates the transition and completes their journey successfully.

How can you improve your chances of becoming “A” successful university student?

Be prepared to:

**Assess** your outcomes: learn from your mistakes and accept constructive criticism—whether that criticism comes in the form of comments on your work or the grades that you earn on your work. View any early disappointments as opportunities to identify your weaknesses and your strengths, then . . .

**Act** to improve: be prepared to change the way you study and write, to alter your habits, and to adjust your preconceptions. Learn how to learn in your new environment. But if you are unsure what is wrong or what you might do differently . . .

**Ask** for guidance: seek clarification, advice and support from your professors, your teaching assistants, academic advisors, librarians, and other Student Services personnel; and if necessary, . . .

**Acquire** new skills: take part in workshops that address common problems, find and study resources on studying, and engage with your fellow students both in class and in extracurricular activities; then . . .

**Apply** what you learn: initiate new approaches and strategies in your work and life—experiment, push your boundaries.

If you want to be an “A” student, an Adaptable student, then learn about yourself as a learner while you learn. Be flexible and resilient, and you will enjoy your journey and you will reach your destination.

I wish you great success in your first year in the Faculty and in the University.

Dr. David Matthias
assideanfass@dal.ca / 902.494.1440

**STAND OUT WITH A MINOR**

What’s a minor? Good question. A minor is a set of three-to-six credits in a given subject area, which allows you to step out of the box and customize your degree into something that is uniquely your own. Students can take a minor in a FASS subject – such as History, Pop Culture or Arabic Studies – or explore their options in Science with minors like Marine Biology and Psychology. With more than sixty offerings between the two institutions, your options are open like never before. The possibilities are endless. We can’t wait to see what you come up with!

For a full list of Minors options, visit www.dal.ca/minors
Learning beyond the classroom:  
A summer abroad in the Czech Republic  
By Chris Spencer, 4th Year, Theatre Studies

I used to think that being a University student meant sitting in a classroom and taking notes, then going home and doing readings and assignments. Repeat, repeat, repeat, with nothing more for the rest of the week. My mindset quickly changed this summer, when I realized the university experience could be so much more. In fact, this is the summer that a lot of things changed for me, and for the better.

I had always heard about students having the opportunity to study in a different country through their universities but, until recently, had never thought of myself as adventurous enough to do so.

I mustered my courage and took the plunge this past year, enrolling in an advanced seminar in Baroque culture through the History, Music and Theatre Departments. This month-long summer course took me across the ocean to the beautiful town of Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic.

In the months leading up to the trip, I started to get worried about studying in a foreign country. Thankfully, Dalhousie has a tonne of resources that makes travelling abroad a lot easier than one might initially think. The Travel Cuts in the Student Union Building was exceptionally helpful to me in the planning stages of my trip, and the staff was able to relay their knowledge and provide many tips that would help put my mind at ease. If money (or lack of money) is something that is holding you back from studying abroad, there are also many different opportunities to receive funding through Dalhousie to help students to achieve their dreams.

With the logistics taken care of, it was finally time for the big adventure.

Studying in Cesky Krumlov was so much more than just sitting in a classroom and taking notes. Every day was a new adventure – we were learning just as much outside of the classroom as we were in it. A typical school week consisted of exploring historic castle grounds, going to an Opera in Prague, and dressing in old renaissance costumes for a weekend long festival.

After seeing such incredibly beautiful places and taking part in once in a lifetime experiences, I could not believe that I hadn't studied abroad sooner. Before this trip I remember reading things like “Life starts at the end of your comfort zone,” and “If you travel far enough you’ll find yourself.” It wasn't until I travelled myself, however, that I truly understood and believed them to be true. I can honestly say that I am a new and improved person and I owe it to this experience through Dalhousie University.

My advice to you, new students, is this: if you have ever had an urge to travel but were afraid to take the risk, really consider studying abroad with Dalhousie. You won't regret it!

DID YOU KNOW?  
Dal has over 90 international exchange options for students? Explore your opportunities and learn about available funding at dal.ca/international.
Let me tell you a secret.

I did not come to Dalhousie to study Classics or Contemporary Studies – in fact, as a student entering university from high school, I would have been hard pressed to say what either of these departments taught. I came to Dalhousie because all my favourite rock bands were based in Halifax and I wanted to see them play live as much as possible. Don’t get me wrong: I knew that Dalhousie was a great school and I came here to study and learn… but I came without any clear sense of what exactly I should be studying and learning.

I enrolled in the Foundation Year Programme at the University of King’s College, a one-year intensive introduction to the literature and philosophy of the western tradition. I had some vague sense I’d go on to study science, but what I encountered in that first year opened my eyes to a different path.

I was simply blown away by the fact that you could study human things: the big questions about what humans believe, imagine, create, desire and think, with a kind of careful and serious rigour appropriate to these subjects, but no less rigorous or serious than math or natural science. I was especially mesmerized by my first-year encounter with Plato’s Republic. This led me to the Classics Department in my second year to enrol in Introductory Ancient Greek, so that I could learn to read the text in its original form.

Let me tell you: Introductory Greek was no “bird course,” but the intensity of the class banded my classmates and me together. Because of it, I formed extremely close and long-lasting friendships, many of which I still maintain today… including Kieva, my beloved wife, whom I met that year while cramming for our mid-term exam. This blurring of the line between school and social life is what makes life on campus so exciting. When you graduate, you will likely feel as strong a tie to your “home” department as you will to the university: I did.

Take your time as an undergraduate to explore and investigate questions, ideas, historical periods, languages that intrigue and interest you – don’t worry too much about what might seem immediately useful down the road. It will work itself out. Immerse yourself in the small worlds of the various Departments, each with its own weird and wonderful, highly distinct culture. By studying the same subject, you will have endless things to talk about: this blurring of the line between school and social life is what makes life on campus so exciting. When you graduate, you will likely feel as strong a tie to your “home” department as you will to the university: I did.

University does not exist in a vacuum – make an effort to be in Halifax, to be in Nova Scotia – there will be as many opportunities to broaden your perspective on life in the community as there are in the classroom. If you are coming to Halifax from outside Nova Scotia, make sure to get out and explore!

*DEFINITION: ALUMNUS
A male graduate, or former student of a specific school, college or university. ‘Alumna’ refers to a female graduate. ‘Alumni’ refers to two or more graduates.

Source: dictionary.com
The Faces of FASS
dal.ca/faces-of-fass

From campus life, to life-changing professors, to study abroad, hear how current FASS students are discovering themselves and their passions here at Dal.

Visit dal.ca/faces-of-fass to watch their stories. What will your Dal story be?

FASS BASSH! NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION EVENT

Learn about your Faculty, join a student society and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

Tuesday, September 2 @ 9 - noon / Ondaatje Auditorium, McCain Building
At a glance...

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

**Health Services**
494.2171

**Office of the Registrar**
494.2450; registrar@dal.ca

**Student Services**
494.2404; student.services@dal.ca

**Studying for Success**
494.3077; sfs@dal.ca

**Writing Centre**
494.1963; writingcentre@dal.ca

Money Matters, Student Life, Library, Career Services and more!

[https://my.dal.ca/](https://my.dal.ca/)

**BRAEDEN HAS A RECORD... DO YOU HAVE YOURS?**

Get your Dal or King's experience on record

Being part of a Student Society, a volunteer on campus or a participant in a Dalhouse-run workshop are but a few ways to get yourself recognised. Seek out new opportunities to get engaged on myCareer and start building your own Co-Curricular Record. Who knows where your experiences will take you...

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**FASS Student Groups 2014-15**

DASSS
dasss@dal.ca

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**FASS Clubs & Societies 2014-15**

**CANADIAN STUDIES**
krystasero@gmail.com

**CLASSICS**
dalrespublica@gmail.com

**ENGLISH**
engsoc@dal.ca

**EUROPEAN STUDIES**
daleuropeanstudies@gmail.com

**FRENCH**
francais@dal.ca

**GENDER & WOMEN’S STUDIES**
dalgwss@gmail.com

**GERMAN**
dgs@dal.ca

**HISTORY**
dalhistory@gmail.com

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**
ideas@dal.ca

**ITALIAN**
dal.amicimiei@gmail.com

**MUSIC**
sdms.exec@gmail.com

**PHILOSOPHY**
dalhousieups@gmail.com

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**
andrew.wkseto@gmail.com

**RUSSIAN STUDIES**
dalhousierussiansociety@gmail.com

**SOCIOLGY & SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY**
dalsosasociety@gmail.com

**SPANISH**
spanish@dal.ca

**THEATRE**
stage@dal.ca

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