

Enhanced Student Bursary Program – Interim Report

The King's University (King's) students pay \$4,000 more in tuition than they would at secular universities, which is also \$4,000 more than the maximum available from government student loans. This poses a financial barrier to learners seeking the caring post-secondary environment of a quality Christian university like King's. This reality also limits the institution's ability to grow its student body and enhance its impact on its community and society at large. In order for King's to achieve its student enrolment target of 1,000 Full Load Equivalents to secure the university's financial sustainability, and continue to achieve its vision and mission, King's needs to offer more financial awards specifically structured to assist those in need. In 2017, research from the Academia Group, Scholarships Canada, and The School Finder Group revealed that the best financial assistance strategy to secure student commitment and achieve enrolment objectives is increasing financial need bursaries in general and especially for students needing to move away from home. They found that nearly half the students who stay home rather than travel to go to their first-choice institution, do so for financial reasons and that financial need awards need to be \$2,500 or more to significantly influence enrolment decisions.

In alignment with the commitment of The King's University Foundation's (Foundation) strategic plan to fund scholarships and bursaries, The King's University created the following bursaries for King's students. The Foundation's annual investment will fund two new bursaries for prospective and current students for the next five years.

1. The King's University Foundation Access, Retention, and Service Award

Up to 60 bursaries of up to \$2,500 (depending on need of individuals) were made available for students who could demonstrate high financial need. To apply, students completed the King's Financial Need Assessment form and explained how, if successful, they would commit to serving the King's community or broader Christian community. To date 32 awards (see Appendix 1) ranging from \$500-2500 were given with an additional \$9550 that could be awarded if there were more funds.

2. The King's University Foundation Welcome Home Bursary

The purpose of this award is to augment the Access, Retention, and Service Award for students that need to live away from home to attend King's. Up to 40 bursaries of up to \$1,000 were made available for students who needed to move a minimum of 100 km from home to attend The King's University. An additional \$500 was made available for students who needed to move 500 km or more from home to attend King's. To date 18 awards ranging from \$1000-1500 were given out with an additional \$17,150 that could be given out if there were more eligible applicants that applied.

Expected Measurable Outcomes and Deliverables

This interim annual report serves to provide a list of recipients that received each of these awards and the amounts they received. Details are provided in Appendix 1. Additionally, in discussion with Ms. Marta Gomez, the Executive Director of The King's University Foundation, it was felt that it would be of significant value to provide a few stories of how a few recipients felt the award would allow them to actively participate and serve in co-curricular campus activities (or in the broader Christian community) and how they felt the awards would reduce their financial stress. These stories are provided in Appendix 2.

Appendix 2 – Recipient Stories

Tess Jorgensen



Tess Jorgensen and her husband Ed joined the King's community in 2017, hoping to reach their teaching dreams. Tess sees herself working with elementary students. She believes she can help children "succeed academically, socially and mentally" by being a "light in their world." Many school children do not have the support they need to mature into healthy adults. For these children, teachers such as Tess can provide the strength they need to face life's challenges.

Tess came to The King's University knowing its community would equip her to teach and support students. The education professors want their students to find connections between their teaching styles and their faith. Education students participate in a 17 week teaching practicum to ensure that they are prepared to speak into students' lives. Tess particularly loves the small class sizes, and the support she gets from staff and faculty. She knows they "care about her future."

Tess also enriches the King's community by dedicating time to its students. She created a prayer meeting for 2nd year education students, so they could refocus their attention on God. She knows "it is important to take some time in their busy schedule to connect together and encourage one another."

However, as is the case for many mature students, Tess and Ed had to make some incredibly difficult financial decisions before coming to King's. Students usually find it difficult to manage the education program's intensive course load while working. Consequently, when Tess and Ed came to King's, they had to give up two full-time incomes. Then, last summer Tess faced an injury, which prevented her from working over the summer. Now entering their second year, Tess and Ed are finding it difficult to afford their education.

With your donation, you are helping Tess and Ed finish their degree. You have blessed every child they will teach. Tess wants to "thank you for providing a glimmer of hope to continue strong in [her] program." She says it's "discouraging knowing that student loans are piling up, but having support is greatly appreciated!"

Calvin Cooley



Calvin Cooley loves being outdoors. He developed this passion in his home town Pincher Creek, a place he deeply cares about. Calvin believes it's important to preserve the town's beauty. This desire led him to pursue an Environmental Studies Degree at The King's University.

In the ENVS program, Calvin works with professors who always make themselves available to answer questions. Calvin believes that his professors act as mentors instead of simple lecturers. It's one of the things he loves most about King's. He's also grateful for the numerous field trip opportunities his professors have given him. Through them, he has discovered how to apply the concepts and theories he has learned in class to the actual world. It's giving him a "greater appreciation and understanding of the environment," knowledge that he can bring home after he graduates.

Pincher Creek is over 500 km from King's. Consequently, besides paying for tuition, mandatory fees and books, Calvin deals with moving expenses, and unlike students who live with their parents, pays for rent and groceries. These expenses increase the cost of attending University significantly. Alberta Student Aid estimates that living expenses double for students living away from home. Unfortunately, student loans cannot cover these expenses. Although Calvin received a maximum yearly student loan and a low-income grant, he needs additional support. He says that The Foundations' giving "helped him stay another year at King's."

Katie Doucette



During her first year at King's, Katie Doucette immediately found ways to engage in King's community. Besides attending classes, she regularly participated in commuter program events where she new friends and, as she put it, ate "awesome food." She also wrote for the student newspaper The Chronicle, usually telling stories about commuter life. She loves the close-knit community of King's, and says that when "she walks down any hallway on campus, she is guaranteed to see at least one person she knows." Now entering her second year, she is looking forward to getting involved in campus life all over again.

Katie has decided to take a 3-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with a minor in Biology. After she completes her degree, she hopes to enter the Secondary Education after Degree program and eventually teach the arts and sciences to high school students. She plans to graduate with a well-rounded degree, but she does prefer English, because she gets to read "intriguing novels" and study "grammatical specifics."

In many ways, King's is the perfect fit for Katie. However, having grown up in a single parent household, she "struggles a lot financially." In fact, her mom currently works three jobs to support them and their two cats. It's not surprising that, although her mom helps whenever she can, Katie still needs to pay for her tuition on her own, a significant burden for a 19 year old.

Without financial aid, Katie would have had to attend a different University, which she "would not have loved nearly as much as King's." Her need for financial support will continue throughout her degree and into the next one. Consequently, she really appreciates the foundation's financial assistance. Katie is incredibly passionate about learning. She says her life is "centered on Jesus and education, and she hopes that she will never have to stop learning, even when she is teaching others."