



Residential Assistant Role Description 2019/20

UCD offers excellent on campus accommodation to over 3,100 students and Residential Assistants (RAs) play a major role in defining student life in each residence, an essential element of the student experience at UCD.

The role of Residential Assistants is a challenging but rewarding one. They live as part of the residence community and help develop that community by providing leadership and assisting in out-of-hours aspects of the UCD Residences. Residential Assistants are expected to be pro-active, to take personal responsibility and to contribute as part of a team in which effective communication and reliability are essential. Residential Assistants and Senior Residential Assistants are supported by the operational and management teams of Estate Services and the wider University.

Drawing on your own experience of what it was like to come to UCD for the first time, as a Residential Assistant you will welcome new students and help them to become part of the vibrant University community, so that they get the most out of their experience at UCD. The enthusiasm and commitment of our Residential Assistants is an important factor in the success of residential life.

Key Aspects of the Role

Community Building

- Develop positive relationships with your team and the University's residents and help build a supportive, safe, inclusive and fun environment.
- Communicate and interact with residents to answer questions and to foster a sense of community responsibility, addressing issues arising appropriately.
- Help foster a culture of respect for each individual resident within the wide and diverse student community.
- Engage, promote and have a voice in initiatives designed to enhance the campus living experience e.g. Healthy UCD, Green Campus etc.
- Help students be aware of expected standards of behaviour within the residences and uphold the relevant rules and regulations.
- Serve as a role model for responsible behaviour and respond consistently and fairly to residents behavioural concerns.

- Help educate residents in personal safety and respect for others and property.
- Attend regular team and individual meetings with their Team Leader and management.

Expected Attributes

- Residential Assistants must be fully registered undergraduate or postgraduate students (at least Stage 2 undergraduate) in “good standing”.
- Residential Assistants must be good communicators who can help new students feel included by encouraging them to ask questions and get involved in campus life.
- They must be able to fully commit to the role for the duration of the academic year and be able to balance the competing demands of being a student and a Residential Assistant.
- Residential Assistants should be able to use their own experience to initiate ideas and organise social activities.
- Having a good knowledge of UCD will be crucial and will form part of the training.
- Having some experience of “getting involved” (e.g. clubs, societies, volunteering or charitable organisations etc) is useful though not essential.

Further Information

- Residential Assistants must be available from 19th August 2019 to 19th May 2020. Schedules will be agreed during the training weeks but you will typically be on duty every fourth evening and every fourth weekend.
- The mandatory two-week, full-time training course for RAs starts at 9am on Monday 19th August 2019 and full participation is essential.
- Residential Assistants will be scheduled to work bank holidays and over the Christmas break. There is also a requirement to work a limited number of additional shifts in response to operational requirements on key dates during the academic year.

How will you benefit?

- Subsidised accommodation, which will cost €2,700 (Sept to May)
- Acquiring important transferable skills for future career goals
- Rewarding personal and professional growth experience
- Experience of taking a leadership role and participating in a diverse and dynamic organisation.