

Important Information on RA Time Commitment and Placements

Thank you for considering the role of a UCD Residential Assistant (RA). Before you continue your application, it is very important that you are aware of time commitments that you need to be able to fulfil before you can undertake this role.

RA rotas are subject to amendment in response to operational demands but at the moment each RA is typically on duty one night in five (Monday- Friday) and every fifth weekend (Saturday, Sunday). In addition RAs will full-fill a quota of hours in support of Reslife events (e.g. social activities & trips). In 22/23 this was set at 60 hours, and RAs arranged their hours to suit their own availability.

Mandatory training for RAs starts at 0900 on **August 23rd 2023** and lasts for two weeks approx. It requires full attendance (0900-1700, Monday–Friday) and accommodation is provided by UCD for you during this period from the evening of Tuesday, August 22nd. Candidates must commit to attending this in full or give up their place on the RA programme. There will also be a mandatory training session on January 19th 2024.

In summary - you must be able to commit fully to being an RA from August 23rd 2023 to May 20th May 2024 (two full trimesters). **The role is not compatible with studying abroad in either of these two trimesters.** There is also a definite requirement to be available over the Christmas period (i.e. the gap between the end of the Autumn and the beginning of the Spring trimester). RAs fulfil a reduced rota during this period and while there are opportunities to swap shifts within your team, everyone must pull their weight.

What if I have placements next year?

Many candidates are obliged to undertake placements as part of their studies and wonder if this is compatible with the commitment required of an RA.

The answer is not straight forward and depends on the nature of your placement. The good news is that each year several RAs successfully manage both commitments, but they all agree it takes planning and determination to achieve the balance. A RA on placement for example may return to campus in time to start their evening shift or arrange up to five swaps per semester with others on their team to facilitate their placement.

Some placements however place far more demands on a student's time and may not even be based in Dublin. If this is the sort of placement you will have to undertake, then unfortunately it is not compatible with the role of RA. A RA who cannot fulfil their commitment, including full attendance at the mandatory training in August, will have to give up their place (including the subsidised accommodation) and may leave their team depleted as a result.