RESIDENT ASSISTANT

The Resident Assistant (RA) is a paraprofessional who lives on a floor in an undergraduate or graduate residence hall and serves as a role model, peer counselor, resource and referral person, advocate, policy enforcer, programmer and leader for residents of the assigned floor(s). The RA also assists with daily emergency coverage rotation, plans and implements social/educational programs. The primary goal of the RA is the development of an environment conducive to the academic and personal growth of residential students. The RA reports to the Residence Hall Assistant Director (RHAD) and/or the Residence Hall Director (RHD).

QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications must be met in order to serve in the role:

- **Commitment to community**: RAs must role model and demonstrate strength of character, good judgment, flexibility, responsibility, involvement and commitment to student life and the University.
- **Course Load**: Undergraduate RAs must carry a minimum of 12, but no more than 16, credit hours per semester. Exceptions for course loads over 16 credit hours must have prior approval of the hall supervisor. Any Undergraduate RA in the final semester before graduation may carry fewer than 12 credits, but no fewer than 6 credits. Graduate RAs must carry a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester. Graduate RAs in the final semester before graduation may carry fewer than 9 credits.
- **Grade Point Average**: RAs must hold a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average at New York University and be a full-time junior, senior or graduate student (with at least two years of full time college experience) throughout the time of application and appointment.
- **Selection Process**: RAs must successfully complete the application and selection process.
- **University Standing**: RAs must be in good standing at New York University prior to and throughout the period as a paraprofessional.

TERMS

The following terms must be accepted in order to serve in the role.

- **Availability**: All RAs are expected to be sufficiently available in the hall to respond to emergency situations that may arise and to maintain regular contact with residents. A paraprofessional who is not on duty and who plans to leave the hall for more than a 24 hour period (i.e., weekend) must notify and/or obtain prior permission from hall supervisor.
- **Compensation**: In addition to an invaluable experience in peer leadership and teamwork, RAs are compensated with a housing/dining grant which is utilized to cover the cost of room and board. RAs are placed in paraprofessional rooms (that may be shared with other paraprofessionals) or apartments in their assigned hall (that may be shared with other paraprofessionals or students). Note that the paraprofessional meal plan can only be used when dining halls are open and the University is in session. This compensation may impact any Financial Aid award received. For further information, please contact a counselor with the Office of Financial Aid at 212.998.4444.
- **Role Period**: The standard role period for paraprofessionals is one academic year, from August (9 days prior to NYU Residence Hall Opening Day) to May (Commencement Day). Paraprofessionals are expected to report for training sessions prior to residence hall check-ins for both fall and spring semesters. The role period is contingent upon the successful completion of tasks, assignments and responsibilities and positive performance appraisals by hall supervisor. Upon successful completion of the standard role period, the RA may be considered to serve for an additional period. Limited summer opportunities may be available. The RA role is a full-academic year role.
• **Holidays, Emergency Closures, Breaks and Vacation Periods:** RAs may be required to work and/or serve on duty for a portion or all of holidays, emergency closures, breaks and vacation periods when University offices are closed; these include, but are not limited to Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break and Spring Break.

• **Meetings:** RAs must attend team meetings each Wednesday from 9:30pm-11:30pm. Regularly scheduled one to one supervisor meetings will also be scheduled. These meetings are part of the 20 hour commitment.

• **Outside/Additional Work:** Participation in leadership roles and work experiences are an important part of one’s educational experience. However, since this opportunity must be the primary of those selected, it is paramount that participation in aforementioned activities not be excessive in time required outside the hall and must not come in conflict with the role. Permission must be granted by hall supervisors if employment outside of this opportunity is desired. Those who have been awarded work study money through the Office of Financial Aid will not be barred from taking advantage of this type of aid. Should this apply to you please discuss your plans with hall supervisors before beginning such work.
  o **First year RAs:** First year RAs are discouraged from holding jobs, internships, assistantships or any other roles which are not academically required for completion of an academic degree. If a first year RA wishes to hold outside employment, approval must be received from hall supervisor prior to the start of each semester. If outside work has been approved and begins to interfere with the RA role, the paraprofessional will need to choose between the RA role and the outside role.
  o **Returning RAs:** Returning RAs may hold limited outside commitments that are not academically required if approved by hall supervisor. Returning RAs cannot allow this commitment to conflict with the RA role and must receive satisfactory ongoing and semester feedback and performance appraisals. If a returning RA wishes to hold outside employment, approval must be received from hall supervisor prior to the start of each semester. If outside work has been approved and begins to interfere with the RA role, the paraprofessional will need to choose between the RA role and the outside role.

• **Time Commitment:** RAs should expect about 20 hours per week in the residence hall. These hours will be used in programming, team meetings, one on one meetings, interactions with residents, at the resource center and on duty. These hours are based on the need of the hall and may include both weekday and weekend hours. Please note that the residence hall environment does encounter peak times including opening, closing and transition periods. That said, some weeks more than 20 hours may be needed. When this is the case supervisors will reduce hours in non-peak times to balance out hours.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

In addition to the list below, other duties will be assigned as needed by the hall supervisors. RAs are encouraged to review the Residential Life Paraprofessional Handbook for specific protocols and responsibilities.

**Administrative:**

- Participate in weekly team meetings on Wednesday nights at 9:30pm – 11:30pm;
- Serve 3 hours a week on special projects, collateral assignments and/or office/resource center coverage;
- Participate in regular one on one meetings and provide regular e-mail updates regarding situations in the hall with supervisor;
- Serve as an advocate for and a representative of floor residents by communicating concerns to supervisors and other building team members;
- Understand the needs, goals and objectives of and act as a liaison between the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services and residential students;
- Participate in on-going training and team development sessions throughout the year;
- Assist with the completion of roommate agreements;
- Assist the Housekeeping and Facilities team members in identifying facilities in need of repair or attention;
- Assist with the facilitation of fire drills each semester;
- Participate in other University, Departmental and building activities as assigned;
- Assist in the preparation of hall for opening and transitions.
Community Development:
- Partner with residents to create a living and learning environment that promotes academic growth, personal responsibility and community accountability through activities such as floor meetings, programs and intentional one-on-one conversations (e.g. BASE);
- Provide opportunities for meaningful interaction for residents;
- Implement social, educational and academic programs;
- Assist residential students in academic, social and personal matters through resource referral;
- Provide guidance and support and role model appropriate behaviors as a responsible community member;
- Support and promote the mission of hall council and the Inter-Residence Hall Council (IRHC);
- Be available to residents as a resource, providing residents with information regarding University activities and events through individual contact and group information sharing;
- Provide support for University mediation procedures in roommate and community conflicts through facilitation of roommate/community meetings and referring students to other mediation services;
- Support the assessment of program effectiveness and learning outcomes by submitting program reports and other data (e.g. Skyfactor).

Crisis Response & Policy Enforcement:
- Know, communicate, enforce and abide by existing University and Residence Hall policies and procedures;
- Know and be prepared to enact all emergency and crisis procedures;
- Know University/community resources and make appropriate referrals;
- Keep supervisors informed about all problems and concerns on the floor;
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality while working in coordination with University team members;
- Assist with the student conduct process by submitting timely online incident reports to document situations;
- Participate in on-duty and/or on-call rotational coverage during scheduled evenings, weekends, emergency closure, breaks and holidays.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
Training and development programs are important to the effectiveness and success of the Residential Life program and are designed to strengthen the Residential Life team. As such, RAs are required to attend and participate in these activities. Training activities are listed below. Development activities will be held periodically focusing on leadership development and role skill strengthening.
- Spring prior to role start: RA101/Team Meeting/Community Development Assignment/Online Modules
- Fall of role: Fall Training, (a period of time before residence halls open)
- Spring of role: Winter Training, (weekend prior to beginning of Spring semester)

STATEMENT OF ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG USE
Paraprofessionals in the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services are expected to serve as a role model and uphold department and university policies, as well as local, state and federal laws. There is zero-tolerance for the use of alcohol or other substances in violation of policies or laws or in a manner which puts into question the paraprofessional’s ability to exercise sound judgment or serve as an appropriate role model. Paraprofessionals failing to adhere to these standards will be subject to performance action likely resulting in termination from the role. For more specific information on NYU policies please visit the Office of Community Standards website and refer to the Residential Life Paraprofessional Handbook.

STATEMENT ON SENSITIVE INCIDENTS
The Resident Assistant role is a tremendous leadership opportunity that includes responsibilities to develop community and a sense of belonging for students. As individuals who support students, RAs respond to a variety of incidents while working with residents and serving on duty, examples may include complex roommate conflicts, reports of sexual misconduct and expression of suicidal ideation. Incidents may be sensitive in nature and may be challenging for some given past experience. Individuals applying for the RA role should be mindful of these responsibilities and consider if the expectation to respond to sensitive issues can be met. For more context on responding to sensitive incidents and for resources available to all NYU students, please feel welcome to contact Marisa Mariano, Assistant Director of Residential Wellness, at marisa.mariano@nyu.edu.
STATEMENT OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
Office Residential Life & Housing Services paraprofessionals are required to respect the personal integrity of all residents and assure they be treated in a manner that is fundamentally fair. Paraprofessionals should refrain from engaging in any behaviors, attitudes, relationships, or actions that:

- would impinge on a resident's or another paraprofessional's dignity, moral code, privacy, self-worth, and academic, physical, psychological, and/or emotional well-being;
- would seek unjustified personal gains, unfair advantage, unearned goods or services;
- would be considered harassment on the basis of gender, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, creed, nationality and/or mental disability.

New York University is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every respect of its relations with its students, faculty and staff members, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran status. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment, hiring or appointment, selection for training, transfer, layoff, promotion, granting of tenure, rates of pay and other forms of compensation, and participation in University-sponsored educational, social, and recreational programs.