



## RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ROLE DESCRIPTION 17/18

<b>Role</b>	Residential Assistant (RA)
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### **Summary of Role**

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. UCD has recently undertaken a full review of the role of Residential Assistants and has updated it to better reflect the needs of the Residents and the RAs who support them. The number of RAs will increase from 48 to around 70, offering more opportunities for students to take on this interesting and worthwhile opportunity.

The role of RA is a challenging but rewarding one. RAs live as part of the residence community and help develop the community, provide leadership and assist in out of hours aspects of the UCD Residences. RAs 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. RA's and Senior RA's 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, you will help new students feel welcome and assist them in becoming part of the overall vibrant University community, so that they get the most out of their university experience. The enthusiasm and commitment of our RAs 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.
- 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 Team Leader and management.



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### **Expected Attributes**

- Residential Assistants must be fully registered undergraduate or postgraduate students (at least Stage 2 undergraduate) in “good standing”.
- RA’s must be good communicators who can help new students feel relaxed 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.
- RAs 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 background in getting involved is useful though not a requirement, such as involvement in clubs, societies or charitable organisations.

### **Further Information**

- RA’s must undertake the full RA training (typically held in the last two weeks in August) and be available from Mid-August 2017 to 22nd May 2018. Schedules will be agreed during the training week and you will be formally on duty no more than every third evening and every third weekend. RA’s will be scheduled to work some bank holidays and over the Christmas break.

### **How you will benefit**

- Subsidised accommodation, which will cost €2,700 (Euro) (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.