Office of Residence Life- Syracuse University  
Resident Advisor Frequently Asked Questions

How many RA position are there?  
There are 177 positions; on average we have approximately 500+ applicants every year.

What is the GPA requirement for the RA job?  
All candidates must have a 2.3 GPA to apply for the position.  
Undergrads must have a 2.5 GPA, grads a 3.0 GPA, and law students a 2.2 GPA at the time of employment.

Can graduate students apply to be RAs?  
Absolutely. Graduate students must have a 3.0 GPA, and law students a 2.2 GPA at the time of employment.

Do I need to be in good conduct standing with the University to be an RA?  
All candidates interested in participating in the RA recruitment process may not have an active disciplinary status at the time of employment.

What is the time commitment of the RA job?  
The time commitment varies in the RA job. There are some times during the semester that are busier than others. At minimum the RA position is a twenty-hour work week.

How is your building selected?  
If you are applying to be a RA you can be placed into any of our residence halls. Buildings are selected based on community needs. We want strong staff’s in each of our halls.

How does the housing selection process work if the RA job selection notices go out after the lottery?  
Candidates will know their application status prior to the Housing Selection Process. We encourage that while you are in the RA selection process you are simultaneously developing plans for Housing in the case you are not offered the RA position.

Can I study abroad and be an RA?  
No. Academic year RA candidates need to be able to make the commitment to be an RA for Fall and Spring semesters. All RA candidates need to be present in the spring semester and participate in all recruitment activities to have their candidacy considered.

Can student-athletes be RA’s?  
Absolutely. As long as you meet the qualifications of the RA position and can fulfill the responsibilities of the RA position you are eligible to apply.

As a returner, do I automatically get rehired?  
No. Returning RA’s still need to apply for rehire and submit a resume. Your previous performance is taken into consideration.

I took a year off from the RA position. Do I automatically get rehired?  
No. You must have an application on file for the year in which you are interested in being rehired for the RA position. Your previous performance is taken into consideration.
What is duty?
All RA’s are required to serve on an on-call duty rotation per their building. Duty is in place to make sure our buildings are safe and secure. Desk duty requires RAs to performing main desk task and functions. Cell duty requires RAs to respond to crisis or emergency calls after business hours.

Is it true RA’s have to work holidays and return to campus earlier than other students?
Yes. Hired RA’s will be asked to return to campus in early August to participate in RA training. Additionally, all RAs are expected to work a portion of either Thanksgiving or Spring Break.

Do I have to get a letter of recommendation to be an RA?
Letters of recommendation are not requested during the RA Selection process.

Does serving on RHA give me a better chance of being an RA?
We take into consideration all involvement, leadership positions, work experience, etc. We look at our candidates resume and qualifications in its entirety.

Does being an RA effect my financial aid?
As you are applying to be a RA, we highly recommend that you reach out to the financial aid office to discuss if and how the RA job could affect your financial aid.

How are RA’s compensated?
Academic year RAs receive a waiver of room and board.

How many credits are RA’s allowed to take?
RA’s cannot take more than 18 credit hours (undergraduate) and twelve credit hours (graduate). Academic course loads on excess of this must be requested in writing to the Office of Residence life prior to registration and subject to supervisor’s approval.

How do I balance the RA job with my academic major?
Prior to applying for the RA position it is important to examine your time commitments. Academics are priority and come before the RA position. After academics, the RA job should be your highest non-academic priority and we expect all RA’s to be able to perform the requirements of the position.

Can RA’s participate in extracurricular activities (i.e. clubs, organizations, jobs)?
RA’s can participate in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities cannot exceed 10 hours a week.

LCRA Position
What makes the LCRA position different from the RA position?
LCRA’s work with residents who are housed together based on a specific focus (i.e.: special interest, academic themes). LCRA’s plan specific programs related to their LC focus.

What are the responsibilities of an LCRA?
Programming around LC focus
Interacting with faculty and staff on LC teams
Attending LCRA training in addition to RA training
What is the LCRA compensated?
LCRAs have the opportunity to earn $600.00 during the academic year. These funds are earned as the LCRA completes LCRA task and requirements of the LCRA position.

Do I have to be an alum of the LC to be considered for the LCRA position? Do I have to be in the academic college/major to be an LCRA?
No, you do not have to be an alum of the LC to participate, some LC’s highly encourage the LCRA to be in the academic major connected to the LC but it is not required.

How are LCRA’s selected?
Candidates interested in becoming an LCRA must express interest in the LCRA position on their application in addition to participating in all of the regular RA requirement activities. If a candidates is invited to an individual interview, they will be asked to elaborate on their interest in becoming an LCRA.

How many Learning Communities are there?
Depending on the year and student interest there are a maximum of 32 and a minimum of 29 Learning Communities. Visit the Learning Communities website for a full listing.

Will there be only LC residents on my floor?
Depending on the size of the LC, some LCRA’s will only have LC residents on their floor and some will have both LC residents and non-LC residents. RAs placed on floors where there are both LC and non-LC residents will be responsible for both groups of residents on the floor.

As an LCRA do I get to work with faculty?
It depends on the LC, but most LCRA’s work with faculty and/or other SU staff with their LC.

Mentor Resident Advisor (MRA) Position
What are the qualifications to be an MRA?
MRA’s must be a returning Resident Advisor. MRA’s must have demonstrated strong performance, leadership, and an understanding of the Resident Advisor role.

What are the responsibilities of an MRA?
Since each building and staff has different needs, and each MRA has diverse strengths and areas of growth, the MRA position will be somewhat different for each individual accepting this position. At the minimum, MRA’s are responsible for organizing the staff duty schedule, attending weekly MRA meetings, and facilitating training sessions and staff activities.

What is the difference between being a returning RA and an MRA?
The MRA assumes more leadership responsibility on the staff. The MRA is not only responsible for their floor, but for mentoring the entire RA staff.

How does the MRA get compensated?
Wages are paid at an hourly rate of $10.00 an hour. Responsibilities of the MRA position are performed on a weekly basis and should average 2-3 hours/week.

How are MRA’s selected?
Interested candidates apply to be a MRA and will have an interview specific to the position. Additionally, a MRA candidate’s previous performance and supervision evaluation will be reviewed.
How many MRA’s are selected each year?
12 MRA’s are selected each year.

**Summer RAs**

**Can I apply to be a summer RA only?**
Yes. Candidate’s interest in being a summer RA only will need to indicate their interest on the application. However, candidates who have never been an RA for the academic or summer positions in the past will still need to participate in all the RA recruitment activities.

**Is it true that there are different summer RA positions?**
There are three types of summer RA positions candidates can apply for.
- **Student Success Initiative (SSUI):** offers an intensive residential learning community to undergraduate SU students during the summer.
- **SummerStart:** is a residential academic program designed to assist students in making a smooth transition from high school to college. SummerStart runs during Summer Session II.
- **SummerCollege:** is designed for high school students who wish to taste a slice of college life. Summer College runs during Summer Session II.

**What is the compensation for the summer RA position?**
Summer RA’s receive a waiver of room and board and a $9 an hour for 25 hours a week compensation (subject to change).

**As a summer RA, can I take class?**
Summer RAs are allowed to take class. However the number of classes and credits should be a discussion with your supervisor. We want you to be equally successful in your course and ability to perform the responsibilities of the RA position.

**As a summer RA, can I have another job?**
Summer RAs are allowed to have another job outside of the RA position. However, the number of hours worked at another job should not exceed 15 hours a week and cannot conflict with one’s ability to perform the responsibilities of the RA position. Similar to taking course, this is something that needs to be discussed with your supervisor. There is a possibility that an individual may not be allowed to take classes and work 15 hours a week. As an RA, we need to ensure your visibility and availability in the hall.