

RA Selection FAQ

September Process 2009

When are applications available?

Applications are online, starting Wednesday, September 16 – Friday, October 9 at 11:59 PM EST.

Where can I get an application?

We are launching an electronic process this year. To apply to be an RA, you will fill out a web form at www.ithaca.edu/reslife. Click the “apply to be an RA” button and follow the on screen prompts.

What if I don't want to submit an application online?

If you are unable to fill out the form electronically, please contact RASelection@ithaca.edu to make alternative arrangements.

When are applications due?

Applications are due electronically by Friday, October 9, 2009, at 11:59 PM. No late applications will be accepted.

I'm a first year student. Can I apply to be an RA?

Yes, first year students can apply to be an RA! Many of the RAs currently on campus applied at the start of their first year, and were selected for the position. We have a comprehensive on site and digital training program to give you the skills and knowledge you need.

I live off campus. Can I be an RA?

Yes, you can apply! You'll have to work with your landlord to negotiate the termination of your lease.

Do I have to go to an Info Session?

No, you do not have to attend an RA info session. However, this is a great way to get your questions answered about the Selection Process, and about the position itself. The info session this year is Thursday, September 17, at 7 pm, in Textor 101.

Is there an interview component?

Yes. All candidates will schedule an interview that will be conducted by a Residence Director and current RA. This one hour interview will ask you questions about why you want to be an RA, the skills you have, as well as the skills you want to learn while on the job. This is an opportunity for the RDs to get to know who you are on a one-on-one basis. When you apply online, you will be asked your time availability for your interview.

Do I need someone to recommend me?

Yes. As part of the application process, we ask that a current RA fill out a recommendation form for you. This will help RDs to get a sense of the role you play in your current hall community, and any skills that you could bring to the position. Recommendations are due Friday, October 16 by 11:59 PM.

What is group process?

Group process is a four hour interactive group interview. We place you into random groups to see how you interact with people, and to better understand why you want to be an RA. We'll play interactive games, and ask you questions.

When is group process?

Group Process is on Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25. The session is 1 – 5 pm. You only need to attend one of the two days. When you apply online, you will be asked your time availability for Group Process.

What if I can't go to a group process date?

If you cannot attend a group process, you will not be able to complete your application for this process. Consider applying again in December for a position in the Fall 2010 semester.

Other than duty, what does an RA do?

RAs do lots of things. RAs counsel/advise students one-on-one with roommate conflicts, working through their feelings, coping with loss, and finding their place at IC. RAs share and direct students to campus resources, help you get a lockout key, join a club, or change your major. RAs also plan and host programs and attend weekly staff meetings. RAs come back early in August to attend training before classes start, and stay late at break periods and the end of each semester to help close the residence halls

I heard I have to host programs. What are they, and how often?

RAs are required to host programs for residents in their communities. Programs can be academically based – such as having a professor come in and talk about a topic, or social, such as an ice cream social. We ask RAs to provide a mix of events so everyone will feel welcome to attend. The number of programs/events you will plan depends on the hall in which you work. Learning communities, including HOME and SCC, and the First Year Program, have different expectations than a traditional hall.

How much do I get paid?

New RAs are credited \$8,876 per academic year into their student account. This covers all of room, and part of board fees.

Do RAs get a single room?

Yes, all RAs are housed in a single.

Why don't I get a paycheck?

We do not provide RA pay in the form of a check, because it is then taxable. A credit on your student account allows you to receive the full compensation.

Do I get free cable, parking, fridge, or internet for being an RA?

No, you must pay for your own cable, parking, fridge and internet (if you opt for the gold package). Your compensation covers 70% of the Room and Board fees.

Can I choose where I want to be an RA?

The Residence Directors work to hire the best staffs possible. If you apply for a specialty area, like a Learning community or the First Year Program, that preference gets taken into account. We will not ask for a list of buildings you want to be in, but rather, the type of residents you want to supervise. Do you want to work with first year students? Live in a co-ed by door area? Have mostly upper class students in your hall?

What about specialty areas like a Learning Community or First Year Programs?

While you are applying for the RA position, you will also be able to apply for one of the specialty communities. These positions have different expectations than a traditional position, and a special skill set.

Can I be an RA in the Apartments?

Apartment RA positions are different than in traditional halls. For this reason, only returning RAs with two semesters completed are considered for these positions. If you do want to be an RA in the apartment, this first step is to be an RA in one of our traditional halls.

I heard I have to come back early in January for training. Is this true, and, when do I need to be back?

Yes, RAs are required to return to campus for training in August for the fall semester, and January, for the Spring semester. New hires for the spring 2010 semester must be back on campus by Friday, January 15, at noon.

Do RAs need to stay during the holiday breaks?

Yes, we ask some RAs to stay a few hours later after campus closes to help with last minute checks. You'll schedule these commitments in advance, so you'll know when you can head home. All staff members are required to stay a few hours past the start of Winter break, and to remain on campus until the Monday after commencement.

I'm afraid to confront people. Does this mean I can't be an RA?

No – we've put together a comprehensive training program to ensure that you know the ins and outs of the position before your residents arrive. We're looking for people with positive attitudes, who want to contribute to their community.

I'm an international student, can I be an RA?

Yes! We have many international students who decide to apply for the position, and are hired. We love having people with unique experiences and identities as a part of the RA family. Everyone is welcome to apply.

Can I get another campus job and be an RA?

Yes, RAs, in addition to the RA position, may have a 10 hour a week position on campus. The Office of Student Financial Services considers the RA position a 10 hour a week commitment.

How many hours a week will I spend in the RA job?

Typically you'll spend about 10 hours, not including duty. As an RA, you'll be attending a weekly 2 hour staff meeting, meet with your RD for an hour weekly or biweekly, plan and host programs, attend training sessions, and meet face to face with your residents. Some weeks are busier than others – like the first few weeks of classes.

I'm a club exec board member. Can I be an RA?

Yes, many RAs are presidents of clubs on campus. Our guideline is that the RA position is the first priority after being a person and a student. This means that a staff meeting would take precedence over a club meeting.

I have a very challenging and time consuming academic program (like music or theatre,) can I be an RA?

Yes! You'll have to keep an open line of communication with your RD, and manage your time well.

I'm a student athlete, can I be an RA?

Yes, we have many RAs who are involved in athletics. It takes planning, and open communication to make this partnership a success.

What if my application is late?

Late applications will not be accepted. Our department must meet many deadlines, and we want to make sure that our team members are able to do so too.