

RA Selection FAQs

September 1, 2011

When are applications available?

Applications are online, beginning Thursday, September 15th through Saturday, October 15th at 11:59 PM EST.

Where can I get an application?

To apply to be an RA, you will fill out a web form through the Residential Life website under the employment section.

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 **Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 11:59 PM**. Late applications will not be accepted. Recommendation forms are due 1 week later, by Saturday, October 22, 2011.

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 you landlord to negotiate the termination of your lease.

Do I have to go to an Info Session?

No, but it is encouraged. This is a great way to get your questions answered about the Selection Process and about the position itself.

Is there an interview component?

Yes. All candidates will schedule an interview that will be conducted by a Residence Director and current RA. This 1 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 you on a one-on-one basis.

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 online by Saturday, October 22nd 2011.**

What is group process?

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

When is group process?

Group Process is on Sunday, November 6. The sessions are 9:00 – 12:00 pm and 1 – 4 pm. You only need to attend one session.

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/January for a position for the fall 2012 semester.

Other than duty, what does an RA do?

RAs do lots of things. RAs counsel students one-on-one with roommate conflicts, working through their feelings, coping with loss, and finding their place at IC. RAs can also help you get a lockout key, join a club, or change your major. RAs also plan and host programs, attend weekly staff meetings, attend training before classes start, and stay late at break closings.

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 – like having a professor come in and talk about a topic, or social, like having an ice cream social. We ask RAs to provide a mix of events so everyone will feel welcomed to attend. The numbers of events you have to put together depend on where you work. Learning communities, like HOME or the SCC, and the First Year Program, have different expectations than a traditional hall, like East Tower.

How much do I get paid?

New RAs receive a \$4984.50 credit per semester on 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. You are charged the double room rate.

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 maximum benefit/full amount.

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 choice package).

Can I choose where I want to be an RA?

We generally do not accept preferences for RA placement other than if you have requested to live and work as an RA in a specialty area (all female, quiet study, substance free), Residential Learning Community (RLC), or the First-Year Residential Experience. As you complete your application, think about the population of students that interests you. 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 Residential Experience?

You may request a learning community or First-Year Residential Experience on your application form. The application will ask you to provide a short description regarding your interest in each community. These positions have different expectations than a traditional RA position.

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 early for training in August for the fall semester, and in January, for the spring semester. New hires for the spring 2012 semester must be back on campus by Friday, January 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. for the start of training.

Do RAs need to stay during the holiday breaks?

RAs are not required to stay for the break periods themselves, but are required to stay late until residence hall closing days to assist with closing our buildings (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break, Commencement). You'll schedule these commitments in advance, so you'll know when you can head home. All staff are required to remain on campus at the end of the academic year until the Monday after commencement. (Note: We seek a few RAs to work during break periods in Terrace 3 and the Apartments, which remain open during break periods.)

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, 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 staff meeting will 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.