Residence Services

BE A COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

Application and position information

December 2020
Why work in Residence?

More than just a building, living in residence is a unique experience.

- Be part of a unique team comprised of over 60 student leaders.
- Contribute to creating a safe, inclusive, and positive environment where students can thrive.
- Increase your social and professional network.
- Develop valuable transferable skills that can make you competitive in any job market.
- Help support students living in residence.
- Have fun!
Community Ambassadors (CAs) are student staff members who act as student leaders in their community. They are collectively supervised by Residence Life Coordinators and the Manager of Residence education (full-time professional staff).

The general goals of CAs are:

- Community building/developing
- Supporting residents
- Supporting safety within residence
- Ensuring Community Standards are being upheld
- Acting as a role model for residents and as a representative for Residence Services
Where do Community Ambassadors work?

Single Student Housing (SSH)
- South Residence
  - First Year Buildings – Kananaskis Hall (KA), Rundle Hall (RU), and International House (IH)
  - Second Year Building – Yamnuska Hall (YA)
  - Upper Year Undergraduate Buildings – Aurora Hall (AU), Cascade Hall (CD), Glacier Hall (GL) and Olympus Hall (OL)
- North Residence
  - Graduate Building – Crowsnest Hall (CR)
  - Townhouses – Varsity Courts (VC)

Family Housing
- North Residence
  - Students living with families (with or without children) - Varsity Courts (VC)
CAs are responsible for creating programs, events, and connecting students to resources on campus and in the Calgary Community.

CAs within South Residence work to create a sense of community on their floor(s) or within their building(s).

Examples of events include:

– Floor dinners
– Campus Tours and Scavenger Hunts for new students
– Study Hall
– Attending Flu clinics
– Wellness focused events such as meditation, yoga, essential oil making, plant potting, and others
– Game Nights
– Cultural Exchange Events
Supporting Residents

- CAs create and maintain one-on-one connections with all residents in their assigned community.
- CAs support residents through academic and personal concerns by referring them to appropriate resources on or off campus.
- CAs support residents through roommate conflicts and help connect them with peers.
- CAs act as role models and address concerns within their assigned community, such as the use of non-inclusive language or bullying.
CAs work closely with Campus Security and the On-Call Residence Life Coordinator to support the safety of residents after hours (when the residence services office is closed).

Examples of on call duties include:

- Upholding Community Standards and Residence policies
- Contacting emergency services when medical concerns arise
- Helping to escort disruptive non-residents out of residence
- Checking fire safety equipment
- Reporting maintenance issues
Why be a Community Ambassador?

- Have a meaningful and positive impact in the residence community.
- Gain valuable skills and experience in assertiveness, conflict mediation, time management, team work, professionalism, and community building.
- Live on campus, and work in a supportive environment where academics are the #1 priority.
- Flexible work schedule.
What do current Community Ambassadors enjoy about the position?

“I really like the connections you get to make with not only residents but also with everyone on your team and that you get to work with like minded people to come up with events!”

- Bailey Fawcett, third year undergraduate student, second year as a CA, current Community Ambassador in Cascade Hall
“What I enjoy about the general ACA position, especially given its uniqueness this year, is programming to all of residence (first years to grad students) which no doubts has made the job trickier but has also expanded my creativity. I also enjoyed interacting with students of varying backgrounds, fields of study, and years.”

- Josh Obi, third year undergraduate student, first year as a CA, current Academic Community Ambassador
“Being in this amazing student leadership role has given me so much confidence and perspectives about handling situations in life. It not only enhances your team skills, but also your individual growth as a leader. The responsibility of building and maintaining a cohesive community as a CA makes you an active and effective part of it and what better way to spread positivity around yourself!”

- Neha Syed, third year graduate student, second year as a CA, current Community Ambassador for Varsity Courts (Family Housing)
More reasons to be a Community Ambassador

▪ Get creative!
  – Create educational programming, including:
    ▪ Active programming, such as organizing an event
    ▪ Passive programming, such as creating a bulletin board

▪ Meet others
  – This role allows you to interact with individuals from a variety of backgrounds
  – CAs are expected to spend time getting to know their residents

▪ Collaborate
  – Work with other CAs within your assigned community and across residence
  – Connect with other departments and events on/off campus through community events
More reasons to be a Community Ambassador

▪ Provide support, within a safe environment
  — You may be the first contact of support someone has in their university career!
  — Your safety and the safety of all residents is of the upmost importance. Being a CA allows you to help others in difficult and complex situations, making your role crucial to a safe experience in residence.

▪ Receive support
  — You will have a supervisor (Residence Life Coordinator), Senior CA, other CAs on your team, and the larger Residence Education Team supporting your efforts and guiding you throughout the year.
What do you need to be a Community Ambassador?

- Be registered as a full-time student (3.0 courses/term) in a degree program (Graduate or Undergraduate)
- Maintain a minimum of 2.5 GPA, both cumulatively and in the most recent semester. You are a student first!
- Have experience in leadership, community building and/or student engagement.
- Complete the online application to live in residence for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Attend **all** of Fall training. Training for the position may start as early as August 16th, 2021.
  - Training days run 8:30am to 5:30pm, *weekends inclusive*
What can you expect from the position?

- Up to 80 hours a month
- Expectations include, but are not limited to:
  - Attending weekly Monday night staff meetings
  - On call shifts (can range from 5-11 a month, depending on the location of the CA position)
    - On-call shifts are overnight shifts, but you do not have to stay awake for the whole night
  - Assisting in residence tours during open houses
  - Attend and participate in move-in day, move-out and Bermuda Shorts Day
  - Complete Winter Term training in early January 2022
  - Fulfilling programming requirements
  - One-on-one meetings with your Residence Life Coordinator (supervisor)
  - Administrative tasks such as weekly log completion, submitting reports, etc.
  - Creating connections with residents, supporting them through roommate conflicts, addressing issues within your assigned community
  - Stay in residence until 24 hours after the last possible Fall term exam, and until April 30th 2022
Compensation

▪ SSH Compensation:
  – Equivalent to the required residence fees for the employment period (i.e. if you live in YA, you will get paid the amount equivalent to the price of a room in YA)
  – Includes meal plan fees (if required of the building you are placed in)
  – Does not include miscellaneous fees, such as the residence activity fee. CAs are responsible for paying these miscellaneous fees
  – Please note that while SSH CAs can submit preferences for what building they want to work in, they cannot select the room as there are specifically designated CA rooms

▪ VC compensation:
  – Equivalent to a one-bedroom rate with CAs paying the difference if they live in a 2 or 3 bedroom unit
  – CAs are responsible for paying a damage deposit
  – VC CAs work with residence to select the unit they want to live in, with most staying in their currently assigned unit (if currently living on residence)
Information sessions with current Community Ambassadors will also be hosted in December 2020 and January 2021. Refer to the Residence Services website and social media accounts for more information.

Applications can be found online at:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/ancillary/residence/current-residents/get-involved/be-community-advisor/apply

Applications are due on January 17th, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

Questions? Contact your Community Advisor or Residence Life Coordinator. Contact information for Residence Life Coordinators can be found here https://www.ucalgary.ca/ancillary/residence/contact-us/residence-staff-contacts