

MONASH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES THE ROLE OF A VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY)

CONTEXT

The first four [Mission Goals](#) of Monash Residential Services (MRS) are to provide and develop an environment within each location on campus that:

- Provides care, support and enrichment in academic, cultural, personal, social and recreational matters.
- Has regard for the individual and group needs bearing in mind the multicultural nature of each residential location and the wider Monash University community.
- Recognises and values diversity such as nationalities, beliefs, abilities, talents and interests, ensuring inclusive communities.
- Creates opportunities for mutually beneficial interaction between members.

Monash Residential Services gratefully acknowledges that there are current residents who demonstrate a strong commitment and willingness to undertake and be involved in a range of voluntary activities, programs and initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of community life in their Hall or Site and wider residential community.

A volunteer Resident Advisor role is a voluntary role that provides community support, engagement and development. It demonstrates a strong commitment to actively participating in enriching and promoting community life within their Hall and the wider residential community. As an acknowledgement of the contribution to residential communities made by volunteer Resident Advisors, an [MRS Resident Advisor Scholarship](#) is offered to residents.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP

View the latest eligibility requirements on the [Scholarships website](#).

This will provide you with information on:

- Eligibility requirements
- Benefits
- Selection criteria
- Retention of scholarship
- Applying

RETENTION OF SCHOLARSHIP

View the latest scholarship retention requirements on the [Scholarships website](#).

EXPECTATIONS OF A CENTRAL VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR

The Expectations set out below are a means to achieving the above Mission Goals and are to be fulfilled in collaboration with, and in support of, the whole of the Residential Support Team of each residential hall or MRS site. The central expectation is that RAs will be the model resident – actively promoting the values and expectations of MRS in their actions (both formal and informal).

RAs are expected to inform their College Head or other appropriate people at MRS of information which is important to the residential community and/or has the potential to impact the experience of residents or the reputation of MRS – RAs

must disclose to their College Head or other appropriate people at MRS, any personal conduct or situation(s) outside of MRS, within the University or wider community, which can influence the reputation of the Residential Support Team and detrimentally impact MRS.

Volunteer Resident Advisors are expected to complete mandatory training requirements & supply supporting documentation outlined in the application form and may be directed to complete further training if new requirements/courses are added.

EXPECTATIONS OF A VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY)

All tasks as outlined below will be undertaken with support from the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

- Provide Environmental leadership and cultural change to residents through:
 - Promoting MRS sustainable goals to residents, as per the [MRS Environment & Sustainability Strategic Framework](#)
 - Managing environmental functions/events and initiatives with the residential community
 - Email, social media interactions, or phone conversations with RAs
 - Directly visiting residents or meeting them in a communal area
 - Working with the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator to develop a program of cultural change initiatives and driving that agenda.
- Lead the *Central Environment Committee* through the [Green Impact Program](#) (Residents)
- Provide support and advice to RAs across MRS residences, and lead the forum for discussing environment and sustainability-related programs, initiatives, activities and events.
- Meet monthly (at a minimum) with the Operations Coordinator to discuss and plan environment and sustainability-related actions and initiatives
- Run several environment and sustainability-related functions or events per semester – the Green Impact Program (Residents) provides a useful framework from which to base events/education campaigns. Suggestions include:
 - Tree planting day
 - Composting / Recycling education campaigns
 - Resident vegetable garden initiatives
 - Reduce consumption of environmental resources (e.g. water, electricity)
 - Towards a Low-Waste Lifestyle
 - Earth Hour / Earth Day

VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY) OVERVIEW

The volunteer Resident Advisors holding an Environment & Sustainability role focuses on driving cultural change amongst the residential community, promoting MRS' sustainable goals to achieve tangible and measurable environment and sustainability outcomes. The MRS 'central' roles (rather than within individual residences) of volunteer Resident Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) provide an MRS wide focus and may assist 'residential RAs' in the coordination of environment and sustainability programs within individual residences, as well as across MRS. The volunteer Resident Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) will be expected to coordinate and run environmental-related campaigns during the semester.

AIM

- To provide leadership to RAs and MRS residents on environmental issues and sustainable practices by promoting the MRS Environment & Sustainability Strategic Framework Focus Areas through the organisation of environment & Sustainability functions/events and initiatives.
- To encourage participation in environmental-related functions and events or information sessions.

VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY) ROLE OUTLINE & RELEVANT SKILLS

All tasks as outlined below will be undertaken with support from the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator and Residents' Environment & Sustainability Committee.

- Meet with the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator in November to develop a yearly action plan - which will include, but is not limited to, the Environment Programs outlined previously.
- Complete relevant training outlined in the RA Application process

- Chair (when appropriate/necessary with agenda and minutes, provide a report when required) and coordinate the MRS-wide resident Environment & Sustainability Committee – where programs and initiatives are developed and planned
- One co-chair is required to attend the Residents' Committee meetings (co-chairs can alternate attending these meetings)
- Communicate effectively with all the Environment & Sustainability representatives at Clayton and Peninsula.
- Broadly advertise achievements and events through posters and the MRS social media.
- Oversee central MRS social media accounts linked to the relevant Committee
- Passion and knowledge about environmental issues and how to effect positive cultural change.
- Very good communication skills and ability to actively engage with residents on social media.
- Ability to analyse problems and find appropriate solutions.
- Ability to inspire, lead, and must be strongly self-motivated.

The volunteer Resident Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) will be provided with operating guidelines by the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator to assist them with tailoring their contribution to the specific needs of the residential community. Volunteer Resident Advisors (Environment & Sustainability) are not employees of MRS or the University and should ensure that they do not represent to students, staff or others that they are employees of MRS or the University. A resident's voluntary contribution to their Hall and wider residential community as a volunteer Resident Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) does not carry any commitment by MRS or the University, for future employment opportunities.

OTHER ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- Monash Residential Services reserves the right at any time to advise residents they no longer require their voluntary contribution to the community as a volunteer Resident Advisor.
- Volunteer Resident Advisors may be required to move a designated room to undertake the role.
- All residents living at a Monash Residential Services site, regardless of their role:
 - are bound by the terms of their individual Residency Agreements;
 - accept and acknowledge that they will abide by MRS Accommodation Fee Regulations, the Conditions of Residency and other regulations as are specified on the MRS web page;
 - must pay all requisite fees at the times specified;
 - accept all other such regulations as specified in the volunteer Resident Advisor online induction and to abide by the disciplinary authority of the College Head, MRS Site Managers or other appropriate persons.

REWARDS

In addition to the possibility of an MRS volunteer Resident Advisor Scholarship, the role of a volunteer Resident Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) provides the opportunity to:

- Contribute to community development and social change
- Form friendships with like-minded students from different faculties
- Access to specialised training programs
- Develop your leadership, communication and teamwork skills
- Gain valuable experience for your CV
- Participation recorded on your Australian Higher Education Graduate Statement
- Receive a volunteer Resident Advisor Scholarship in recognition of your contribution to MRS