

MONASH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - THE ROLE OF A VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (GENDER EQUALITY)

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 (GENDER EQUALITY)

Holders of the volunteer Resident Advisor (Gender Equality) role will be expected to demonstrate and develop:

- Understanding of and commitment to the principles of supporting diverse, inclusive and safe spaces at Monash University,
- Being a champion in making Monash a safe community for everyone,
- Capacity to listen carefully and sensitively to queries and concerns without exercising judgment,
- Actively promoting gender equality.
- Maintain membership on the Monash University Sexual Health Network (~5 meetings per year)
- Develop and execute a range of programs, initiatives and awareness campaigns that continue to promote a safe and respectful MRS community.
- Meet monthly (at a minimum) with the Manager, Residential Support Engagement and Development to discuss and plan Gender Equality actions and initiatives
- Volunteer Resident Advisor (Gender Equality) may be required to complete other training and programs as deemed appropriate to the role

VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (GENDER EQUALITY) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MRS 'central' roles (rather than within individual residences) of volunteer Resident Advisor (Gender Equality) provide an MRS wide focus and may assist 'residential RAs' in the coordination of Respectful Community programs within individual residences, as well as across MRS.

The volunteer Resident Advisors (Gender Equality) are expected to achieve outcomes in the following areas:

- Provide leadership and innovative programs in the broad areas of gender-based violence,
- Advocate within MRS in relation to the experience of women in MRS.
- Educate the MRS community about services within Monash that are in place to support the rights of women, underrepresented groups, disability liaison services and the promotion and benefit of discrimination and harassment-free environments.
- To participate in the development of strategies and policies which improve the experience of all members of the MRS community concerning developing respectful communities.

VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (GENDER EQUALITY) PROGRAMS

- To establish, chair and coordinate any MRS-wide resident *Gender Equality* meetings – where programs and initiatives are developed and planned in this manner.
- At least one holder of the volunteer Resident Advisor (Gender Equality) role will be woman-identifying.
- Act as a point of contact for all members of the MRS community relating to issues of discrimination and harassment.
- Collaborate with the MRS QUEER Scholarship recipients on events and programs
- To plan and assist with the coordination of the MRS wide gender equality events and programs.

VOLUNTEER RESIDENT ADVISOR (GENDER EQUALITY) ROLE OUTLINE & RELEVANT SKILLS

All tasks as outlined below will be undertaken with support from the Manager, Residential Support, Engagement & Development and Residents' Gender Equality Committee.

- Meet with the Manager, Residential Support, Engagement and Development in November to develop a yearly action plan - which will include, but is not limited to, the Gender Equality program 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 Gender Equality meetings – where programs and initiatives are developed and planned in this manner
- One co-chair is required to attend the Residents' Committee meetings (co-chairs can alternate attending these meetings)
- Communicate effectively with all the Gender Equality representatives (if required) at Clayton and other Residential sites through monthly committee meetings and discussion outside of those meetings.
- Broadly advertise achievements and events through posters and the MRS social media. The volunteer Resident Advisor (Gender Equality) will be provided with guidelines by the Manager Residential Support, Engagement & Development to assist them with tailoring their contribution to the specific needs of their residential community, and will be offered a full range of training relevant for their role.
- Oversee central MRS social media accounts linked to the relevant Committee.

VOLUNTEER Resident Advisors (Gender Equality) 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 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 specified on the MRS web page
 - must pay all requisite fees at the times specified;
 - accept all other such regulations as are 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 (Gender Equality) 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