Peer Academic Leader (PAL) Program
Information for Prospective Applicants 2015-16

What Does it Mean to be a PAL?

Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) are student mentors who serve as advisors and mentors to the DRC student body. They offer relevant programs to all of our diverse student populations and are fundamental in shaping the supportive atmosphere of the DRC community.

PALs assist in Housing initiatives but also help to shape Douglass life beyond the residence halls. PALs are advisors, friends, and mentors to all in the DRC community and help students establish a sense of belonging during their time at Douglass. They work to create an enriching and vibrant environment which encourages leadership and the pursuit of excellence and are the first line of advising for Douglass students.

Whether you are applying as a PAL for first years, transfer students, living learning communities, commuters, or upper-class women, you can be sure that you will be part of what makes Douglass great.

All students know, “You always have a PAL at Douglass!”

Available Peer Academic Leader Positions

First Year PALs – Katzenbach, Barr (Women in Engineering House – Busch), Woodbury (SEBS Environmental House)

- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- First Year PALs create programs that correspond to the Knowledge and Power course, and which focus on time management skills, studying tips, wellness, and celebrating a diverse community.
- The Women in Engineering community in Barr Residence Hall (Busch) focuses on women in the School of Engineering, and the Women in Engineering PAL should also be part of the School of Engineering.
- The SEBS Environmental House in Woodbury allows first year DRC/SEBS students to explore environmental problems and solutions in a scientific context, especially as they affect women and women's health. The SEBS Environmental House PAL should have an academic focus in this area.

Upper-class PALs – Woodbury, Henderson, Bunting-Cobb

- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- Upper-class PALs create programs focused on navigating upper class experience which focus on holistic health, college to career development, and mentorship.

DRC Transfer Community PAL – Woodbury

- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- Preference will be given to a DRC transfer student.
The DRC Transfer PAL creates programs focused on helping DRC transfer students navigate DRC opportunities, Rutgers University at large, and helps shape these students’ upper class experience with a focus on holistic health, college to career development, and mentorship.

- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- Living Learning Community PALs lead community-building programs in addition to providing relevant programs for upper class students.
- Preference will be given to students already accepted into a community for the 2015-2016 academic year.
- Applicants for the French and Spanish House must demonstrate advanced proficiency in the language of the community.

Honors House PAL
- Applicants for Honors House must be a member of the Honors Program.
- The Honors House PAL leads community-building programs in addition to providing relevant programs for upper class students and first year students in transition.

Commuter PAL
- Does not have to live on campus.
- Open to rising juniors and seniors. Preference will be given to a commuting student with strong social media skills.
- The Commuter PAL leads community-building programs in addition to providing relevant programs for upper class students and first year students in transition.

PAL Core Responsibilities
- Programming: Create, manage, and lead programming and outreach efforts in either the residence halls or commuter population.
- Advising: Serve as general support/referral for students with academic issues or questions.
- Community Building & Leadership: Fostering DRC community involvement through particular DRC programs, and working with other RU groups, Peer Mentors, and Alumnae.
- Staff Collaboration: Working with the DRC Staff and Residence Life Staff.
- Administration: General administrative work.
- Professional Development: Attend training sessions, programs, and workshops to further one’s professional and leadership development.

Additional Information
- PALs receive $1,000 stipend and are housed in a single room. PALs who are placed in doubles due to lack of singles receive an additional $500.
General Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be undergraduate students who are registered full-time Douglass Residential College students.
- Applicants must have sophomore, junior or senior class standing by August 2014.
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and be in good academic, judicial, and financial standing. While in the PAL position a cumulative and semester GPA of at least a 3.0 must be kept.
- Applicants who have completed, or are currently enrolled in, the leadership course, "Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women’s Leadership" will be given priority.

IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR/ACCEPT THE PAL POSITION, YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Bi-weekly PAL Staff Meetings (1 hour) – Fall and Spring semesters (Time Fridays 10am-11am)
- Summer PAL Training and New Student Move-In – Last week of August
- Winter PAL Training – 1st weekend of Spring Semester (after start of classes)

Consideration will be given to each PAL applicant’s preference, but final hiring will be made based on the needs of the residential community and the strengths and skills of the applicants.

A completed application for the position of Peer Academic Leader includes the following:

- Online Application Form
- Resume (please send to DRCPALs@echo.rutgers.edu)
- 2 Online Recommendation Forms

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Candidates will be notified on Friday, April 4th via email. If you accept the position, you must submit a letter of acceptance and signed PAL contract by Friday, April 11th.

Questions?
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