Peer Academic Leader (PAL) Program
Information for Prospective Applicants 2016-17

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), DRC Wing – Honors College, Computer Science LLC – Allen Hall
  • 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.
  • Computer Science community in Allen Hall (Busch) integrates opportunities to network with faculty, industry, and government experts in computer science while promoting diversity and inclusion in the field. Preference given to a computer science major/minor.
  • 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.
  • Katzenbach community helps facilitate signature first-year programs such as the Annual First-Year/Transfer Sleep Over and the successful 10-Week Wellness Program Series.
  • Honors College PAL must be a member of the Honors Program or Honors College having taken or currently taking Knowledge and Power. Leads community-building programs in addition to providing relevant programs for first year students in transition Honors College.

Sophia House/Bunting PAL – Sophia House
  • Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
  • Preference will be given to a DRC Bunting student living in the Sophia House.
  • The DRC Sophia House/Bunting PAL creates programs focused on helping Bunting 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.
Henderson
- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- Creates 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.

Bunting-Cobb
- Open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- Preference given to STEM major and current/previous Bunting Cobb resident
- Creates programs focused on navigating upper class experience which focus on holistic health, college to career development, and mentorship as a STEM major.

Global Village Living Learning Communities PALs – Africana House, French House, Human Rights House, Leadership Education at Douglass (LEAD) House, Middle Eastern House, Spanish House, Women, Gender, and Business House, Women, Gender, and Creativity House, Women, Gender, and Public Health House, Women, Gender, and Medicine House, Women, Gender, and Global Education House
- 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 2016-2017 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 any academic school’s 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

International Students PAL
- Open to rising juniors and seniors.
- Preference will be given to students living in DRC housing.
- Preference will be given to international student with demonstrated DRC knowledge
- Leads community-building programs based on the needs of the international student population 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 2016.
- 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 (Fridays 2pm-3pm)
- Summer PAL Training and New Student Move-In – Sunday, August 28 – September 3
- Winter PAL Training – Monday, January 16, 2017

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 fye@echo.rutgers.edu)
- 2 Online Recommendation Forms

You are also required to attend an information session prior to applying. Below are the dates and times for the one hour information sessions offered:

- Monday, February 8, 10am
- Monday, February 8, 2:30pm
- Wednesday, February 10, 10am
- Wednesday, February 10, 2:30pm
- Thursday, February 11, 10am
- Thursday, February 11, 2:30pm

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: Wednesday, March 4, 2016**

Candidates will be notified on **Friday, April 1st** via email. If you accept the position, you must submit a letter of acceptance and signed PAL contract by **Friday, April 8th**.

**Questions?**
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