Graduate Hall Director: Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have direct Residence Life experience to apply for the GHD position?
While relevant experience is preferred, it is not mandatory to be selected for a GHD position.

On average, what is the weekly time commitment required of a GHD?
GHDs work approximately 20 hours per week during the academic year. This work will include supervision of student staff (one on one meetings and staff meetings), crisis intervention (on-call responsibilities), incident follow up, committee work, and administrative tasks (budget, programming, facilities management, etc.).

What would my support structure look like as a GHD?
As a GHD, you will be part of an “area” team (East Campus, The Block, West Campus, First Year Area, or Fraternity & Sorority Life). All non-Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) GHDs will directly supervise a team of approximately 10 undergraduate RAs. FSL GHDs may supervise RAs but will work with FSL chapter leadership as well. GHDs will work with approximately two other GHDs, and in some cases Residence Hall Directors (RHDs), on an area team. Most GHDs report to an Associate Director of Residential Life. FSL GHDs report to the Director of FSL. This area team is the group that you will work with most closely.

Where does Residential Life fit in to the organizational structure of Columbia?
Residential Life supports the undergraduate students of Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science. Residential Life is a part of a group of three offices known as Undergraduate Student Life. These three offices are Residential Life, Student Engagement, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The three offices of Undergraduate Student Life report to the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, who reports to the Deans of Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science.

What are the responsibilities of a GHD that is on-call?
As the GHD on-call you are part of a crisis response team that includes Resident Advisers, a Residential Life professional staff member on-call, and a Dean on-call. The GHD on-call holds an on-call phone provided by Residential Life and is available to respond to emergency situations within 15 minutes. While on-call there is always support available and others on the team available to assist you as needed.

How often will I be on-call during the year?
Each GHD will be on-call approximately 10 days per academic semester. The on-call schedule for the fall is determined at August Training.

What are the hours GHDs are on-call?
- Sundays – Thursdays: GHDs are on-call from 5PM to 9AM the next day.
- Fridays & Saturdays: GHDs are on-call from 5PM to 5PM the next day.
- During designated University holidays that occur on weekdays when the office is closed, GHDs are on-call until the office reopens.

What kinds of situations can I expect to deal with when I am on-call?
Some examples of crisis situations that you may be required to respond to include: hospitalizations due to alcohol intoxication or minor injuries, wellness or psychological concerns, sexual assaults, bias incidents, interpersonal conflicts, facilities emergencies, and supporting RAs and Public Safety in responding to violations of policy (such as noise).

What is the compensation for the GHD position?
Each year, compensation includes a stipend of $5,000 (payable in installments throughout the academic year), a campus meal plan, and a furnished room on or near the Morningside campus.

What are the living accommodations like?
Living accommodations vary. Some GHDs live by themselves in spaces similar to a small studio apartment, while others live in two bedroom apartments with another GHD. All spaces include a kitchen and private bathroom. If you are placed in a two-bedroom apartment, it is possible that you will be sharing the space with someone of a different gender.

Can I live in the accommodations with a partner, spouse, and/or children?
Residential Life does not explicitly prohibit GHDs from living with a partner/spouse or child. Unfortunately, we generally cannot provide this accommodation due to the size and limitations of on-campus housing.

Should you have further questions regarding the GHD position, please consult the GHD position description or contact:

Associate Director, Keith Blankenship (kpb2118@columbia.edu)
or
Associate Director, Tara Hanna (tkh2105@columbia.edu).