Application FAQs

- **Can international students apply?** Yes. International students are eligible to apply.
- **Can graduate students or PhD students apply?** Yes. However, you will need to email residentassistant@neu.edu with your name, Northeastern email address, and student ID in order to set up an account if you are not able to access the application on eRezLife.
- **I am a transfer student and this is my first semester on campus. Am I eligible to apply for the upcoming semester?** Yes, you are eligible to apply however it is our **strong preference** that you have one semester as a student at Northeastern prior to submitting an application.
- **Can I apply for the position if I have had complications with OSCCR in the past?** You are eligible to apply as well as serve in the RA role as long as you are not currently on deferred suspension or probation.
- **Can I apply for a summer position?** Due to the limited amount of training that occurs with our summer positions and the overlapping contract, the summer positions are only open to current RA staff members.
- **Can I apply for the position while I am abroad or away on CO-OP?** Yes. If you are selected for an interview, you will need to inform your interviewer(s) that you are away and they will schedule a phone or skype interview accordingly.
- **Does it matter which info session I attend?** No. although attending is not required, it is strongly encouraged to attend at least one info session prior to applying. The information is the same at each information session.
- **If I am applying for both a spring position, and an Academic Year position beginning in the fall, am I allowed to use the same essays for both applications?** Yes, you are allowed to, however this is up to you. For instance, if you are not asked to proceed in the process for the spring, you may want to re-look at your essays for the fall application.
- **Who can be a reference?** Anybody who has served as a manager, supervisor, or mentor is a great reference for your RA application. Professors and academic advisors are also great references, as well as your Residence Director or Area Coordinator. Your RA can also serve as a reference. Family members and close friends should not serve as a references, unless they have also acted in a supervision capacity.
- **What type of references are best?** The best references are those which speak to your skill sets in relation to the RA position. Providing a resume and discussing why you want to be an RA with your reference is always helpful, so they may tailor their recommendation to best portray your strengths. The committee also strongly encourages you to provide your references a copy of the RA job description so they can learn more about the expectations of the position and tailor your reference to highlight experiences that you have that relate directly to the RA role.
- **What is the application process?** All applications are completed online on eRezLife. The following are required for each process:
  - **Spring Process:** Completed application with 2 short answer questions
  - **Academic Year Process:** Completed application, 2 short answer questions and 2 references
- **Can I submit a resume as part of the process?** While you are welcome to submit a resume, in an effort to be consistent in assessing all candidates fairly and equally, it will not be scored or considered as part of your application file in making a determination on your candidacy.

Position FAQs
• Can I be a Resident Assistant while on co-op? Yes, as long as you are in the Boston area and are able to commit to all of the responsibilities that the position requires.

• Will accepting the position require a one year agreement? It is our hope that you will stay with us for at least one year. However, if you are unable to return for the following semester due to co-op, study abroad, etc., you would submit a resignation letter towards the end of the semester to the Assistant Director of Residential Life for RA Training, Selection and Leadership.

• If I am already assigned to housing for the semester, and then I get hired as a Resident Assistant, will I be charged to cancel my housing? No. Your housing would be cancelled for the semester and you would not be penalized as you would now be working for Residential Life.

• Will this affect my financial aid? You should speak to your financial aid counselor directly regarding how the compensation of the RA position will impact your Financial Aid. They will be better able to inform you.

• Can I preference a certain area? Preferences for community placement are discussed after being hired as an RA. RAs who are offered and accept positions for the upcoming year will be surveyed and asked to submit their preference for the type of student population they would like to work with (i.e. First Year, Sophomore, Upper Class), as well as ranking Living Learning Community and Sophomore Thematic Experiential Program preferences. While preferences are taken into consideration, we hire RAs who are fit to serve any student population on campus. RAs will be placed in a community on campus where their strengths will best meet the needs of their residents.

• How difficult is it to balance being an RA while on Co-Op? This depends entirely on the demands of your Co-Op. Some RAs find being on Co-Op easier, and some find being in classes easier. Since Co-Op typically requires RAs to be away from campus for many hours at a time, they must still balance maintaining a presence in their community.

• How many hours a week does the RA role require? Each week, RAs have approximately 6 required working hours (including one 4-hour Proctor Shift, one 1-hour staff meeting, and a bi-weekly one-on-one meeting with their supervisor. However, all RAs commit more hours depending on their duty shifts, and needing to implement programs and complete administrative duties. Most RAs commit about 8-12 hours to their role each week.

Interview FAQs

• What is the interview like? During the individual interview, you will meet with two members of the Residential Life Staff. The interview is a series of questions that help the staff get to know your strengths, personality, and skill sets as they relate to the RA role.

• What is the group interview like? This is an opportunity to perform tasks in a group with other RA candidates. The Residential Life professional staff will provide a prompt, and observe the group dynamic as you work together to complete an activity.

• How should I dress for my interview? Typical dress for interviews is business casual. Appropriate business casual dress typically includes slacks or khakis, a dress shirt or blouse, an open-collar or polo shirt, a dress or skirt at knee-length or below, a tailored blazer, knit shirt or sweater, and loafers or dress shoes. A tie or sport coat is optional but not necessary.

• How long does the interview last? Individual interviews last approximately 30 minutes. Group interviews last approximately 3 hours.