



UTS:HOUSING

**Resident
Networker**



RESIDENT NETWORKER

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The Resident Networker (RN) Program is an established peer development initiative that cultivates and enhances residents' career and life leadership potential, creating the next generation of global citizens. The RN Program has evolved since its introduction in 1997 and has become an integral part of UTS Housing forming the core of the residential community.

Being an RN is very rewarding in terms of the many experiences encountered and the opportunities presented to contribute to UTS Housing among a talented team of fellow RNs. RNs bring leadership to all aspects of UTS Housing life, acting as mentors and supporting the aims and ideals of UTS Housing in creating a dynamic living and learning community. Via this process, RNs acquire leadership attributes that help prepare them to be work-ready.

LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES

- Ability to work in a team
RNs will develop the fundamental skills necessary to contribute to high-performance teams. This is facilitated by persistent and positive collaboration with the Resident Life staff, RN team, and UTS Housing staff.
- Communication skills
RNs will develop confident and mature communication skills through mediating resident relationships, interactions with a range of UTS Professional staff, and participation in team meetings.
- Problem-solving skills
RNs face a range of situations including inter-personal conflict and crisis response which develops the ability to critically examine situations and promptly react.
- Professionalism
RNs are exposed to a range of situations that are conducive to the development of personal attributes which are beneficial in any professional field, including reliability, commitment, persistence, organisational skills, the importance of demonstrating and maintaining confidentiality, boundaries between personal and professional attitudes, and following proper protocol.
- Inclusivity and diversity
RNs live and participate in a diverse and multi-cultural team and resident community. This provides a strong grounding for participation in a global workplace where graduates are required to cross cultural boundaries in a professional and empathetic way.
- Project management
RNs develop practical project management skills through leading events and team initiatives which include putting together proposals, budgeting, and post-event debriefings.

The RN Program is open to all residents of UTS Housing through an application process that aims to identify residents who have the potential to benefit most from the mentoring and leadership opportunities offered.

The following is a guide to how RNs facilitate a range of programs and initiatives that create a vibrant residential community. Being an RN will help participants to develop a range of leadership attributes. The Resident Life team assists RNs in achieving this by providing extensive training and support throughout the year. The most important qualities RNs will need, however, are flexibility and a sense of humour!

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Phone: 02 9514 1529

Email: housing.service@uts.edu.au

Website: www.housing.uts.edu.au



UTS:HOUSING

Resident Networker

THE RN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CONSISTS OF

I. PASTORAL CARE & GUIDANCE

RNs primarily guide the general well-being of residents on their floor and promote the harmonious co-existence of residents. In particular, this is achieved by guiding residents into developing mutual respect, communication, and understanding with their fellow residents. In this respect, RNs lead by example in:

1. Welcoming all students on their floor as they arrive throughout the semester.
2. Assist in establishing good relations between the residents on their floor.
3. Being approachable and available for the residents on their floor both through participation in UTS Housing events as well as informal visits and interactions.
4. Taking an active interest in the residents on their floor, becoming acquainted with residents' academic, personal, and social well-being.
5. Encouraging residents' participation in UTS Housing activities - academic, social, cultural and sporting.
6. Supporting the welfare of residents, either personally, through giving information about appropriate services, or informing UTS Housing or Security of any concerns that they may have about a resident's wellbeing.
7. Advising the Res Life Officer of any incidents affecting a resident on their floor e.g. illness, misadventure, involvement in incidents, flat issues, etc.
8. Being aware of the range of pastoral assistance available within UTS Housing and the University e.g. Health and Counselling Services and, where appropriate, drawing residents' attention to them.

II. EVENTS

Events are an important element of the RN Program, aimed towards facilitating positive interactions between residents. Events within UTS Housing can be broken into several broad categories, supported by the Resident Life Officer, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. **Pre-semester activities:** A range of events prior to the beginning of each semester.
2. **UTS Housing Welcome Weeks events:** (some events may be different or on hold)

A range of events during the formal UTS Housing Welcome Weeks.

- a. Move-in day.
 - b. Welcome BBQ & speed friending events.
 - c. Individual floor events.
 - d. Information sessions.
 - e. RN Welcome Party.
3. **Annual events:** (some events may be different or on hold)
 - a. Semester 1
 - i. Res Carnival.
 - ii. Res Cup.
 - iii. Semester parties.
 - iv. Academic and sporting events.
 - b. Semester 2
 - i. Annual Dinner.
 - ii. Semester parties.
 - iii. Res Cup.



UTS:HOUSING

Resident Networker

iv. Academic and sporting events.

4. **Individual events:** monthly events aimed at building floor community within an event schedule, determined in consultation with the Resident Life Officer.
5. **Unique events:** a unique group event per month with other RNs. Examples of these events can include:
 - a. Cooking classes.
 - b. Trivia nights.
 - c. Cultural nights.
 - d. Sporting events i.e. Futsal / Volleyball / Badminton etc.
6. **Floor / Residence events:** one to two floor events per month and unique resident events. This may include door-knocking check-ins and floor get-togethers.
7. **Residence event categories:** events are categorised into the following themes with events planned in each:
 - a. Social events – e.g. BBQs, international dinners, movie nights, trips, games nights, etc.
 - b. Academic events – e.g. Study groups, community programs, faculty events, debates, etc.
 - c. Sporting events - e.g. Residence competitions, training sessions, social games/matches, etc.
 - d. Social justice events – e.g. Charity fundraising, community volunteering, awareness programs, etc.
 - e. Cultural events – international potluck dinners, guided tours, cultural games & trivia nights, etc.

III. FLOOR COMMUNITY

RNs are involved in building safe and respectful peer communities on their floors. Throughout each semester RNs use a range of formal and informal community-building programs. Examples may include:

1. Apartment introductions for all floor members at the start of each semester.
2. Floor social gatherings.
3. Floor events throughout the semester.
4. Motivating resident involvement on their floor in discussing and promoting issues such as environmental and sustainability awareness, health and wellbeing, and other peer group issues.
5. Informal community programs such as resident birthday cards, study-survival packs, welcome notes, floor decorations, etc.
6. Welcoming new residents and their families to the floor and helping to answer any questions.

IV. TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Throughout each semester and over the course of a year, RNs are provided a range of training sessions and workshops intended to develop a range of attributes that are likely to be beneficial in student, social, and future workplace contexts. The dates and times of which will be provided in advance and may be held over weekends. These include:

- Equity and Diversity.
- Cultural awareness / cross-cultural understanding.
- Communication skills.
- Personal and professional boundaries.
- Event planning, project management, and social media.
- Community building/student engagement.
- Leadership.
- Conflict resolution.
- Social responsibility.
- Developing initiative and innovation.
- Community engagement.
- 1st Aid certificate.
- Building cultures of respect.
- Fire warden training.



UTS:HOUSING

Resident Networker



Youth Mental Health 1st Aid

Similar to a 1st Aid course, this course consists of four accredited workshops that cover a range of issues that affect not only youth but the wider community providing an invaluable opportunity to learn about mental health issues and crisis response.

Boundaries and Sex & Ethics:

UTS counselling staff lead a session on establishing boundaries and how to foster a culture of respect.

V. GENERAL

1. Weekly team meetings with the Resident Life staff are held to facilitate communication, networking and team-building.
2. RNs are provided with information on relevant policies of UTS and UTS Housing (e.g., the Housing Rules and Regulations, Student Grievance Procedures, Harassment Policy, etc.).
3. RNs are trained to respect privacy and confidentiality.
4. RNs report threatening or destructive behaviour to the Housing Service or Security staff immediately.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Participation in the RN Program contributes to a work-ready curriculum vitae by providing:

- A letter of reference from UTS Housing outlining the graduate outcomes and skill development of participation.
- Nationally certified training including 1st Aid, Youth Mental Health 1st Aid, etc.
- Opportunities to participate in further paid work from UTS Housing

In recognition of RNs contribution to helping develop the UTS Housing living and learning community, UTS offers the 'UTS Housing Resident Networker Scholarship' valued at \$6000.00 per year paid over 10 instalments, or a pro-rata amount for RNs who join the program for six months. This scholarship is offered to all RNs involved in the Program and is intended to be used by recipients for educational purposes. The Scholarship is offered on a voluntary basis and there is no obligation to accept an offer of a Scholarship. Details of this scholarship can be found at <http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/scholarships>.

ACCOMMODATION

RNs reside within UTS Housing and pay accommodation fees under the UTS Housing Fees Schedule.

SELECTION AND RETENTION CRITERIA

To be eligible to participate in the RN program, applicants MUST:

- Participate in the RN Training Program early July for the Spring intake or late January for the Autumn intake (see application form for exact dates).
- Be available throughout UTS Housing Welcome Week mid-July until end of July for the Spring intake or early February for the Autumn intake (see application form for exact dates).

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UTS:HOUSING

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- For residents who are in the second year of their course or above, have attained, and maintain, a minimum pass grade average in the previous academic year.
- Be enrolled as a UTS student with over 6 CP.
- Be willing to move apartment, level, or residence where required.
- Not be in breach of the UTS Housing License Agreement or UTS Housing Handbook and House Rules.
- Not have a history of payment arrears with UTS Housing.
- Maintain the support of the Resident Life and Learning Supervisor as an appropriate, designated community leader - as a result of ongoing conduct and contribution to the residential community.

DESIRABLE

- For residents who are in the second year of their course or above, have attained, and maintained a minimum credit, or higher, grade average in the previous academic year.
- Intend on doing the role for 1 + years (not essential)
- Demonstrate prior involvement in community leadership roles, including volunteering, UTS clubs and societies, charity, etc.
- Demonstrate prior involvement in the UTS Housing community.
- Demonstrate leadership and personal qualities including empathy, responsibility, maturity, initiative, etc.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for Resident Networkers may include:

- Residential Life & Learning Supervisor.
- Residential Life Officer.
- UTS Housing Staff
- Staff representatives from UTS Counselling (*Should you have any concerns over a representative from UTS Counselling attending please let us know in advance*).

APPLICATIONS

All applicants for the Resident Networker Program must complete an electronic application form during the recruitment period. Your application should also be accompanied by scanned copies of your most recent academic transcript.

Enquiries can be directed to:

UTS Housing Service
Attention of the Res Life Team
E: housing.service@uts.edu.au
T: 02 9415 1529

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