



Boise State University Housing Residential College Program

Faculty-in-Residence Position Description

A Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) is a faculty member who coordinates a Residential College Community and lives in the residence hall with the student group. Residential College Communities provide a bridge between living and learning, offering opportunities for personal and academic enrichment beyond the formal classroom. This is achieved by clustering students who share similar interests, majors, or goals in a single residence hall. Students enrolled in the community earn 1 academic credit per semester for participation; typically communities offer a weekly formal class meeting.

Just like any other credit bearing opportunity, faculty members create a syllabus for the experience. They plan activities that promote community building and learning. Faculty-in-Residence get the rare opportunity to live in the same community with students – in the informal classroom – and affect learning in a very meaningful way. Essential to the position is the commitment to interact informally with students in the residence hall and through other activities. The FIR will also interact with the larger residence hall community and staff. Collaboration with Housing staff provides a rewarding opportunity to create learning environments in this unique setting.

Required Areas of Involvement

TEACHING EXPECTATIONS

The primary purpose of this position is to expand educational opportunities for students outside of the classroom.

The role of Faculty in Residence will be to ...

- Develop and manage the process for students to earn academic credit. *(You will develop a syllabus, learning outcomes in conjunction with the sponsoring college that are appropriate for your community, and create activities that complement the academic theme.)*
- Build relationships with residents that encourage academic success and achievement of their educational goals. *(This may take various forms – in the residence hall and cafeteria, at events either on or off campus, in the academic setting. Much of this interaction will occur outside of normal working hours, taking advantage of the live-in status of the FIR.)*
- Assist residents to make connections with faculty, staff, and community members who will enhance their educational experiences. *(This may take various formal and informal forms such as inviting in guest speakers, taking students to visit community members, including other faculty and community members in RC sponsored events, etc.)*
- Plan a variety of activities for the RC community that promote community building and learning. *(These events might be as simple as college dinners or as complex as overnight field trips. They might involve University or Residence Hall-sponsored events, community service projects, game tournaments, watching a movie together. Events may be designed to directly reinforce RC themes or to build the social community.)*
- Provide academic and career advising to residential college students. *(Advising may be formal or informal and should mirror the intent of the residential college model of active involvement in the students' lives. Often it will involve helping the student establish contact with those faculty or university staff who can best provide the needed assistance.)*

SERVICE EXPECTATIONS

Another essential function of the FIR position is related to promoting the Residential College Program, to effectively serve students, Boise State, and the wider community.

The role of Faculty in Residence will be to ...

- Participate in recruitment of program participants. *(Recruitment activities will include things like presentations to Orientation programs and classes, as well as specialized recruitment programs. It may involve telephone or e-mail contact with recruits, and coordinating efforts with Housing Office staff.)*
- Represent the Residential College Program to groups internal and external to the University. *(This may include communicating with members of other University RC programs, working with funding contributors, sharing the FIR experience with other interested faculty.)*
- Administer the community in collaboration with the Assistant Director responsible for oversight of the Residential College Program. *(Administrative tasks will include managing a budget and reporting expenditures, co-supervising a student Program Assistant, scheduling events, evaluating program effectiveness, coordinating efforts with Housing Office staff, such as Resident Directors, and Resident Assistants.)*
- Communicate regularly with Housing staff, in particular the Assistant Director for Residential Education and the Resident Director of the hall where the RC is located. *(The RD and the FIR will meet monthly to review RC needs and residence hall information and may work together on initiatives within the hall).*
- Engage in the overall mission of University Housing, promoting civility and personal development in a community setting.

OPTIONAL AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT

In addition to these expectations, Faculty-in-Residence may also do the following

- Conduct published research about residential college Program
- Conduct published research that utilizes the residential college situation or its residents
- Instruct or facilitate special non-credit seminars and/or workshops
- Direct or facilitate internships, service-learning, independent study or other experiential learning projects

BENEFITS

- Apartment (includes internet, cable, local telephone service, and utilities)
- Meal plan (additional meal plan for live-in domestic partner)
- Course release as approved by sponsoring academic department
- One parking permit in RH1 or equivalent monetary value applied toward permit of choice (e.g., in 2007 – 2008, faculty received an RH1 permit or \$218.00 towards a permit)
- Rec Pass for faculty and domestic partner sponsored by Campus Recreation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a contracted, tenure or tenure-track faculty member at Boise State University
- All faculty and live-in domestic partners must successfully pass a criminal background check.
- Strong desire to impact student learning and commitment to collaborate with University Housing staff

PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO:

- Can make a two year commitment
- Have prior experience at Boise State University
- Understanding of student development needs
- Prior experience in a residential setting

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Interested faculty members should be willing to serve a two-year appointment.
- Submit a letter of interest and a support letter from the chair of his or her department delineating workload adjustments and funding considerations.
- The letter of interest should include a discussion of strategies to meet the intended learning outcomes and means to assess the outcomes. The Dean of the College, in consultation with the respective department chair, provides the prospective faculty member a department and college funding and workload agreement and approves that person for further consideration.
- Those candidates approved by the Dean will be interviewed by an RC committee comprised of staff from the University Housing Department (typically the Assistant Director for Residential Education), the Associate Vice-President for Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of the College, and a student living in the residential college. The committee will provide recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Academic Affairs who together will select and appoint the faculty-in-residence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Melissa Wintrow
Assistant Director for Residential Education, University Housing
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1355
Phone: (208) 447-1024
Fax: (208) 447-1086
E-mail: mwintrow@boisestate.edu