

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Faculty-in-Residence Program

Student and faculty interaction outside of the formal classroom setting is considered an essential characteristic of a vibrant intellectual life. Pascarella & Terenzini (2005) indicate that faculty-student interactions in residence halls, community centers, and in the dining facilities provide a bridge between formal academic programs and out of classroom learning and development activities for students. Research suggests that students experience benefits from such out-of-class interactions that include increased intellectual orientation, growth in autonomy and independence, increased interpersonal skills, and gains in general maturity and personal development (Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005).

The Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) Program is a collaboration between the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs that strengthens the connection between students' academic and residential learning experiences. Faculty members from an array of disciplines live on campus and work closely with Student Housing & Residential Life professional and paraprofessional staff members (Residential Life Coordinators and Resident Assistants, respectively) to provide opportunities where residents can interact with professors outside the classroom environment, further supporting student learning, engagement, and success.

Student Housing & Residential Life currently has Faculty-in-Residence spaces in Moody Towers, Cougar Village 1, Cougar Village 2, University Lofts, and Cougar Place. Throughout our residential communities, there are a variety of living-learning options students choose from to increase their learning within and beyond the classroom. Living-learning communities are where students, who live together, also participate in a similar academic or theme based experience. Examples include, but are not limited to: engineering, business, sustainability, honors, students in recovery, and HRM. For FIR who are placed in residence halls with these types of communities, this provides an opportunity to interact with a small group of students who all share either a special interest, major, or academic theme interest.

Responsibilities

To support the University of Houston's goals of increasing student retention through to graduation, Faculty-in-Residence will be focusing their efforts on one of two programs with Student Housing & Residential Life staff: the First Year Residential Experience (FYRE) or Second Year Residential Experience (SYRE). FIRs living in Cougar Village or Moody Towers will be collaborating on supporting First Year students where the faculty in Cougar Place and the University Lofts will be working together to support Second Year and upper class students. While the foci of these two FIR teams may be specific to a student classification, we anticipate and look forward to multiple collaborations across all Faculty-in-Residence and Residential Life staff members to support First and Second Year students beyond initiatives from Academic Affairs. In an effort to allow faculty to directly impact the community experience of First and Second year students in the buildings where they live, FIRs will also be asked to interact with a cohort of students through an online database designed to help monitor and support students' academic progress.

The following sections outline some of the responsibilities of the Faculty-in-Residence position:

Programming

Faculty-in-Residence have many opportunities to create an educational focus in the residence halls where they live through coordinating, hosting or supporting campus-wide programs during the academic year. While the goal of the Faculty-in-Residence program is for faculty to pay special attention to the residential community where they live, Faculty-in-Residence are also encouraged to work with FIRs in other residential areas to provide programming, mentoring, and resources as we continue to establish a community rich in social and intellectual content. In addition, FIRs build community by living in a residence hall and interacting informally and formally with student residents on a regular basis. FIRs need to be available, approachable, and accessible to students on a consistent basis.

For example, some of the following ideas have been successful programs and events in the past:

- Inviting another faculty member and a group of students to dinner
- Showing a movie in the faculty member's apartment
- Organizing a group of students to attend a cultural event or lecture on or off-campus
- Inviting a peer faculty member to give a talk in the residential community
- Coordinating workshops
- Offering the faculty member's apartment common space (living room) as a location where student groups can meet or host events.
- Inviting a speaker lecturing elsewhere on campus to come by for an informal follow-up discussion

Communication and Visibility

Communication between Faculty-in-Residence and our Residential Life staff is paramount to the success of this program. FIRs will meet with the Residence Life Coordinator (RLC), Resident Assistants (RAs), and Senior Resident Assistants (SRAs) in their residential community on a consistent basis throughout the academic year. This communication ensures FIRs are aware of community issues and needs as they arise while also providing an opportunity to collaborate on programming efforts. RLCs are live-in professional staff members who are directly responsible for the community they oversee. RAs and SRAs are student staff members who also live in the community, and are responsible for building relationships with their 30-70 residents, connecting them to each other and the institution, supporting their student success, and either hosting or supporting events that directly support their residents' needs. In addition, Faculty-in-Residence are responsible for ensuring there are opportunities for student residents to connect with them individually, either through regularly schedule 'office hours' hosted in the community or other means decided effective when talking with the RLC.

Faculty Fellows Program

To increase faculty involvement in the residence halls, Faculty-in-Residence are responsible for managing a Faculty Fellows Program. FIRs will be asked to recruit at least five UH faculty colleagues to attend and/or host events in the residence halls (both formal and informal) each semester. These "Faculty Fellows" create additional opportunities for students and faculty to interact outside the classroom and heightens the level of engagement and learning experiences for students in the residence halls. While each Faculty-in-Residence is the primary point of faculty contact for the residence hall where they live, Faculty Fellows are encouraged to participate in as many aspects of the student residential experience as possible.

FIR Program Oversight

Faculty-in-Residence meet regularly with other FIRs and the Student Housing & Residential Life Assistant Director for Residential Life (individually and collectively), as well as other senior leadership members in the department and Division of Student Affairs, to discuss FIR program needs and/or issues. In addition, Faculty-in-Residence are expected to maintain consistent and frequent contact with their Residential Life counterparts (RLCs and RAs) to ensure residents' needs are being addressed (individual and community needs/issues) To supplement these meetings, FIRs will be responsible for submitting brief reports regarding their experiences so we can track student interactions, issues and concerns in the community, and market the successes of this program.

Community Living

Given that Faculty-in-Residence live in the residential communities with students, it is imperative for our FIRs to participate as active members in the community including; appropriately role modeling positive community behavior, upholding University and Student Housing & Residential Life policies and procedures, providing crisis response (if necessary), serving as an advocate for students, helping students connect to campus and stay engaged, and encouraging students to seek leadership opportunities. During the first year of the FIR appointment, FIRs meet with appropriate members of the Student Housing & Residential Life staff for orientation on university policy and administrative issues pertaining to the residential environment and the well-being of its residents and staff.

In our community, a major tenant of the Faculty-in-Residence program is for FIRs to work collaboratively with in-hall partners (Residence Life staff and Resident Assistant committees) and other faculty (i.e. Faculty Fellows) in an effort to nurture the social and intellectual environment of the residential community.

Recruitment and Appointment

Successful applicants for Faculty-in-Residence position will demonstrate their distinction in teaching and research, as well as a commitment to faculty–student interaction beyond the traditional classroom. After FIR applications are collected, a Faculty-in-Residence Committee will conduct a review of the applicants and submit its recommendations to the Executive Director of Student Housing & Residential Life and the Vice President/Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Once selected, Faculty-in-Residence candidates will be offered a residence hall placement based on the best fit between the residential community and faculty member, as determined by Division of Student Affairs and Student Housing & Residential Life staff members, with input from the candidate and FIR Search Committee.

After accepting the Faculty-in-Residence appointment offer, FIRs will sign an agreement with the University of Houston and our expectation is that this appointment will be for 2 years. FIRs will have the opportunity to apply for an additional one- year appointment in the middle of their second year. The Assistant Director for Leadership and Learning oversees this process and will be in contact with current FIRs. Our goal is for FIRs to live in the residence hall where they are placed for the duration of the appointment. However, pending community needs and FIR interests, Student Housing & Residential Life may initiate conversations with FIRs to potentially relocate to another community. The only tenants allowed to reside in the designated apartment are members of the FIR's immediate household. All tenants and guests are expected to adhere to University of Houston and Student Housing & Residential Life policies and procedures.

Benefits

The FIR position provides faculty members with the unique opportunity to interact with students in their home environment, host programming experiences outside the classroom, gain insight into student perspective, mentor students with similar interests, identities, and/or goals, and continue to bridge the gap between students' formal academic training personal growth opportunities. To ensure Faculty-in-Residence have as much contact with students as possible, FIRs live in a rent and tax-free apartment located in a traditional campus residence hall (Cougar Place, Cougar Village, Moody Towers, and University Lofts). This housing benefit includes rent and utilities, including wireless Internet access and cable and is in exchange for substantive participation in the life of the residential community.

Additionally, to further support the Faculty-in-Residence Program SHRL will provide each FIR with a meal plan for the dining hall. SHRL will provide one additional meal plan for a member of the FIRs immediate household if requested.

In order to support our Faculty-in-Residence for hosting and supporting programs for residential students, Student Housing & Residential Life will provide a budget for each Faculty-in-Residence. These funds can be used to fund program events and cover such items as food, movie showings, and subsidizing tickets for students to go to cultural, educational and social events. Our hope is that FIRs will collaborate with RLCs, RAs, SRAs, RA social and educational committees, hall councils, the Residence Halls Association (RHA), and other campus partners, additional funding is generally available.

Notes related to these benefits:

- As University employees, FIRs are responsible for making parking arrangements through the Parking and Transportation Office. Faculty-in-Residence staff are responsible for purchasing their own parking passes and there is Faculty/Staff un-gated parking within proximity to each residence hall. However, it may be more convenient for FIRs to have reserved parking. In support of the FIRs and their ability to be in close proximity to their home SHRL will pay the difference between the F/S un-gated parking pass and a reserved pass, should the FIR make the request. SHRL will also subsidize one additional parking pass for a member of the FIR's immediate household if requested.
- At times, especially winter break and summer, maintenance needs may require that the building where the FIR apartment is located be vacated or there may be disruption of services such as water, electricity, or Internet. Appropriate accommodations will be made so FIRs may remain in their apartments, or a comparable space, during these times.

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Application for Faculty-in-Residence

Name:	Title:
Department:	Faculty Rank:
Campus Address:	E-mail:
Campus phone number:	Preferred phone contact number:

The application process consists of submitting the Faculty-in-Residence Statement of Interest and a Curriculum Vitae. Please submit application materials by August 10, 2018 to Lin Crowson, Assistant Director for Residential Life, at ycrowson@uh.edu.

A selection committee will review proposals, and finalists will be invited for interviews tentatively slated to begin August 22, 2018. The move in date for this position is August 31, 2018.

Statement of Interest

Submissions should not exceed 3 pages in length and should address the following questions:

- Why are you interested in the FIR position?
- Please describe your level of involvement with Student Housing & Residential Life or the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Houston or another institution?
- Please list the courses you have taught in the past three years that involve undergraduates.
- Please describe your research interests.
- Please describe any interactions you have had with undergraduates outside of the classroom.
- How would you utilize the Faculty-in-Residence position to:
 - Support residents' academic success (grades, full-time enrollment, major selection, etc...)
 - Promote student engagement on campus
 - Foster student development and growth
 - Create a sense of community among residents