BECOME A GRADUATE COMMUNITY ASSISTANT
**Discovery is at the heart of our university**

At the University of Washington, we educate a diverse student body to become responsible citizens and future leaders. We discover timely solutions to the world’s most complex problems and enrich the lives of people throughout our community, the state of Washington, the nation, and the world.

**Working together to enhance student life**

The mission of Housing & Food Services, working together to enhance student life, guides everything we do as a department. Our Residential Life Program is committed to supporting students in academic success, creating connections, discovering their purpose, and responsible citizenship development.
BY THE NUMBERS

GRADUATE HOUSING IN MERCER COURT

70:1 Residents to CA ratio
4 Events each CA plans per quarter
20 Times per quarter each CA is on call

2 Graduate-only buildings
285 Beds in graduate housing
4 Community Assistants
Why did you want to be a CA?
Working as a Community Assistant has been a great way to connect right away with other new and returning students. We have built a community together around shared interests like exploring new places in Seattle. Within one week of moving to Mercer E, I already had recommendations for the best coffee, campus study spots, and local hikes. It made the transition and first quarter much easier!

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
With the fast pace of graduate student life, it is easy to get lost in the library or isolated in a classroom. The CA role gives you a chance to meet your neighbors, get to know people you may not have met otherwise, and discover new things that are outside of your discipline. It helps break up the academic routine and gives perspective on the importance of knowing the people around you.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
As a public health student whose research has social cohesion and mental health resource components, I have learned a lot from observing how UW has provided a variety of interactive resources and made them accessible in both direct and subtle ways. The graduate experience comes with different stresses and successes, and as a CA I’ve had a firsthand orientation to how UW has created responses and support for graduate populations.
Why did you want to be a CA?
When I moved to Seattle, I wanted to find a community and build connections both for myself and among other folks. I was in Residential Life at my undergrad for three years, and the CA position felt like an opportunity to pull from that skill set and use it once more in a new environment. Moving to a new place or into a new degree program can be quite the transition, and I find that I learn more about a place and its people when I am able to work with others to figure out how to navigate it.

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
The opportunity to learn about different disciplines has been rad! Folks are interested in all types of questions, topics, and projects, academic and non-academic alike. As such, there is always the chance to learn about topics and areas that I would not have encountered if I had not been a CA with fellow graduate students.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
One of the valuable skills I learned is time management. In philosophy as a discipline, there are always things that must be done and juggled in tandem with one another. Conferences, grading, teaching, presentations, and the like all require knowing how to balance obligations and time commitments. As such, being a CA has helped me practice managing these different commitments and competing priorities during my time as a graduate student.
Why did you want to be a CA?
I wanted to become a CA to meet all the amazing people living on campus. There are diverse and talented folks living in Mercer, and being a CA gave me an amazing opportunity to meet and engage with them. I also wanted to take advantage of all the resources and facilities offered in Mercer Court and at HFS.

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
I enjoy planning fun events for the residents living in Mercer Court. Through these events, I have had the opportunity to build and develop strong relationships with my fellow residents and help them settle in and succeed at UW! I also like having my own studio and living so close to campus.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
Being a CA, I learned to juggle and prioritize my activities and responsibilities in various aspects of my life as a student. I learned how to organize my time and schedule effectively to achieve my goals. Being a CA has definitely allowed me to hone my time management skills and has helped me value my time and others’ time and will continue to aid my professional life.
Why did you want to be a CA?
I have always been passionate about building community. In my undergrad, I spent three years working as an RA where I was able to develop strong relationships with my residents, team, and supervisor. I also loved planning programs and seeing my residents enjoy them. The CA position gave me the opportunity to continue to do what I love.

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
Graduate students in Mercer D/E are smart, passionate and warm individuals. My residents also come from places all around the world. I never get tired of listening to their stories. I’m lucky to be able to interact and form bonds with them. Plus, it’s always fun to be able to exchange experiences and learn something new every day!

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
CA position has helped me to be perceptive to the people around me. This skill has allowed me to be a better coworker and friend. In addition, knowing how and what to prioritize is crucial to the job when you are balancing multiple roles including the CA position. I have been able to develop important skills that will benefit me for my career after graduate school.
Position Overview

Under the direct supervision of professional staff, the CA:

> Establishes a cohesive and responsible community
> Models and supports issues related to diversity
> Facilitates the social and professional connections of residents
> Enforces and abides by the policies of the UW Department of Housing & Food Services (HFS) and the UW as well as Washington State and federal laws in the UW apartment communities
> Demonstrates sound judgment
> Participates in and facilitates a team approach with coworkers
> Completes necessary administrative tasks
> Provides appropriate customer service to students and visitors.

To Apply

http://depts.washington.edu/hfsresed/ca

Compensation

> Studio apartment
> Level 4 dining meal plan
> $35 in laundry money each quarter
> Opportunities for professional development
For more information, please contact:

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Contact

http://depts.washington.edu/hfsresed/ca