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?
I wanted to be a CA to build meaningful relationships with my residents and help create a welcoming, inclusive community in graduate housing. As a first-year graduate student, I was nervous to move to Seattle and wanted to live in an environment that was supportive, social, and academic-focused. Being a CA allows me to help create this environment for myself and others, and give people the housing conditions they need to be successful in their graduate programs. I also wanted to have the camaraderie and sense of community that comes from working on a tight-knit building team.

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
I love getting to be creative with event planning and designing programming that will be impactful and fun for the community. It has been so rewarding to spend weeks planning an event and then have residents attend and tell me that my program was meaningful for them. Graduate students are looking for spaces to find community and build relationships, and I am grateful to work with the CA team to cultivate that space for them through unique and well-planned events.

What do you enjoy most about living in a community with other graduate students?
I am constantly inspired by the wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion in our community. It feels like every day I learn about a resident securing an amazing post-grad job offer, being awarded a research grant, or reaching a personal milestone. Folks in our building have experience living and working internationally, working for Fortune 500 companies, publishing books, doing research with NASA, and so many other amazing things. I feel like I get to see the best and brightest that UW has to offer in the Mercer Court graduate community.
Why did you want to be a CA?
I wanted to become a CA because I really enjoy creating welcoming, safe spaces for others. As someone interested in doing research in education, I thought this would be a relatable and new opportunity to do so while meeting other graduate students and learning about their academic experiences.

What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
My team and residents! Everyone here is really supportive of each other and I’m so grateful to have met the people I work with and for in the Mercer Court community.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
Time management. Life is a balancing act and being a CA has taught me the importance of time management and setting boundaries with myself and others to bring the best version of myself to any space I’m in.

What do you enjoy most about living in a community with other graduate students?
We’re really respectful of each other’s space and time, my residents included. We all understand the challenges and stress that comes with being a graduate student and do what we can to support each other.
What do you enjoy most about being a graduate CA?
I enjoy the process of seeing a community come together, whether it be watching residents I’ve introduced based on similar interests studying together later on, noticing a familiarity and comfort in the atmosphere settle in as residents feel more welcome, and seeing people begin to push their comfort zones and the bounds of their knowledge and experience as they explore Seattle and UW’s resources.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
As a CA, I have been able to practice time management, efficiency, and flexibility in communicating to a diverse population. The position pushes you to be adaptive in your communication style and responsive to various needs. I know that developing these communication skills will carry over in my ability to be responsive in the future.

What do you enjoy most about living in a community with other graduate students?
I most enjoy that this community is based in our wellness as graduate students. There is a general feeling of academic support and respect for our individual academic endeavors in the Mercer graduate community. I can always speak to another graduate in the community and it reminds me to stay balanced and focused on the larger goals we all are here working towards.

Riley
Why did you want to be a CA?
I have always been passionate about making connections and building community among people. In my undergraduate experience, I was an RA for two years and I loved creating meaningful events for residents that allowed for us to learn new things and make friends with one another.

What do you enjoy most about living in a community with other graduate students?
I enjoy living with other graduate students because we create intentional community. We are all in graduate school together, and living in Mercer allows us to connect with and support one another. There is also such a diverse representations of folks in various programs and everyone is passionate about sharing their interests.

What has been a valuable skill you have learned from being a CA?
Definitely flexibility. There is a lot of room to be creative in our programming, while also learning how to adapt to different situations as they arise. In my career, I will need to practice my flexibility and adaptability skills on a daily basis, so this has given me invaluable skills for that.
**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**

www.depts.washington.edu/hfsresed/ca

**Compensation**

- Partially furnished 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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