Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) are small, select groups of first-year students who enjoy the benefits of sharing common residential and academic experiences while making new friends, exploring common interests and being a part of a close community of peers. LLCs create purposeful links among the academic, residential, and social elements of the undergraduate experience during the first year. Students will benefit from special programs in the residence hall, and having a peer mentor in residence to provide help in answering Rutgers related questions. This program focuses on assisting students in their transition from high school to college by sharing common first-year courses such as Psychology, Law and Politics, Microeconomics and writing while receiving academic and personal advisement that will help to guide students to be successful during their first year.

Peer mentors in this program will enhance the undergraduate experience of the students by living in residence and serving as a mentor and leader of the community. Through academic programs and activities, formal 1:1 interactions and informal interactions, the peer mentor works to provide a unique and academically supportive living-learning experience for the residents.

Residential Peer Mentor positions are currently available in:
- Business – Quad III
- Law & Political Science – Quad I

**Responsibilities Include:**
- Promote and encourage a dynamic, positive and fun academic environment
- Meet individually with assigned mentees twice a semester (minimally) with the first meeting occurring within the first 3 weeks of the fall semester
- Implement academic programming (minimum of 4 a semester) that reflects the academic and career interests of the first-year students in the community
- Work with the Residence Life staff to ensure that the LLCs are inclusive and stress educational aspects of first-year students’ development
- Keep residents informed regarding pertinent academic policies, deadlines and events at SAS, SEBS and RBS
- Initiate and sustain study groups
- Serve as a referral to appropriate faculty, department and support services for first-year students
- Refer areas of concern to Residence Life staff regarding potential conflicts and problems amongst residents
- Ensure students understand their responsibilities as members of a living-learning community
- Conduct weekly house social rounds to build and maintain relationships with residents
- Create and maintain bulletin board: develop theme for the semester and update academic information on a monthly basis. In order to keep residents well informed of all programs and events
- Meet with Residence Life Coordinator as designated
- Attend once a month Friday meetings with fellow mentors and FIGS Peer Instructors (Friday afternoons)
- Assist the Residence Life Learning Communities office in recruitment activities in the spring semester e.g. Open House
Benefits of Becoming a Living-Learning Community Mentor:
- Share experiences and offer support to first-year students
- Gain program planning and community building skills
- An opportunity to work closely with other students and other RU departments and faculty
- Learn more about campus resources
- A great leadership opportunity
- Great resume builder!

Compensation and Time Commitment:
- Stipend of $1,000 per semester, total $2,000 for the academic year
- Peer Mentors will be offered a single or a double with a roommate. **Peer mentors must pay for their own housing.**
- The expectation is that the overall responsibilities will call on average approximately 5 hours per week of active engagement from the Peer Mentor, as well as the understanding that the in-resident component implies more and on-going informal interactions.

Conditions of Appointment:
- Peer Mentor will serve for one academic year, beginning April 2016 and ending May 2017
- Must be in good academic and judicial standing during the term of employment

Eligibility Requirements:
- Be a full-time School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers Business School or School of Environmental and Biological Sciences student
- Have sophomore standing by August 2016
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 and be in good academic, judicial standing
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills and self-motivated
- Had previously taken all core courses that are required of the community

Application & Selection Process:
- **All applicants must apply for a lottery number between January 18 – January 26**
- A completed online application for this position includes an essay and resume.
- Student will receive an email on or before Tuesday, January 12th if eligible for in-person interviews (individual and group). Students must sign up for an interview prior to January 13th at noon.
- Interview will be held either Tuesday, January 19th or Wednesday, January 20th in McCormick Hall
- Candidate notified by Friday, January 29th of hire
- Candidate must accept position by Monday, February 1st

Mandatory Training Sessions and Orientation:
- Peer mentor orientation and training will be held on April 15, April 22, May 12, and the week of August 29th, managing your summer commitments to end prior to the start of training.
- Mentor must also be available for student orientation on Friday, September 2, 2016.
• Meet with Residence Life Coordinator regularly, including a weekly 1:1 and staff meeting.
• Once a month Friday afternoon meetings with fellow mentors and FIGS Peer Instructor

**Essay Questions:**
Please answer the following questions in one essay of 500 words or less. Attach answers in a Word document with your full name and the name of the LLC listed at the top of the essay document.

1. What personal characteristics and skills do you possess which would make you an effective Peer Mentor for first-year students? Please explain and include any relevant experience.

2. Please share your programming ideas and enrichment activities, keeping in mind the needs of first-year students.