German Language and Culture Living-Learning Community (LLC) in Bishop Quads

The German Language and Culture Living-Learning community seeks to develop language skills, enhance students’ knowledge of contemporary issues pertaining to the German culture and develop a sense of community among undergraduates in this program and the Rutgers University community at large. This unique residential environment combines curricular and co-curricular activities designed to enhance each student’s overall college experience. The community offers various opportunities that will allow for the discovery of German, Austrian, and Swiss culture. Events and activities can include: Conversation tables, German Movie Nights, Field trips to Oktoberfest, the annual Stueben parade, theaters, operas, museums, concerts and other cultural events in NYC, Princeton and New Brunswick. The Peer Mentor in this program enhances the undergraduate experience of the students by living in residence and serving as a mentor and leader of the community. Through culture-related programs and activities, and informal interactions, the Peer Mentor works to provide a unique living-learning experience for the residents.

Residence Hall Location:
The German Language and Culture LLC is located in the scenic Bishop Quad area, located on the College Avenue Campus, adjacent to downtown New Brunswick with theaters, restaurants, student-friendly shopping, and the NJ Transit train station for easy access to NYC and Philadelphia.

Peer Mentor will have the following primary functions:

- Assist and work under the direction of the Residence Life Learning Communities Office and German Department Undergraduate Chair in the design, promotion and implementation of engaging programs and activities.
- Have a level of German language proficiency. Proficiency will be determined by Undergraduate Chair in German Department.
- Being aware of residents’ academic and career interests and referring them to the German Undergraduate Director for advising.
- Serving as a liaison between the German Department and the German LLC students.
- Encouraging students to participate in travel and study abroad experiences.
- Meet individually with assigned mentees twice a semester (minimally) with the first meeting occurring within the first 3 weeks of the fall semester.
- Promote and encourage a dynamic, positive and fun environment that promotes community.
- Implement cultural programming (minimum of 4 a semester) that reflects the interests of the German LLC residents and connects with the course.
- Promote cultural awareness and regularly facilitate discussion, using German.
- Assist residents in becoming familiar with on-campus resources, such as clubs and organizations, as well as faculty and staff members who are willing to assist them.
- 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.
- Collaborate with other LLCs within the building e.g. French, Latin Images, Asian American Identities and Images, Paul Robeson.
- Perform weekly social rounds to build and maintain relationships with residents.
- Conduct weekly office hours.
- Create and maintain community bulletin board.
- Assist the Residence Life Learning Communities office with recruitment activities in the spring semester.
Compensation and Time Commitment

- Stipend of $1000 per semester, total $2000 for the academic year
- 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 on-going informal interactions
- Enrollment in 1.5 credit Contemporary German Media course

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
- Mentor will be assigned a space in the Bishop Quad. **NOTE: You will be responsible for paying for your own housing.**

Eligibility requirements

- Be a full-time Rutgers University 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
- Must be proficient in German Language

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, 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.

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? Please explain and include any relevant experience.

2. Please share your programming ideas and enrichment activities for the community.