



Volunteer Role – Resident Assistant (Dublin City)

YWCA Ireland (Young Women’s Christian Association of Ireland) is a national faith based women’s organisation and registered charity affiliated with the World YWCA movement. The Association is ‘all island’ and is formed by 5 local associations in Dublin, Greystones, Monaghan, Newcastle (Co. Down) and Lisburn that provide a wide range of activities including youth work, faith activities, children’s clubs, mothers and toddlers, lunch clubs, accommodation provision and awareness raising activities.

At a national level YWCA Ireland seeks to support and encourage women as they lead change in our society. Key priorities include gender equality, faith, women’s leadership and social justice.

The YWCA Student Residence at 64 Lower Baggot Street in Dublin 2 provides affordable accommodation to students and visitors in a convenient city-centre location.

Overview of the Resident Assistant Role

The YWCA Ireland Resident Assistant (RA) programme provides an exciting opportunity for 4 women to enhance their work experience, hone their leadership skills and live in a dynamic and inter –cultural environment in our student residence in Dublin city centre while pursuing their education or taking a gap year. The programme runs for a period of 10 months (September to July). During this time RA’s are provided with free accommodation, breakfast and an evening meal. They support the Residence staff team in the daily running of the student residence and provide an important link between students and YWCA management. The responsibilities of the role are generally focussed around evenings and weekends and shared among the RA team.

The primary role of RA’s is to build a safe, inclusive, friendly and welcoming environment for our guests, assisting them in practical ways and offering peer support. RA’s are assigned ‘point of contact’ duties in the student residence some evenings and weekends. In addition, Resident Assistants will have the opportunity to contribute to and participate in YWCA Ireland’s national programmes and activities which are focused around themes such as gender equality, faith, human rights and women’s leadership.

Closing date: 30th July 2016

Applicant Criteria

The ideal applicants will be:

- Women currently studying in Dublin city or taking a gap year. Applications are welcome from women in YWCA -YMCA’s internationally.
- Available from the 1st September 2016 to 1st July 2017 to live in the YWCA student residence
- Available to attend 2 training days in August 2016

- Interested in growing their leadership skills, enhancing their CV and engaging with the wider work of YWCA Ireland and the World YWCA
- Interested in volunteering as part of a team in an intercultural and diverse environment

Duties and Responsibilities

Developing Residence Community

- Administrate content for the Residence social media pages and blog. Keep Residents informed of important dates and activities by maintaining a neat and up to date notice board
- Introduce and orient students to the YWCA Residence community, local area, facilities and staff.
- Foster an environment that embraces diversity and celebrates differences within the community
- Plan, implement, and evaluate social programmes each term that encourage the development of a fun, supportive, caring community
- Produce monthly progress reports to the Residence Manager

Peer Support

- Build a rapport with residents to help facilitate open lines of communication for questions, problems, and concerns
- Model behaviour and values, both in the residential community and beyond, which are consistent with YWCA Ireland's values

Out of hours, Emergency and 'Point of Contact' duties

- Welcome new arrivals and assist with departures
- Respond appropriately to any breach of Terms and Conditions issues, for example, noise complaints
- Distribute laundry tokens and issue replacement keys and fobs where necessary
- Ensure premises are secured properly at the end of each day
- Monitor CCTV and respond to any alarms
- Document all accidents, incidents and breaches of the Residence Terms and Conditions and ensure all such matters are reported to the Manager.
- Be accessible to residents at rostered times. Be responsible for evacuation, in cases of emergency, acting as first point of contact for guests and the emergency services.

Time Commitment

10 -15 hours per week as assigned by the Residence Manager and some overnight point of contact duties

Skills, Experience, Qualities Required

Essential

- Experience of motivating, supporting and mentoring young people from across a variety of cultural backgrounds
- Experience of working/volunteering in an intercultural environment
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Culturally sensitive
- Friendly, enthusiastic and welcoming
- Team player and committed to acting as a role model
- Reliable, honest and respectful
- Ability to problem solve and use own initiative
- Able to manage time efficiently and effectively
- Understanding of confidentiality
- Familiarity with social media platforms

Desirable

- Experience of working/volunteering in the youth work and/or hospitality sector
- Experience of working/volunteering in a faith based organisation
- An interest in the wider work of YWCA Ireland and World YWCA
- Additional linguistic skills

Training and Induction

An extensive induction and training process applies to this role and is mandatory.

Support and Supervision

Resident's Assistant's will report directly to the Development and Operations Manager. The RA's will have regular support meetings with their Supervisor

Benefits

- Free accommodation in Dublin city centre for 10 months
- Training, supervision and mentoring
- Opportunity to work with people from across a multitude of backgrounds, courses, ages and experiences
- Develop your leadership skills
- Develop your problem solving skills
- Help and support new students arriving in Dublin
- Opportunities to participate in other YWCA Ireland activities and programmes

The Application Process

- Volunteer Application form
- Informal initial meeting to discuss role (if you are an international volunteer we can do this by Skype)
- 2 References
- Garda vetting (police check)