



RESIDENT NETWORKER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The Resident Networker (RN) Program at UTS Housing fosters leadership and career skills, developing global citizens through peer support and community building. Introduced in 1997, it is integral to creating a dynamic residential community. RNs gain valuable experiences, enhance leadership attributes, and support the wellbeing of fellow residents, preparing them to be work-ready.

LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES

- **Teamwork:** Collaborating with RN and UTS staff to foster a positive environment.
- **Communication:** Mediating resident relationships and engaging with UTS staff.
- **Problem Solving:** Addressing conflicts and crises effectively.
- **Professionalism:** Developing organizational, reliability, and confidentiality skills.
- **Inclusivity:** Promoting cultural diversity and empathy.
- **Project Management:** Leading events and initiatives, including planning and budgeting.
- **Behaviour:** Demonstrating outstanding behaviour and setting a positive example in all aspects of campus life.

The RN Program is open to all residents of UTS Housing through an application process. Being an RN will help participants to develop a range of leadership attributes. The most important qualities RNs will need, however, are flexibility and a sense of humour!

THE RN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CONSISTS OF

I. PASTORAL CARE & GUIDANCE

RNs primarily guide the general well-being of residents on their floor and promote the harmonious co-existence of residents. In this respect, RNs lead by example in:

1. Welcoming all students on their floor as they arrive throughout the semester and assist in establishing good relations between the residents on their floor.
2. Being approachable and available for the residents on their floor both through participation in UTS Housing events as well as informal visits and interactions.
3. Encouraging residents' participation in UTS Housing activities - academic, social, cultural and sporting.
4. Supporting the welfare of residents, either personally, through giving information about appropriate services, or informing UTS Housing or Security of any concerns that they may have about a resident's wellbeing.
5. Advising the Res Life Officer of any incidents affecting a resident on their floor e.g. illness, misadventure, involvement in incidents, flat issues, etc.

II. EVENTS

Events are an important element of the RN Program, aimed towards facilitating positive interactions between residents. Events within UTS Housing can be broken into several broad categories, supported by the Resident Life Officer, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. **UTS Housing Welcome Week events:** (Some events may be different or on hold)

A range of events during the formal UTS Housing Welcome Weeks including move in day, Welcome BBQ & speed friending, individual floor events and group events.

2. **Annual events:** (Some events may be different or on hold)

- Such as Residents Carnival, ResCup, Annual Dinner, Futsal World Cup, RN parties etc.

3. **Individual events:** Monthly events aimed at building floor community within an event schedule, determined in consultation with the Resident Life Officer.



4. **Floor / Residence events:** One to two floor events per month and unique resident events. This may include door knocking check-ins and floor get together.
5. **Group event categories:** Events are categorised into the following themes with events planned in each:
 - a. Social events – e.g. BBQ's, international dinners, movie nights, trips, games nights, etc.
 - b. Academic events – e.g. Study groups, community programs, faculty events, debates, etc.
 - c. Sporting events - e.g. Residence competitions, training sessions, social games/matches, etc.
 - d. Social justice events – e.g. Charity fundraising, community volunteering, awareness programs, etc.
 - e. Cultural events – international pot luck dinners, guided tour, cultural games & trivia nights etc.

III. FLOOR COMMUNITY

RNs are involved in building safe and respectful peer communities on their floors. Throughout each semester RNs utilise a range of formal and informal community-building programs. Examples may include:

1. Apartment introductions for all floor members at the start of each semester.
2. Floor events throughout the semester.
3. Motivating resident involvement on their floor in discussing and promoting issues such as environmental and sustainability awareness, health and wellbeing, and other peer group issues.
4. Informal community programs such as resident birthday cards, study-survival packs, welcome notes, floor decorations, etc.

IV. TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Throughout each semester, RNs are provided a range of training sessions and workshops intended to develop a range of attributes that are likely to be beneficial in student, social and future workplace contexts. These include:

- Communication skills.
- Personal and professional boundaries.
- Event planning, project management and social media.
- Community building / student engagement.
- Leadership.
- Conflict resolution.
- Community engagement.
- 1st Aid certificate.
- Fire warden training.
- Responsible Service of Alcohol
- Mental Health First Aid
- Food handling

V. GENERAL

1. Weekly team meetings with the Resident Life Officer are held to facilitate communication and team-building.
2. RNs are provided with information on relevant policies of UTS and UTS Housing (e.g. the UTS Housing Rules, Student Grievance Procedures, Harassment Policy, etc.).
3. RNs are trained to respect privacy and confidentiality. RNs report threatening or destructive behaviour to the UTS Housing Service or Security staff immediately.
4. RNs are required to lead by example and demonstrate exemplary behaviour including ensuring they follow the terms of the UTS Housing Service Licence Agreement, UTS Housing rules and UTS student rules at all times.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Participation in the RN Program contributes to a work-ready curriculum vitae by providing:

- A letter of reference from UTS Housing outlining the graduate outcomes and skill development of participation.
- Nationally certified training including 1st Aid, Youth Mental Health 1st Aid, etc.
- Potential opportunities to participate in further paid work from UTS Housing

In recognition of RNs' contribution to helping develop the UTS Housing living and learning community, UTS offers the 'UTS Housing Resident Networker Scholarship' valued at \$3000 per session paid over 5 instalments. This scholarship is offered to all RNs involved in the Program and is intended to be used by recipients for educational purposes. The Scholarship is offered on a voluntary basis and there is no obligation to accept an offer of a Scholarship. Details of this scholarship can be found at

<https://www.uts.edu.au/scholarship/uts-housing-resident-networker-scholarship>



SELECTION AND RETENTION CRITERIA

To be eligible to participate in the RN program, applicants must (for the duration of their participation in the RN program):

- Be living in UTS Housing and will be re-applying to live in UTS Housing for Spring 2025
- Be available for all the key Res Life dates including RN training, welcome weeks and annual events.
- For residents who are in the second year of their course or above, have attained, and maintain, a minimum pass grade average in the previous academic year.
- Be enrolled as a UTS student with over 6 CP.
- Be willing to move apartment or level where required.
- Not be in breach of the UTS Housing Service Licence Agreement, UTS Housing Handbook, UTS House Rules or UTS Student Rules.
- Not be or have been subject to any allegations of misconduct at UTS or other universities
- Not have a history of payment arrears with UTS Housing.
- RNs wishing to participate in the RN program for a subsequent session must successfully complete the RN Program re-application process.
- Be able to demonstrate leadership and personal qualities including empathy, responsibility, maturity and exemplary behaviour in all aspects of campus life.

DESIRABLE

- Intend on doing the role for 1 + years (not essential)
- Demonstrate prior involvement in leadership roles, including volunteering, UTS clubs and societies, etc.
- Demonstrate prior involvement in the UTS Housing community.
- Demonstrate leadership and personal qualities including empathy, responsibility, maturity, initiative, etc.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for Resident Networkers may include:

- Residential Life & Learning Supervisor.
- Residential Life Officer.
- Matthew Vaughan from UTS Counselling (*Should you have any concerns over a representative from UTS Counselling attending please let us know in advance*).

APPLICATIONS

All applicants for the Resident Networker Program must complete an electronic application form during the recruitment period. Your application should also be accompanied by a copy of your most recent academic transcript.

Ineligibility:

If RNs fail to meet the Selection and Retention Criteria or any other terms and conditions of the RN program including meeting the required behavioural standards, UTS Housing may terminate or suspend their participation in the program.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Jessica Parry Okeden
Residential Life Officer RNs & Programs
UTS Housing Service
Tel (61) 02 9514 9108 / Email: jessica.parryokeden@uts.edu.au