Position: Peer Academic Leader (PAL)

Department: UTM Student Housing & Residence Life

Reports to: Assistant Director, Residence Life or their designate(s)

Nature and Scope

The position of Peer Academic Leader requires an individual who is self-motivated, capable of functioning independently or within a group, possesses strong leadership skills, and is willing to commit their efforts to the enhancement of the department of Student Housing & Residence Life.

Under the supervision of the Coordinator of Residential Transition Programs, the Peer Academic Leader is expected to demonstrate a commitment to residence life by working to create a strong sense of community that motivates academic and personal success and contributes to individual growth and diversification.

Duties and Responsibilities

PALs are expected to assume responsibility for their assigned student community and the general undergraduate residence student community; to work toward the goal of developing a community of peers supportive of transitioning into and being involved in university with an academic focus; and to promptly report and follow-up on all issues related to their students, whether these be related to school or otherwise. PALs are expected to live in the unit assigned to them and be reasonably accessible to their group of 45-60 first-year undergraduate students, assigned by program of study. PALs have to work to develop personal relationships with the residents to ensure good communication, to prevent alienation, and to foster a cohesive community. PALs will act as a positive role model for students and for other staff members, and develop quality-working relationships with their colleagues and Student Housing & Residence Life (SHRL) staff. The don will be required to fill duties as they are assigned.

Minimum Qualifications Required

Must be a full-time student and maintain a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.7 while employed. PALs whose CGPA drops below 2.7 will be on probation for the duration of their contract, or until their CGPA meets this requirement.

The incumbent must be available for the Residence Life Training Institute and Residence Orientation (mid August through mid September)

Contract Period

Fall Term:
Commencing at the beginning of the Residence Life Training Institute, August 23, 2020 and concluding December 2020.

Spring Term:
Commencing at the opening of residences, January 2021, and concluding 72 hours after the last checkout in April 2021.

**Exact dates dependent on the academic calendar, which will be set by the Office of the Registrar

Remuneration

Hours and Remuneration

The hours expected of a PAL vary according to challenges that may arise. In addition to one-on-ones with students, academic meet-ups, co-curricular events and staff meetings, PALs are expected to be reasonably available to their community. In return, PALs receive their residence room at no cost, and a $600 stipend at the end of the year contingent upon the successful fulfillment of the Student Staff Performance Standards.

Interested and qualified candidates will be able to submit applications between November 21, 2019 and January 10, 2020. Please watch the Student Housing & Residence Life website for more details!