



2012-13 RESIDENTIAL LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

Residential Language Communities are based on the model of the residential college, where faculty engage students in campus housing and much of the content that is programmed in that community is derivative of an academic curriculum. In this model, faculty also have the opportunity to nurture relationships with students that benefit the learning experience for all involved. All students participating in Residential Language Communities self-select into the process, thus ensuring a strong commitment and established knowledge base in the curriculum. The content of these communities is centered around a language other than English and its respective cultures to create a language immersion experience in the residence hall. The size of each Residential Language Community can be as small or large as demand and faculty interest dictate and the structure of each Residential Language Community can be tailored to meet the specific needs of each curriculum.

In order to reside in a Residential Language Community (RLC) for the 2012-2013 academic year, students must complete and submit an application by **4pm Thursday, February 16**. Application materials will be available online at: https://college/student_life/campus_living/residence_halls/theme_housing/ on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Application materials will be reviewed by Campus Living and passed along to the Language Assistant leading the respective Language Community who will conduct a formal interview of each candidate.

Students will receive notification of their application outcome via an email on **Monday, February 27**. This letter will include important information about the RLC Housing process, including unit assignments for students accepted into the Residential Language Communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What can I expect from my RLC?

A: The RLC's will be an opportunity for students to enhance their linguistic abilities as well as learn more about culture both abroad and in the local community. All programming will be in the chosen language, with events and programs designed to immerse students in the linguistic and cultural environment of that language when possible. Language Assistant and language faculty members can discuss specifics about the RLC in which you are interested.

Q: How many students will be in each RLC?

A: The desired size of each RLC will vary based upon student interest, with as few as three students per language to as many as thirty-two if demand is present. Priority consideration will be given to students with junior and senior cohort status. Sophomores will be granted entrance, provided they meet all other eligibility requirement up to fifteen percent of the total number of students accepted to the program.

Q: Where will the RLCs be located?

A: Each RLC will be housed in West Hall.

Q: What if I am not eligible to live in the campus apartments?

A: If you have not yet completed the two-year (four semesters) residency requirement, but are fluent in a language, apply for participation and are accepted to an RLC, eligibility will be waived. However, you will be required to participate in one of the five standard meal plans. You will not be eligible for the Flex Only plan unless you have completed the residency requirement. Sophomores who meet the application criteria will be accepted at a rate of fifteen percent of the total number of students accepted to the residential language program.

Q: What role will students have in creating the curriculum for each RLC?

A: A strong role in each and every RLC – we want students to be able to make changes and augmentations to what each RLC does as a community and sponsoring faculty want students to engage this process as well. The goal is to have each student participate in designing the syllabus, programs, events, and foster a positive learning community.

Q: What am I agreeing to by living in an RLC?

A: You are agreeing to further your understanding of the topic and be a part of a community that shares your interest in the subject. This is a student-driven endeavor and your faculty advisors are just that – advisors. We want students to own the curriculum of the RLC and plan events and programs that cater to their understanding of the topic. Please see the sample syllabi for examples of how the obligations for RLCs will be laid out and know that we see this as a chance for students to make investment in their RLC experience. You will be expected to participate in a minimum number of programs and events.

Q: How proficient in the respective language do I have to be to live in that RLC?

A: This varies by language, but in order for the immersion experience to occur, we need to rely on the linguistic abilities of all participating. This will require students be functionally proficient in everyday speech. We encourage interested students to talk to their foreign language teacher or language assistant if they have concerns about their language ability. If the thought of communicating exclusively in a second language intrigues you, then this could be a very rewarding experience. If this concept is not appealing to you or you are unable to function in this manner, please do not apply. Language Assistants will ultimately make decisions on participation by students.

Q: Do I need to have a specific major to be considered for an RLC?

A: Absolutely not – we want to encourage all students to consider applying for any RLC. How you articulate what you hope to gain from the experience is up to you and we certainly recognize that many of you may have interests that are not your major. Think about what you would enjoy and benefit from and apply for that RLC.

Q: If I want to live in an RLC, can I have a roommate that is not a member of the RLC?

A: Unfortunately the answer to this is no. In order to ensure that all students in the RLC are working toward the same goal, we need to have all of them be members of the RLC. We would encourage students to have any prospective roommate they are considering look at also applying to live in the RLC.

Q: Will I have to live in the RLC beyond next year?

A: No – you are simply agreeing to be a part of the RLC for the 2012-13 academic year. If you would like to continue living in your RLC after next year, you certainly may reapply, but this is only a one-year commitment.

Q: What if I am studying abroad on an overseas program during the application process?

A: You can download the application

https://college/student_life/campus_living/residence_halls/theme_housing/. There you will find information and the forms necessary for completing an application. You are welcome to download your applications (RLC and apartment Lease) from the link above and mail or fax them to the Office of Campus Living while abroad. Additionally, please be sure to pay your deposit of \$200 to the Student and Departmental Accounts Office. *Please remember that the deadline for this housing opportunity is earlier than our regular housing and theme application timelines and may require some adjustment on your end.*

Q: What happens after I apply?

A: Your application will be sent to the Language Assistants who are advising that specific RLC for review. If they believe there is a compatibility with their vision for the RLC, then you will receive notification of your acceptance into that RLC with your West Hall apartment assignment. Should application requests/acceptances not reach a minimum of three students for any RLC, that RLC will not be established for the 2012-13 academic year. You may elect at that time to participate in the housing process for the campus apartments, by the March 8, 2012 deadline provided you meet the eligibility requirements.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thursday, February 9: Open House/Information Session in West Hall – 4-5:30pm
- Thursday, February 16: Final day to submit RLC applications
- Sunday, February 19: Interviews by Language Assistant and or faculty member between 7-9pm (20 min. each) Continuing applicants need not participate in the interview.
- Monday, February 27: RLC decision notification including apartment assignment

RESIDENTIAL LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES (RLC) APPLICATION

Step 1. Please circle the community you are applying for:

French Immersion
Spanish Immersion
Russian Immersion

Chinese Immersion
Japanese Immersion
German Immersion

Step 2. Complete the profile:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

ID#: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Gender: _____ Current Class Standing: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Current Housing: _____ Phone #: _____

Preferred Roommate(s): _____

How many years have you studied or been actively speaking the targeted language? _____

Which language courses do you hope to be enrolled in for the 2012-13 school year? _____

Are you planning to study abroad during the 2012-13 academic year? _____

What co-curricular activities do you anticipate being involved in and the approximate time commitment to each:

_____ = _____ hrs/wk

_____ = _____ hrs/wk

_____ = _____ hrs/wk

Step 3. For each community you selected above, please attach a detailed response to the following questions to this application for consideration. At least one of your answers to the questions below must be written in the language of the community for which you are applying. (If you are a returning applicant, please respond to the questions on the reverse of this sheet.)

1. What motivates you to live in this specific language community?
2. How do you feel this community will help you develop your knowledge in this topic?
3. What specific projects or programs do you envision working on in this community?
4. What is exciting to you about collaborating with your peers around this topic and how will it help you build a community with them?
5. Would it be of benefit to live in an RLC with people of different proficiency levels? How do you intend to communicate with others in your apartment who may be at a different level than your own?

Step 4. Sign below confirming that you understand that the information in this application is accurate and true. Furthermore, you understand all College rules and regulations pertaining to on campus living and will abide by them fully should you be selected.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this application form and your attached responses to the questions in step 2 to the Office of Campus Living by 4pm, Thursday, February 16 along with your signed Lease Agreement, Room Placement Sheet and confirmation of \$200 deposit. You will be notified of the decision for participation by Monday, February 27, 2012.



Residential Language Community Syllabus

Core Elements of All Residential Language Communities (RLCs)

Engage with peers to foster knowledge of language and culture

Create and honor opportunities for learning

Make exclusive use of the chosen language your ultimate goal

Develop a strong community among all students

Share what you have learned with others

Develop curriculum in consultation with faculty

RLC Description: This RLC will focus on the study of a chosen language and culture. Through common programs, shared readings, community events, and discussions, students and faculty will enrich their understanding of the country(ies) where the language is spoken. Topics covered in this RLC will include language acquisition, ethnic similarities/differences, language variations and dialects, the education system, gender similarities/differences, identity issues, and immigration problems.

RLC Learning Outcomes: At the end of the academic year, students will be able to articulate

- An increased fluency in the chosen language
- A better understanding of the culture of the country(ies) where this language is spoken
- The similarities and differences of native and non-native speakers of the language
- Examples of language use in various contexts, from popular media to literature
- How and where they can use their language skills in local communities
- Strong interpersonal communication within the RLC

Student Obligations: Students participating in this RLC are will:

- Always speak in the chosen language when in the residence hall
- Attend at least two programs a month sponsored by the RLC
- Participate in weekly reading discussions with the RLC
- Participate in weekly “table” – meal in the dining room w/informal conversation
- Spend at least five hours per week engaged in programs or events directly related to the RLC

Faculty Obligations: Faculty participating in this RLC will:

- Provide opportunities for students to deepen their knowledge of the language and culture
- Provide funding and resources for students to hold programs and events in the RLC

Sample Language Community/Club Activities

The RLC Syllabus is built on the principle of pedagogical augmentation and adjustment, so the events below are a template that students, language assistants and faculty will add to or modify events as opportunities arise. These activities are only a sampling of each RLC's monthly schedule.

GERMAN

Weekly

Stammtisch in Maggies

Stammtisch in Fields

German Dinner - *Brotzeit*

German TV Series

Bi Weekly

German Movies

Monthly

Documentary on unification

Celebration of *Tag der deutschen Einheit*

St. Martin's parade with homemade lanterns

JAPANESE

Weekly

Language Table

Game Night

Nodame Catabile – TV Series

Monthly

Karaoke Competition

Takoyaki & Movie “*Yojinbo*”

Okonomiyaki & Movie

Yakisoba & Movie

SPANISH

Weekly

Language Table

Salsa Dance

Board Games

Movies “*Mar adentro*”, “*Camino*”, “*Enloquecidas*”

Monthly

Theme Dinner

Milagro Theatre

Dia de todos los muertos

CHINESE

Weekly

Chinese Table

Exchange Diary

Chinese TV

Chinese Movie

Chinese Games

Monthly

Field Trip to Chinese Garden, Chinatown,
and Asian markets

Celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival

Calligraphy of Chun-Lian

RUSSIAN

Weekly

Russian Table

Russian TV

Table Games

Russian movies

Monthly

Cooking – *Blinin, Pirozhki, Napoleon*

Visit Slavic Festival

Russian Stores Tour

Russian Cartoons

FRENCH

Weekly

Table francaise

Café francais

Watching TV5

French Movies

Game Night

Monthly

Trip to French Bakery

Apéro & French Music Swap

Soirée Quiche