

Student & Campus Life

Department of Student Affairs

The Department of Student Affairs is dedicated to the overall quality of student life at Richmond for all undergraduate and graduate students. Managed by the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, the department supports teaching and learning by facilitating student academic, personal, and professional growth; by preparing students for leadership in a global, diverse, and changing society; and by cultivating a caring and supportive campus environment. Further, the main goal of the Department of Student Affairs is to assist students in maximizing their educational experience. It provides:

- **resources**—available to answer questions and direct students to assistance, both on and off campus.
- **advocates**—ready to listen and work on behalf of student needs and interests.
- **student enthusiasts**—working to make campus life at Richmond exciting and rewarding.

Although the responsibility for fostering the development of Richmond students is the priority of the entire academic community, the Department of Student Affairs provides many opportunities for integrating the intellectual, physical, social, and moral development of students.

Orientation

The orientation program is designed to assist all new students in learning about Richmond and to encourage them to be comfortable with the University before starting classes and life on campus and in London. Orientation activities are varied and numerous and include exposure to the various components of the University, including academic life, student support services, and student activities. Students have the opportunity to meet Richmond faculty, staff, and administrators. Orientation also provides all new students with a structured time to make friends, settle into their new lifestyle, and begin to gain an understanding of university life. (See page 21 for more information about orientation.)

Office of Residence Life

The Residence Life staff is responsible for all programs, procedures, and support services for students living on campus. The staff offers an environment conducive to learning with programs that lead to emotional, social, physical, cultural, and ethical development.

Richmond expects all students to conduct themselves as responsible and law-abiding members of the University community and to respect the rights of other students, faculty, and staff. All residents must balance individual needs and desires with the common good of the community and the expectations outlined in the **Student Conduct Code**. As is true within all societies, responsible group living conditions will exist only if all members of the campus community are considerate of one another. This requires all students to assume responsibility for keeping their behavior and exercise of personal freedom within reasonable limits. Doing so ensures that the well-being and safety of others is not abused or jeopardized. For more information on student conduct and behavior, refer to the Richmond website under “Student Affairs”.

The staff consists of an Assistant Dean for Residence Life along with Resident Directors (RDs) and Resident Assistants (RAs). RDs and RAs are selected for their maturity, motivation, and skill in building unity among fellow students, and are responsible for overseeing the welfare, needs, and behavior of undergraduates. RDs and RAs communicate and enforce university policies in residence areas so that all students may enjoy the greatest advantage of campus living.

Residential students are provided with a meal plan that services Richmond’s diverse student backgrounds and tastes. Healthy and nutritious meals are served, which always include a vegetarian entrée.

Study Abroad Office

Staffed by the Study Abroad Coordinator, this office is located in Atlantic House on the Kensington Campus. Support services are available to assist study abroad students in regards to their academic and cultural experience while in the United Kingdom.

Office of Student Activities

The Office of Student Activities supports and promotes a variety of social, educational, and cultural programs organized for students by students. Richmond values the cocurricular program as an integral facet of the University and one which enriches the quality of student life. All students are encouraged to become involved in the many clubs and organizations as interested members or as student leaders. A complete list of these organizations is included in the Student Handbook. For a list of current active clubs and societies visit www.richmond.ac.uk/campus_life/clubs/index.htm.

Recreational Sports

On-campus facilities include a basketball and tennis court, and a weights-training room, and are available to all students. Local athletic facilities are abundant and offer competitive membership rates for students. Intramural sports activities are popular throughout the year and are usually initiated by interested students or student clubs.

Counseling and Health Services

Students requiring personal counseling beyond the resources of the University are referred to local agencies or private practitioners. A part-time nurse is available to treat a variety of physical ailments that typically affect students of university age. When a student's condition is beyond the scope of the University nurse, the student may be referred off campus for further professional care.

Students are encouraged to register with a local doctor's practice during orientation. Emergency hospital care is readily available. Students who are in the UK for more than six months are entitled to National Health care (NHS), which means free medical care and subsidized medicine charges. Students are also covered by private medical insurance (included in university fees) in the event that they need to see a specialist or require any specialized treatment. The NHS does not generally cover dental care, and students are responsible for any dental charges incurred. The same applies to optical services.

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is comprised of elected members of the student body and its purpose is to serve and represent the interests of Richmond students in the areas of academic, social, and student life. SGA elections take place in the spring of each year. SGA consists of the Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and 13 Representatives responsible for various constituencies and programs.

Student Programs and Events

Program Board:

A student organization whose purpose is to provide social and educational activities to the entire student body. Parties, musical performances, poetry readings, competitions, charity events, and more are all organized by students for students.

Peer Tutoring Program:

If students need extra help and support in a particular academic subject, assistance from an approved peer tutor can be arranged.

International Night:

A celebration of Richmond's cultural diversity is one of the University's oldest traditions and the most popular social event in the academic calendar. The event, organized entirely by students, brings the entire community together in the form of music and dance.

Honors Night:

The University's annual student awards ceremony, which recognizes the outstanding achievement of students in both academic and extracurricular activities.

Spring Fest:

Spring Fest is an annual event that celebrates the end of the academic year. Taking place on the Richmond campus lawn, activities include large inflatable games, competitions, and student music performances. This event is enjoyed by students, staff, and faculty alike.