

Student & Campus Life

Office of Student Affairs

The office 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 Office supports teaching and learning through: facilitating student academic, personal and professional growth; preparing students for leadership in a global, diverse and changing society; and cultivating a caring and supportive campus environment. Further, the main goal of the Office 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 Office 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 prior to starting classes and life on campus and in London. Orientation activities are varied and numerous and include exposure to the academic, student support services, and student activities components of the University. 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.

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 and programs leading 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, if responsible group living conditions are to exist, all members of the campus community must be considerate of one another. This requires each student to assume responsibility for keeping his/her behavior and exercise of personal freedom within reasonable limits. Doing so insures that the well-being and safety of others is not abused or jeopardized. For more information on student conduct and behavior, see the **Student Handbook**, a publication given to all students during Orientation.

The staff consists of a Director of Residence Life along with Resident Directors (RDs) and Resident Assistants (RAs). RDs and RAs, selected for their maturity, motivation, and skill in building unity among fellow students, oversee 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 includes a vegetarian entrée.

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 co-curricular 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.

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

On the basis of student contacts, self referral, faculty and staff referrals, the University Counselor covers the broad and general area of personal counseling, career advising and job search strategies. Confidential counselling is provided and may include referrals to appropriate outside agencies. A part-time nurse is available to treat a variety of physical ailments that typically affect university-age students. 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) should 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.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment of employees and students, as defined below, is contrary to University policy. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of any aspect of an individual's employment or academic advancement; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting that individual; (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. No University employee of either sex shall impose a requirement of sexual cooperation as a condition of employment or academic advancement, or in any way contribute to or support unwelcome physical or verbal sexual behavior.

Complaints and questions concerning grievance procedures should be directed to the Dean of Students or the Dean of Academic Affairs. Students are responsible for being aware of and abiding by the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the University, as they are described in the **University Catalog** and other student guides and handbooks.

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is comprised of elected members of the student body whose purpose is to serve and represent the interests of Richmond students in the areas of academic, social, and student life issues. SGA elections take place in the spring of each year. SGA consists of the Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and 15 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.

Day of Student Recognition:

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