

Center for International Programs (CIP) &  
Housing and Residence Life (HRL)

*Graduate Assistant, Intercultural Initiatives*

**Statement of Inclusive Excellence**

The Division of Student Development recognizes the educational benefits of diversity for students, faculty and staff. We are committed to engaging in reflection, dialogue and experiences that both challenge and affirm multiple perspectives. Our Marianist charism calls us to value the dignity of every person and to advocate for social justice.

**Intercultural Initiatives Overview**

The University of Dayton's Marianist values and traditions call every member of its community to respond and contribute to this world as an informed and responsible citizen and as an engaged and compassionate individual. Through its overarching commitment to these values and to the concept and practice of integrating learning and living in community, the University endeavors to deliberately incorporate intercultural dimensions as central elements of its academic and student affairs programs. UD's transitional strategic plan highlights the importance of cultivating an inclusive and engaging educational environment in which intercultural and international competencies and citizenship will flourish throughout the University.

Both the Center for International Programs (CIP) and Housing and Residence Life (HRL) are committed to inclusive excellence in everything we do. This manifests in our missions, the co-curricular learning outcomes, and in the programming and initiatives on which the two departments collaborate. Many new intercultural programs and initiatives have been developed over the past few years. CIP and HRL continue to work together to advance the intercultural programming that will help the University achieve its strategic goals. We are seeking a self-motivated, enthusiastic and inter-culturally minded growing professional to assist with the development and implementation of many of these new initiatives.

In general, the goals of the Intercultural Initiatives are to:

- Cultivate intercultural competence and sensitivity among residents
- Educate residents for global citizenship through scholarship and collective inquiry
- Foster relationship development among residents from different cultural backgrounds

**Position Overview**

The Graduate Assistant for Intercultural Initiatives has the unique role of engaging U.S. and international residents and student staff in cultural exploration and dialogue in a living environment. The GA position includes responsibilities with a unique focus on the development of intercultural competence and leadership among both residents and student staff. The GA meets regularly throughout the year with the Assistant Director for Campus Engagement in the Center for International Programs and the Coordinator for Co-Curricular Learning for Housing and Residence Life. The GA position is a 10-month live-in assignment, renewable annually, with expectations of working 20 hours per week. The GA is expected to follow all policies and provisions outlined in the University's Student Standards of Behavior. The GA may not hold an outside position or employment during the academic year but may request academic related positions, to include but not limited to internship and co-op,

through their supervisor and CIP with final approval from the Assistant Dean of Students and Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life.

The GA for Intercultural Initiatives will work with two programs:

- Cross Cultural Connections (CCC): a program that brings first-year international and U.S. students together as roommates to engage in a series of structured relationship-building and intercultural development activities.
- Semester Abroad and Intercultural Leadership (SAIL): a new, year-long education abroad and leadership development model. Students participate in a semester study abroad program at strategic locations, and then return to campus to participate in a semester intercultural leadership program which includes designated housing so that returnees can live and process their experiences together while learning how to apply and incorporate their new global and intercultural knowledge and perspectives toward becoming transformational and equity-minded leaders.

### ***Preferred Qualifications***

- Intercultural and international experience(s)
- Enthusiasm for the process and outcomes of intercultural learning and international education
- Practice or knowledge in implementing new programs and/or improving current structures and models
- Ability to confront and engage cultural differences in a sensitive and respectful manner
- Some knowledge of a second language and any diversity or dialogue training experience
- Capacity to effectively and fully communicate between supervisors in both CIP and HRL

### ***Responsibilities***

#### ***Supervision***

The GA for Intercultural Initiatives will be supervised by the Coordinator for Co-curricular Learning in Housing and Residence Life and the Assistant Director for Campus Engagement in the Center for International Programs. The GA will establish and maintain professional relationships with the staffs in the CIP and HRL.

#### ***EDC 402 Facilitator***

The GA for Intercultural Initiatives will serve as a co-facilitator for HRL's Methods of the Resident Assistant and Fellow course for newly hired first-year RAs and Fellows. The GA will co-facilitate one section of the course along with a professional staff member and is responsible for facilitating student learning through the course curriculum. The GA will share responsibility of grading course content and is responsible for attending all meetings and planning sessions for the course.

#### ***Community Development***

The GA is responsible for fostering an atmosphere which is conducive to intercultural dialogue and exploration. The GA will participate on collaboration committees to develop and plan intercultural initiatives, utilize the multicultural framework, and current research on student learning and intercultural development to inform development of intercultural initiatives, and work with professional staff to develop an assessment plan and implementing that plan for intercultural initiatives. The GA will primarily be responsible for two collaborative programs: Cross Cultural Connections (CCC) and Semester Abroad Intercultural Leadership (SAIL). The GA will develop programming that supports the goals and learning outcomes of the CIP and HRL. Through CCC, the GA will plan and lead the CCC

orientation program prior to NSO in the fall term and work with the RAs to offer ongoing programming for the CCC community. Through SAIL, the GA will work with professional staff to develop and then co-plan/lead the spring intercultural leadership development program.

### ***Advising and Informal Counseling***

The GA will be expected to establish and maintain a professional relationship with each student the GA works with. The GA will advise students within the limits of his/her capabilities in academic, social and personal matters. The GA should also be aware of student issues including, but not limited to, homesickness, college adjustment, roommate conflicts, and depression. The GA must also be familiar with university policy in order to direct students to the proper office or official as necessary. The GA must exercise sensitivity, patience, and care when addressing concerns that could adversely affect a student's personal well-being.

The GA should be conscious of issues among residents resulting from cross-cultural living and should be in communication with his/her supervisors in the case of a cultural conflict within the community.

### ***Crisis Response, Duty, and Special Coverage***

As a collaborative GA with HRL, the GA is required to assist with on-call duty response for the University as directed by the Assistant Dean of Students and Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life. GA may also be expected to provide additional on-call/duty coverage as assigned for University holidays and weekends including, but not limited to, **opening weekend, Columbus Day, Labor Day, Family Weekend, Fall Break, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, Spring Break, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and closing.**

### ***Student Conduct***

The GA will be expected to confront and document those students who violate University rules and regulations as indicated by the university's Student Standards of Behavior. The GA should take special care to communicate with international students the expectations of a U.S. American university.

### ***In addition, the GA is responsible for the following:***

- Acting as a liaison between students and CIP/HRL
- Supporting the design of supplemental content for residential life programming for communities such as CCC and/or SAIL
- Reporting any student needs, issues, and areas of concern to the AC/RC and the Assistant Director (CIP)
- Participating in HRL departmental selection processes as related to CCC and SAIL
- Assisting with the SAIL applicant review process
- Providing transportation with UD vans or arranging transportation for any off campus programs/events for CCC or SAIL
- Serving on in-area, departmental and University committees as assigned
- Maintaining a flexible schedule of 10-15 office hours in the CIP and 10 office hours in HRL, and attending pertinent CIP staff meetings
- Participating in international campus events and programs throughout the year
- Attending and participating in departmental and divisional training sessions in CIP, HRL and Student Development (ULI, GALI, International Student Orientation, etc.)
- Implementing and maintaining a regular communication plan with CCC and SAIL residents

### ***Remuneration***

- Competitive Stipend
- Room and board
- Tuition Remission – Up to 24 credit hours, not to exceed \$14,686/academic year (current)
- Health Care: Offered enrollment in University of Dayton health care plan as applicable to Graduate Assistants

### ***For more information, contact:***

Chanel Wright

Assistant Director for Campus Engagement, Center for International Programs

University of Dayton

937.229.4283

[cwright3@udayton.edu](mailto:cwright3@udayton.edu)

Danielle Page

Assistant Director of Residence Life for Curriculum and Leadership Development

University of Dayton

937.229.3519

[dpage1@udayton.edu](mailto:dpage1@udayton.edu)