

LIVING ON CAMPUS

THE PARENT & FAMILY CONNECTION TO UCONN'S
ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

FALL 2023

Contact Us!
Department of Residential Life
Whitney Hall, ground floor

(860) 486-2926
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<http://reslife.uconn.edu>



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UConn

MEET **JONATHAN XV**



HAPPY FALL, PARENTS & FAMILIES!

A message from the Co-Executive Directors

Kim Proulx and Amy Crim

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends of UConn Residential Students,

It has been a little over a month since your student arrived on the UConn campus for the fall 2023 semester. In that short amount of time we imagine you are feeling the difference in your home life. Not only is life different for you, it is also different for your student. Our hope is that your student is making good and healthy life choices, and that they are beginning to develop a fondness for UConn and all it has to offer. It is likely that Residential Life staff members are becoming trusted resources for your student and that your student feels comfortable going to our staff with concerns. We also hope that your student is finding others with whom they will develop friendships.

UConn Residential Life intentionally plans numerous opportunities for our professional and student staff to interact with the on-campus residents in meaningful ways. Our program is called The Residential Learning Model (RLM).

These interactions are designed to help:

- students interact with others in a positive way while understanding the diversity of identities UConn students bring to the University,
- students understand and contribute to a sense of community and belonging on campus by getting involved in activities, and
- students understand how important it is to take responsibility for their behaviors and decisions including learning about self-management and personal wellness.

Since we introduced the RLM, we have seen an overall increase in residential students' satisfaction with the Residential Life program, and students are self-reporting greater learning through the residential experience. We are proud of these positive changes but know that our gains are dependent upon each student's actions and interactions in their campus home.

College can be both a wonderfully fun experience and it can be challenging and stressful. Please make sure that your student knows that both positive and negative experiences are to be expected and that you are there to listen to their highs and lows, offering words of advice and support, as are the staff members in Residential Life. As your student grows and matures through their college career, please encourage their self-advocacy and the development of positive communication skills. So often issues of conflict can be handled effectively through open, honest, and calm conversation which respects the rights and ideas of all involved.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and useful to you in understanding UConn's residential program.

Sincerely,

Amy Joy Crim and Kim Proulx

Interim Co Executive Directors of Residential Life

TERRIFIC LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Beth Helinski, Assistant Director of Residential
Student Staff Engagement



Every academic year, the Department of Residential Life employs over 300 Resident Assistants (RA) at both the Storrs and Stamford campuses. The RA is a peer educator who facilitates the personal, interpersonal, and intellectual growth of students. The RA plays a key role in developing an inclusive living community that fosters diverse learning. Under the leadership of the Residence Hall Director staff, Resident Assistants assist with the day-to-day operation of their assigned community. These tasks can include checking in/out a resident, facilitating one on one and community conversations, mediating roommate conflicts and monitoring and documenting safety concerns, and other assigned responsibilities.

The 2024-2025 application will be available soon on <https://uconn.erezlife.com> and are due no later than Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 11:59pm.

Qualified applicants are screened on the following criteria:

- All candidates must have lived on campus for 1 or more semesters at either the Storrs or Stamford campus by the end of the fall 2023 semester.
- Candidates must submit their on-campus housing application for 2024-2025 by the housing application deadline. If you have not applied for housing or are currently on the waiting list, you will not be considered eligible to be an RA for 2024-2025. You **MUST** be guaranteed for housing for fall 2024.
- Earn at least sophomore status by the time of employment (fall 2024) and be a full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate student enrolled at the Storrs or Stamford campus for the entire employment period.
- Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) at the time of application, and throughout the process. Students on Scholastic Probation/Subject to Dismissal will be ineligible to continue in the process.
- Uphold the University's Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code and the On-Campus Housing Contract. All students with a student conduct history will be subject to review. Students who are on University Probation during the semesters of application review or interviews are not eligible to interview. Students who were found responsible for any incidents in the current academic year or during the application and interviewing process will not be eligible to interview or continue in the process.

Position Benefits: (These are only some of the benefits!)

- Multi-faceted leadership skills
- Experience working with people from differing backgrounds; understanding the need to be open to those whose identities may be different than one's own
- Critical thinking skills; Strong time management skills; Written and oral communication skills; Honesty and integrity; Crisis management experience
- Understanding the nature of working in/on teams; Relationship-building skills, as well as helping others build relationships.

Position Compensation:

- As part of their compensation, RAs will earn a \$5600 stipend for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- They also earn a housing waiver which covers the cost of their housing assignment. While this waiver is placed on their fee bill prior to starting in the RA role, it is part of their compensation for the work that they do throughout the year while employed by the Department of Residential Life.

Questions can be directed to Beth.Helinski@uconn.edu .

Meningitis Vaccination Compliance

The State of Connecticut requires that any student living in on-campus housing be vaccinated against meningitis. All on-campus residents missing meningitis vaccination information were notified in September and given instructions on how to obtain compliance. Spring 2024 residents who are non-compliant with this requirement, who submit a 2024-25 housing application by the deadline (February 9, 2024), will be placed on the waiting list and not guaranteed housing. Students can view the vaccination information that Student Health and Wellness has on file at <http://myhealth.uconn.edu> > MyProfile > Immunization History.

All vaccination questions should be directed to Student Health and Wellness. Residential Life is unable to accept medical information.

Student Health and Wellness: www.shs.uconn.edu

Email: SHS-MedRecords@uconn.edu

Medical Records
(860) 486-8039
(860) 486-2985

View Vaccination Info that is onFile with Student Health and Wellness

1. <http://myhealth.uconn.edu>
2. My Profile
3. Immunization History



Mailing something to your student?

Tracy Cree, Student Mail Services

Everyone is enjoying the attraction of free shipping along with today's diverse online markets. The University has met the increased package load with a state of the art processing system. But even the best of systems can struggle when mail is incorrectly addressed.

Tips & Info

- How to Address Mail to your student: please visit <http://studentmail.uconn.edu/> .
All mail/packages must have the student's full legal name in the address.
- Your student needs a new cell phone? Make sure the carrier includes the students name on the package when shipping the item to them at UConn.
- Need to overnight something to your student? UPS has a downtown store location that sits next to a UConn bus stop. <https://mansfield-ct-6669.theupsstorelocal.com/>
- The University is not able to accept incoming packages on a Saturday or Sunday and on major holidays.
- Delete old addresses from any online account you have previously ordered from to avoid "accidentally" shipping to a former address.
- Residence Halls located on the core of campus utilize the zip code 06269. This is for the University only. <http://studentmail.uconn.edu/properly-addressing-packages/> .

Students residing in Northwood apartments utilize the zip code 06268.

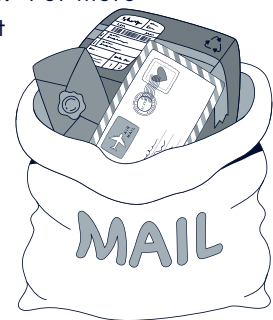
<http://student-mail.uconn.edu/properly-addressing-packages/>

All packages arrive to a central location on campus Monday through Friday where they are scanned and names compared to the University's housing assignments. Packages with names that do not match a residential student are returned to sender.

After the packages are processed, they are sorted for delivery by university staff to one of the eight mailrooms on campus. Once the package reaches a mailroom it is scanned by student-staff workers when it is placed on shelving at the mailroom. This action triggers an email to the resident announcing that a package has arrived at the mailroom for them.

Letter mail is delivered daily to each mailroom by USPS, sorted through by staff and placed in mailboxes. Students should check their mailboxes weekly as no email is sent when a student receives letter mail, periodicals, etc. Roommates share mailboxes.

If your student changes rooms during the semester, they will need to inform their associated mailrooms. For more information or questions regarding student mail and packages please contact Student Mail Services at mailmanager@uconn.edu .



FALL ROOM CHANGE PROCESS

Process Dates: September 15 through October 29

Room Changes Offered During this Process:

1. Online Room Change - Students in their process can view all available spaces and choose their own space in their MyHousing portal. Students in the process have the benefit of being able to select multiple times while the process is active.
2. Specific Room, Learning Community, Honors, Special Interest Housing - Student who have a specific room request or wish to move into a special interest area (such as a Learning Community or Honors housing) will have their requests processed by a staff member and will receive information about their request via email.
3. Trading Spaces - The difference between Trading Space and the other room change options is that both spaces in a trading spaces move are currently occupied by students (while the online or specific room change options involve choosing a current vacant space).

Process Timeline

There are select opportunities to pick a new room during the semester for students who submit the room change application. Each Round runs Monday-Saturday. Please review the Room Change page on our website to ensure you submit your application on time and know each round's date range.

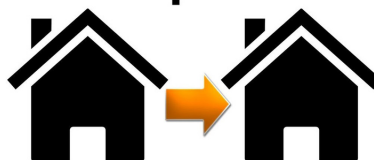
- **Mondays:** Submit the Room Change Application in MyHousing by midnight.
- **Tuesdays:** Pick times for online process are sent to students. Students requesting specific rooms, Learning Communities, Honors, or Special Interest Housing will receive individual email offers on Tuesday. Students in this group will transition on the same timeline as the online room change group.
- **Wednesdays & Thursdays:** Eligible students can log into MyHousing and view all available spaces,
- **Fridays:** Key Pick Up: Fridays between 12:00pm and 4:00pm in the main Residential Life Office, Lower Level of Whitney Hall, East Campus
- **Weekend:** Students move to their new rooms. Students then return their former room keys to the Key Drop Box, on the back side of Whitney Hall, by midnight on Sunday

Timelines:

<u>Apply By</u>	<u>Selection Dates</u>	<u>Key Pick up 12pm to 4p</u>	<u>Move Dates</u>	<u>Key Drop Off by:</u>
September 25	September 27-28	September 29	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	October 1
October 2	October 4-5	October 6	October 6 - 8	October 8
October 9	October 11-12	October 13	October 13 - 15	October 15
October 16	October 18-19	October 20	October 20 - 22	October 22
October 23	October 25-26	October 27	October 27 - 29	October 29

Room Change

Requests



TRANSFERRING, GOING ABROAD, OR POTENTIALLY NOT RETURNING TO UCONN STORRS FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER?



We encourage you to start having conversations with your student today regarding their spring semester plans. If there is a possibility they may not return to living on campus in the spring semester, it is easiest to begin planning early, especially with holidays and winter weather travel concerns approaching.

- **If your student already knows they are not returning to the Storrs campus for the spring semester**, they will need to move out all of their belongings and turn in their keys by Monday, December 18.
- **If your student is studying abroad** and planning to return to on-campus housing in the fall, they will need to apply for Fall 2024 housing when the application opens in early January and must apply by the application deadline to maintain their guarantee for housing.
- **If your student's spring plans are still up in the air**, we strongly recommend they preemptively take all of their belongings home, turn in their keys, and check out prior to leaving for winter recess. This will reduce their need to quickly return to campus during the winter recess.
- **If your student learns they are not returning for the spring semester during winter recess**, please encourage them to check their email for directions about how to schedule a check-out appointment during the break period.
 - Once a student's housing is canceled, they will need to return to campus to gather their belongings during business hours within 5 business days of their housing cancellation. For students who are academically dismissed, this window often falls during the holidays.
 - Your student's old room will very likely be reassigned to another student for January move-in and it is essential their items are removed during the winter recess to allow time for proper cleaning of the space.
 - Due to limited space, we are unable to store items for students over break. Any personal items not removed within 5 business days will be discarded.
- **The cancellation deadline to cancel spring housing** without a cancellation fee is 9/30/23.
- Cancellations between October 1 and October 31 will receive a \$500 cancellation fee.
- Cancellations after October 31st are assessed a cancellation fee of 100% of the housing rate.

If you or your student have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at livingoncampus@uconn.edu.

Live On and Learn: The Role of Residential Hall Staff

Sheila Morgansmith, Interim Associate Director of Student Welfare &
Arling Cofresi, Interim Associate Director of Residence Education

UConn Residential Life is committed to working with students and campus colleagues to create safe and inclusive educational living communities that foster students' academic, social, cultural, and personal growth.

Living on campus at UConn places students right into the center of student success and one of the main ways we work to accomplish this mission is through our Residential Hall team, specifically our Residence Hall Directors (HDs) and Resident Assistants (RAs).

Residential Life is happy to provide you this glimpse into the lives of the staff that make our residence halls a home away from home for our students. Join us in appreciating the hard work and dedication that they provide students every day!

Residence Hall Directors

Residence Hall Directors are full-time live-in UConn professionals who set the direction for and manage the administrative functions of an assigned residential area. The services they provide students are broad, but all tasks center them as educators. Their primary purpose is to support the health, safety and well-being of residential students, and for developing inclusive living communities that are supportive and respectful of individual differences and rights for others. Hall Directors are also responsible for the overall student learning and community development in the residence halls. As such, Hall Directors facilitate residential students' personal, interpersonal, and intellectual growth. They steer our Residential Learning Model (educational plan for the residence halls), working to adapt our efforts to fit the needs of their community. They approach each task with a commitment to student learning and growth. Among their varied responsibilities, Hall Directors provide leadership to their staff by overseeing the operations of their area and developing the staff of Resident Assistants (RAs) for their area. Hall Directors meet with students to, from an educational standpoint, resolve conduct violations pertaining to the On-Campus Housing Contract and The Student Code as students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the values embraced by the University community and reflected in its various policies rules and regulations. Hall Directors also advise student leadership organizations (including Hall Associations) and serve in on-call/duty rotations for large portions of the UConn campus. You can find the Hall Director listing at: <https://reslife.uconn.edu/about-us/hall-director-listing/>

Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants are responsible for developing meaningful relationships with their residents and encouraging an inclusive learning environment. They are expected to promote dignity, integrity, kindness, respect and pride within the UConn community, as well as hold their residents accountable for community expectations. Resident Assistants are undergraduate students who live and work right in the residential communities. They are the first point of contact for students, the number one resources in the residence halls, trained peer leaders who build community through programming, act as a mentor, a familiar first resource for students with academic or institutional questions, and an enforcer of University and residential policies. As their title suggests, they are there to assist students. They are well-trained and supported so that they can help students with mediating conflicts, building relationships, and learning about themselves and others. The RAs hold duty shifts to provide resources to students when traditional offices are closed, as well as address and document policy violations. These students are leaders on campus and balance the hard work of supporting individual students while managing the needs of the community. Above all, Resident Assistants are expected to be an example that upholds professional and personal accountability.

Senior Resident Assistants

The Senior RA (SRA) position is an elevated RA position with additional responsibilities. The SRA assists the Hall Director/supervisor in the overall administration of their staff team. This position is intended to promote interest and provide experience for RAs interested in the field of Higher Education and Student Affairs, as well as to those who wish to further develop their leadership, managerial and facilitation skills.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2024

December 18

Halls close at noon for Fall 2023 (Students can request to stay over Winter Recess for an additional fee)

January 1

2023-2024 housing app available; room and roommates selected online in Spring 2024

January 14

Halls open for Spring 2024

January 16

First day of classes

February 9

2023-2024 housing app deadline for returning residents

Deadline for Spring 2024 residents to turn in meningitis vaccination verification to Student Health and Wellness

March-April

Spring 2024 residents choose rooms and roommates online for 2024/2025

March 10-17

Spring Recess (no classes, halls remain open)

March 25

Last day to cancel Fall 2024 housing application for no cost

May 6

Halls, Suites, Northwood Apartments, & all Stamford housing close at noon for Spring 2024

May 13

Hilltop Apartments & Charter Oak Apartments close for Spring 2024

