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Residence Community Standards Policy

Office of Accountability:	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students
Approver:	Board of Governors
Scope:	Compliance with this University policy extends to anyone living or working in a University of Alberta Residence.

1. Overview

- a. The primary objective of all **University of Alberta Residences** is to support the successful pursuit of academic studies. Living in residence provides many personal and social benefits; correspondingly, all **residents** are jointly responsible for a comfortable, safe, and secure living environment conducive to academic study and learning.
- b. The relationship between the University of Alberta (“the University”) and residents is contractual, governed by the **Residence Agreement**, which is administered by Residence Services and signed by the resident. The Residence Community Standards Policy forms one aspect of that relationship. It in no way restricts the University from enforcing the *Residence Agreement*, which may include eviction or other consequences.
- c. The Board of Governors derives authority to approve policy on student behaviour from the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

2. Purpose

- a. This policy outlines expectations for community living in an academic environment. It applies to every resident in any University residence facility while on residence premises (as defined in the *Residence Agreement*), whether it is their home residence or one in which they are a guest. This policy strives to balance interests of residents with the needs of the residence **community**, a community which is made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds, with a wide range of beliefs, opinions and values. This policy has five main objectives:
 - i. To promote behaviour among residents and their guests that creates an environment supportive to academic study and learning.
 - ii. To protect residents' well-being
 - iii. To protect residents' property, as well as that of the University.
 - iv. To encourage residents to participate in the betterment of their community by resolving issues together in a responsible manner, with the goal of repairing **harm** and rebuilding the community.
 - v. To foster growth, self-discipline, and accountability by helping residents to understand how their actions and behaviours, both in real life and virtual environments, impact others so that they can make choices that consider both themselves and their community.
- b. This policy fits within a network of interconnected documents, policies and procedures related to residences, including (but not limited to):
 - i. The *Residence Agreement* (electronically signed and provided to each resident);
 - ii. **House Rules**, which are rules specific for each residence community (located on the Residence Services website),
 - iii. *The Application for Residence*;
 - iv. The Residence Services acceptance letter and package.
- c. Residents are also members of the University community and are therefore also expected to adhere to the *Code of Student Behaviour*; the *Sexual Violence Policy*; *Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy*; and the *Information Technology Use and Management Policy* at all times.
- d. Residence Services will report annually with respect to this policy to the General Faculties Council Student Conduct Policy Committee (SCPC) in accordance with the *GFC Student Conduct Policy Committee Terms of Reference*. A formal review of the policy and procedure will occur periodically as required by SCPC. The review will be conducted by a group of key stakeholders, including students and staff.

- e. Updates and changes to the *House Rules* will be made in consultation with residents and **Residence Students' Associations** of impacted buildings as outlined in the *University of Alberta Student Participation Process Handbook*. Updates and changes are not required to be approved by GFC or the Board of Governors.

3. Policy

- a. Residents living in University residences have rights and responsibilities under this policy and violations will be addressed by the University under this policy and associated procedures.
- b. Any University community member may report an incident where a resident's rights or responsibilities have been violated under this policy.
- c. Retaliation or reprisals against any person involved in reporting a policy violation of this policy (including witnesses) is prohibited. Where it has jurisdiction, the University will investigate all reports of retaliation in accordance with the appropriate complaints processes.
- d. Residence Services values the principles of **Restorative Justice**, and uses **restorative practices** (as outlined in the procedures associated with this policy) to address harms caused by violations of this policy.

4. Resident Rights

Students living in residence at the University have the right to:

- a. Be treated with dignity and respect;
- b. A safe, secure environment, whether in private, shared, common or public space;
- c. Pursue their academic goals, in accordance with the University's academic mission;
- d. A living environment free from threats, fear, intimidation, discrimination, bullying, harassment or abuse;
- e. Learn, study, and express beliefs, opinions and values, while respecting the safety, security, and dignity of other community members;
- f. To celebrate their intersecting identities and expressions, such as cultural, gender, sexual, and religious identity and expression;
- g. Access support staff and services available from Residence Services and the University of Alberta designed to support physical and/or mental health and wellness;
- h. Communicate concerns to their peers, neighbours, roommates, **Residence Life staff**, or other University officials;

- i. Enjoy the social benefits of living in a residence community and equal access to common areas and their contents;
- j. Reasonable privacy and control of their private living space, within the limits of the *Residence Agreement*;
- k. Have their personal property and possessions respected;
- l. Be free from pressure to do anything unsafe, or anything that violates this policy, including their own rights and the rights of another;
- m. An environment with noise levels conducive to academic pursuits, according to the guidelines established for each University residence community;
- n. A living space that is clean and kept in good condition;

5. Resident Responsibilities

Students living in residence at the University have the responsibility to:

- a. Treat other residents and staff members with dignity and respect, including in virtual environments;
- b. Follow all safety procedures and contribute to maintaining a safe environment, and reporting any unsafe behaviour or conditions;
- c. Foster a community in which all residents are free to pursue their academic goals, in accordance with the University's academic mission;
- d. Work together toward an inclusive environment that acknowledges the existence of and harms caused by racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism or any other form of oppression, and an environment in which all members of the residence community are able to participate meaningfully in social, academic, and other activities;
- e. Respect the rights of others to their beliefs, values and opinions;
- f. Foster a community where diversity is respected and valued;
- g. Manage their health and wellness and contribute to an environment that supports health and wellness;
- h. Be respectful when communicating concerns to peers, neighbours, roommates, and staff, and participate constructively when engaging in conflict resolution;
- i. Respect and abide by any **formal or informal agreements** made with other residents, Residence Life staff or **student staff**;
- j. Share common spaces with other residents and refrain from monopolizing a communal space;

- k. Take necessary means to maintain the security of the Residence community including upholding the integrity of entry points to their residence, securing their valuables, and reporting suspicious activity promptly to the appropriate authorities;
- l. Respect the property of other residents and of the University;
- m. Refrain from acting in a way that pressures others to be present with or take part in any acts that may make them uncomfortable, feel unsafe, or violate their rights under this policy;
- n. Abide by the *House Rules* for their community (for example, French Language at Résidence Saint-Jean,, the Global Education program at International House, cohort and theme communities, noise designations, or cleanliness expectations);
- o. Only use alcohol and other substances in a manner consistent with legislation, University policies, and the health and safety of themselves and others;
- p. Assist in the upkeep of common areas by promptly cleaning up, using appropriate organics, recycling and waste receptacles, and by reporting facilities or equipment that are broken or dirty. Keep all private living spaces clean and in good condition;

In addition, residents are responsible for ensuring that their guests are informed of the above rights and responsibilities and behave accordingly. Residents will be held accountable for the actions of their guests, should those actions cause harm to an individual and/or the residence community.

Students who anticipate or observe a violation of this policy are encouraged to act to discourage or prevent the violation, to remove themselves from participation and bring the matter to the attention of Residence Life staff or student staff. These positive actions prevent or limit harm to the community.

6. Residence Services Responsibilities

Residence Services has responsibility to:

- a. Foster a safe, secure and healthy environment conducive to academic success;
- b. Strive to provide an environment attentive to, and that addresses, barriers to inclusion, access, and success;
- c. Work together with residents towards an inclusive environment that acknowledges the existence of and harms caused by racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism or any other form of oppression, and an environment in which all members of the residence community are able to participate meaningfully in social, academic, and other activities
- d. Provide students with information and resources on restorative practices, residence policies, and University resources;

- e. Initiate the procedures associated with this policy;
- f. Uphold the *Residence Agreement* signed by the resident;
- g. Investigate allegations of behaviour violating this policy, the House Rules, or Residence Agreement in conjunction with University of Alberta Protective Services, where appropriate; and
- h. Initiate charges under the *Code of Student Behaviour* or refer to University of Alberta Protective Services for charges under the *Code of Student Behaviour* where appropriate.

Definitions

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.	
University Residence	Any student housing facility owned and operated by the University of Alberta. A comprehensive list of University residences is found on the Residence Services website.
Resident	A student who has signed a <i>Residence Agreement</i> with the University and who lives in residence.
Residence Agreement	The document signed by the resident and the University which defines the tenancy relationship.
University Community	Includes those who are employed by the University, who are officially associated with the University, and those who are students, former students, or alumni of the University.
Harm	The negative consequences that are caused by the actions of an individual or group of individuals. Harms can impact a person, their property and/or reputation, relationships, or the residence community.
House Rules	Document outlining day to day living expectations for residents living in specific residence communities.

Residence Student Associations	An organized body of elected student representatives from a residence community which facilitates opportunities for involvement and represents student interests in various University processes.
Restorative Justice	A framework of thinking about misconduct that focuses on the harms misconduct has on the community and its members. It involves all relevant parties, to the extent possible, in a restorative practice to collectively identify the harm(s) and work towards remedying said harm(s) while restoring trust between parties and within the community.
Restorative Practices	A method of engaging with individuals and the community that use restorative principles, often to facilitate a synchronous or asynchronous interaction. Examples include (but are not limited to) circles, talking circles, peacemaking circles, restorative meetings, and restorative conferences.
Residence Life Staff	Professional student affairs staff employed by Residence Services
Formal Agreement	A voluntary arrangement created between two or more parties where there is a commitment to an action or behavioural change and all parties have written documentation of the arrangement or when such an arrangement is created as part of a University or Residence Services process. Examples may include community resolutions, restorative agreements and roommate agreements.
Informal Agreement	A voluntary arrangement, often verbal in nature, created between two or more parties where the arrangement is not created within a University or Residence Services process and documentation is not provided to all parties. Examples may include where a neighbour agrees to turn down their music in the future, or a group of students commit to leaving a lounge by a certain time so another group can use the space.
Student Staff	Staff employed by Residence Services who are also University of Alberta students and often are residents. See the Residence Services website for residence-specific information about student staff.

Related Links

- [Code of Student Behaviour](#)

- [Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy](#)
- [Information Technology Use and Management Policy](#)
- [Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights](#)
- [Office of the Student Ombuds](#)
- [Residence Services Website for Current Residents](#)
- [Sexual Violence Information and Resources](#)
- [Sexual Violence Policy](#)
- [University of Alberta Protective Services](#)
- [University of Alberta Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- [University of Alberta Student Participation Process Handbook](#)

If any of the links are broken, please contact uappol@ualberta.ca

Published Procedures of This Policy

- [Residence Community Standards Procedure](#)