Institution, Department, and Position Overview

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
The University of Washington is one of the world’s preeminent public universities. Ranked No. 14 in the world on the 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities, the UW educates more than 54,000 students annually.

At the University of Washington, diversity is integral to excellence. The UW community values and honors diverse experiences and perspectives, strives to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promotes access, opportunity and justice for all.

The 703 acre Seattle campus is located in Seattle’s University District and overlooks Portage Bay and downtown Seattle. The University of Washington is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint and institutionalizing sustainability through the execution of the UW Climate Action Plan.

HOUSING & FOOD SERVICES
Housing & Food Services (HFS) is an integral partner in the University’s drive to provide vibrant student life and educational opportunities. HFS provides approximately 9700 students with housing that meets their needs, promotes community, supports their academic success, facilitates leadership development and social connections, and encourages campus engagement. The Department’s mission statement is working together to enhance student life.

As a self-sustaining auxiliary department, HFS operates without outside financial assistance, including UW or state funds. As a result, the services it provides are paid for by those who directly benefit from them (i.e., residents, customers and guests). The FY22 gross revenues and operating expenses (not including debt service) are projected at $167.6M and $99.2M respectively.

In addition to Residential Life, other functional areas within the department include UW Dining, Facilities Services and Capital Planning, Communications and Marketing, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Financial and Student Services. The structure of the Department is such that there is significant internal support for Residential Life. Departmental leadership is provided by Dr. Pam Schreiber, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Executive Director of HFS.

In 2020, HFS completed a 10-year redevelopment of the majority of student housing and residential dining. As a result, the residential program operates in new, fully accessible facilities that include student support amenities such as three maker spaces and community centers with meeting/project rooms, an auditorium, multi-purpose rooms, and a fitness center. Many of these spaces are specifically programmed (some in partnership with academic units) offering high-impact experiences for students. The Department also offers a variety of dining options for residents including two residential dining venues, two grocery stores, a restaurant and numerous campus retail outlets.

The Department is one of many that comprises the Division of Student Life and reports to the Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Denzil Suite. HFS partners with a number of academic departments and programs, supporting class space needs, enhancements to course offerings, co-curricular activities and research.
RESIDENTIAL LIFE

HFS has a variety of housing options for students, including apartments, residential halls, and family housing. Residential buildings are located across north campus, west campus, and off campus. Unique programmatic aspects of the unit include three maker spaces with associated programs for students and collaborations with academic units, and a fitness center that also conducts robust programming.

The Residential Life unit within Housing & Food Services is made up of a passionate team of professionals and student leaders who strive to meet the mission statement of HFS through collaboration, innovation, and effective problem solving. Currently, the Director of Residential Life directly supervises six team members who in turn work with 37 other professionals and 170 resident advisors to provide a robust and engaging residential experience under that tag line “Learn to Live.” This highly talented team has expectations of leadership to be included as appropriate in decision making and program development. The FY22 operating budget for the unit is $9.2M.

Every year, over 200 students fill leadership roles in their residence halls as part of the Residential Community Student Association, Hall Councils and other residential leadership organizations—contributing to their community through programming and advocacy, developing career skills and engaging with other students.

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE

The Director of Residential Life is one of eight senior leaders within HFS and works collaboratively with these colleagues to ensure a positive and impactful experience for all residents. The unit is the main touch-point with residents and consequently, the Director is highly engaged with student leaders, student staff, and full-time staff focusing on community development; student care; compliance issues including student conduct; safety and security; crisis intervention; staff development; and social, academic, and leadership development programs.

Critical to managing this organization, the Director must understand social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion and how to infuse these concepts into all of the work of the unit including onboarding, training, policy development, program development, communications, decision making, and in modeling behaviors consistent with these values.

The Director is a member of the Division of Student Life directors group and must have positive and collaborative relationships with all other directors given both the programmatic collaboration and reliance on other departments for support. To be effective, this position must also develop relationships with academic deans and advisors, campus student government leaders, the assistant attorney general, and First Year Programs, among others.

Finally, the Director of Residential Life serves on many internal and external committees and work groups including but not limited to the HFS Occupancy Planning Committee; HFS Emergency Management Planning/Response Team; HFS Operations Team; and UW Student Care Team. The Director is often called upon to serve on university screening committees, task forces, and project teams.