



What do I need to know about being a GRT?

FAQs

Q: We had RAs at my undergraduate institution. Are those the same thing as GRTs?

A: GRTs are MIT graduate students who serve as live-in mentors to the undergraduate residential community. Typically, a GRT is assigned to a particular area within a residence hall, such as a floor or entry. A GRT provides study breaks and community-building opportunities, and serves as a first line of support for student in emergencies. GRTs are different from RAs in that they are not required to conduct rounds and have different expectations regarding establishing community standards.

Q: Can international students apply to be a GRT?

A: International students are eligible to be a GRT if they meet both of the criteria below:

1. You are eligible to work on campus (such as an F-1 student visa)
2. You are employed for 10 hours or less per week at a job/TA/RA role.
(Fellowships are not considered work hours.)

Q: What is the application timeline?

A: The GRT application period is open in December and closes on January 31st. Interviews are conducted from February to mid-March. The House teams in each residence hall will recommend top candidates to the Residential Life Programs (RLP) office in mid-March. RLP will make offers for GRT positions in late March.

Q: Who should I ask to serve as my reference?

A: A person who writes your reference letter should speak to your leadership experience as well as your ability to connect with the diverse undergraduate student body. The reference letter should highlight instances where you have served as a positive mentor, worked effectively on a team, and supported a student or peer through a stressful situation.

Q: What is the interview process?

A: Each residence hall seeking a GRT conducts its own selection process. The selection process may be run by the specific floor/wing/entry/section looking for a GRT or by a House GRT Committee. After an initial interview with RLP, your application will be read by the undergraduate houses with open GRT position(s). If successful, you will be interviewed by the House GRT Committee, which make the final recommendation to RLP. Each undergraduate house has a slightly different interview process. Please note, you may be contacted by more than one house to be a part of their interview process.

Q: Will my spouse/partner and children (if applicable) be able to live with me?

A: Yes.

Q: Does my spouse/partner need to apply with me?

A: The GRT application asks if you will have a spouse/partner live with you in the position. A short form will be visible on your application called the “GRT Spouse/Partner Application.” This is a short application with two essay questions for your partner to complete.

Q: If I am hired as a GRT, will I need to attend training?

A: You (and your partner if applicable) will be required to attend a multi-day training in early August and supplemental training (In-Services) throughout the academic year.

Q: Are GRTs a confidential resource? What about Mandatory Reporting?

A: While GRTs may be a private resource for students, they are never confidential. If a GRT is made aware of information regarding a student that requires follow-up, they have an obligation to share that information with the house team, and in some cases, other campus offices. Additionally, in some context, GRTs function as *mandatory reporters*, in which they are legally required to share information with the appropriate campus office. More information on privacy, confidentiality, and mandatory reporting will be provided during training.