The Academies
Shared Interest Housing
2015 -2016 Individual Application

DUE: February 6, 2015 by 5:00 PM

In order to qualify for the SIH process you must complete all parts of this application and return it to the Undergraduate Academies Office at 17 Norton Hall. If you have any questions please contact Danielle Vegas at 645-8177 or dvegas@buffalo.edu
Shared Interest Housing Application Checklist

Prior to submitting this application, be sure that all items have been completed on this checklist:

☐ Review Section I to ensure you are eligible to take part in the Shared Interest Housing program.
☐ Review Section II to determine if you would be interested in being a floor leader.
☐ Review Section III to learn of the advisor
☐ Provide typed answers to the application questions in Section IV.
☐ Review Sections V and VI and complete a “Declaration of Commitment” (Section VII).
☐ Each person’s $300 housing deposit must be paid and complete a Residence Hall Agreement (both can be found at http://housing.buffalo.edu/apply) by February 6, 2015. (This date is earlier for SIH applicants than the general population)

Once approved, group members will need to complete the following:

☐ Select roommates and rooms at a mandatory room selection meeting to take place on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM. Students will only be excused for class and must complete and submit a proxy form in advance, which gives written permission to a fellow student to select a room on your behalf. Proxy forms can be picked up at 17 Norton Hall. Any further instruction will be given at this time.

Section I – Eligibility

Shared Interest Housing (SIH) areas are a direct response to a departmental desire and student requests to provide an educational environment where individuals who share a common interest are able to share personal opinions, experiences, and perspectives. Participation in this type of experience affords these students the opportunity to develop leadership skills due to the self-governance structure. Students participating in this program will be actively involved in creating and implementing community initiatives in relation to the goals of their group.

Criteria

1. Each member must have completed at least 12 college credits unless otherwise approved by the Living Learning Programs Coordinator.
2. Each member must be eligible for residence at UB. Also, each member must be eligible to live in Greiner Hall.
3. The group must identify at least one Floor Leader for the SIH group that will serve as a liaison with Campus Living staff. Floor leaders must live in the SIH area, with the SIH group.
4. The group must have a full-time UB faculty advisor (or a staff advisor directly associated with an academic program).
5. All members must be affiliated with The Academies.

Decisions about who is accepted for the SIH area will be made by professional staff members of The Academies and Campus Living.
Section II – Floor Leadership

The Shared Interest Housing (SIH) program at UB requires each SIH floor to designate at least one individual to be the Floor Leader. This role is a key component of the SIH program. This position is an opportunity for you to develop transferable leadership skills and a greater sense of ownership for your living environment.

Duties and Expectations of Floor Leaders:

- Attend monthly individual meetings with the Residence Hall Director of your building or complex OR Living Learning Programs Coordinator.
- Attend arranged floor leader training (to be scheduled by Campus Living staff)
- Schedule and attend at least one meeting with the SIH Faculty/Staff Advisor per month*.
- Schedule and hold at least two floor meetings each semester with your SIH group. Schedule and hold more meetings if the need arises.
- Lead the planning and implementing of educational and community service initiatives. One planned initiative is required per month*. You are highly encouraged to plan these in collaboration with your Resident Advisor and/or Academic Assistant. You are also highly encouraged to involve your Faculty/Staff advisor in planning these initiatives.
- Organize and facilitate the SIH reapplication process for interested students with the faculty/staff advisor.
- Coordinate the SIH housing roster (recruiting and selection) for students interested in participating in the Shared Interest Housing program in conjunction with the faculty/staff advisor.

* All references to requirements per month refer to SIH programming months (there are three months per semester).

The time commitment is approximately 8-10 hours per month. Floor leaders for the Shared Interest Housing group must live on the floor, and meet all other eligibility criteria for participating in the SIH program.

If you are interested in being a Floor Leader please check the box in Section IV to indicate your interest.

Section III – Faculty/Staff Advisor

The Shared Interest Housing program at University at Buffalo requires group participation. In order to develop a stronger educational link between the interest group and the community in which they live, the interest group requires mentors. The Shared Interest Housing program seeks Faculty and Staff Advisors to help bridge the academic and residential experiences. It is a goal of the Shared Interest Housing Program to provide a meaningful venue for interactions between students and faculty/staff.

Advisor Information:

Name: Danielle Vegas  Campus Phone: 716-645-8177
Title: Assistant Director  Department: The Academies
Campus Address: 17 Norton Hall
Section IV – Individual Application
Please complete the following:

Name: ___________________________  UB Email: ___________________________
All notifications will be sent via UB email

Person Number: ______________________  Cell Phone: ______________________

Gender: ___________________________

Current Campus Address: _____________________________________________________

Permanent Address: _________________________________________________________

Housing Information:

Is there an individual with whom you would like to be roommates?

☐ Yes, I would like to room with the following person: (Note: EACH roommate must submit separate applications, and must request to live with each other in order to be approved. This roommate request is not guaranteed.)

Name: ___________________________  Person Number: ______________________

☐ No, I have not thought of who I would like to live with.

Please attach typed answers to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in being part of the The Academies Shared Interest housing community?

2. What can you personally contribute to this community?

3. Are you interested in being a floor leader? (see Section II for details)

☐ YES! I am interested in being a floor leader. If so, please write why you believe you would make a good floor leader.

By completing the entirety of this application, you are requesting to be CONSIDERED for participation in the SIH housing program. Completion of this form does not guarantee continued status with a Shared Interest Housing Group. Living Learning Programs Coordinator or The Academies office will notify you of your status by February 16th.

Section V – Participant Expectations
Since Shared Interest Housing (SIH) groups receive preferential housing, it is the expectation of Campus Living that SIH participants are active contributors to the greater residential community.
Duties and Expectations of Floor Members:

- Participate in meetings with all members of the SIH area at least once per month*. These meetings may be coordinated by the SIH Floor Leader, Resident Advisor, Academic Assistant, Faculty Staff Advisor, or any combination of the aforementioned individuals.
- Attend individual meetings with Academic Assistants or Resident Advisor up to 3 times a semester.
- Take one of the following courses in the fall semester: UE 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 150, or 252. Course titles and descriptions can be found below.
- Attend 5 Academies events per semester; Yak and Snacks do not count towards this requirement.
- Attend at least 3 of the 6 Sophomore Scoops or Coffee Hours over the course of the academic year.
- Meet each semester with an Academies staff member for a one on one conversation.
- Create a resume by the end of the fall semester

* All references to requirements per month refer to SIH programming months (there are three months per semester).

In addition, SIH group members act as role models in their residence hall community. Groups are very visible to others in the halls. Group members also share all of the same responsibility for their area and the building’s common area damages as other non-SIH residents of that building.

**Required Curricular Options (SIH members must choose one):**

- **UE 141: Discovery Seminars:** The Discovery Seminar Program provides students with the opportunity to engage with a distinguished faculty member around a thought-provoking and challenging topic in a small-class environment. Students earn 1 graded credit in these seminars which meet once a week for 50 minutes. Check out the offerings at [http://academies.buffalo.edu/discoveryseminars/seminars.php](http://academies.buffalo.edu/discoveryseminars/seminars.php)

- **UE 130, 143, 145, 147, 149 or 150: Academy-specific seminars:** The Academies seminars are taught by Academic Directors to provide residential and commuter students with a common seminar experience through which they receive a grade and either 1 or 2 academic credits, depending on the semester. These seminars have no more than 30 students in each section and allow students to learn about the five Academy themes: civic engagement, entrepreneurship, global perspectives, research exploration and sustainability! Seminars meet once per week and many classes have guest speakers who are active community members in the city of Buffalo, leaders of local non-profit organizations and entrepreneurs.

- **UE 252: Sophomore Service-Learning:** Earn credit while participating in service! Take advantage of this opportunity to provide hands-on assistance to the Buffalo Public Schools while reflecting on and sharing your experiences. Students interested in pursuing interdisciplinary work and potential teaching careers would benefit from the experience. This 3-credit, graded seminar will allow you to develop mentoring relationships and make an impact on students’ academic achievements.
Section VI – Housing Conditions

If your application is accepted and you become a member of the Shared Interest Housing program, your housing will be subject to the following conditions:

- Failure to complete any required steps to continue in SIH housing after applications are due may lead to removal from the SIH area. This includes, but is not limited to, payment of required deposits (**housing deposits are due February 6th**), attendance at required meetings, completion of required forms, or registration into required courses.

- Campus Living reserves the right to reassign residents of Shared Interest Housing groups to other residence hall spaces as deemed necessary, especially if residents are not meeting the agreed upon conditions of the area, or are failing in any way to abide by established Campus Living rules or policies. Campus Living determines housing placement of each of the Shared Interest Housing groups. This placement is subject to change. No group is ever guaranteed permanency in a specific location.

- The housing agreement with Campus Living is a binding agreement and the loss of either Shared Interest Housing status or membership does NOT provide grounds for termination of the contract.

- If your chosen roommate is unable to continue in the SIH program after SIH room selections are done, you will be subject to one of three outcomes: 1) **You may be assigned a new roommate from the SIH program** (possibly off the alternate list for the SIH program), 2) **You may be moved into another room with another SIH participant** (Campus Living cannot guarantee the ability to keep requested suitemates together if an opening occurs), or 3) **You may be assigned a roommate not associated with the SIH program**.

If you have been selected as an alternate for the Shared Interest Housing program, your continued eligibility on the wait list will be subject to the following conditions:

- If you are not assigned a room within the SIH area prior to the general room reservation process, you will need to select a room anywhere else on campus through room reservation to continue to be considered an alternate. Failing to select a room will result in a refund of your housing deposit and cancellation of your housing contract.

- SIH alternates on the waitlist will be considered for any openings that occur within the SIH area up until the residence hall opening in August.
Section VII – Declaration of Commitment

(Each participant should have reviewed Section V: Participant Expectations and Section VI: Housing Conditions prior to making this commitment)

With my signature below, I indicate my commitment to living in a Shared Interest Housing (SIH) community and my commitment to the requirements of SIH. I understand that by accepting to live within the SIH community I am required to fulfill the participant expectations (Section V) as well as comply with all Campus Living policies; if I am not on track to complete the curricular expectations after the fall drop/add period has passed, a service indicator will be placed on my student account, which will only be removed after meeting with an Academies staff member. I understand that I have the responsibility to meet the outlined eligibility requirements (Section I) and complete all tasks required of the SIH application process as outlined throughout the application. I also understand that if my behavior in SIH is unacceptable according to the standards set forth by Campus Living, I may lose my SIH housing and be moved elsewhere within the residence halls.

To the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided through the Shared Interest Housing process is complete and accurate. I give permission to the Campus Living to verify this information.

_______________________________________
Student Name (print)

_______________________________________
Student Signature ______________________ Date