

# Gender Inclusive Housing

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is gender inclusive housing?

Gender Inclusive Housing is an environment where student housing is not restricted to traditional limitations of the gender binary. This program has been launched in recognition of the fact that traditional, same-sex room assignments are not ideal or appropriate for all students. RWU has chosen to offer gender inclusive housing because we believe it is important that housing policies evolve to meet the needs of students and to create an inclusive, welcoming environment.

### Who can participate in gender inclusive housing?

Any upperclass student who is interested in sharing a housing assignment with other RWU students of all gender identities.

### What are the differences between co-ed and gender inclusive housing?

The term co-ed operates on the assumption that there are two genders: male and female. It leaves little room for the progressive theories on gender, and no room for those who do not identify as their biological sex or those who are transgendered. This idea is based on the notion that there are more than two genders, in fact an infinite amount. Allowing for gender inclusive housing, as opposed to co-ed, shows more inclusiveness and room for diverse identities.

### Where will the gender inclusive residence halls be?

Gender inclusive housing will take place in Almeida, North Campus Residence Hall, Bayside, Baypoint, Willow and Maple Halls.

### What are the due dates to apply for Gender Inclusive Housing?

The Gender Inclusive Housing application is only available at one of two informational sessions – Wednesday, February 10, 2015 at 6:00PM in CAS157 and Tuesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:00PM in CAS 157.

### What will the duration of Gender Inclusive Housing be?

Participants will commit to living in gender inclusive housing for one full academic year, for the Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 semesters. Students may re-apply for Gender Inclusive Housing for the following year if they meet housing eligibility standards.

### What if someone who requested to take part in Gender Inclusive Housing decides they no longer wish to do so?

Students may request room changes by following the normal room change procedures that are published each semester. Students who do not fulfill their commitment to live in Gender Inclusive Housing for one full academic year may not be eligible to take part in future Gender Inclusive Housing accommodations.

### Will you prevent people who are romantically involved from living together?

Gender Inclusive Housing is not intended for romantic couples. However, we respect and honor the privacy of our students, so current open housing procedures do not require students to disclose the reason for their roommate requests.

### What will happen to the remaining roommates/apartment-mates in the event that a vacancy occurs?

If an apartment/roommate(s) cancel their housing or moves out of the room for any reason, the remaining roommate(s) must identify a new roommate(s) to fill the vacancy. The Housing Office will define the time allocated to find a new roommate. This window of time will vary depending on time of year and the status of the housing waitlist. Typically, a resident will be allowed a minimum of 48 hours, but not more than one week to identify another eligible roommate. If a roommate(s) is not identified to fill the vacancy within the time period, the Housing Office reserves the right to: (1) assign any student who indicates they are interested in living in gender inclusive housing, (2) assign a student of the same sex or (3) relocate/consolidate the current resident(s) to a different gender inclusive space that meets their needs. Room types cannot be guaranteed if a student is moved.

### What if parents don't want their student to live in a gender inclusive housing environment?

We encourage students to maintain an open dialogue with their families so that they can be supportive of a student's housing decision. Students over the age of 18 are legally able to make decisions about their housing contracts. Students under 18 should discuss housing plans with their families, as they must provide parental consent.

### Is there a special process for students to select Gender Inclusive Housing?

**Yes – Students that attend one of the two informational sessions must turn in a completed and signed policy and agreement form by 4:00PM on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> into the Housing Office. Students will be emailed which residence hall is available for Gender Inclusive Housing based upon their lottery number. In that email, all roommates will then come to the Housing office at a specified time on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> to select their specific housing.**