OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE (ORE)

The Office of Residential Experience aids in generating an on-campus home for all Caltech students by developing a safe, engaging, and inclusive environment that supports learning and underscores personal growth. ORE’s purpose is to promote the academic, emotional, and personal growth of each student.

The Office of the Residential Experience, including Student Activities and Programs, works with all of the student government groups to assist in providing robust extra and co-curricular programming. A positive student experience includes an active, engaging, and supportive social life. Student volunteers are essential to the success and viability of our programs and we lend extensive expertise and assistance to the programs run by the groups.

RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Residential Experience - Over the course of their time at Caltech, undergraduates are encouraged to explore living in many different residences. Most residences have space for between 90 and 150 students; Bechtel is the largest residence with space to accommodate 211 students.

There are 9 residences that bring together undergraduates from all years to share a diversity of interests, perspectives, and passions, as well as to build unique experiences and traditions that make each residence a home. The residences are one avenue for students to get engaged on campus; students have opportunities to become a student leader for their residence and to plan and organize special activities, events, and traditions that are specific to each facility and community.

Caltech undergraduates live on-campus in small, close-knit residential communities. Each community is staffed by one or two Resident Associates and one Residential Life Coordinator. Students in the houses and in the Bechtel Residence are connected to peer volunteers who are available for support, these are called Peer Advocates.

Residential Life Coordinators (RLCs) - There are five Residential Life Coordinators in campus housing, situated in different buildings. An RLC is a specially trained full-time university employee, specializing in college student development, community building, counseling, and crisis intervention. The RLCs supervise the Resident Associates (RAs) on overall student’s wellness and community programming. The RLCs also assist Housing with the management and daily operation of the houses. They are a fantastic resource, usually just a few steps away.

Resident Associate (RA) - From time to time, you may have a problem or concern that you would like to discuss with someone. You should feel free at such times to contact the Resident Associate who lives in an apartment in your house or residence. The RAs are Caltech graduate students who are available for guidance and consultation and are familiar with the resources on campus. They have been trained to handle day-to-day challenges, as well as emergency situations that may arise.

In addition to the RAs, all houses select Peer Advocates (PAs), who are undergraduates available to discuss personal and academic issues. Health Advocates are also available to serve as liaisons between the students and Student Wellness Services (Health, Counseling and Occupational Therapy). Health Advocates are undergraduates trained to provide CPR, first aid, health education, and peer counseling.

Faculty-in-Residence Program - Faculty in Residence (FIR) at Caltech establishes an academic life and culture in the residences of Bechtel and Avery House. FIRs live in the residences alongside the undergraduate students, form strong connections with the residents, and become an integral academic and community leader. FIRs bridge the classroom experience by hosting regular conversations over dinner with students, and develop specialized academic programming, which can include: extracurricular activities, tours and excursions, cooperative community service projects, special events, and guest speaker programs.
The Student Activities and Programs Office provides engaging experiences outside of the classroom in hopes to connect members of the Caltech community through social, cultural, and intellectual events. Our greatest desire is to be a resource of fun for you as you rigorously work to succeed academically. Here are a few examples of SAP’s annual events:

- **Cooking Class** - Learn the basics of cooking. Experience taste and flavor. Practice new recipes. SA016, instructed by Tom Mannion, is one of the most popular courses Caltech offers.
- **Ditch Day** - Stacks on stacks on stacks on stacks – and we’re not talking about pancakes here… Ditch Day is one of Caltech’s oldest traditions and you just never know when it is going to happen. Solve the stacks the beloved seniors left behind and join in on campus-wide fun.
- **Hacktech** - Caltech’s annual hackathon organized by our very own students. Join the team of organizers OR create your own team to submit your innovations. Hackers join us from different universities, so Hacktech is a great opportunity for you to meet and collaborate with new people.
- **TechFest** - Caltech’s way of kicking off the new school year with food, fireworks, and an outdoor movie.
- **First-Year Experience** (*First-year students only*) - Initiated in fall 2018, the program aims to ease the transition of first-year undergraduate and graduate students through programs and events developed specifically for them.
- **Chocolate Tasting** (*Frosh only*) - Learn how to fully experience the rich and complex flavors of chocolate. Sample dozens of the best chocolates from around the world and other tasty surprises.

**Student Groups**

Student groups are clubs, organizations, discussion groups, or any other gathering of students on campus who enjoy specialized topics, themes, or activities. All students at Caltech are eligible to be in any of the student groups recognized by the Institute.

The Senior Director of SAP and the Clubs & Organizations Steering Committee (COSC) are the governing body of all Caltech student groups. For more information regarding Student group policies and procedures, please check out the Student Club Handbook by using the following link: [https://clubs.caltech.edu/documents/39-club_handbook.pdf](https://clubs.caltech.edu/documents/39-club_handbook.pdf). Here you can find a list of the registered Caltech clubs: [https://apply.clubs.caltech.edu/clubs](https://apply.clubs.caltech.edu/clubs).

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- **Open Position**
  Undergraduate RLC
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- **Suzanne Chiarchiaro**
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- **Open Position**
  Administrative Assistant for Student Programs