



Residence Life

Residence Community Living Guide

Halifax

Updated: August 5, 2026



What's Inside

Residence at Dalhousie	3
Supports & Resources in Residence	4
Student Leaders in Residence.....	4
Professional Staff.....	4
Accommodations	5
Community Meetings & Charters.....	5
Welcome Home Hubs.....	5
Roommate Agreements & Relationships.....	5
Communities within Residence	6
Residence Community Standards	7
Residence Community Standards Record.....	7
Eligibility to Return to Residence.....	7
Complex Behaviours & Limits of Support.....	7
Right of Entry to Residence Rooms.....	8
Noise & Quiet Hours.....	8
Emergency Restrictions Policy	8
Guest Policy	9
Confidentiality.....	10
Addressing Behaviour Concerns or Misconduct.....	10
Dignity & Respect	11
Safety & Security.....	12
Community Living	12
Building Care	13
Substance Use & Harm Reduction in Residence	14
Residence Community Standards Process	15
Interim Measures Following a Complaint	17
Balance of Probabilities	17
Assignment of Points	17
Resolution Plans.....	17
Termination of a Residence Agreement.....	18
Appeals Process.....	18
Residence Contacts	19

Residence at Dalhousie

Each year Residence Life at Dalhousie welcomes students from around the world to join a vibrant and exciting community on campus. Residence is a place where students meet lifelong friends, learn about themselves and others and have an amazing experience guided by a team of professional staff and student leaders focused on creating a **community of care and concern**.

Most of the students living in residence at Dal are away from home, living independently for the first time. From the outset students are supported to co-create a community charter with others on their floor that promotes **well-being** and creates an **inclusive** living environment where everyone feels they **belong** and can contribute. A community charter will include residents' own commitments to each other to build a vibrant and respectful, living community that supports their own unique needs. Students will have opportunities to engage in a variety of fun events and programs in residence led by student staff, where they can meet people and explore new interests.

Residence is a **learning space**. It's expected that students will make mistakes and that sometimes these will have an impact on the community. Through regular community meetings facilitated by live-in student leaders, residents will develop skills to respectfully and honestly have conversations about what's going well, as well as how to respond to issues that may arise to ensure the well-being of their communities.

Residence Life strives to make sure students have the best year possible in residence. Our work is guided by these core commitments:

▶ **Residence is a fun, once in a lifetime experience.**

We know that residents are excited to be at Dal and we love that energy! We'll do our best to create opportunities for students to build meaningful friendships and memories.

▶ **We co-create respectful and inclusive communities of care and concern.**

Guided by anti-oppressive principles, residence is a place where students feel they belong and that they matter. Students will develop skills to care for each other and share responsibility to create an inclusive culture with support from us.

▶ **Residence feels like a home and focuses on the well-being of the community.**

Home is a place where students can be themselves and experience community. This can look or feel different for everyone. Community means we focus on ensuring a collective experience, a sense of belonging and connection. Residents have a role to play too in taking care of each other and are encouraged to reach out to a student leader or professional staff member if they (or someone they know) need help or support navigation. We work proactively and responsively to create an experience where students can be well, and we also work with students one on one to understand and address individualized needs if concerns arise.

▶ **We understand the importance of learning, growth and transformation.**

Living in residence is a huge transition; students are expected to make mistakes or experience struggles. We know that students are learning who they are and how they relate to others in real time and we believe that there is a way back to community when harm has occurred for most people who are willing to learn and grow. Our role is to help students when they need it, to connect them to resources and supports on campus and wherever possible ensure students have the opportunity to remain in residence unless they are impacting community safety in a way that we cannot address through a supported resolution plan.

▶ **We take a realistic approach to harm reduction - because we care about people first.**

We know that some students will engage in risky behaviours, including substance use while they live in residence. Our first priority when responding to concerns of this nature will be to ensure students and the community are ok. Later, we'll work responsively to follow up and create plans that support healthy behaviour and repair any harm caused. Our goal is to create an environment where students can seek help safely for themselves or others.

Living in Dalhousie's residence communities is not for everyone. Living in a collective community-centered environment requires a shared commitment. Residence Life will make every effort to support those students who choose not to stay in residence or cannot remain in our community because they negatively impact others as they transition off-campus.

The Residence Community Living Guide applies to all students living in residence (residents). In accepting to stay in a Dalhousie residence for the applicable academic term, and signing the Dalhousie Residence Agreement, you (the Resident) are stating agreement to abide by the rules and regulations and understand that failure to do so will lead to the consequences set forth by the Residence Community Living Guide.

Supports & Resources in Residence

At Dalhousie there is an integrated team of professional and student staff who all play an important part in creating an excellent year in residence. From student leaders to our custodians and food service partners, every staff member in residence matters and is an integral part of our community. Please get to know the amazing staff people in your building - remember to say 'hi' and treat them with dignity and respect.

Student Leaders

Student Leaders in Residence support students and build community in residence. They are trained in peer mentoring, conflict mediation, community development, and more.

Community Assistants (Live-in) are student leaders who live in residence and help create a strong residence community.

- Communitys Assistant (Live-in) are responsible for facilitating community meetings and hosting fun activities and events for students in residence and on-campus.
- They also provide mentorship, peer counselling, facilitate referrals and other offer other support to students living in Residence.

Community Assistants (Night-shift) are student staff who may live in or outside residence and work to promote a positive and safe residence community.

- Community Assistants (Night-shift) duties include performing rounds within residence buildings to support students during incidents ranging from mental health and first aid emergencies, to community standard violations.
- Community Assistants (Night-shift) also support welcome home desks and guest sign-in services at residence building entrances during anticipated busy periods.

Prevention Awareness Team (PATs) in residence are upper-year students who formally support first-year student transition to university and on-campus living.

- PATs create fun opportunities for students to connect as a community in collaboration with Community Assistant Team.

Dalhousie Medical Campus Response Team (DMCRT) are highly trained student volunteer medical responders.

- DMCRT is equipped with advanced first aid certification and mental health first aid.
- They work collaboratively with DalSAFE to respond to incidents requiring first aid, and work closely with Student Health and Wellness to promote harm reduction and wellness strategies in residence.

Professional Staff

Residence Life Managers

Residence Life Managers (RLM) are full-time, professional live-in staff responsible for establishing a strong residence community, managing community standards, and crisis response. An RLM is on call every day of the week, 24/7, to provide support. Questions can be directed to residencelife@dal.ca or visit the office of the RLM in your building during office hours, which are posted outside each office.

Residence Programming Manager

The Residence Programming Manager (RPM) guides the delivery of intentional, student-centered programming that supports belonging, learning, and well-being across the residence community. The RPM supports positive student engagement and inclusive, community building in residence as well as works with Student Leaders in Residence to address emerging issues that impact students living in residence. The RPM's office is located on the 4th floor of the Student Union Building.

Residence Response Coordinator

The Residence Response Coordinator (RRC) is a full-time staff member within Residence Life who supports a safe, respectful, and thriving residence community. If a concern or incident arises in residence, the RRC plays a key role in guiding the process — from reviewing incident reports to meeting with students and working toward meaningful resolutions. The RRC brings a relational and student-centered approach to behaviour response, meaning the focus is on repair, learning, and community well-being rather than simply discipline.

Director, Residence Life

The Director, Residence Life works collaboratively with Residence Life Managers, Residence Programming Manager, and campus partners to support student success and enhance student experiences through oversight of Residence Life.

Community Safety Managers (DalSAFE)

Residence Community Safety Managers are professional DalSAFE staff connected intentionally to provide specialized support to residence communities. Working proactively and responsively, CSMs are visible members of our community focused on the wellbeing of students and the community. Concerns about personal or community safety should be reported to your Residence Life team or DalSAFE. DalSAFE can be reached at 902-494-4109 (emergency) or 902-494-6400 (non-emergency). Residents are also encouraged to download the DalSafe app.

Student Support Team

The Student Support Team in Student Health and Wellness provides dedicated support for residents through the Case Manager position as well as supporting case planning for residents who have needs requiring more support. The Student Support Team also provides planning and case management for individuals with concerns that arise outside of residence. Students can self-refer to the Student Support Team using the [online form](#).

Residence Office

Residence Office staff are here to assist with all your housing needs. From processing applications, room assignments for all buildings, residence deposits, requesting a room transfer, withdrawing from residence, exam extensions, and holiday stays. You can reach the Residence Office through email at residence@dal.ca.

Front Desk

These full and part-time staff are available to students 24 hours a day in most buildings. They are the first point of contact for residents. They sort mail, serve as a message centre for residents, and answer questions from both residents and guests. You can stop by the Front Desk in person or call them. The phone numbers can be found on the [Residence Contact Us website](#) under “[Residence Building Addresses](#).”

Professional Staff (continued)

Building Facilities

Building Facilities Staff include Facilities Managers and Utility Services who ensure our buildings are well maintained and in good working order.

Custodial Services

Custodial Services staff are visible and important members of our community responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the common spaces (hallways, washrooms, etc.) in residence. Please note, Custodial Services are not responsible for cleaning student rooms – that is a job for residents!

Food Services

Food Services staff keep our communities fed by operating our Dining Halls on campus. **Food Services** can assist you with dietary needs and even have a Registered Dietitian on staff to support students who would like additional guidance or help eating on campus. Reach out to the Dietitian at dietitian@dal.ca

Accommodations

Dalhousie Residence Life recognizes that some students may have practices or medical requirements that may put them in conflict with the Residence Community Living Guide. This includes, but is not limited to, smudging, candles for religious practices, etc.

If a resident requires an accommodation, please contact a Residence Life Manager to assist with requesting an accommodation before engaging in any behaviours contrary to the Residence Community Living Guide. This may require a formal accommodation agreement from the Student Accessibility Centre. To contact the Student Accessibility Centre, email access@dal.ca.

Community Meetings & Charters

All members of the residence community are expected to attend scheduled Community Meetings throughout the academic year. These meetings help build a connected, respectful, and engaged residence community by providing opportunities to strengthen relationships, contribute to community life, learn about resources, and engage in conversations that support a positive living environment. In September, residents will work together to create a Community Charter that reflects the shared values, expectations, and norms of their community. Throughout the year, residents are encouraged to revisit the Charter as a guide for fostering citizenship, accountability, and belonging within residence.

Community Meetings are facilitated by your CA and may include:

- Community-building activities and opportunities for connection
- Discussions about community needs, shared responsibilities, and citizenship
- Information, resources, and support relevant to community experiences
- Engagement opportunities, events, and programs across campus

Your CA will communicate upcoming meeting dates and times. Meetings are scheduled outside of typical class times whenever possible. If you are unable to attend, please contact your CA to receive any information that was shared. Additional Community Meetings may be called in response to emerging concerns or significant events. Advance notice will be provided, and other Residence Life/campus staff may participate when appropriate.



Welcome Home Hubs

These hubs are designed to be student-centered spaces that blend safety, support, and community in a welcoming and non-intrusive way. Hubs will be hosted by various student leaders near residence entrances or common areas on Fridays and Saturdays, or during active weekends.

Roommate Agreements & Relationships

Having a roommate can be one of the most positive aspects of your experience living in the Dalhousie Residence community. However, building a positive relationship with your new roommate(s) takes time and effort. We support all students living in residence with a roommate (including those who knew their roommate(s) before moving into residence) to complete a Roommate Agreement that establishes commitments and shared norms, and create a general understanding of how you will successfully share your space.

All conflicts between roommates should be addressed by the involved parties wherever possible. CAs, and RLMs can provide you with tips, tools, support, and guidance on how to approach conflicts or disagreements.

Having roommates from a background different than yours should be an opportunity to learn and explore a new culture. For students experiencing roommate conflict rooted in cultural difference, Residence Life staff are there to assist you to get to know your roommate and understand your differences. Racism and mistreatment of your roommate due to cultural ignorance and/or insensitivity causes harm, is unacceptable and is considered a violation of our Community Standards.

Communities within Residence

Single Gender (Female-Identified-Only)

We recognize a student's right to self-identify their gender and/or gender identity. Students are assigned their room based on their self-identified gender and/or gender identity, not their assigned sex at birth.

We offer a Single Gender (Female-Identified-Only) space in residence at Dalhousie, located in Shirreff Hall. Only students who self-identify as female, non-binary, or transgender can indicate on their application that they would like to live in this community.

We aim to create an environment where those who are living here feel comfortable and safe as a female identified, non-binary, or trans person sharing spaces with others who indicated that they wanted to live in this unique area within residence. This includes sharing washrooms and shower spaces, hallways, elevators, and stairwells.

This may include assigned roommates, neighbours, and assigned student leaders who also identify as female, non-binary, or transgender.

Please note: There are no restrictions or limitations on the gender or gender identity of guests to this assigned living area, or to the Dalhousie employees, support staff, and emergency services who may be present. **[See Map of All Gender Washrooms on Campus](#)**

Quiet Floor

Living within a large, vibrant, residence community can be a lot for the senses. We provide Quiet Floor spaces in Howe Hall, Risley Hall, LeMarchant Place, Shirreff Hall and Gerard Hall, for those who want to live in a quieter environment. Students living in Quiet Floors are responsible for maintaining a 24-hour quiet environment, with any agreed upon quiet hours reflected in the community charter they co-create. Extreme noise is never permitted in any residence area. All residence communities expect a reasonable level of quiet to be able to sleep and study and we require all students to respect the needs of others. This expectation will also apply to all guests who visit this floor and to respect the residents in this community.

The quiet floors in residence are:

- **LeMarchant Place:** 7th Floor
- **Risley Hall:** 6th Floor
- **Gerard Hall:** 12th Floor
- **Shirreff Hall:**
 - Newcombe 4th Floor
 - Old Eddy 4th Floor
 - New Eddy 4th Floor
- **Howe Hall:**
 - Cameron: 4th Floor
 - Bronson: 3rd Floor
 - Fountain: 4th Floor (substance free floor)
 - Henderson: 4th Floor
 - Smith: 3rd Floor

Student Leadership Living Community

Dalhousie's Living and Learning Community in Leadership is tailored for first year undergraduate students entering the Student Leadership Academy high-potential stream. The Student Leadership Living Community fosters a place where students in the Student Leadership Academy can live and learn with their peers who are also interested in leadership development. The Student Leadership Living Community is located in LeMarchant Place.

Substance Free

Harm reduction is important to us, and we recognize that some residents would prefer an environment free from substance use. We offer a Substance Free space, located in Howe Hall (Fountain House Thrid and Fourth Floor) as an option for all students who voluntarily commit to live in a residence community that is free from substances, including alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, drugs and/or drug paraphernalia. This community is intended to always be consumption free creating a supportive environment to learn and grow in.

All residents who live in this community will be encouraged to participate in community meetings and social development opportunities that do not focus on or revolve around substances as a social tool.

This expectation will also apply to all guests who visit this floor and to respect the residents in this community.

Dalhousie is a no-smoking university. It is committed to providing a safe and healthy place in which to work and study. The policy prohibits smoking in all university buildings, including university residences, on university property and in university vehicles. Under this policy those who wish to smoke are asked to leave university property. While smoking on public property smokers are asked to avoid littering, to be respectful of others, and of course to abide by the municipal by-law. More information can be found at **dal.ca/safety**.

Queer and Trans Community Space

The Queer & Trans Community Space in Residence, located in Risley Hall, offers residents who self-identify as queer and/or part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community the option of living in a unique area of residence dedicated to support and the shared experiences of queer people. This may include assigned roommates, neighbours, and assigned student leaders who also identify as queer and/or 2SLGBTQI+.

Please note: There are no restrictions or limitations on gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation of residents and guests to this assigned living area, or to the Dalhousie employees, support staff, and emergency services who may be present.

For support and connection contact the office by emailing **2slgbtq+advising@dal.ca**.

Residence Community Standards

Dalhousie's Residence Community Standards have been created with intention, to ensure that all residents feel safe and supported in residence spaces. Categories may overlap and intersect, and we understand that situations have nuances which require open dialogue and thoughtful resolutions. We encourage students to build relationships with their neighbours and have conversations about respect and community living.

If a resident has been impacted by the actions of another residence student or their guest, we encourage them to seek out the help of a CA, professional staff member in Residence Life or DalSAFE who can offer advice or guidance on where to go for help. We encourage students to address some more minor issues like noise etc. by talking to their neighbours early, either one on one or by discussing concerns that affect the community at a regular floor meeting. Residence Life staff can also assist students in developing skills related to having conversations with neighbours.

However, we recognize that some situations may be uncomfortable or potentially harmful for students or the residence community, and require intervention from Residence Staff and the Student Support Team.

Residence Community Standards Record

Allegations that a student has violated the Residence Community Standards are documented in incident reports by Residence Life or DalSAFE. The details of an allegation can be brought forward by any student leader and/or professional staff member of the Residence Life team, DalSAFE, and/or members of our facilities and custodial staff. Any behaviours witnessed/reported through online platforms, including social media, may be used by Residence Life as the basis of an allegation.

If a student violates the Residence Community Standards, points will be added to their residence record. A student's record begins on their move-in day and remains active for as long as they live in a Dalhousie residence community. Points are assigned to reflect the impact of behaviour on the community and to indicate the need to repair harm through a resolution plan. Points will remain on a student's record and are not removed automatically but can be reduced by completing the requirements of a resolution plan.

Violations of the Residence Community Standards do not appear on a student's academic transcript. A student's Residence Community Standards record is separate from their academic record and from other university policies, including the Code of Student Conduct and the Sexualized Violence Policy. However, behaviour in residence may also be addressed under the **Code of Student Conduct** if it potentially violates more than one policy. In these situations, the Residence Life team will consult with the appropriate university partners to determine which policy or process should be followed.

Eligibility to Return to Residence

A resident's community standards record will be reviewed and considered if they are applying to return to live in residence for the upcoming academic year. This review reflects our shared commitment to maintaining a respectful and inclusive community, where residents contribute positively to the living environment. Patterns of behaviour, accountability, and efforts to repair harm or re-engage with community expectations may all be taken into account as part of this process.

Complex Behaviours & Limits of Support

The safety, health, and well-being of all members of our residence community is our priority. However, residence is not intended to be a medical or therapeutic environment. In specific cases, there is a limit to the extent of support that can be provided. The Residence Life team collaborates with Dalhousie's Student Health and Wellness Centre and other support services on campus and in the community, including Emergency Health Services.

Complex behavior is described as behaviour that is not necessarily a violation of the Residence Community Standards by nature, but is complicated by significant/contributing factors that negatively impact or threaten a resident or the residence communities' well-being.

To support the safety and well-being of all residents, individuals may not decline a medical assessment by Emergency Health Services when Residence Life or DalSAFE determine it is necessary. Additionally, when Emergency Health Services deems medical care essential, residents are expected to accept the assistance offered. If care is declined, a follow-up conversation will be arranged with the Director, Residence Life and a member of the Student Support Team to ensure appropriate support is in place. See the [Dalhousie Student Union \(DSU\) Health Plan](#) for information on benefits.



Right of Entry to Residence Rooms

Residence Life team members or university staff (including Student Leaders, Facilities Staff, DalSAFE, Custodial Services, etc.) have the right to enter a resident’s room in the following situations:

- In an emergency where the safety, health and well-being of a resident or the residence building is at risk and advance notice of entry may not be possible
- When staff have reasonable grounds to believe that there is a violation of the Residence Community Standards taking place
- For the purpose of cleaning, maintenance, or inspections
- When the Resident has submitted a Maintenance Request Form (MRF)

Noise & Quiet Hours

Quiet hours” are designated times when residents are asked to limit noise so that others can study, sleep, or unwind without disruption. During these hours, activities should be kept to a volume that doesn’t carry beyond your room or common areas.

Quiet hours for all Dalhousie residences (with the exception of the quiet floors) are: Sunday to Thursday: 10:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday: 1:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Exam Quiet Hours: 24 hour quiet hours go into effect the Monday a week before classes end. Relaxed hours are from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM daily.

Residents are expected to respect each other’s right to be free from unreasonable noise and to sleep and study without interruption. When concerns arise, we encourage residents to first connect directly with one another to address the issue. This helps build communication skills, strengthens community relationships, and supports shared responsibility. If the concern continues or you’re not comfortable addressing it yourself, please connect with your CA for support. Persistent or excessive noise that disrupts others will lead to follow-up through the student conduct process. Even outside of quiet hours, we ask everyone to keep noise at respectful levels so all community members can enjoy a peaceful environment. Community-created charters help define what “loud” means for us collectively and support shared accountability in upholding those expectations. Please note: Amplified sound equipment is not permitted in residence. This includes, but is not limited to, guitar or bass amps, subwoofers, large bluetooth speakers, and DJ equipment. If you bring these items to residence, you’ll be asked to remove or store them elsewhere.



Emergency Restrictions Policy

During emergency situations or recovery from a critical circumstance, Dalhousie may choose to impose enhanced restrictions to support the safety, health and well-being of students and the residence community. Critical measures may be required to respond to evolving emergencies situations (i.e., pandemic, public state of emergency, natural disasters, weather related closures).

When emergency restrictions are deemed appropriate, all students will be informed of applicable changes via their Dalhousie NetID email address. Notices will also be posted throughout residence. It is the student’s responsibility to remain up to date regarding current emergency restrictions. Information provided to students will include the consequences of non-compliance with current emergency restrictions. Residence Life Managers will be available to answer any questions or clarify required changes on behalf of residents. At any time during the application of emergency restrictions, Residence Life may choose to add, alter, or remove any enhanced restrictions and will advise students of the change.

The following are examples of restrictions that may be imposed as the result of evolving emergency situations:

- No guests allowed at any time for any reason. Current guests at the time of announced restrictions will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- No travel between residence houses or floors. Students must stay on their assigned floor/house.
- Restricted or no access to residence lounges and kitchens.
- All residents may be required to use only an assigned door to enter and exit the building.
- Possession and consumption of alcohol, non-prescribed cannabis products and any recreational drugs are prohibited in all residences. To enforce this restriction, bag checks may be instituted at Residence Life’s discretion.
- Restrictions on the number of students allowed per room. Room parties or gatherings are prohibited.

Failure to comply with emergency restrictions will be considered a violation of the Residence Community Standards and could result in an immediate termination of your residence agreement depending on the nature of the violation.

Guest Policy

A guest is considered anyone who is 16 years of age or older and not a resident of the building/house they are visiting. This includes residents from other Dalhousie residence buildings.

The guest policy is intended to foster a sense of community and belonging for residents. Students are permitted to have one guest in residence at a time and that guest must always carry a form of identification. Students can host a guest for a maximum of three nights in a row and up to a maximum of ten nights in a month. For additional stays, students must receive approval from the Residence Life Manager of their community. External guests who are between the ages of 16 and 18 are required to provide emergency contact information (parent / guardian) to the Residence Life Manager. External guests under the age of 16 are not permitted to stay in residence. Students assigned to temporary space are not permitted guests until reassigned to a permanent space.

All residents are responsible for the behaviour of their guests, including responsibility for damages. Guests must always be accompanied by the resident host. Therefore, both a host and a guest from another residence may be held responsible for violations of the Residence Community Standards. Anyone that a student permits to enter the residence building is considered their guest. **Residents are required to complete a Guest Registration Form any time they bring a guest into a residence building. During the Active Phase, residents will be required to complete a Guest Exemption Form.**

There are three phases to the guest policy, outlined below. The decision to move between phases will be dependent on the time of year, current building trends, and the safety and security of students. **Residence Life reserves the right to modify the dates communicated below based on community need.** During active periods there will be a greater presence of university staff and security. Other restrictions may apply and IDs may be requested. Students should always carry their Dal ID while on campus.

Orientation	Active	Regular
No external guests are permitted in residence. A limit of one internal guest per resident is permitted. (Internal guests are defined as those who live in another residence at Dalhousie.) Orientation guest permissions are in place from TWednesday, September 3 - Sunday, September 20, 2026.	Only internal guests are allowed in residence. Active is in place during the following periods: Thursday, September 24, 2026-Monday, September 28, 2026 Thursday, October 29, 2026 - Monday, November 2, 2026 Monday, December 7, 2026-Monday, December 21, 2026 Friday, January 15, 2027 - Sunday, January 17, 2027 Thursday, February 4, 2027-Sunday, February 7, 2027 Thursday, March 12, 2027 - Thursday, March 21, 2027 Monday, April 5, 2027 -Friday, April 30, 2027	Internal and external guests are allowed in residence, provided they are appropriately signed in.

Guests may be asked to leave at any time if they are not acting in accordance with the Residence Community Living Guide. Guests who violate the Guide may be banned from returning to a specific residence building or all residences.

Interim or emergency guest restrictions may be put in place and changed as required to ensure the safety, health and well-being of students and the residence community. Information on changes to guest restrictions or registration requirements will be communicated to residents.

Note: Newcombe House within Shirreff Hall is a space for female-identifying students. Any male-identifying guest musts always be with their female-identifying host while in common spaces in Newcombe House. Male-identifying guests are required to use specially designated washrooms while in Newcombe House.

Guest Registration Process

Guests must be registered in person at a Welcome Home Hub when it is in operation. You are required to accompany your guest to the Hub and present valid identification for both yourself and your guest to complete the sign-in process.

Plan accordingly to ensure guests are signed in during Welcome Home Hub hours. If the guest sign-in process is not appropriately completed, or a guest is found unaccompanied, staff may ask the guest to leave the building or return to the Hub to complete the process.

All hosts and guests are expected to follow residence policies and community standards throughout the visit. If there is a guest restriction policy in place, please refer to the “Guest Exemption Form,” as pre-approval from your Residence Life Manager is required to host during this period. To host a guest for longer, or to host more than one person, you will need to follow the Guest Exemption Process.

Guest Exemption Process

At certain times throughout the year, guests are not permitted to stay in residence. However, if you have a specific reason to host a guest during one of these restricted periods, you may submit a request for an exemption through your Residence Life Manager. To submit a request: Log in to dal.erezlife.com. Navigate to the “Forms” section in the left-hand menu. Select the “HFX – Guest Exemption Form.” Complete all required fields, including a clear explanation of why your guest needs to stay in residence during the restricted period. Please note that submitting a request does not guarantee approval. Your exemption is only confirmed once you receive an official approval email from a Residence Life Manager.

Confidentiality

Residence Life team members will respect the confidentiality of all persons, including the complainant, respondent, and witnesses.

However, confidentiality cannot be assured in the following circumstances:

- An individual is at imminent risk of self-harm.
- An individual is at imminent risk of harming another person.
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that others in the residence community, broader campus community, and/or local community may be at risk of harm.
- Individuals within the university community must know certain information to carry out their responsibilities.
- Where there is a legal obligation to report to authorities.
- Where there is a legal obligation to act or cooperate with an extra-university judicial process.

In all circumstances outlined above, only the information deemed necessary and appropriate will be disclosed to the appropriate parties (including but not limited to Residence Life, the Student Support Team, Dalhousie Legal, DalSAFE, the Appeal Review Board, the Residence Office, and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs).



Addressing Behaviour Concerns or Misconduct

Concerns about student misconduct may be documented in incident reports by Residence Life or DalSAFE. The details of an incident of misconduct can be brought forward by any student leader and/or professional staff member of the Residence Life team, DalSAFE, and/or members of our facilities and custodial staff. Any behaviours witnessed/reported through online platforms, including social media, may be used by Residence Life as the basis of a concern.

If a resident has been impacted by the actions of another residence student or their guest, we encourage them to seek out the help of a CA or professional staff member in Residence Life or DalSAFE, who can offer guidance on where to go for help. We encourage students to address minor issues like noise etc., by talking to their neighbours early, either one on one or by discussing concerns that affect the community at regular community meetings. Residence Life staff can also assist students in developing skills related to having conversations with neighbours.

For complaints or concerns that require a more formal response, students can file a complaint against anyone who violates their right to a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment by contacting Residence Life or DalSAFE’s Residence Safety Managers. A complaint against another student will be reviewed and addressed under the applicable Dalhousie policy, including but not limited to, the Residence Community Living Guide, Code of Student Conduct, or Sexualized Violence Policy. A student filing a complaint must do so according to the policy guidelines under which they will be filing. Residence Life or DalSAFE can help students determine which policy applies to their complaint and provide navigation support on how to proceed. Any complaints about a non-resident student will be referred to the Student Support Team to be considered under the Code of Student Conduct.

Students should feel fully supported when bringing forward a complaint, without fear of retaliation. Any attempt to intimidate, threaten, or retaliate against a student or community member for filing a complaint will be taken seriously and may result in a conduct response, in accordance with the Residence Community Living Guide.

Students have the right to withdraw their complaint at any point in the process. However, in some situations, the University may need to continue addressing the concerns raised to protect the overall safety, health, and well-being of the Dalhousie community. Throughout this process, a student’s right to confidentiality will be respected. Personal information will only be shared with those directly involved in addressing the concern, and only when necessary.

Dignity & Respect

Our community is strengthened by diversity and the growth fostered by an inclusive residence environment. Every person has equal worth and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

We live and learn together, maintaining an environment of mutual respect and interpersonal curiosity, striving for positive interactions with one another. By learning from each other, we can gain a greater understanding and appreciation for our fellow people.

We are responsible for our actions, and our behavior reflects our principles. Any form of abuse, harassment, threat, or violence is incompatible with our core commitments and will not be tolerated. We do not accept ignorance, anger, alcohol, or substance abuse as a valid excuse, reason, or rationale for negative behavior.

- ▶ **Violence**

Any action that results in harm or has the potential to harm an individual or individuals. These actions include physical assault and threats (e.g., verbal, physical, or electronic, i.e., cyber-bullying) of violence.
(6 points assigned)
- ▶ **Sexualized Violence**

At Dalhousie, sexualized violence is defined by the **Sexualized Violence Policy** as “an act of violence, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is characterized by an attempt to threaten, intimidate, coerce or engage in any unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature against a Member of the University Community without that Member’s Consent. Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment are subsets of Sexualized Violence, defined above. Other examples include, but are not limited to, creating and/or sharing images non-consensually, stalking, voyeurism, and stealthing.” All incidents of sexualized violence in residence are referred directly to the Dalhousie Human Rights and Equity Services office to be followed up with according to Dalhousie’s Sexualized Violence Policy.
- ▶ **Racism and/or Oppression**

Dalhousie Residence Life is committed to eliminating racism, oppression, and discrimination in our residence communities to ensure complete and equitable participation for all residence students. Use of racial slurs, derogatory language, graffiti/vandalism/hate symbols, or mistreatment of racialized, disabled, Queer, Indigenous or other members of the residence community, including Residence Life professional and student staff will not be tolerated. Incidents of racism, discrimination and oppression may be referred to Dalhousie’s Code of Student Conduct.
(3-6 points assigned)
- ▶ **Hazing**

Initiating or attempting to initiate any activity that requires or expects from someone who wishes to join, or to maintain full status in, a group that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of that person’s willingness to consent or participate. Hazing often occurs under the appearance of “tradition,” “initiation,” or “team-building,” but any activity involving pressure, coercion, or harm (whether physical, emotional, or social) is not permitted within residence. Voluntary participation is not an excuse for hazing. Participating in activities, or encouraging activities such as dare nights, assignment of pranks, etc., are considered hazing and are prohibited. Hazing incidents in residence may be referred to Dalhousie’s Code of Student Conduct.
(6 points assigned)
- ▶ **Weapons**

Possession of items that can be used as, or believed to be, weapons such as large knives, martial arts weapons, firearms, pellet or B.B. guns, or replica weapons. The Dalhousie Code of Student Conduct may also apply.
(6 points assigned)

- ▶ **Incivility towards others**

Any action, behaviour, or pattern of conduct that negatively impacts another member of the residence community, including students, guests, and staff, is unacceptable. Incivility undermines a respectful and welcoming community and may occur in person, in writing, or through digital platforms.
(3–6 points assigned)

Examples of incivility may include but are not limited to:

 - Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threats
 - Disrespectful, aggressive, or demeaning conduct
 - Discriminatory comments, actions, or behaviour
 - Pranks, rumours, or retaliation

When determining whether behaviour constitutes incivility, Residence Life will consider the impact of the behaviour, not solely the intent.
- ▶ **Disruptive Conduct**

Inappropriate or disruptive conduct (e.g., oral, written, graphic, electronic, or physical) by an individual or individuals that is unacceptable, unwanted, harmful, or offensive and may have a negative impact on the residence community. Professional staff may confiscate speakers or audio equipment creating excessive disruption in residence.
(1-3 points assigned)

Examples of inappropriate behaviour include, but are not limited to:

 - Engaging in potentially destructive activities in residence
 - Posting posters, signs, or other décor on a residence room door with content that is unacceptable, harmful, or offensive
 - Leaving a space in an unreasonably unclean or disorderly condition
 - Banging on doors
 - Excessive noise throughout the year
- ▶ **Impeding or Interfering**

Interfering with, obstructing, disrupting, misleading, or failing to comply with the reasonable directions, requests, or agreements of any university or public official, including Residence Life, Ancillary Services, DalSAFE, or Emergency Health Services, while they are performing their duties, particularly where such actions hinder university processes or endanger the health or safety of any individual.
(2-4 points assigned)

Examples include:

 - falsifying documents
 - lying to university staff members
 - refusal to show identification
 - providing false ID or name
 - refusal to open door for staff member

Safety & Security

Safety and security are shared responsibilities for everyone in residence. Your residence should feel like home, a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and supported. Creating and maintaining that environment is a collective effort. Each member of our community plays an essential role in looking out for themselves and their neighbours. By showing care, respect, and responsibility in our shared spaces, we help build a community where everyone can thrive.

- ▶ **Unauthorized Access to University Spaces**

Entering or attempting to enter any offline/locked/secured area or private space without the permission of Dalhousie’s Residence Life or the resident. Tampering with an intrusion alarm or any secured door; tampering with locks.
(2 points assigned)

Attempting to gain or gaining access to restricted areas such as roofs, offices and maintenance or restricted courtyard areas; tampering with an elevator (including jumping in the elevator).
(3-6 points assigned, depending on severity)
- ▶ **Misuse of Residence Keys/Key cards**

Unauthorized use of residence keys/key cards. This includes attempting to cut or copy keys/key cards, tampering with locked key rings, and lending keys/key cards to others. Tailgating and/or fraudulently gaining or attempting to gain entry to another residence room or building.
(2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Fire Alarm Evacuation and Re-entry**

Failure to promptly evacuate a residence in the event of a fire alarm or re-entering a residence building after evacuation without authorization from Residence staff, DalSAFE, or the local Fire Department.
(2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Fire Hazards**

Operating any flame or burning of any substance (e.g., potpourri burners, incense, hookahs, bong, candles, e-cigarettes/vaporizers, and smoking of any legal substance) in residence; using hazardous materials or non-CSA approved electrical appliances in residence. Obstructing/congregating in residence hallways, stairwells, doorways or exits, common rooms, or other areas constituting a fire hazard. Exceeding the posted capacity of any room (including lounges, elevators, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.). If a student causes a fire alarm to be activated through negligent behaviour or through actions that should reasonably be seen to be inappropriate, that individual/those individuals may be responsible for cost recovery associated with alarm or false alarm.
(2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Smoking in Residence**

Operating any flame or burning of any substance in residence is strictly prohibited. This includes smoking cigarettes, cannabis, or the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers.
(2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Tampering with Fire and Life Safety Equipment**

Tampering with, damaging, and/or misusing fire prevention, detection, or life safety equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, hanging materials from sprinklers or detectors, covering or disarming smoke detectors, damaging or tampering with ceiling tiles, elevators, and window screens, and throwing or dropping items out of residence windows. Students found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to cost recovery associated with, but not limited to any damage, repair, replacement, labour, alarms and/or false alarms.
(3-6 points assigned, depending on severity)
- ▶ **Theft**

Taking, attempting to take, possession, or relocation of University or residence property without permission.
(2 points assigned)

Taking, or attempting to take, without permission, the belongings of another individual. Any food orders made to deliver to students living in residence must be hand to hand delivery to ensure receipt. Dalhousie’s RCS Process will not investigate complaints of missing food orders.
(2 points assigned)

Community Living

Living in a residence community means treating your neighbours with respect, kindness, and consideration. Being a good community member is about more than just coexisting, it’s about actively contributing to a positive and supportive environment. A successful community is built on everyone’s willingness to listen, help, and work together so that we can all live, learn, and grow in a space we’re proud to share.

- ▶ **Scented Products & Scent of Cannabis/Tobacco**

Dalhousie endorses a scent-free environment on campus to protect residents with environmental sensitivities/allergies. Usage of highly scented products in residence can include air fresheners, essential oils, perfumes, etc. Residents are responsible to manage the scent related to cannabis/tobacco usage, so it does not disturb the community.
(1 point assigned)

Scent, as determined by university staff, can be detected through various means, and includes but is not limited to the following:

- Scent on person after smoking
 - Improper storage of smoking products (pipes, bong, grinders, vapes, e-cigarettes)
- ▶ **Unsanctioned Gathering**

It is prohibited to advertise, announce, organize, run, and/or host a gathering involving the consumption of alcohol, cannabis, narcotics, controlled substances, or that violates any policy of the Residence Community Standards.
(2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Noise**

Failure to maintain a level of noise that respects others in the residence community and their ability to study, sleep, or otherwise enjoy the residence environment
(1-3 points)

Guest Behaviour

- Residents are responsible for the behaviour of their guests at all times. If a guest’s behaviour constitutes a violation, the resident will be held responsible and associated points may be assigned.
- Allowing a guest entry through an exit door to avoid the sign-in process constitutes a 2-point violation.
 - Having a guest during a period where guests are prohibited, such as exam period, emergency restrictions, etc. constitutes a 3-point violation or above, depending on the severity.
 - Guests must remain with their hosts at all times, and hosts are expected to stay with their guests and complete guest registration request. Failure to do so is not permitted and will result in a 2-point violation.

Building Care

Caring for our residences is a shared responsibility. As community members, we all play a part in maintaining a clean, functional, and welcoming space. Building care means taking ownership of how we use and treat our shared environment and recognizing that our actions impact not just ourselves, but all of the other students and staff who live and work in our residences. By respecting our space and each other, we help create a residence that truly feels like home.

- ▶ **Altering Residence spaces**

Unauthorized modification, use, or reconfiguration of residence rooms or common spaces that changes their intended setup, function, or condition. This includes actions that personalize or adapt spaces using materials, furniture, or property in ways not approved by the university. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Painting, wallpapering, or otherwise permanently altering walls, doors, ceilings, or fixtures;
 - Installing or affixing items in a way that alters surfaces or structures (e.g., LED light strips, tape, nails, screws, tacks, staples, or pins);
 - Using university, municipal, or public property to furnish or decorate residence spaces;
 - Removing, relocating, or exchanging residence furniture from assigned rooms or common areas without authorization;
 - Constructing, assembling, or modifying any part of a residence space or its furnishings.Only adhesive poster strips provided free of charge by the Residence front desk, or approved 3M products, may be used for decorating rooms. (1-2 points assigned)
- ▶ **Pets in Residence**

Possession of pets in residence except for fish. Non-dangerous fish are allowed in residence provided they are kept in a small fish bowl, the container is cleaned regularly, and no illegal or poisonous species are kept. Service animals are not considered pets and are permitted when part of an approved accommodation. (1 point assigned)
- ▶ **Room Occupancy**

All residence spaces (including bedrooms, lounges, kitchens, laundry rooms, common spaces, lobbies, etc.) have maximum occupancy limits. The maximum occupancy limit of any residence room/suite is ten (10) people, including the room owner(s), unless otherwise directed by current interim measures or emergency restrictions. (1 point assigned)
- ▶ **Solicitation in Residence**

The University does not permit solicitation, any third-party advertising, and/or operation of a business in its residences. (2 points assigned)
Prohibited activities include but are not limited to:
 - slipping flyers under doors,
 - door-to-door knocking,
 - door hangers,
 - stickers,
 - or other promotional materials being used/placed in residence.
- ▶ **Damages to/or within Residence Buildings**

Damage to residence property is not permitted. This includes intentional or careless damage to shared or private spaces (such as rooms, hallways, lounges, washrooms, and dining areas), vandalism or graffiti, making unauthorized mechanical, electrical, or structural changes, failing to maintain reasonable cleanliness in shared spaces, possessing biohazardous materials, or encouraging or supporting property damage (e.g., inciting, filming, or participating). Students found responsible will receive conduct points and will be required to cover the full cost of repairs and/or cleaning, based on the actual expenses charged to the university. (2-6 points assigned)

Costs and Responsibility for Unattributed Damage: If damage occurs in shared spaces and no one is identified or takes responsibility, repair or cleaning costs may be shared among residents in the affected area when the damage exceeds normal wear and tear. Charges reflect the actual cost of repair or cleaning (including higher after-hours rates) and reinforce collective responsibility for shared spaces.

Residence Life will do its best to work with communities experiencing escalated or recurring damage concerns to address the impacts and support accountability within the community.

Damages/Vandalism

Living in residence means being part of a shared community, where each person shares a collective responsibility to maintain a respectful environment. Residents are expected to actively contribute to a safe, respectful, and supportive community. This includes:

- Attending and engaging in community meetings
- Contributing to and upholding the Community Charter
- Being an active bystander and supporting Residence Life staff
- Raise concerns early and connect with your CA and/or RLM

These expectations are in place to ensure that everyone feels supported, accountable, and able to thrive in the community.

Damage in Shared Spaces (Costs and Responsibility)

When damage or vandalism occurs in shared spaces (e.g., hallways, lounges, bathrooms, kitchens), Residence Life will work to identify and hold responsible individuals accountable. If no one can be identified or takes responsibility, repair and/or cleaning costs that exceed reasonable wear and tear will be shared among all residents in the affected building. These costs are not punitive and reflect actual expenses charged to Dalhousie for repairs or cleaning, which may increase when after-hours work is required. In cases of significant or repeated damage, social, recreational, lounge access, and guest privileges may be limited. This helps protect the community and reinforces our shared responsibility to care for the space and one another.

Sharing Concerns Early

Speaking up early helps Residence Life respond quickly and provide support. You can connect with us by:

- Speak with your CA
- Speak with your RLM
- Email Residence Life at residencelife@dal.ca
- Email the Residence Office at residence@dal.ca
- Contact DalSAFE through DalSAFE Mobile App or calling 902-494-6400

How will I know if I am being charged for unattributed damage/vandalism?

You'll receive updates about any community charges at Community Meetings hosted by your CAs. These updates are estimates only. Community Assistants can share the information but aren't able to answer questions about the costs. If you have questions, please contact residencelife@dal.ca.

Substance Use & Harm Reduction in Residence

Dalhousie is committed to fostering a campus culture that endorses healthy, responsible, and low-risk consumption practices among students. We are also realistic, knowing that some students will choose to use substances, and we recognize that a harm-reduction approach in residence makes us all safer. **The rules below are not intended to be punitive, rather the assignment of points will result in Residence Life staff following up because we’re concerned about you and our community.**

Intoxication on its own is not a violation of the Residence Community Standards, and you will not be in trouble for seeking help for yourself or others. Residence Life encourages students to take care of each other by seeking help if someone requires assistance for over-intoxication so an emergency medical response can be initiated if required. Students can seek support by contacting the Front Desk of their building or by contacting DalSAFE (through DalSAFE app or by calling 902-494-6400).

The legal age for purchasing and consuming alcohol and cannabis in Nova Scotia is 19 years of age. If a student is under the age of 19 and is in possession of alcohol and/or cannabis, it will be disposed of by the student under the supervision of a Residence Life staff member or may be confiscated by a professional staff member.

Residents who have been prescribed the use of cannabis by a medical professional, should refer to our information about accommodations in residence in this guide.

▶ **Open Alcohol in Residence**

Open alcohol is not permitted outside private residence rooms. This includes, but is not limited to, hallways, common rooms, stairwells, elevators, washrooms, dining areas, and designated alcohol-or substance-free spaces. Open containers (e.g., cups, cans, bottles) are not allowed in residence common areas. Glass alcohol containers must remain sealed and be transported in a way that reduces the risk of breakage (e.g., in a bag or box).

Alcohol must be transported in a closed container and consumption while in transit is not permitted (1-2 points assigned)

▶ **Alcohol Quantity**

Possessing large containers of alcohol including, but not limited to kegs, mini-kegs, borgs, 60oz liquor bottles, etc. Stockpiling of alcohol (having an amount greater than what will be consumed in a single sitting) is also not permitted in residence. (2 points assigned)

▶ **Underage Alcohol or Cannabis Use**

Possession or consumption of alcohol, cannabis, cannabis by-products (including but not limited to oils, products considered edibles, seeds, or plants), possession of cannabis accessories (including but not limited to bongs, grinders, pipes, and vaporizers), in or around residence while under the age of 19. (1 point assigned)

▶ **Unsafe Consumption or Use of Cannabis**

Smoking, vaping, or consuming a cannabis product by inhalation in or around Residence. Consumption in any form is prohibited in residence rooms and public spaces (such as hallways, common rooms, stairwells, elevators, washrooms, dining halls, and including all designated alcohol and substance free areas.) (2 points assigned)

Possession of more than 30 grams of dried cannabis or equivalent while over the age of 19. Cannabis stored in an improper container (not government-issued). Creation of cannabis by-products in residence (e.g., Cooking, baking, etc.). (2 points assigned)

▶ **Cultivation of Cannabis in Residence**

Participation in or in association with the manufacturing, cultivating, growing, and/or preparing of cannabis in or around Residence. Possession of cannabis plants. (2 points assigned)

▶ **Promotion of Unsafe Alcohol Consumption**

Residents must not possess, display, promote, organize, participate in, or encourage activities, items, or displays that support unsafe, rapid, or excessive alcohol consumption. Examples include, but are not limited to, drinking games (e.g., beer/water pong, card games, etc), funnels, kegs, drinking devices, and displays of empty alcohol containers that may reasonably be perceived as promoting excessive consumption.

Residence staff may intervene where behaviour, activities, items, or displays are deemed unsafe or pose a risk to individuals and/or the residence community. (2 points assigned)

▶ **Alcohol or Cannabis Purchase or Provision for Underage Residents**

Purchasing or providing alcohol, cannabis or cannabis by-products for underage residents or their guests. (2 points assigned)

▶ **Delivery of Alcohol or Cannabis**

Deliveries of alcohol or cannabis to any residence building are prohibited, regardless of age. (2 points assigned)

▶ **Distribution of Cannabis in Residence**

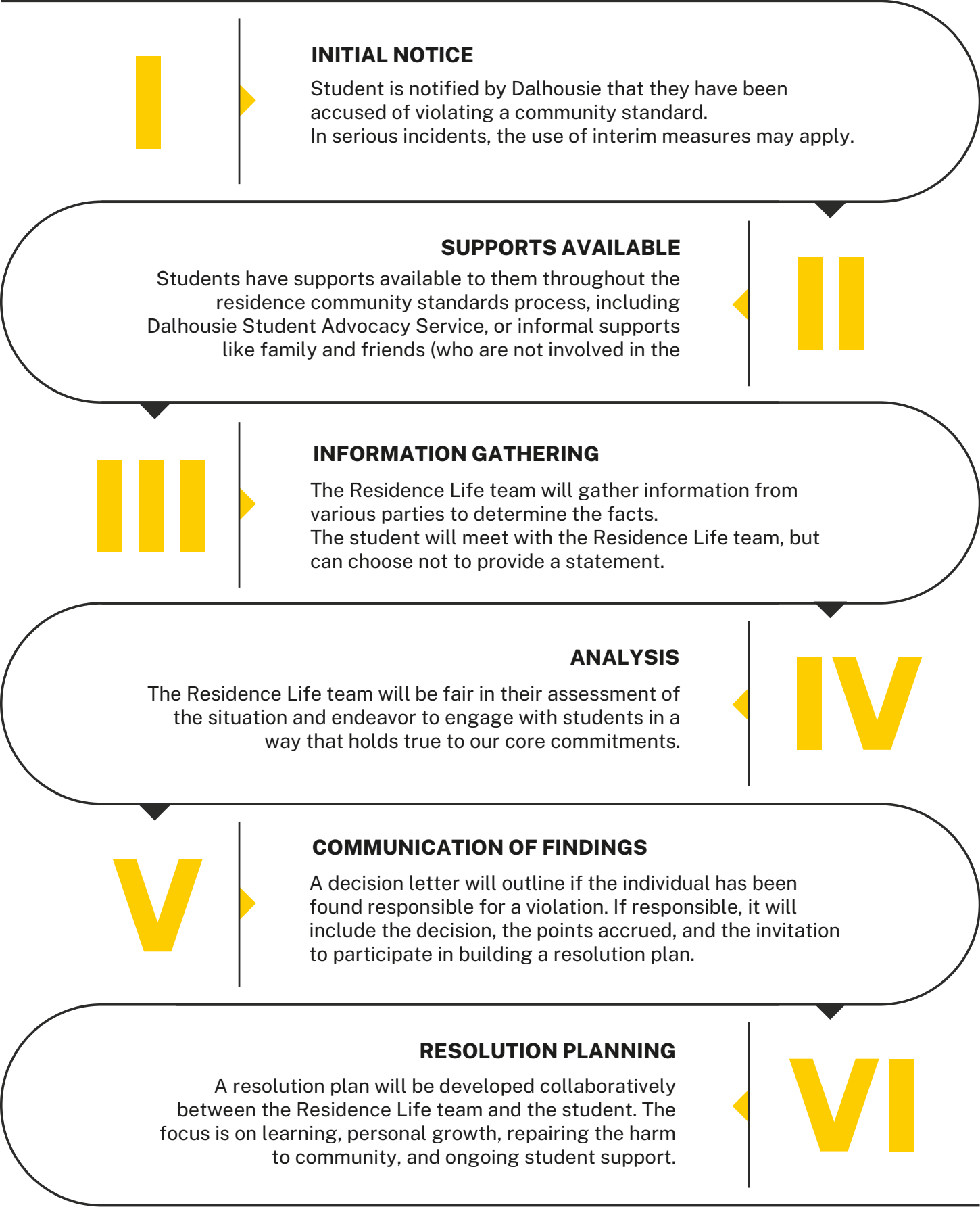
Possession of cannabis for the purpose of distribution/trafficking/dealing/selling. Possession of items for the purpose of distribution/trafficking/dealing/selling cannabis (scales, “dime bags”). (2 points assigned)

▶ **Possession or use of illegal substances**

Possession or use, in or around residence, of any narcotic or controlled substance, including prescription medication, for purposes other than those for which they were prescribed, and includes administering, delivering, giving, selling, sending, transferring, or transporting a controlled drug(s) or substance(s) to others, which may be inferred by the circumstances surrounding the possession including but not limited to factors such as quantity and/or quality of the drug(s) or substance(s); the value of the drug(s) or substance(s) and/or the presence of related drug paraphernalia. (3-6 points assigned, depending on severity)

Residence Community Standards Process

Living in residence comes with standards for student conduct. The Residence Community Standards serve as a gauge to assess whether conditions are present to ensure residence communities are fun, safe, and inclusive. If you are involved in behaviour which results in points against you for violations of the Residence Community Standards, the information below will help guide you through our process and provide insight into how you can be engaged and prepared along the way.



Step I Initial Notice Student is notified by Dalhousie that they have been accused of violating a community standard. In serious incidents, the use of interim measures may apply.	Step II Support Available Students have supports available to them throughout the residence community standards process, including Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service, or informal supports like family and friends (who are not involved in the incident).	Step III Information Gathering The Residence Life team will gather information from various parties to determine the facts. The student will meet with the Residence Life team, but can choose not to provide a statement.	Step IV Analysis The Residence Life team will be fair in their assessment of the situation and endeavor to engage with students in a way that holds true to our core commitments.	Step V Communication of Findings A decision letter will outline if the individual has been found responsible for a violation. If responsible, it will include the decision, the points accrued, and the invitation to participate in building a resolution plan.	Step VI Resolution Planning A resolution plan will be developed collaboratively between the Residence Life team and the student. The focus is on learning, personal growth, repairing the harm to community, and ongoing student support.
WHAT YOU MIGHT BE FEELING					
Feeling upset, defensive, and worried about fairness are all common responses to receiving notification like this. This is why we take care to deliver this in-person so you can ask the questions most pertinent at the time. In serious incidents, the use of interim measures may be appropriate to create time and distance to undertake the investigative process.	Resist limiting the search to a defender or a witness alibi. Those folks have other value in the process and may be important names to provide at your information gathering meeting. A support person is someone who knows you well enough to ensure you can show up at your best. A person who will give you encouragement to listen and or speak up as required. Despite our efforts to the contrary, these processes can still feel overwhelming, and a support person is always welcome.	You will have the opportunity to participate in a meeting with Residence Life team staff. This meeting aims to provide a space for open and honest communication. If you choose, you will have the opportunity to help Residence Life build out a picture of what happened. The goal is not to shame or blame but, many students report feeling anxious about coming to this meeting. Think of the information gathering as an exercise to understand what happened and what needs to happen moving forward, instead of an effort to punish students. Should you choose not to participate, the Residence Life team will move forward without your input.	You might be worried or nervous about the decision. You should expect that the Residence Life team will be fair in their assessment of the situation. They will start looking at your matter afresh. When doing their work, the Residence Life team staff will endeavor to engage with you in a way that holds true to our principles and commitments while also considering the safety and security of students, staff and other members of the residence community.	In cases where the student has accepted responsibility for their role in the incident, and acknowledged the impact that it caused within the community – regardless of their intent – it is obviously less surprising. You might be feeling differently especially if you were hoping for another outcome. You might be shocked, angry, experiencing a range of emotions from guilt to worry or shame.	Most people will quickly get to saying, “I’m sorry”. Push pass that! You will want to build a plan that pays attention to the conditions required to shift behavior in meaningful ways. It is figuring out how to “feel sorry” and “reflect sorry in action” that is about the connections to other impacted people and the residence community more generally.
QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING					
• What happens next? • Will I get kicked out? • How many points do I have now? • How many points is this incident worth? • How do I fight this? • Will this impact my study permit?	• Should I tell my parents? • I’m worrying about this process and need support around that – who can I speak with separately? • I don’t know anyone here – what should I do?	• What if I have witnesses or other evidence, I want them to consider? • What should I do if I want to be honest, but I don’t want to get other people in trouble? • How will you use what I say? • What are the things that would make things better?	• There were some interim measures in my letter – before even hearing my side of the story, how is that fair? • This is my second time at Residence Life, will that make it worse? • What if there is a “no finding” against me for a violation but it still feels weird/ tense in residence?	• Will this affect my ability to continue living in the residence or impact my academic standing? • Is there an opportunity to appeal the decision if I don’t agree with it, and if so, what is the process? • I have ideas about how to make things right, can I just start doing that on my own or do I have to wait for a plan? • How long will this take?	• What if I initially didn’t participate in building the plan but I’d like to reconsider and participate now? • How am I supposed to come up with my own punishment? • What did the other person say they wanted or needed from me? • What if I don’t follow through on this plan?
HOW YOU CAN PREPARE FOR THIS STEP					
• Be informed of the allegation and process steps. • Respond to the notice by e-mail acknowledging receipt, and confirm your meeting. • Read over the Residence Community Living Guide. Pay attention to areas of concern.	• Be supported or represented, if requested. • Reach out to someone trusted, such as a close friend, family member, or counselor, to discuss concerns and fears. Sharing thoughts and feelings can provide emotional support and help gain a different perspective on the situation. • Set aside time following the meeting to connect with the support person and debrief.	• Be heard and participate in gathering information. • During the meeting, listen and stay composed. Take deep breaths, and speak clearly and respectfully. Maintaining composure will enable an individual to present their side of the story more effectively. • Write down thoughts and questions. Notes are a good way to ensure the important points are raised. • After the meeting, consider sending a follow-up email or letter to the Residence Life team summarizing key points discussed and any additional information an individual may want to provide.	• Be confident that process is unbiased and principled. • Focus on mental preparedness to help present the case in the best possible way. • Take time to identify the specific reasons behind personal worry about bias or unfairness. Are there past experiences that have influenced perception? • Be honest with the Residence Life team about concerns, and work together to build confidence that the process is principled and accessible. Break down concerns into specific issues to help them be addressed effectively.	• Be informed of decision & reasons. • Check in with a support person. • Follow up with the Residence Life team if there are further questions. If the decision is unclear, seek an explanation but do not attempt to argue a new position. • If interested, ask about the appeal process. • Start thinking about the resolution plan before the next meeting with the Residence Life team. Consider what people might need to start moving forward from this incident in a positive way.	• Be involved and informed when process is completed. • Build a plan that pays attention to the conditions required to shift behavior in meaningful ways. • A successful plan is one that focuses on addressing the harm caused, promotes a sense of responsibility for behaviour and impacts, and helps strength relationships in the residence community.

Interim Measures Following a Complaint

There are conditions that warrant a heightened level of concern for student safety, health, and well-being.

Interim measures are non-disciplinary conditions that may be imposed upon a Respondent where, and with respect to the circumstances, they are necessary to ensure:

- the safety and well-being of the Complainant, Respondent, staff, and the residence community, other Members of the University community;
- where there is evidence that the Respondent poses a threat of disruption or interference with the residence community or the activities of other residents.

Where interim measures are imposed, they must be proportionate to the seriousness of the alleged Residence Community Standards violation and as minimally restrictive as possible upon the Respondent to achieve their purpose. Interim measures may include but are not limited to immediate transfers or removals from residence, safety plans, and residence bans.

Decisions about interim measures are made by the Director of Residence Life and may be appealed in writing to the Assistant Vice Provost, Campus Living and Student Well-being within 5 calendar days of the letter being sent. The Director will be given an opportunity to respond to the appeal and the Assistant Vice Provost will provide a decision in writing.

Balance of Probabilities

The Residence Community Standard’s findings of responsibility are based on the balance of probabilities. This means that to make a finding of responsibility; the evidence shows it is more likely than not that the alleged violation occurred. The balance of probabilities involves listening, observing, and evaluating information with care to support fair, compassionate, and thoughtful resolution.

Assignment of Points

Points (explained in the “Residence Community Standards” section) are used to highlight the expected impact of negative behaviour to individuals or the broader residence community. As some offences are more severe than others, points are assigned according to the severity of the situation. Residence Life will be in contact with students as they receive points to work through plans that address concerns.

Resolution Plans

Resolution plans are developed in collaboration with students and the Residence Life team after a decision has been made about a community standard violation. These plans are designed with care and consideration for the full context looking at the circumstances, underlying causes, and the impact of what occurred. The purpose of a resolution plan is to support personal growth, foster understanding, and offer meaningful ways to repair harm. Each plan is tailored to meet the needs that arise from the situation and may involve various people who are best positioned to support a constructive path forward.

The Residence Life team will remain involved throughout the process to ensure students are supported, the plan remains achievable and relevant, and can be revisited at a student’s request. When a resolution plan is successfully completed, any related points will be removed. However, a record of the incident will be kept on file until the end of the academic year to maintain continuity and accountability.

Failure to participate in the resolution planning process will result in the assignment of points. If a student later wishes to re-engage in the resolution process, the Residence Life team is available to support and collaborate with them. If challenges arise during the completion of a plan whether due to unforeseen barriers or changes in circumstances, Residence Life staff will work with the student to identify what’s getting in the way and make appropriate adjustments.

If new incidents occur before the current plan is completed, the plan may be revised to address current needs in a coordinated and supportive manner.

Each resolution plan is unique. Some outcomes may involve a learning conversation or a caution, while others may include opportunities for restitution, support plans, hearing from those impacted, restriction from certain spaces or termination of the residence agreement. Not every situation will require a formal resolution plan, and the approach will always be guided by the specific needs of the situation.



Termination of a Residence Agreement

Dalhousie University is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive residence environment. While the goal is always to work collaboratively with students to address challenges, there are circumstances in which a student’s Residence Agreement will be terminated. In such cases, Residence Life and/or the Student Support Team will make every reasonable effort to support the student through the transition, considering their dignity and wellbeing are respected throughout the process.

Grounds for Termination

A Residence Agreement may be subject to termination under the following conditions:

- The student accrues six (6) points under the Residence Community Living Guide
- The nature of the violation is assessed as having caused significant harm to the residence community, and the situation cannot be resolved through a resolution plan
- The student has demonstrated repeated or particularly serious violations of the Residence Agreement or the Residence Community Living Guide
- The student is unwilling to participate in creating or following a resolution plan intended to repair harm or rebuild trust within the community

All decisions to terminate a residence agreement are made thoughtfully and in consultation with a standing Residence Operations Group, composed of representatives from Residence Life, Ancillary Services, and DalSAFE. This group operates independently from the Appeal Review Board to ensure fairness and objectivity.



Appeals Process

We recognize that the process of residence agreement termination can be distressing, and we are committed to ensuring that every student is heard and treated with fairness. If you are facing termination of your residence agreement, you may be eligible to submit an appeal. Outcomes, sanctions, and/or points assigned and agreed upon as part of the RCS Process alone cannot be appealed. Appeals requests will be reviewed by the Chair of the Appeal Review Board to determine if eligibility appeal is met.

Residence Life reserves the right to impose interim measures pending the outcome of appeal hearing. Any subsequent violations of the Residence Community Standards during the appeal period may result in immediate removal from residence, with no opportunity to appeal.

Eligibility for Appeal

You may request an appeal if at least one of the following conditions is met:

- New and relevant information has come to light since the original decision that could meaningfully alter the outcome
- There is credible evidence of bias during the decision-making process.
- The procedures outlined in the Residence Community Living Guide were not appropriately followed.

Please note: disagreement with the outcome alone or not participating in a scheduled conduct meeting without appropriate notice, does not constitute valid grounds for appeal.

How to Submit an Appeal

Appeals must be submitted within five (5) calendar days from the date of your decision letter. Appeals can be submitted using the “Residence Appeal Submission” form via eRezLife.

Submitting an appeal does not delay scheduled move-out date. If additional time to prepare for an appeal hearing is required or if the appeal hearing date extends beyond the termination date, an extension may be requested before the initial deadline, explaining the reason for the delay by contacting residencelife@dal.ca.

If a student fails to submit an appeal within five (5) calendar days, the right to appeal is forfeited unless a written request for an extension of time to submit an appeal is made before the initial deadline expires and satisfactory reasons for the delay are provided.

Your appeal submission must clearly outline:

- The grounds under which the appeal is being made (outlined above)
- The explanation/reasons that support the grounds for your appeal
- The appellant’s preferred resolution.
- Any supporting documents/information

Appellants are encouraged to seek support from the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS), dsas@dal.ca.

What Happens Following the Appeal Submission

The Chair of the Appeal Review Board will review a submission within 72 hours to determine whether the appeal meets the criteria. The Chair of the Appeal Review Board will review the Residence Community Standards Appeal Submission form when it is received. The appellant must clearly state which grounds for appeal have been met.

If an appeal request is deemed eligible, a virtual appeal review meeting will be arranged, and you will be scheduled using Dalhousie email.

If the submission does not meet appeal criteria, it will be dismissed, and you will be contacted using Dalhousie email. This decision is final.

The Appeal Review Board includes:

- The Chair (Director, Student Success –Truro Campus)
- A staff member from DalSAFE or Ancillary Services
- Two Student Representatives

The Board will review your appeal package, including any conduct history and new evidence you’ve provided. All information reviewed by the Board will also be made available to you.

During the Appeal Review Meeting

The Chair of the Appeal Review Board will distribute the Residence Community Standards Appeal Submission package to the Appeal Review Board. If required, the Chair of the Appeal Review Board may request additional information about the student’s

conduct history from the Residence Life team. All documents sent to the Appeal Review Board will also be made available to the student by the Chair of the Appeal Review Board.

The Appeal Review Board will review the appeal submission package within five (5) calendar days after receipt of the case files from the Residence Life team. The appeal submission package will include the incident report(s), supporting documents from the original decision, the resolution plan and any relevant new information presented by the student during the meeting and/or submitted in writing with their appeal submission.

Appeal hearings (if granted) will be led by the Chair of the Appeal Review Board. The hearing will begin with an overview of the case presented by the Chair. The student will then be able to share information to the Appeal Review Board, and if a DSAS advocate is present, they may also provide additional comments. After the Appeal Review Board has asked questions, the hearing will conclude, and the Appeal Board will determine the outcome of the hearing.

The Appeal Review Board’s decision will be communicated by the Chair to the appellant within 24 hours via Dalhousie email.

Possible Outcomes of an Appeal

The Appeal Review Board may:

- Uphold the original decision
- Overturn the decision
- Amend the original outcome

All decisions will be provided in writing with the rationale explained. These decisions are final and cannot be appealed further.

Financial Hardship

Students who have been evicted may also request a waiver of the 60-day financial penalty outlined in the Residence Agreement by demonstrating financial hardship. This request should be sent by email to the Director, Residence Life with any relevant supporting documentation.

This process is designed to ensure that every student is treated with respect, compassion, and fairness, even in difficult circumstances. We understand that these moments can be challenging, and we encourage students to reach out for support throughout.

Residence Contacts

▶ Dalhousie Residence Office

902-494-1054
residence@dal.ca

▶ Residence Life

residencelife@dal.ca

▶ Student Support Team

dal.ca/support-team
studentsupport@dal.ca

▶ Residence front desks

Gerard Hall: 902-494-1481
Glengary Apartments: 902-494-1083
Graduate House: 902-494-1481
Howe Hall: 902-494-2108
LeMarchant Place: 902-494-2933
Mini-Res: 902-494-2108
Risley Hall: 902-494-1083
Shirreff Hall: 902-494-2428

▶ WiFi, TV & Phone Support

902-377-4325
oncampus@corp.eastlink.ca
dal.ca/residence-amenities

▶ Food Services

dal.ca/mealplan
902-494-2078
food@dal.ca
dietitian@dal.ca

▶ DalSAFE

902-494-6400
security@dal.ca
dal.ca/dalsafe

▶ Off-Campus Contacts

Emergency (fire, medical, police, ambulance, poison control): 911
Police (24-hour non-emergency): 902-490-5020
Municipal Services and Information: 311

▶ On-Campus Contacts

DalCard Office

- Studley Campus: 902-494-2334
- Sexton Campus: 902-494-6047
- dalcard@dal.ca
- dal.ca/dalcard

Student Health & Wellness

- 902-494-2171
- dal.ca/student-health

Dalhousie Student Union: 902-494-1106

**Your
dorm room's
delivery
address**

Student name
Box #
Residence Name
Residence Address
PO Box 15000
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4R2