

# GRADUATE ASSISTANT INFORMATION PACKET

SPRING 2018

January 2018

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Assistantship at the Center for Student Leadership Development (CSLD) at the University of Rhode Island.

URI has an extensive and nationally recognized leadership development program. Not only do we provide a wide variety of co-curricular leadership development opportunities for students, but we also are fortunate to teach within the academic minor in Leadership Studies with support from the Leadership Advisory Committee. CSLD Graduate Assistants have the opportunity to participate in both the co-curricular and curricular aspects of the program.

Graduate Assistants are expected to work 20 hours per week, however the schedule can be more demanding due to the high performance level of this office. Please note that there are busy times and slow times, therefore the hours that are worked over 20 each week can be added up and saved so that our GA can get paid over vacations and other times off throughout the year.

The CSLD is a busy, exciting, and at times chaotic place. As a Strengths-based department, we challenge ourselves to remain focused on the development of our students, of each other, and of the university as a whole. Fortunately, we are encouraged to be innovative and autonomous in our work. As a result, we do the same with our students. During any given semester, we not only teach our classes, facilitate retreats and challenge courses, but we also engage in professional development, assessment, and supervise students and organizations. The Office of Student Involvement and Memorial Union Operations Department are also housed in the Memorial Union, so if you want additional experience in activities or building management, we can arrange for that as well.

In addition to an outstanding paraprofessional experience, the Graduate Assistant also earns a stipend of \$17,724.00 distributed over nine months in addition to a tuition waiver and health insurance on an annual basis. Summer employment is also a possibility at an hourly wage.

Please note that in order to be eligible for this assistantship, you must be accepted into an established graduate program at the University of Rhode Island. If you are interested in the College Student Personnel Program, you must apply directly to Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro, University of Rhode Island, Graduate School, Quinn Hall, Kingston, RI, 02881 or contact (401) 874-2270. Visit [web.uri.edu/human-development/csp](http://web.uri.edu/human-development/csp) for more information.

To apply for this assistantship, please send a cover letter and resume before February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to the link provided via the graduate school. The College Student Personnel Program coordinates a welcome day in early March (3/9/2018) and interested candidates of this program are expected to attend the event for an initial interview if selected. Additional interviews may be scheduled during this day, by phone, or via on-line interviewing technologies.

Good luck in your search for a graduate program and assistantship that meet your needs and desires!

Most sincerely,



Melissa A. Boyd-Colvin  
Assistant Director, Student Leadership; Adjunct Faculty, Human Development & Family Studies  
Room #210, Memorial Union  
50 Lower College Road  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI 02881

Other contact information: 401-874-2726, [mboyd@uri.edu](mailto:mboyd@uri.edu); info about CSLD: [web.uri.edu/leadership](http://web.uri.edu/leadership)

January 2018

Dear Potential Candidates,

My goal with this letter is to inform you about my experience as the Graduate Assistant (GA) with the Center for Student Leadership Development (CSLD). I will try to be transparent and speak my truth; I am merely trying to paint a picture as I, Luckson Omoh Omoaregba, experienced it. Hopefully my words will shed some light on if this position is the right fit for you.

I would first like to start off by saying that this Graduate Assistantship was a dream come true for me. As an alumnus of this university I was fortunate enough to get involved in the Leadership minor in my first year at URI. I owe the genesis of my journey into student affairs and higher education to the staff in the center. The minor allowed me to recognize my strengths at an early stage in my development as a student. Due to that recognition I got very involved, surrounded myself with mentors and sponsors who made sure I was successful here at URI. It was not always easy, I stayed an extra 5th year, had some family challenges which led to financial challenges, some loved ones lost, but at the end of the day I am sitting here writing this letter, I owe a ton of that to the knowledge and skills I developed as an undergraduate and graduate student through the minor.

I started working with the CSLD a week prior to my contractual start date in August, 2017. Since I was already familiar with the staff, graduate interns and other individuals who work in the office where the center is housed I got settled in fairly easy. In the weeks before the semester started I was able to get acclimated with my office space, technology (computer, printer, Google team drive, CSLD network drive., etc.), payroll, schedule weekly meetings with my direct supervisor, Melissa Boyd-Colvin, schedule weekly meetings with HDF 290 instructors, prepare a syllabus for my URI 101 course, learn about professional development opportunities available, and assist with the Leadership Institute and the Greek Leadership Summit, among other things. My experience with the CSLD has been amazing because of the dynamic opportunities I have had to serve students inside and outside of the classroom. Teaching the first year introductory course, URI 101, and co-teaching the leadership introductory course, HDF 290, have provided me with the time and space to develop lesson plans, observe and implement the developmental concepts learned in the classroom, advice and support students 1-on-1, and create an inclusive learning environment.

In my time with the center I also got to work with the two graduate interns in the CSLD and a few superstar undergraduate students to create a leadership development workshop (Sophomore Breakthrough Experience) for second year students involved with the minor. Designing and implementing this leadership development workshop really provided me with the chance to apply theories and concepts learned in the classroom and apply them to a program geared specifically for 2nd year students.

The opportunities to teach and to design/ implement leadership concepts and theories are just a few of the many experiences available with the Center. Experiential education remains one of the cornerstone aspects of the CSLD. Coordinator, Alison Jackson Frasier, is one of trusted gatekeepers of the North Woods Challenge Course and the Alton Jones Challenge course. If you seek an opportunity to work outdoors and with heights, in woodland areas, facilitate challenge courses, belay participants on the rock climbing wall, and develop programming for URI and community organizations this position is also perfect for you.

Although all my experiences with the CSLD have been great and aided in my development as a future student affairs professional, there have certainly been challenges. In the HDF 290 course I co-teach, I had to get used to grading papers, in-class presentations, websites and outcomes. It took me the semester to figure out my grading philosophy, with the help of another Coordinator, Melissa Camba-Kelsay I feel a lot more confident as a grader.

As one of my predecessors, Michelle Rosa, said in her letter to those interested in this position: On a weekly basis you will find yourself teaching academic courses to first-year students as well as upper-class students, facilitating outdoor adventure retreats or workshops, actively planning an upcoming event, advising students, working on marketing projects, and even participating in a variety of committees. Your day is never dull and there is never a lack of work or students to work and engage with. But for those of you that need a few more details, I suggest that you think about these questions:

- Do you enjoy working on a team but are equally motivated to work independently?
- Do you have an abundance of energy for a fast paced environment?
- Do you like the outdoors enough to spend some weekends on a Challenge Course?
- Can you think of yourself as a member of professional staff with the full responsibilities to make quick decisions and step up?
- Can you ride the roller coaster with students as they have the highs of accomplishment and lows of stress and life challenges?

My solo year with the CSLD would not have meant as much without the relationships I built with the staff. Assistant Director Melissa Boyd-Colvin has always been my guiding light in times of adversity and success, her door was always open for me and her kindness has never let me down. Coordinator Melissa Camba-Kelsay's brilliance, strength and fearlessness provided me with a sense of reassurance and grace to be confident in who I was and what I could be. Coordinator Alison Jackson Frasier's ability to challenge me and the students around her and to be incredibly genuine at all times is a constant breath of fresh air. Coordinator Robert Vincent's ideation and passion of students is palpable.

If you have any questions about the position, I would be more than happy to meet or talk with you. You can contact me at 401-874-5284 or via e-mail at [lomoaregba@uri.edu](mailto:lomoaregba@uri.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luckson O. Omoaregba', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Luckson O. Omoaregba  
Graduate Assistant, Center for Student Leadership Development, URI Memorial Union  
HDF Graduate Candidate, College Student Personnel, Class of 2018

**THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND**  
CENTER FOR STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**CSLD GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Memorial Union/Center for Student Leadership Development at the University of Rhode Island is offering a two-year Graduate Assistantship in student leadership development. The Center maintains and encourages individual affiliation with various professional associations: National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs, ACUI (Association of College Unions International), NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators), and ACPA (Association of College Personnel Administrators).

At URI, we are among only a handful of colleges and universities across the country that offers a Minor in Leadership Studies and one that is customized for each student. We utilize a cross-disciplinary approach to leadership education designed to complement your academic studies. All courses utilize a variety of teaching methods but ultimately include some form of experiential learning, practical application, and reflective learning.

**CSLD Mission Statement**

To enhance the mission of the University of Rhode Island, The Center for Student Leadership Development aims to:

- Provide developmental opportunities for all students to become informed, inclusive, effective, and ethical leaders in the global marketplace through the implementation of learner-centered academic, experiential, and co-curricular programming.
- Engage in research, assessment, and advancement in order to positively impact the expanding field of leadership studies.

**CSLD Vision Statement**

The URI Center for Student Leadership Development will promote dynamic strengths-based leadership development through multiple delivery methods to prepare students to be competitive in the workplace and global marketplace. The CSLD seeks to progress as innovators for experiential engagement and student engagement.

**CSLD Values Statement**

Grounded in the Social Change Model of Leadership Development (Higher Education Research Institute), Relational Leadership Model (Komives, Lucas, & McMahon), and Servant Leadership (Greenleaf), the URI Center for Student Leadership Development values:

- Engaged and experiential learning through a constructivist approach
- Inclusion, Social Justice, and Civic Engagement
- Ethical and Value-based Leadership & Relationship Building
- Innovative Assessment and Presentation Models

***The team of the Center for Student Leadership Development includes:*** Assistant Director for Student Leadership, three Coordinators of Student Leadership, the Graduate Assistant, and various interns. The Graduate Assistant reports to the Assistant Director but works closely with all team members.

***The duties of the Graduate Assistant position include the following:***

- Each spring, teach one section of an introductory leadership class, either HDF 190: FLITE (First Year Leaders Inspired to Excellence) or HDF 290: Modern Leadership Issues, each supervised by one of the staff Coordinator.
- Teach or co-teach an additional leadership class (Modern Leadership Issues, Personal & Organization Leadership, Leadership for Social Change, Peer Mentoring (for HDF 190, HDF 291 – Rose Butler Browne Women of Color Mentoring Program, or HDF 413 – Student Organization Leadership Consultants). Teaching responsibility decisions will be made at the beginning of each year, and depend on the interests and strengths of the Graduate Assistant and the needs of the Center. Graduate Assistants are never required to teach more than one class per semester.
- There are opportunities to teach/advise the Student Organization Leadership Consultants, a group of students who, under the staff's guidance, plan and facilitate leadership and group development workshops for student groups. This is also a teaching opportunity as the consultants typically enroll in the Center's HDF 413 course in spring semesters.
- Serve as a leadership development/ropes course facilitator at retreats, training sessions, etc. for student groups as part of the Center's student leadership development consulting services. (Ropes course training opportunities will be provided and Graduate Assistants are required to be trained).
- Chair and/or serve on selected Center event planning committees (Rose Butler Browne Women of Color Conference, North Woods Challenge Course, Leadership Certificate Program (LCP) and/or the First-Year Student Leadership Institute). Participation decisions will be made at the beginning of each year, and depend on the interests and strengths of the Graduate Assistant and the needs of the Center.
- Represent the Center on campus-wide and community committees (Rainville Leadership Awards, Diversity Week, Leadership Kick Off events, Greek Leadership Summit, selection committees). Participation decisions will be made at the beginning of each year, and depend on the interests and strengths of the Graduate Assistant and the needs of the Center.
- Participate in additional programs sponsored by the President's Office and the Division of Student Affairs.

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
CENTER FOR STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT URI

**Leadership Development Tracks:**

The CSLD offers an interdisciplinary, experiential approach to leadership development offering a number of curricular and co-curricular options for students arranged in the track offerings noted below. Class enrollment varies from 15-60 depending on the class and semester, and program participation varies depending on the target population and timing of the program.

Track: Emerging Leaders

- HDF 190: F.L.I.T.E (First Year Leaders Inspired to Excellence) - 2 sections in spring
- HDF 290: Modern Leadership Issues - 3 sections per year
- First Year Student Leadership Institute - Annually

Track: Personal & Organizational Leadership

- HDF 416: Personal & Organizational Leadership - 1 section in spring
- Greek Leadership Summit – Twice annually
- Leadership Professional Development Day - Annually

Track: Leadership for Social Change

- Women of Color Conference - Annually
- HDF 412: Leadership Minor Capstone (Historical Alternative, and Multiethnic Leadership Studies) - 1 section in fall
- HDF 414: Leadership for Activism & Social Change - 1 section per year

Track: Experiential Leadership

- HDF 413: Student Organization Leadership Consulting - 1 section in fall and spring
- HDF 417: Leadership Minor Internship - 1 section in fall, spring and summer
- HDF 492: Leadership Minor Portfolio
- The North Woods Challenge Course

Track: Peer Leadership

- HDF 291: Rose Butler Browne Leadership and Mentoring Program - 1 section in spring
- HDF 415: FLITE Peer Leaders - 1 section in spring
- The Leadership Institute - Annually