

RUSU STUDENT HEARINGS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Information for potential volunteers

RMIT convenes hearings on the academic progress and general conduct of RMIT students. If an RMIT student has poor academic progress or faces an allegation of academic or general misconduct, they have the right to present their case and be heard. These hearings are arbitrated by committees consisting of RMIT staff with a representative from the RMIT student body.

RUSU coordinates the Student Representatives who act on RMIT Hearings Committees. RUSU Student Hearings volunteers are trained in RMIT policies and rules, and how to apply these in deciding students' cases. They hear a variety of different matters and interact with senior members of RMIT staff.

Should I volunteer?

You may like to volunteer if you enjoy:

- Reading and analysing documents
- Articulating your opinions
- Deciding outcomes based on evidence and policies
- Contributing to a fair and just system for RMIT students

If you're volunteering to make friends or learn practical skills - like cooking or serving customers - you may find one of RUSU's other volunteer programmes more relevant. Student Hearings volunteers work largely alone and undirected, with their work involving analysis and evaluation.

What does it involve?

We expect Student Hearings volunteers to:

- Regularly attend 1+ hour hearings
- Attend training
- Respond promptly to emails and telephone calls
- Carefully read documents and prepare for hearings
- Actively contribute to panel discussions

Student Representative on hearings committees often have a different perspective to RMIT staff members and are more likely to empathise with an RMIT student and why they may have acted a certain way. Student Hearings volunteers may have to debate with senior members of RMIT staff, and can face challenging situations and difficult content.

The role of Student Representatives on RMIT hearings committees means that a student voice is heard in deliberations on student matters. It can make a great deal of difference for students who are in difficult situations. For volunteers, it's an opportunity to learn specialised skills and to participate in a unique part of RMIT.

Want to volunteer?

Sign up on the RUSU website: www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/volunteer