

Monash Residential Services ...More Than Just a Room

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Monash Residential Services is a unique division of one of the most prestigious universities in Australia. Like other divisions of the university, it has a clear mission, clear goals and clear outcomes. Its uniqueness comes from the fact that it operates on a 24-hour lifecycle.

Welcome to a short moment in that life, where we hope to show you that Monash Residential Services is a lot more than just a room.

Hello there. How are you? Checking in? Fantastic.

Narrator

Monash Residential Services provides quality on campus accommodation options at most campuses of Monash University.”

Residents at MRS, which is what we call Monash Residential Services, receive the benefit of being part of an enormously supportive environment.

The journey begins in your room when you arrive and unpack. A room with 4 walls like any other bedroom. It may be smaller or it may be larger than the one you’re used to, but it’s your room and new home. It’s special because this room adjoins other rooms, which adjoin indoor common rooms, which lead to outdoor common areas and so it continues.

Member of RST 1

Welcome to our residential community.

We have just finished a fantastic O week full of activities and fun that’s been a really wonderful introduction for our first year residents into what community living is all about.

And by all accounts we have a year full of social, educational and sporting activities which will make this year as successful as the previous years have been.

But living in a residential community is more than just activities. It’s to do with support, and on behalf of the Residential Support Team I’d like to ask every one of you if you have any problems at all, any questions or just feel like you need a chat, that you’d like to come forward and talk to me, the Deputy Head, or any members of our Residential Support Team.

Resident 1

When I first arrived, I was worried about being lonely, but there is always something happening and someone to talk to here. I’m glad that MRS runs social activities to help foster positive interactions between their residents. They have made me feel very welcome and comfortable.

Resident 2

I'm glad that I was able to help a resident when she felt lonely during the first two weeks of the Semester. The training I received before O-week was invaluable as we were able to share ideas and experience with other Resident Advisors. This really enabled me look for the signs and think outside the square when faced with a problem.

Resident 3

The UniSmart production showed me that I had a choice with all the decisions that I made and the things that I had to do like growing up. Having other first years around really provided me with a support network that encouraged me to go to things, gave me people I could go with, cos otherwise I don't know if I would have gone.

Narrator

MRS has created a safe and caring environment by working co-operatively with Monash Security and other services personnel. The first contact with this group may be when a student arrives after hours, or during a regular evening patrol. The security of having these people to escort residents from University buildings at night, to open rooms when the keys are left inside, or to patrol car parks, is of paramount importance to students living away from home.

Resident 4

Coming from overseas, living on-campus has many great advantages especially when accessing campus facilities such as Sports and Recreational Centres, libraries and computer labs which are only a stones throw away. I have nothing to worry about when it comes to transportation and it's only about 5 minutes walk from my house to my classes.

Narrator

MRS is an environment in which we celebrate the similarities and respect the differences between all nationalities represented. With such a diverse group of residents from more than 40 countries, we challenge ourselves every day by acknowledging our limitations and improving our services to meet individual and group needs.

Resident 5

In my residence there's people from 4 different countries. And it's been really great to try all the different foods that they cook and we've even been able to sample heaps of dishes from the MRS events like the International Food Festival. So thanks to everyone I've learned to tolerate really spicy curries and enjoy heaps of noodle dishes and I've even tried sushi.

Resident 6

Yeah the cooking classes were really informative and fun. After coming for a few classes, I was actually able to make simple dishes back in my residence.

Yeah, people really enjoyed that, fried eggs and sort of things like that. I had no idea how to make those. Well I'm actually glad that MRS tailors its program to suit our personal needs. It actually encouraged us to meet new people in a safe and relaxed environment.

Narrator

As a large community with over 2000 residents, MRS strives to ensure that all residents receive the full benefit of their time with us by encouraging them to live a balanced lifestyle. We recognise that living away from home can be daunting and we try to help our residents balance their academic, sporting, social and personal commitments as it's their first step towards experiencing what it will be like as independent young adults.

Resident 7

Living at MRS for the past 2 ½ years has definitely been a worthwhile experience. It's allowed me to blend in with the Australian culture yet at the same time, it's a home away from home. You get to widen your perspective by meeting people from other nations and from a social aspect; you will meet and make new friends all year round.

Resident 3

I'm really sleepy right now. Yeah we had to wake up really early to go on this trip but we had a great time. I really enjoyed myself, getting outside, being with nature, sort of just the fresh air. It's a great experience and really relaxing. Yeah, beautiful landscape, beautiful beautiful landscape. No I look forward to doing this more often, just getting out there and seeing things, to take my mind off schoolwork and help me relax so that when I do get back to it then I can study hard.

Resident 8

It's great to be out on a sunny day like this and give something back to the community. Clean Up Australia Day is one of the many environmental initiatives that MRS residents can participate in and it's very rewarding to a part of it. There is a sense of achievement even though we're only cleaning up surrounding areas and planting a few trees."

Narrator

At MRS, we make every effort to ensure that students with disabilities are assisted in every way possible. Special accommodation facilities enable students with a variety of disabilities to live on-campus and complete their studies. Toilets, bathroom and shower facilities have been modified for a number of units or houses with some units providing wheel chair access.

Member of RST 2

Hi. I'm Laura and welcome to our first residential entertainment night for the year. We've got many talented residents side stage and have a fantastic program set out for you tonight. So let's get things started, grab a drink, get comfortable. We've got a full house here tonight so be prepared to be entertained.

Resident 9

With all the activities going on and so many people around, I was concerned that it would be difficult to study, but things have quietened down since the Orientation Week and the study groups at Monash Residential Services have been really helpful. I also attended the Faculty afternoon and some of the study skill seminars offered by the Monash Residential Services.

Resident 10

The supportive atmosphere of a student residence is unbeatable. It's great that you're greeted by friendly faces from the moment you arrive and throughout the semester you're never short of company. If you're ever in need of some academic support, one of your neighbours is probably an experienced later year student who can help you and study groups are so easy to organise when you live next door to your classmates.

The Director

MRS takes pride in the environment it creates in that it furthers a student's prospects of achieving their very best at Monash University. Statistics over the past 5 years show that students living in MRS accommodation have higher pass rate results than the general student population.

The feedback we receive from residents in the delivery of quality accommodation services at MRS. Each year, exit surveys have resulted in operational, administrative and physical environment changes that have improved the daily lives of our residents. The improvement in retention rates is a good key indicator of this success."

Narrator

MRS gives residents the opportunity for personal development and leadership responsibilities in a nurturing environment. It also acknowledges that some residents just want personal space. All needs can be addressed at MRS.

Resident 5

I'm really going to miss this place after graduation; it has been like a home away from home the last few years. The friendships and even the memories – I'm going to treasure forever.

Narrator

Monash Residential Services is proud of the positive difference it makes in the lives of so many Monash University students. Its 24 hour life provides challenges for all involved, but more importantly it allows Monash staff and students the opportunity to grow together.

And that journey of opportunities, challenges, education and growth is why at Monash Residential Services, it is more than just a room.

MRS would like to thank and acknowledge the enthusiasm and cooperation of the residents and staff who were part of this promotion.

The footage in this production is a representation of MRS facilities across several campuses, Facilities may vary at each site.

To obtain campus specific information please go to:

<http://www.mrs.monash.edu.au/>

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