Position: Student Lead, SOAR

Term:
January 17, 2022 – August 26, 2022 (potential to extend to September 11, 2022)

Academic year – 10 hours/week
Summer – 35 hours/week

Evening and weekend hours may be required.

Remuneration: $14.92 *(Hourly rate is inclusive of 4% vacation pay)*

Student Lead, SOAR
Position Description

Background
The Student Experience Office (SEO) in the Division of Student Affairs at Queen’s offers programs and services to orient students to university life, to support their successful transitions into and through university, and to encourage leadership development, student engagement, and co-curricular involvement while at Queen's. Our goal is to support a holistic student experience that prepares students to achieve not only their personal, social, and academic goals, but also their professional and community aspirations.

Summer Orientation to Academics and Resources (SOAR) aims to help ease the transition of incoming first-year students and their families/supporters. Participants learn about academic expectations, resources, learning strategies, and common student transition issues, as well as meet their peers, upper-year students, and have a chance to ask questions and discuss concerns with appropriate university resources.

Typically, over 800 students and 1000 family members attend this one-day pre-arrival program, which runs six times during the month of July. Due to COVID-19, SOAR was run virtually the past two years through onQ and included live and recorded events, as well as activities that students could do at their own pace. COVID restrictions permitting, SOAR 2022 is expected to be a combination of both in-person and virtual programming.

Job Summary
Reporting to the Coordinator, Student & Transition Programs, the SOAR Student Assistant will focus on supporting student transition at Queen's University, primarily by supporting the planning and implementation of the in-person, on-campus Summer Orientation to Academics and Resources (SOAR) program.
Key Duties

1. Program Development
   - Liaise and build relationships with campus stakeholders who give input into the design of programs or provide program support. This includes faculty members, upper-year students, department support staff, and various Student Affairs units such as Residence Life, Health Promotion, Event Services, Career Services, Learning Strategies, and BISC Student Services.
   - Help build and deliver in-person SOAR program activities, such as the student-led session for connecting new students with upper-year students.
   - Assist in the development of program schedules
   - Work with campus partners to guide session content and objectives
   - Ensure all programming is inclusive and accessible, and meets the diverse needs of the incoming class

2. Event Planning
   - Assist in planning the logistics of in-person SOAR 2022, including securing venues/event sites, coordinating event logistics, arranging A/V and equipment, and preparing catering orders.
   - Create and complete event runs, event layouts, volunteer responsibilities, event planning forms, and other documents required to ensure events run smoothly.
   - Coordinate event registration, including updating the event registration system, monitoring registration numbers, and communicating with registrants.
   - Create and execute work plans
   - Support the Virtual Transition Programs Student Assistant with virtual programming as needed

3. Communication
   - Implement a comprehensive marketing and promotions strategy, including print and electronic communications (e.g., posters, website, social media, brochures, handouts) in collaboration with Marketing & Communications and other SEO staff members.
   - Update and maintain the program website with the most recent information.
   - Participate in the development and implementation of social media campaigns aimed at connecting and engaging incoming first year students.
   - Ensure all stakeholders are kept up to date on the progress of SOAR, and any other details relevant to them.
   - Act as the main contact for students and guests who have questions about the program.

4. Leadership
   - Support the recruitment and hiring of short-term Peer Ambassadors, and take the lead on the development of training sessions
   - Provide leadership to a team of staff/volunteers (e.g., SOAR student staff, PASS advisors, staff volunteers) during the implementation of SOAR programming.
   - Develop resource materials for staff and volunteers
   - Be a role model by upholding community standards during programming and events as a representative of the Student Experience Office and addressing any disruptive, disrespectful and/or inappropriate behaviour.
   - Engage in ongoing professional development
   - Develop and deliver training sessions for peers
• Review research and best practices related to inclusive, diverse, and accessible student life programs.

5. Support First-Year Student Transition to Queen’s
• Be knowledgeable of campus and community resources (including academic, social, safety, health, and others), and able to refer others when appropriate.
• Review research and best practices related to orientation and transition programs.

6. Departmental Administration
• Attend staff meetings, one on ones, and other meetings as appropriate
• Provide administrative and programming support to the SEO as needed.
• Complete verbal and written reports in a timely manner
• Write program reports following the completion of events and activities, including analyzing feedback and making recommendations for future years.
• Additional duties as assigned

Skills Required
The SOAR Student Assistant must:
• Have experience planning and implementing large projects or large-scale events
• Be knowledgeable about the experiences of new students and the transition supports available; previous experience working with programming for new students an asset (e.g. don, peer mentor, involvement in leading orientation activities)
• Role modeling appropriate behaviours during programming
• Be able to work independently and on a team with excellent interpersonal skills
• Demonstrate strong project management and event planning skills, including mapping out complicated project plans, setting priorities, and meeting deadlines.
• Have highly developed technical skills and be knowledgeable in computer software programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
• Have previous experience using onQ is considered an asset
• Be able to exercise good judgment and sound reasoning
• Demonstrate decision-making and creative problem-solving skills
• Have strong oral and written communication skills
• Be comfortable speaking in front of large crowds
• Be familiar with social media and other promotional tools
• Demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of equity, diversity, and inclusion principles

Eligibility
The SOAR Student Assistant must:
• Be a registered Queen’s student and remain in good academic standing for the duration of their work term.
• Be legally entitled to work in Canada; International students must hold a valid study permit.
• Submit a satisfactory Canadian Police Information Check (CPIC) and Vulnerable Sector Check within 2 weeks of beginning the work term. They will be responsible to maintain a clean CPIC and Vulnerable Sector Check for the duration of their employment.
Discuss with their supervisor immediately if, at any point during their work term, they are unable to fulfill these requirements or their status changes.

**Time Commitment**

- This role will be expected to work from the office in Kingston for the duration of the contract. Remote arrangements will only be required if implemented by KF&LA Public Health and Queen's guidance.
- The work term will be January 2022 – August 2022, weekly hours are outlined below:
  - **January 2022-April 2022**
    - Up to 10 hours per week, with occasional weekend and evening hours
    - Hours will not be assigned during Exam Periods, or Reading Week
  - **May 2022-August 2022**
    - 35 hours per week, with occasional weekend and evening hours, including SOAR dates (potential SOAR dates are July 9-10, 16-17, 22-23)
- The Student Lead, SOAR will be asked to establish office hours with supervisors at the beginning of the employment period.

**Remuneration**: $14.92 (hourly rate is inclusive of 4% vacation pay)

**Application Instructions**

Please submit your Cover Letter and Resume via the application form here: [https://bit.ly/SEOStudentLead](https://bit.ly/SEOStudentLead)

If you have any questions or issue with the application, please email Hanna Knowles at [hanna.knowles@queensu.ca](mailto:hanna.knowles@queensu.ca)

Applications are due November 21, 2021, at 11:59pm
Interviews will be on November 24-25, 2021

*We thank you for your application. Only those individuals who are selected for an interview will be contacted.*

*We are committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcome applications from individuals from equity seeking groups such as women, racialized/visible minorities, Indigenous/Aboriginal peoples, persons with a disability, persons who identify in the LGBTQ2S+ community and others who reflect the diversity of Canadian society.*