The Campus Observation Room

The Campus Observation Room (COR) is a voluntary, confidential, non-judgmental place where students who have had too much to drink can come to sleep it off. COR operates as a non-medical detox service run by Student Wellness Services in partnership with Kingston Community Health Sciences Centre (KCHS). COR is a harm-reduction program aimed at reducing the risk of alcohol-related injury by assessing and monitoring intoxicated students, and referring them to a medical facility when warranted.

COR is an integral part of the Queen's University initiative to reduce the negative outcomes associated with excessive alcohol use. Its primary goal is to reduce the risk of alcohol-related injury or death through observation of intoxicated individuals using established protocols.

COR Volunteer Responsibilities

The greatest risks to an intoxicated individual's safety and well-being are choking on vomit, falling and sustaining an injury or, in extreme circumstances, going into respiratory arrest. COR volunteers help prevent tragic events by monitoring intoxicated students, providing support and getting additional medical support when the situation warrants.

Under the direction of a trained detox worker from KCHS (Hotel Dieu Detox Centre), volunteers assess and monitor intoxicated individuals to ensure their safety. Training is provided and volunteers are encouraged to assist the detox workers or take the lead as they feel comfortable.

COR opens from 8pm, 9pm or 10pm until 7am the following morning during Orientation Week and on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the fall term and January. It is also open for St. Patrick's Day. Volunteers sign up for shifts, 4 - 6 hours in length, as fits with their schedules.

All volunteers are required to attend training in Orientation Week, and to work for 8 shifts (at least 4 regular shifts and up to 4 on-call shifts) throughout the year. In the fall semester, especially during Orientation Week, volunteers are involved with activities that help promote and educate students about the service COR offers and safe alcohol consumption.

COR plays an important safety role during busy times, such as Homecoming, Halloween and St. Patrick’s Day. Volunteers are required to be available for at least one shift during both of these high peak times.

Harm Reduction Philosophy

Staff and volunteers take a non-judgemental approach to those who need observation. Volunteers take a harm reduction approach to all alcohol education – we promote safety and smart choices, not abstinence.
Qualifications

- Current Queen’s University student- enrolled in current academic year and eligible to return to Queen’s University for the upcoming academic year.
- An interest in helping keep Queen’s students safe and working in an on-campus safety service.
- An appreciation of common health concerns faced by post-secondary students and of how alcohol is connected to physical, mental and social health.
- An interest in harm reduction and alcohol misuse and a willingness to learn more about these areas, including how to provide care to an intoxicated person.
- Be self-directed and able to take initiative to solve problems.
- Be able to work on a team with diverse professionals, and take direction as required.
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to communicate in challenging situations.
- Presentation skills to deliver information about COR to small and medium sized-groups during outreach events (training is provided).
- Technical skills to prepare health communication materials (posters, etc.) would be considered an asset.
- Be able to sign and uphold the Student Wellness Services confidentiality agreement.
- Be available to complete at least 8 shifts in COR (4 in-person and 4 on-call) and support COR outreach and education (approx. 10 hours)
- Be available to volunteer for one shift over both the Homecoming & St. Patrick’s Day weekends.
- Successful completion of CPR-A Certification before starting shifts in COR. *Note* CPR-A certification (or greater - CPR B and CPR C are also valid) is required to volunteer in COR. An opportunity to attend a CPR-A course free of charge will be offered to all successful applicants in September, so applicants DO NOT require this certification to apply to the position of COR volunteer.

Volunteers also need to be available to attend the mandatory full day COR training day during Orientation week (Sunday September 6, 2020). Volunteers involved in a leadership position during Orientation week or with other special circumstances will be able to attend a make-up training during the first two weeks of classes.