Roosevelt Fellow FAQs

Interested in becoming a Roosevelt Fellow, but aren’t sure what the position might entail? Here are some frequently asked questions to give you some background!

Q: Who is eligible to be a Roosevelt Fellow?
A: Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for the position of Roosevelt Fellow. The commitment is for the full academic year, so students studying abroad in 2018-2019 or graduating in Fall 2018 are not eligible. Roosevelt Fellows have a variety of academic interests and are engaged in a range of extracurricular activities.

Q: What qualities are you looking for in your candidates?
A: We are looking for students who are academically engaged, demonstrate balance between academics and extracurricular activities, show resilience in bouncing back from challenges, and who take advantage of many different campus resources. Strong candidates will also have a keen interest in working with first-year students. We value diversity in all of its forms and believe it is critical to building a Roosevelt Fellow team that reflects the identities of the student body. Roosevelt Fellows have strong study habits, but there is no specific GPA cutoff for this position. We are looking for students who can represent a variety of academic perspectives, and we welcome students with one major to apply.

Q: What does applying to be a Roosevelt Fellow entail?
A: Students interested in applying to be a Roosevelt Fellow should first sign up for a group interview time slot with some basic personal information. Students studying abroad in spring 2018 should sign up for a fall group interview. Group interviews will be held on November 15 & 28 and February 8 & 12 from 5:30-7:00 pm. Written application materials will be due on March 1 at 5:00 pm. Candidates will be selected for individual interviews in March, and final decisions will be made in late March.

Q: Is the group interview required?
A: The group interview is not required but strongly recommended for us to get to know you better and see how you work in a team setting. If you are unable to make any of the group interviews, please contact Katie Dunn at kdunn@brandeis.edu.

Q: What are the responsibilities of a Roosevelt Fellow?
A: Roosevelt Fellows are peer academic advisors who help students, in particular first years, transition to Brandeis academically and personally and plan for successful college careers. Roosevelt Fellow responsibilities include: holding 1-2 advising office hours each week, communicating with assigned advisees during the summer and academic year, attending regular group and individual meetings and trainings and planning and executing events.

Q: What are some of the annual events planned by Roosevelt Fellows?
A: Annual events include the Orientation Ice Cream Social, the Student Faculty Mixer, Purple Day Tabling, Roosevelt Recommends, and more! We are always looking to see what events we can add, so feel free to pitch in new ideas!

Q: How big of a time commitment is the position? Will I get paid?
A: The time commitment varies throughout the semester but averages about eight hours a week. You will receive a stipend of $500 per semester.

Q: How many advisees will I be working with?
A: All incoming students are split among all the Roosevelt Fellows, you can expect around 60-80 advisees with a variety of interests and backgrounds. It is the responsibility of the Roosevelt Fellow to reach out to advisees periodically and respond to correspondence from advisees in a timely manner.
Q: What are some common questions students ask Roosevelt Fellows?
A: Students may ask specific course planning questions such as: “What classes should I take?” “Does my schedule look okay?” “What classes do you recommend for this major?” “What is this professor like?” Students may also ask broader questions such as: “How do I balance academics and extracurriculars?” “How do I manage stress?” “How can I study more effectively” or “How do I explore interests and make decisions?”

Q: What other responsibilities does a Roosevelt Fellow have?
A: Roosevelt Fellows work with various academic departments, staff, and faculty members to organize events, such as Ice Cream Socials at the beginning of each semester, where first year students get a chance to talk to their Roosevelt Fellow. Another traditional Roosevelt Fellow event is the First Year Faculty Mixer, where first year students are encouraged to meet faculty outside the classroom and begin to form meaningful relationships. Roosevelt Fellows plan and execute events through work on committees and discussion at group meetings.

Q: What is the difference between a Roosevelt Fellow and other leadership positions on campus?
A: Roosevelt Fellows hold their position year round and are trained to answer questions across all academic departments. Roosevelt Fellows are also able to address questions and concerns related to academics in general or other difficulties first year students may experience. They receive specialized training on academic advising techniques and campus resources.

Roosevelt Fellows work with other student leaders on campus, including Orientation Leaders, Undergraduate Department Representatives and Community Advisors. Orientation Leaders support students’ initial transition to college during orientation. Undergraduate Department Representatives have specialized knowledge within their own department/major. Community Advisors are student leaders who build community and serve as a resource in the residence halls.

Q: What is training like?
A: Training begins a few days before first year orientation in August and runs throughout each day. Training involves learning how to advise students, information about various departments on campus, as well as bonding and leadership activities. Roosevelt Fellows also help out during orientation events as another resource first year students can turn to as they acclimate to campus.

Q: Is it fun to be a Roosevelt Fellow, or is it all work and no play?
A: It’s fun to be a Roosevelt Fellow! While there is work involved in advising students, or organizing events, it is rewarding to form and maintain relationships with students and create programs! Roosevelt Fellows also learn leadership skills and put them into action. Additionally, Fellows form close relationships with the staff of Academic Services and the other Roosevelt Fellows.