

Alice Cook Active Citizen FAQ

What does it mean to be an actively engaged member of the Alice Cook House community?

Alice Cook Active Citizens (AC2s) carry two distinctions. First, AC2s are formally recognized as residents who have demonstrated discernibly high levels of current participation in the intellectual and social aspects of Cook House. Second, **AC2s are guaranteed housing in Cook next year by being placed at the front of the Cook in-house lottery and room selection held in February 2017.**

Why does Cook House have an active citizen program?

The active citizen program furthers the primary goal of the House System at Cornell, the creation of an environment that closely links the residential life of the students to the intellectual mission of the university. To achieve this goal, Cook House emphasizes informal interaction with faculty members, self-governance, and social, cultural, and community programming. Through these, Cook House builds an actively engaged community for upper class students – one that fosters personal discovery and growth, civic engagement, and nurtures scholarship and creativity in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. Therefore, Cook House has a vested interest in celebrating and retaining residents who are currently active House members. The active citizen program replaces the randomness of the in-house lottery, which relies on a random number generator, with an intentional effort at retaining the most active residents of Cook House.

How do I become an AC2?

Register for NTRES 4940 “Cook Community Engagement: Bridging Self, Community, and World.” This one-credit seminar will be held Wednesdays after House Dinner from 7-8 PM in House Professor Shorna Allred’s apartment, 101 Cook Main. You do not have to register for the course to apply to be an AC2; however, if you do not register, you will be expected to demonstrate your intellectual engagement in Cook House through regular attendance at intellectual programs and eating with House Fellows during House Dinners. Participation in the Cook Collective, the student leadership body of Alice Cook House, is also strongly encouraged, but please note participation in the Cook Collective alone will not guarantee your acceptance as an AC2. You will need to demonstrate your intellectual engagement in the House as well as your social involvement.

What is the application process?

[Applications](#) are due Friday, December 16, 2016 at 9:00 AM. Those selected as AC2s will be notified by Friday, January 27, 2017. All residents who have indicated an interest in participating in the Cook in-house lottery (regardless of AC2 status) will be notified of their lottery number by Friday, February 3, 2017. AC2s will be placed at the front of the lottery, followed by all other participants ordered through the use of a random number generator.

Your application must include a letter of reference from a Cook House Fellow* or House Professor Shorna Allred, demonstrating your intellectual engagement in the House (social involvement is also strongly encouraged). *House Fellows are Cornell faculty, senior administrators, and Ithaca community leaders

who engage with Cook residents through intellectual and social opportunities that enhance student-faculty-staff interaction within the House.

What is the selection process?

Your application will be weighted on a point system by your participation (attendance) at intellectual events in Cook House. The easiest way to acquire points is enrolling in NTRES 4940 “Cook Community Engagement: Bridging Self, Community, and World,” a one-credit seminar held Wednesdays after House Dinner from 7-8 PM in House Professor Shorna Allred’s apartment, 101 Cook Main. You do not have to register for this course; however, if you do not register, you will be expected to demonstrate your intellectual engagement in Cook House through regular attendance at intellectual programs and eating with House Fellows during House Dinners. Participation in the Cook Collective, the student leadership body of Alice Cook House, is also strongly encouraged, but please note participation in the Cook Collective alone will not guarantee you being accepted as an AC2. You will need to demonstrate your intellectual engagement in the House as well as your social involvement.

The selection committee will review and weight all AC2 applications and forward their recommendations to House Professor Shorna Allred and assistant dean Jen Majka, who will make final decisions.

Does being selected affect my ability to block with other Cook residents for the Cook in-house lottery?

No; if chosen as an AC2, you will follow the same blocking guidelines as all other residents participating in the Cook in-house lottery. If you choose to block with other current residents, you are not limited to choosing among the other AC2s, and those in your block must have lottery numbers. You must state your blocking intentions in your application.

What will be expected of me if I am selected as an AC2?

You will be expected to remain an actively engaged resident of Cook House including regular participation in intellectual and social programming for fall and spring semesters. You are welcome to re-enroll in NTRES 4940 “Cook Community Engagement: Bridging Self, Community, and World” fall and/or spring semester(s). Cook House leadership may consult you informally to gain additional perspectives on ideas, issues, and programs. AC2s meet monthly during House Dinner with Cook House leadership.

Timeline

Active Citizen Applications are due Friday, December 16, 2016 by 9:00 AM.

AC2s will be notified by Friday, January 27, 2017.

Cook Continued Occupancy In-House Lottery and Room Selection will be held Monday evening, February 13, 2017 (exact date and time TBD).

Cook in-house lottery information will be available November 2016.

Questions?

Please talk with assistant dean Jen Majka. Her office is 107 Cook Main.