



Resource Guide for IEC Graduate Students

1 Housing

On-Campus Housing:

<https://housing.ufl.edu/living-options/?housing-type=family-housing>

- Only available for graduate and professional students or undergraduates w/ spouse and/or dependent children.
- All utilities included (electric, water, internet), unfurnished.
- Inexpensive, but waitlist is often 2+ years.

Off-campus Housing:

Finding off-campus housing:

- SNRE and department listservs, don't be afraid to send out an email request!
- Housing search Facebook groups:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ufoffcampushousing>;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UFRoommateSearch>;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1878173165789842>;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/272891009426806>

Things to consider:

- Distance from campus and shopping.
- Bus routes and/or bike lanes.
- Utilities included/not included (setting up GRU may require deposit). International students must set up utilities in person.
- Deposit/1st/Last month's rent often required (may be up to 3x monthly rent due on lease signing).
- Application fee and/or background check needed?
- Private vs. Shared bathroom.
- Furnished vs. Unfurnished.
- Proof of income is often required, especially for apartment complexes or corporate landlords. Smaller landlords may be more flexible.



- Will you need to find your own roommates or does the apartment match you with roommates?
- Apartments in Midtown are generally the most expensive though also the closest to main campus. Most complexes here are geared towards undergraduates. Apartments on/around Archer Road are generally less expensive, the area has lots of shopping but isn't as walkable.
- Proof of income is generally 3x the monthly rent. Some apartments complexes/landlords might require a guarantor to co-sign the lease who meets that criterion. Make sure to ask about their guarantor policy if you are looking to rent by yourself.

2 Transportation

RTS Bus: <https://go-rts.com/>

- Free bus for anyone with a Gator1 Card.
- Bus service is less frequent nights/weekends/holidays.

UF Bikes: <https://bikes.ufl.edu/>

- Gator Gears Bicycle Rental Service, available in semester or annual increments.
- Secure Bicycle Parking Facility in Parking Garage 14.
- Bike Repair Shop in Reitz Union <https://sg.ufl.edu/services/bike-repair>
- 28 DIY Bike Repair stations are located across campus, though they aren't always working.
- Gainesville has several good bike shops.

Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP): <https://taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/snap/>

- Free nighttime shuttle van.
- On-demand service, stops are mostly on campus and midtown and some larger off-campus apartment complexes.

Parking: <https://taps.ufl.edu/permits/>

- Student parking pass costs \$160/year.
- Parking on the main campus may be limited during peak hours.
- Pay close attention to color codes/signs to avoid parking tickets!

Additional transportation options: Campus Cab, Campus Connector, Gator Lift Paratransit, E-scooters, carpooling, etc.: <https://taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/>



3 Food

Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry: <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

- Free for all UF students, faculty & staff.
- No questions asked.

Krishna Lunch: <https://krishnalunch.com/krishna-lunch/>

- Cheap vegan lunch (\$6/meal or less with meal ticket packs).
- At Plaza of the Americas when class is in session.
- You can fill Tupperware at no extra cost, don't be afraid to ask for larger portions!

Bread of the Mighty Food Bank: <https://breadofthemighty.org/>

Farmers Markets: <https://worklife.hr.ufl.edu/farmers-markets/>

- High quality fresh local produce.
- Also meat, baked goods, honey, and crafts.

4 Grants and Scholarships

SNRE page on financial support: <https://snre.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate/financial-support/>

Graduate Student Council Travel Grants: <https://sg.ufl.edu/resources/gsc/grants/>

- Available frequently for conference or professional development travel.
- Easy application, but take care to follow purchasing guidelines. No PCard reimbursements allowed.

CALS Scholarship: <https://cals.ufl.edu/current-students/scholarships/>

- Simple application, letter of recommendation required.
- Funds are paid directly to students.

UF Biodiversity Institute Fellowship: <https://biodiversity.research.ufl.edu/fellows/get-to-know-our-fellows.html>

Pivot Funding Database: <https://research.ufl.edu/finding-funding/cos-pivot-funding-database.html>

- Good place to search for funding opportunities from a wide variety of sources.



5 Health + Wellness

Gator Gradcare: <https://gatorcare.org/gatorgradcare/>

- Inexpensive health insurance for graduate assistants with at least 0.25 FTE appointment.
- Includes limited dental benefits: <https://benefits.hr.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/05/GradDentalBenefits.pdf>
- Additional Programs for diabetes, counseling, nutrition and more: <https://gatorcare.org/health-resources/>

Student Health Care Center: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

- Often the least expensive option for those on Gator Gradcare.
- Services include immunizations (including travel immunizations), general health care, some urgent care, pharmacy, gynecology, sexual health and more.

UF Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC): <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

- Services include group, individual and couples therapy, psychiatry, crisis support and more.

6 Family Resources

Gatorcare Spouse/Partner: <https://benefits.hr.ufl.edu/health/gatorgradcare/>

- Spouse/Partner and Children can be added to Gator Gradcare for additional cost.

Baby Gator Daycare: <https://babygator.ufl.edu/>

- High-quality and comparatively affordable, but waitlist is often 2+ years.
- There are many other childcare centers in the area, fees and waitlists are highly variable.

Domestic Partner Gator1 ID: <https://studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/services/domestic-partner-gator1-ids/>

City of Gainesville Youth Programs & Camps: <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Community-Pages/Community/Youth-Programs-Camps>

Fun 4 Gator Kids: <https://fun4gatorkids.com/>

- Resource for family-friendly events and activities in Gainesville and surrounding areas.

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK): <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/vpk-parents.stml>

- Free pre-K for all Florida 4-year-olds regardless of income



7 Student and Social Groups

IEC Connectors and SNRE Graduate Student Council: <https://snre.ifas.ufl.edu/people/student-groups/>

UF Performing Arts: <https://performingarts.ufl.edu/>

- \$12-20 discounted student tickets.

UF Arts and Crafts Center: <https://union.ufl.edu/thingstodo/acc-fall/>

- Ceramics studio, paint-a-pot, button making, jewelry making.
- Semester-long memberships, classes, and one-time events available.

Zoocial

- Informal gathering of natural sciences students, staff and faculty.
- Occurs most Fridays at 5pm when class is in session in the courtyard between Dickinson, Bartram, and Carr Halls.

UF Student Organizations: <https://studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/student-organizations/>

- 1,000 different organizations for nearly every interest and affiliation.

UF Intramural Sports: <https://recsports.ufl.edu/sports/intramural-sports/>

Gainesville Adult Sports Leagues/Groups:

- Ultimate Frisbee: <https://gnvulty.com/>
- Softball: <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Government-Pages/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation-Cultural-Affairs/Adult-Softball>
- Kickball: <https://www.swampsports.com/>
- Running: <https://floridatrackclub.wildapricot.org/page-18091>,
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/runningtabs/>
- Cycling: <https://gccfla.org/>



8 Other Resources

UF Libraries:

- SNRE librarian, Laurel Kaminsky: <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/snre>
- Reserve study rooms and carrels: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/using-the-libraries/studyareas/>
- Research consulting services: <https://arcs.uflib.ufl.edu/>
- Wide variety of take-home equipment rentals from tablets to DIY tools: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/tech-tools/>
- Interlibrary loan: <https://accesssupport.uflib.ufl.edu/ill/>

Free printing on campus: <https://writing.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2013/10/How-to-Print-for-Free-on-Campus.pdf>

Student Legal Services: <https://studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/>.

- Legal consultation and representation for certain types of cases, see website for full list (ex. Landlord-tenant, name change, traffic citations).
- Free notary services: <https://studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/services/notary-services/>

Passport Services: <https://businessservices.ufl.edu/services/passport-services/>

Alachua County Library District: <https://www.aclib.us/>

- Free public library, easy to sign up with proof of residency (ex. A piece of mail for you at your Alachua County address).
- Seed library, watt meters, meeting rooms, lots of e-books and audio books, many events, especially for families & kids.

Community Weatherization Coalition Home Energy Tune-ups: <https://communityweatherization.org/tune-up-application/>

- Home visit or DIY kit to help Alachua County residents save on utility bills.
- They provide energy-efficient lightbulb, water saving attachments, and pipe insulation.