

WELCOME NEW FULBRIGHTERS TO UGA, ATHENS!

Fulbright at UGA Student Association. Contact info: Please see page 3.

Dear Fulbrighters: We, the Fulbright at UGA Student Association Board, are happy to welcome you to UGA during this academic year 2018-2019 and will like to help you in any way to adjust to living here! Here are some frequently asked questions that might help you. At the end, we provide our e-mail address in case you want to contact us for more specifics:

PLEASE NOTE: You are more than welcome to become part of our Association. We are planning to host a welcoming dinner/party on early September to meet you all and provide a venue for interaction!

1. How to get from Atlanta airport to Athens (and vice versa)?

- Groome Transportation operates frequent service Athens-Atlanta International Airport-Athens. If you are coming from the airport, you should ask the driver to drop you in a building called “Georgia Center”, which is in the main campus. From there, depending where do you leave, you might walk, take a bus or have someone pick you up (We can help!) to take you to your place. Website to reserve online the Groome: <http://athens.groometransportation.com/>

2. Where can I live in Athens?

- There are many places to live in Athens. Without a car, the best option will be to live close to a bus stop. You can live inside the campus (University Housing) or off-campus.
- **University Housing.** If you wish to live on-campus, and you are a graduate student, you can live in two areas:
 - a) Family and Graduate Housing. These facilities (several buildings) are located in Main Campus. There are buses from the University nearby. All utilities (water, electricity, etc) are included in the price. However, it is important to know that these are unfurnished apartments. Compared to off-campus areas, the price is quite expensive. You can rent a whole unit or share with someone else. More info here: https://housing.uga.edu/site/housing_family_graduate
 - b) In the Health Sciences Campus: If you are studying in this Campus (College of Public Health), these apartments are furnished. You can walk to your office/study buildings. Again, the price might be a little bit expensive, but it is quite convenient. More info here: https://housing.uga.edu/site/housing_health_sciences
- **Off-campus.** Depending where do you want to live, your budget and other factors there are many options. We can point to some specifics if you contact us.

3. After I arrive to UGA, what should be my first steps?

- An international orientation week usually is conducted in the first week of August for the Fall Semester. Fall 2019 orientation will be held on Sunday, August 4 to Friday, August 9, 2019. This program is optional, but strongly encouraged to take it. Depending on the funding arrangement of your Fulbright

program, the registration fee might be paid by your scholarship. Otherwise, you will need to cover these expenses. This year, regular registration closes on June 30, 2019. More information here: https://isl.uga.edu/content_page/international-student-orientation-content-page.

- If you are in graduate school, there is also a General Graduate Orientation day. This year will be on August 12, 2019. More information here: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/incoming-students/orientation-info-fair/>. They will include some information regarding use of library, health insurance, health center, IT services. This event is free and we encourage going to this! In addition, they let you know many events going on Campus.
- Even if you don't go to any of these events, usually you will receive some type of orientation from your College/Department. You might check with them.
- Besides Orientation opportunities, as a Fulbrighter, you need to complete an online check-in with the International Office of Education (recently named as Office of Global Engagement) to show your presence in the US. This office will email you the directions on how to complete the online check in. Any questions you can call: 001-706-542-2900. Also, here is their website: <http://international.uga.edu/oie>

4. What public transportation services are available to move around Athens?

- UGA has several buses routes that let students move around the different buildings of UGA. UGA buses are free to everybody, it is not necessary to show a UGA card or any ID. It is important to know that sometimes these buses do not operate, so you should check the calendar available for this. The different routes usually operate from Monday to Friday. On Saturday and Sundays, a bus called "Weekender" operates and the route is quite limited. Here is the website for routes calendar, related, info: <http://transit.uga.edu/>
- For other parts of Athens, there are buses of the Athens Transit. With your UGA ID card you can use them free of charge. Most of the routes work from Monday to Friday, although some routes may change schedules and stops after 5:00 PM or work during weekends. With these buses you can move around, but it is important to know there are not that many, so usually every hour the bus will come to a bus stop. You will have to plan in advance (and have patience!) and check the timetables for this. More information available at the Athens Transit website; <http://athenstransit.com/>
- Download the UGA App in your smartphone as one of its features is Bus trackers for UGA Campus Transit and Athens Transit.

5. Where I can buy groceries/furniture/other goods around Athens?

- Groceries/daily products: Walmart, Kroger, Publix, Aldi.
- Organic/vegetarian food: Trader Joes, Earth Fare, Farmer Market (This is not a store, but a weekly activity in which you can buy local products)
- Furniture: T.J. Maxx and HomeGoods, Target, Walmart, etc.
- Used stuff (clothing and household items): Goodwill, Thrift Store, Salvation Army store.
- Online shopping: You can buy many things online using different online services. One of them is Amazon. There is a program called "Amazon Prime Student" that has many benefits, mainly free shipping of 1-day or 2-days.
- Electronics: Best Buy.

- **Note:** Many of these places are difficult to get by public transportation, so just shoot us an e-mail and we can help you to go there!

6. What about Banks?

- These are the banks that have more branches in Athens: Bank of America, Wells Fargo and BB&T. In our understanding, Wells Fargo provides some discounts/benefits for students that open their Bank Account with them, but it will be better to go directly to them and check their benefits and see what works best for you.

7. What about phone carriers?

- There are several options that work well in Athens: Verizon, AT&T, T-mobile etc. Your choice of carrier will depend on many things (such as budget, plan, need of internet data) so you should check these options and decide based on your preferences. Also, we will happily help you!

8. Driving in Georgia

- If you want to rent a car, here are some options in Athens: Budget Car Rental, Enterprise Rent-A-Car. In general, you will need a credit card in order to rent a car and you will need to be 25 years or older (the designated driver). You might use your home-country driver license, but that will depend from where you are coming.
- We advise you to get as soon as possible a Georgia Driver license. The Georgia Department of Driver Services has a website with a lot of information on the requirements to get one: <http://www.dds.ga.gov/>

9. Other FAQ:

- The graduate school has a website in which many other FAQ are answered. Check them out here: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/incoming-students/information-for-new-students/new-student-faq/>

10. Can I contact you to ask questions that are more specific?

- Definitely, we will try to help you to the best of our knowledge! Don't be shy!
- If you need to contact any of us, here our e-mail addresses:

Name	Home country	E-mail	Department/Area enrolled
Tito Montenegro	Colombia	davidpm@uga.edu	Bioinformatics, Marine Sciences
Maru Castellanos	Guatemala	mecastellanos@uga.edu	Epidemiology
Beatriz Sanchez	Spain	bs29142@uga.edu	Philosophy
Nuria Negrao	Mozambique	nnegrao@uga.edu	Cellular Biology
Chimedregzen Sanduijav	Mongolia	Chimedregzen.Sanduijav@uga.edu	Environmental Sciences