

Georgia Bound

A travel letter for international students

Fall
2009

WELCOME!

The staff at the International Student Life Office (ISL) at the University of Georgia (UGA) welcomes you to the UGA international community, which currently consists of more than 1,200 students from 120 different countries. The information in this travel letter will assist you with pre-arrival arrangements and help explain initial questions you may have about the University. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the International Student Life Office (ISL) for assistance. Additionally, if you wish to communicate with other offices and departments on campus, see page 4 of this newsletter for contact information.

CONTACT ISL FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM
for information on international orientation, housing support, personal advice, taxes, and opportunities to meet other students.

International Student Life
University of Georgia
210 Memorial Hall
Athens, GA 30602
U.S.A.

Phone: 706-542-5867 ugaisl@uga.edu
Fax: 706-583-0006 www.uga.edu/isl

UGA DOCUMENTS

UGA'S ADMISSIONS OFFICE SENDS ALL NEW STUDENTS

1. A letter of Admission
2. An Immunization and Medical History Form*
3. An Application for Housing On-Campus

**Your doctor must sign this form to show you have been vaccinated against Measles, Mumps & Rubella. If you do not mail it to the University Health Center prior to arriving at UGA, then you must bring it with you.*

ORIENTATION

The office of International Student Life (ISL) hosts International Student Orientation and check-in for all new and transfer international students attending UGA.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION: THE ARCHWAY TO UGA

During International Student Orientation, new students are provided with vital information tailored to the specific needs of internationals at UGA, including (but not limited to) the following topics: advisement / registration procedures, immigration information, housing, telephone assistance, academic life, legal issues, and cross-cultural adjustment. Additionally, new students will have opportunities to interact with other students who have already adjusted to life at UGA. International Student Orientation is led by current international and U.S. students at UGA as well as university staff. ISL provides a one-day program in the Spring and Summer and a five-day program in the Fall. For a complete schedule of orientation dates and times contact ISL at (706) 542-5867 or via e-mail at ugaisl@uga.edu.

For details concerning other important orientations on campus, please use the information on page 4 of this letter to contact the Undergraduate or Graduate Admissions offices regarding the orientation programs they provide. **PLEASE NOTE** that the orientation sessions offered by other offices at UGA do NOT cover the same information as the international student orientation!



AUGUST 2009 FALL ORIENTATION

Check-In at ISL Office in 210 Memorial Hall on
Monday, August 3, from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

Date	Time	Location
8/3/2009	10 am - 4:30 pm (Check-in)	ISL/Memorial Hall
8/4/2009	12 pm - 6:30 pm	
8/5/2009	9 am - 2 pm	
8/6/2009	12 pm - 5 pm	
8/7/2009	9 am - 2 pm	

*FALL temporary housing will be available starting August 3, 2009. Athens airport pickups will be available beginning August 1, 2009.

BRINGING FOOD FROM HOME

There are many foods that cannot be carried into the USA; however, there are places in Athens and Atlanta where you can purchase traditional foods. Please make certain that you don't bring illegal food into the US by mistake. If you are thinking about bringing food with you, talk to your travel agent or airline about food restrictions.

FLYING TO GEORGIA

When you fly to the USA, consider taking a connecting flight directly to Athens. If you can fly to Athens, ISL can arrange for you to be picked up by volunteers at the Athens airport. *To arrange pick up at the Athens airport, please give ISL your arrival time and flight number at least two weeks before you arrive by fax 706-583-0006 or by emailing ugaisl@uga.edu.* ISL will begin Athens airport pickups for new students for FALL 2009 on August 1, 2009. Unfortunately, if you fly to Atlanta, ISL cannot coordinate an airport pickup. You should plan to take the AAA Airport Shuttle to Athens (see below). Sometimes, student members of the international student organizations can provide transportation for new students from Atlanta to Athens. Please contact the President of an appropriate international student organization to determine if an Atlanta pick up is possible. (See page 4 for contact information.)

STAYING IN ATLANTA

There is limited public transportation in Atlanta. If you arrive after the last AAA Shuttle has left for Athens, we recommend that you spend the night in a hotel close to the airport. When you make your reservation ask if the hotel offers free shuttle service from the airport. If you must take a cab, ask the taxi cab driver how much the charge will be.

ATLANTA TO ATHENS

There is no train service to Athens. From the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, Athens is about 80 miles (127 km). If you need to find transportation from Atlanta to Athens, the simplest method is to take the AAA shuttle which carries 10 people from the airport to Athens for \$45 (one way). AAA makes this trip 9 times per day, and it is recommended that you book your seat in advance. Your travel agent may be able to reserve a seat for you. **Planes are often delayed, so we recommend that you book a time with AAA that will allow at least two hours for delays and immigration control.** To find the AAA shuttle, follow signs inside the airport to "Ground Transportation". Once you are at the Ground Transportation area, ask for the AAA Shuttle to Athens.

HOTELS IN ATHENS

Residence Halls may not be open when you arrive, so you may need to arrange to stay in a hotel for the first days that you are in Athens. It is best to reserve a hotel room before you arrive.

The AAA shuttle takes you to 4 hotels close to campus:

Georgia Center	1-888-295-8894
Holiday Inn	706-549-4433
Holiday Inn Express	706-546-8122
Courtyard Marriott	706-369-7000
Travelodge (not on the shuttle route)	1-800-578-7878

AAA Shuttle daily departure times:

Morning: 7:00 am 9:15am 10:30am 11:45 am
 Afternoon: 2:15 pm 3:30pm 4:45 pm
 Evening: 7:15 pm 9:45 pm

To reserve a seat from home, call AAA at 404-767-2000. Inside the USA, call 1-800-354-7874 to book your seat (this call is free) or via email at aaaairportexpres@aol.com. For more information about the AAA Shuttle please visit <http://www.aaaairportexpress.com>

TAXI SERVICE IN ATHENS

You can walk to campus from some hotels, but from others you need take a bus or a taxi. There are three taxi cab companies in Athens and you must request a taxi by telephone.

A & A Athens ----- 706-353-2424
 United Taxi ----- 706-549-0808
 Your Cab Co ----- 706-546-5844

GREYHOUND BUS

Although the Greyhound Bus Company offers a cheaper fare to Athens for a little less than \$25, it runs only four times daily and will add more hours to your journey. The trip to the bus station from the airport, via taxi, will cost around \$12; so the cost is already almost as much as the AAA shuttle. **Please ask the taxi driver how much the charge will be.** There is a train system called MARTA that will take you close to the downtown Greyhound bus depot for less than \$5, but since the area is unfamiliar to you and since you will be carrying your luggage with you, we do not recommend this option. **Prices may change!**

TUITION AND FEES

COSTS FOR THE 12 MONTH ACADEMIC YEAR AT UGA PER STUDENT (ALL COST ESTIMATES ONLY!)

<u>Academic Status</u>	<u>Tuition and Fees</u>	<u>Living Expenses/Books</u>	<u>Total</u>
Undergraduate non resident	\$25,740	\$ 10,470	\$36,210
Graduate non resident	\$18,880	\$ 11,150	\$30,380
Graduate with Assistantship	\$1,500	\$ 11,100	\$13,000

All international students must provide proof that money is available to pay for study and living in the USA. You can pay for tuition and fees using a credit card (American Express, Mastercard, and Discover), check, or cash once you register. Medical costs are very expensive in the USA. All UGA international students are required to have medical insurance while attending UGA. Enrollment in the UGA Pearce and Pearce insurance plan is automatic for students and the cost of the policy will be included in the tuition and fee bill each semester. UGA and the U.S. government strongly recommend that students also purchase insurance for any dependents. (For more information, see the Office of International Education's website at www.uga.edu/oie/ISSIS/.) PLEASE NOTE immigration regulations strictly limit employment options for students and dependents. Do not expect income from employment in the U.S. to cover all expenses!

LIVING IN ATHENS

The cost of living in Athens is relatively high for a small city. If you plan on bringing a lot of money, we recommend traveler's checks. If you bring over \$10,000 into the USA, you must declare the full amount to Customs officers at the airport. For a fee, banks can electronically transfer cash from your bank at home, but the process may take 5 to 10 days. Therefore, bring enough money with you to cover initial settling in costs for the first month. Many businesses require substantial deposits including electricity, telephone, and off-campus apartments. Additionally, Graduate Assistants are not usually paid until the end of September! (For Assistantship information, contact your academic department.) Athens temperatures range from 40°F (4°C) in January to 82 °F (28 °C) in August. American students commonly wear shorts (or jeans) and t-shirts to class. Warm clothing will be necessary during the winter months and sometimes it snows. Note: many of our students often arrange cultural nights where students wear the traditional clothes of their home countries.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

If hotel arrangements (see page 2) cannot be made you should contact ISL to make temporary housing arrangements.

1. ISL offers a temporary housing option on-campus during the FALL orientation program only. If you are interested in finding out more information concerning the Fall on-campus temporary housing, please send an email to isltemphousing@gmail.com.
2. International Student Organizations at ISL can sometimes house new students temporarily. Contact an appropriate student organization to request temporary housing (see page 4 of this document for contact information) or the ISL Office (ugaisl@uga.edu) for further assistance.

HOUSING OPTIONS

Public transportation is very limited in Athens, therefore many international students live on campus.

Depending on availability, the Department of University Housing is able to accommodate students and families. In a residence hall, students share a bedroom with another student. Read the housing information you received carefully - only some residence halls are open all year. If you have a family, are married or are a graduate student, you can request a furnished or unfurnished apartment in Family and Graduate Housing. There is usually a long waiting list to get into Family Housing! Many students find housing before bringing their families to Athens.

ISL keeps a list of off-campus living options. There are many things to consider when living off campus - you must pay a deposit and the first month's rent before you can move in (estimated cost is \$400 to \$700). You will also have to sign a lease saying you will live there for 9 or 12 months. It is difficult to cancel your lease without losing your deposit. Utilities (water, phone, and electricity) will have to be activated and each activation may require a deposit. Furnished apartments are usually more expensive (around \$450 to \$700 per month), but removes the cost of buying furniture. Since it is difficult to secure off-campus housing from overseas, many students first stay in hotels. ISL will provide individualized housing assistance once you visit our office in Athens.

Useful Contacts

Prepared for new international students by the International Student Life Office

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING

The University of Georgia
Russell Hall, Athens, GA 30602-5575
Phone: 706-542-1421 Fax: 706-542-8595
Email: housing@uga.edu
<http://www.uga.edu/housing/>

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

320 E. Clayton St., Suite 400
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602-4401
Phone: 706-542-1739 Fax: 706-542-3219
E-mail: gradadm@uga.edu
<http://www.grad.uga.edu/>

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

212 Terrell Hall
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602
Phone: 706-542-2112 Fax: 706-542-1466
Email: undergrad@admissions.uga.edu
<http://www1.admissions.uga.edu/index.html>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE (ISL)

All non-immigration questions should be directed to this office.
210 Memorial Hall
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602
Phone: 706-542-5867 Fax: 706-583-0006
E-mail: ugaisl@uga.edu
<http://www.uga.edu/isl>

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (OIE)

All immigration and federal regulation questions should be directed to this office.
Bank of America, Suite 400
110 E. Clayton Street
Athens, Georgia 30602
Phone: 706-425-3154 Fax: 706-425-3273
Email: visahelp@uga.edu
<http://www.uga.edu/oie>

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER

The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-1162
Fax: 706-542-4959 (medical records)
<http://www.uhs.uga.edu/>

PRESIDENTS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (FOR GROUPS NOT LISTED BELOW, CONTACT ISL.)

AFRICAN STUDENT UNION

DAMILOLA COLCER
DAMICOK1@UGA.EDU
[HTTP://WWW.UGA.EDU/ASU](http://www.uga.edu/ASU)

BRAZILIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TAIANA COSTA
BSA.UGA@GMAIL.COM
[HTTP://WWW.UGA.EDU/BSA](http://www.uga.edu/BSA)

CHINESE STUDENT UNION (PRC)

WEI XU
UGACSU@HOTMAIL.COM
[HTTP://WWW.UGA.EDU/CHINA](http://www.uga.edu/CHINA)

FILIPINO AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

RACHEL FRANKLYN
FASA@UGA.EDU
[HTTP://UGA.EDU/FASA](http://uga.edu/FASA)

INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

PRIYANKA JAIN
PRIYANKAJ47@GMAIL.COM
[HTTP://UGA.EDU/ISA](http://uga.edu/ISA)

JAPAN CLUB

ALISHA WEBB
LEECHAN@UGA.EDU
JAC@LISTSERVE.UGA.EDU

KOREAN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

LISA YOO
UGAKUSA@GMAIL.COM

RUSSIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

ELINA KUMYKOVA
ELINAK@UGA.EDU

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YI-CHEN (JENNY) WU
YICWU@UGA.EDU

THAI STUDENT ASSOCIATION

AJCHAREEYA RUANGPRASERT
THAISTUDENTUGA@GMAIL.COM

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MURAT AYCIBIN
TURKISH@UGA.EDU

VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

BRIAN LE
VSA@UGA.EDU