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Dear new international students,

Welcome to Georgia State University and to Atlanta, Georgia! We are very glad you’ve chosen to study with us, and we look forward to helping you have a wonderful experience here. This handbook is designed to help you learn more about our university, our city, and what you can expect when you attend Georgia State. Moving to a new place and starting classes at a new school is never easy, but we hope that we can provide you with enough information to make the transition as smooth as possible. The International Student & Scholar Services office is here to assist you in any way we can, so please contact us if you have questions or concerns during your time in Atlanta.

Good luck in all your endeavors, and we wish you the best for your studies at Georgia State!

Jody Pritt
Director, International Student & Scholar Services

HISTORY OF GSU

Georgia State University has evolved from an evening school of commerce to a dynamic urban university. The growth of Atlanta, the diversity of its population, and the prospect of Atlanta as a major communication and transportation hub, as an international city, and as a financial center—all have given the University a new kind of destiny in higher education. The University has experienced extraordinary growth in student enrollment, physical facilities, and quality of education as it seeks to meet the challenges of providing a broad range of educational opportunities in the largest and most diverse population center in the State.

The development of a broad concept of a modern urban institution, built upon a sound base of gifted faculty and basic programs, dedicated to bringing the rewards of learning to the community at large through formal and informal programs, and utilizing all communications media, gives Georgia State University a challenge and a spirit of pioneering as the administration, the faculty and the student body carve out its destiny. The early buildings, whose names recall the pioneering spirit of early leaders, are now joined by well-designed new structures that provide a modern setting for Georgia State University’s fulfillment of its threefold mission of teaching, research, and public service.

You can always find more about the history and various aspects of Georgia State University at www.gsu.edu or on the library website at www.library.gsu.edu.

Georgia State celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2013. A university’s centennial is an important milestone because it symbolizes an institution’s ability to endure, grow, and prosper. For 100 years, Georgia State has confronted and overcome innumerable challenges and has taken advantage of every opportunity to profess and succeed.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) offers immigration and support services to international students, faculty, and staff in order to support the intercultural and international dimensions of the University and to ensure the University’s compliance with federal laws.

Current Physical Location:
Sparks Hall, Suite 252
Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404) 413.2070
Fax: (404) 413.2072
E-mail: isss@gsu.edu
Website: www.isss.gsu.edu
ISSS Facebook: www.facebook.com/gsu.edu.isss
Instagram: @gsuisss

ISSS Mailing Address:
International Student and Scholar Services
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 3987
Atlanta, GA 30302-3987

Advising:
Walk-in advising is available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Tuesday from 9:00am - 12:00 pm. Always bring your passport, I-20 (for F-1 students) or DS-2019 (for J-1 students), and your panther ID. When you come into the office check-in at the front desk on the tablet, so we have a record of your visit and the reason.
Employment Workshops:
Employment workshops (CPT and OPT) are mandatory before students can apply for any type of off-campus employment. All workshop schedules are available in the ISSS office or on the website.

Monthly Newsletter:
The ISSS newsletter is sent by email every month, except summer, to provide updates on immigration rules, university services and programs, and opportunities for campus and community involvement. Look for “ISSS: Newsletter” in the subject line of your GSU email. Be sure and read the newsletter for very important information!

COMMON ISSS PROCESSING SERVICES

For details, policies and procedures about the items below, please visit the ISSS website, meet with an ISSS advisor, email or call us. The information below is only meant to give you an idea of some of the services we provide. To request a service, log-into “iStart”, our online, paperless, international management tool.

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<td>Certification Letter</td>
<td>Anytime</td>
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<td>Change of Status</td>
<td>As soon as possible, but at least 3-4 months before start of class. This is an estimate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Program</td>
<td>Within 30 days after the end of your current program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Local Address</td>
<td>Report within 10 days of the move.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT – Curricular Practical Training</td>
<td>As soon as possible before CPT semester. Deadline is by 1st day of class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT – Optional Practical Training</td>
<td>As soon as possible before OPT start date &amp; within 60 days after completion of program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Course Load Request</td>
<td>Before dropping or withdrawing from any class. Requires approval. Conditions apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinstatement to Active Status</td>
<td>Immediately, but no later than 5 months after termination of status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSN Support Letter</td>
<td>Anytime with job offer in hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Out</td>
<td>Within 60 days after completion of program. Provide letter of acceptance at new school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Signature</td>
<td>2 weeks prior to travel.</td>
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WHAT TO PACK

Clothing and Linens:

Students usually dress casually for class, so you will see men and women wearing jeans, sweatshirts, flip-flops, etc. Dresses and suits are appropriate for more formal occasions: men will want to have a shirt and tie, and women will want to have at least one nice dress or suit. It is usually better to bring clothes that are easy to care for than those that need frequent cleaning and ironing. Feel free to wear your national dress if you prefer. Even if you live on campus, you will need to provide your own blankets, sheets, towels, lamps, pillow, cooking utensils, and other household items. These items can be easily purchased after you arrive.

Appliances:

If you are bringing appliances and electronics from your own country (hair dryer, phone charger, laptop computer, etc.), you should also bring an adapter plug with you. U.S. electrical current is 110-115, 60-cycle AC. You would need to bring adapters for electrical appliances (U.S. standard outlets use 110 volts) if you bring electric appliances with you.

Other Items:

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, bring an extra pair. If you have a prescription for your glasses, you can bring it so that another pair can be made easily.

Your medical insurance is not likely to cover items such as personal medications, eye examinations and dental care, so you are recommended to take care of these matters before you leave.

If you have your favorite sporting equipment like bathing suit and tennis racquet, you can also bring them with you. Just keep in mind that you should leave heavy golf clubs, bicycle, basketball, etc. at home. This kind of equipment can easily be borrowed in U.S.

Here are some things you should be sure to bring with you:

- Your academic transcript and diploma
- Driver’s license from your home country (if you have one)
- Your marriage license (if applicable) and other important documentations
- Items for sharing your culture with others: souvenirs, music, postcards, photographs, or traditional dress (if you have room)

There are also some things you should definitely NOT bring with you! Leave these at home:

- Pets
- Large appliances such as refrigerator
- Firearms, weapons
- Fireworks or other inflammable items
- Hot plates
- Mini indoor grills (for example, George Foreman Grill)
- Microwave (allowed only in apartment-style residences)
- Coil lighting
- Air conditioners
- Space heaters

We also recommend that you do not bring any valuable items, such as expensive jewelry, with you.

IMMUNIZATION

In order to register for classes, you will need to have complete immunization records on file at the Health Services Center (141 Piedmont Avenue, Suite D), fax the form to 404-413-1955 or scan the forms into the Patient Portal on the website. You may have already received some of the required immunizations; if so, bring proof of these immunizations with you to Georgia State. If you have not yet received your immunizations, you can get these shots at the Student Health Clinic. A list of required immunizations is included in your Welcome Packet from ISSS and is also available on the Health Clinic website: https://health.gsu.edu.

INTERNATIONAL CHECK-IN & ORIENTATION

All F-1 and J-1 students starting a new academic program at Georgia State University are required to attend the International Student Orientation (ISO) offered for the term of their admission. Orientation is designed to educate and assist you with your transition to life in the United States, Atlanta, and the Georgia State University campus. You will receive email correspondence
regarding orientation dates after issuance of your I-20 or DS-2019 immigration document. Relevant information will also be posted on the ISSS orientation website.

Check-In is the required submission of your arrival documentation and information to ISSS. All F-1 and J-1 students starting a new academic program at GSU are required to submit an electronic copy of their F-1 or J-1 Visa, I-94 record (entry to the U.S. or USCIS change of status approval notice), and provide the physical U.S. address of where they are residing while studying. Submission of this information will be made in iStart. Instructions and guidance on how to submit all check-in information is sent via email and discussed at orientation. Submission of this information is required for registration of your GSU SEVIS record. Failure to submit required documentation by communicated deadlines will result in the termination of your F-1 or J-1 visa status.

It is advised you arrive and find housing in the Atlanta area prior to orientation. However, U.S. immigration regulations do not allow international students to enter the U.S. more than 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you are unable to arrive in Atlanta by the first day of classes, you must notify International Student and Scholar Services at isss@gsu.edu.

Orientation will provide information about:

- federal immigration regulations and your responsibilities as an F or J student
- how to navigate the campus and administration of Georgia State University
- basic needs such as housing, transportation, food and money
- cultural adjustment to life in the United States and in Atlanta
- unique characteristics of the U.S. classroom

You will fulfill these essential administrative responsibilities during Orientation:

- copy immigration documents (passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94)
- GSTEP and other English placement testing
- math placement exam (for freshmen only)
- academic advising
- course registration

You will have the chance to connect:

- with other new students to form initial friendships
- with continuing students for advice and support
- with the students’ academic departments
- with relevant campus services, programs and facilities

The most up-to-date information about your specific orientation session is available on the ISSS website at https://isss.gsu.edu/future-students/arrival-and-orientation/international-check-orientation-required/

GSU PANTHERCARD

Your Panther Card is your official Georgia State University identification document. It is also your library card, access card to the recreation center and some other facilities and can be used as a debit card at dining areas and vending machines. You can get a Panther Card as soon as you are registered to be a GSU student. To get Panther Card, just bring your valid government ID (e.g. passport, driver’s license) and go to the Panther Card Office in the University Bookstore Building (Suite 200).

Please visit their website at http://panthercard.gsu.edu for more information.

PRE-SEMESTER TESTING

Before you can effectively speak with an academic advisor, and then register for courses, you must first take any tests required. If you must speak with an advisor or register before receiving your test results, realize that you may have to alter your course schedule later based on the test results.

English Exam: Even though you may have submitted an acceptable TOEFL or IELTS score, or graduated from a U.S. institution, most graduate-level non-native speakers of English will have to take the Georgia State Test of English Proficiency (GSTEP) language examination. This is a 3-hour test given during orientation week. ISSS does not administer the test or have any control over this requirement. A small percentage of students are placed into ESL courses designed to help them with their studies at Georgia State. To find out if you will have to take the test, ask your admissions office. You may also have to take an oral English exam to complete your college’s GSTEP requirements. Undergraduate students do NOT need to take the GSTEP. For more information, see http://alsl.gsu.edu/programs/gstep/

Math Exam: All new freshmen undergraduates, or undergraduate students who wish to take Math 1111 or higher, must take the math placement test. It is merely a placement exam, and helps you choose which math class to take. See http://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/testing/tests/math-placement/ for more information.
ACADEMIC ADVISING

You are allowed to register for classes before you meet with an advisor, but it is a good idea to meet with the advisor first. Graduate students will be assigned an advisor by their department. Undergraduate students, including transfer students who have fewer than 90 transfer credits, will be advised at the Student Advisement Center in Suite 1300 and 1400 of 25 Park Place building (right across from the Woodruff Park). For more information see http://advisement.gsu.edu/. Undergraduate students who have more than 90 credits should seek advisement from their college’s Office of Academic Assistance.

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

PAWS (https://paws.gsu.edu/cp/home/displaylogin) means: Panther Access to Web Services. PAWS is Georgia State’s online portal for registration, personal information updates, course information, transcript services, and much more.

Here are a few things you can do using PAWS:

- Check your admissions status
- View class schedules and course descriptions
- See exam schedules and academic calendars
- See past academic records
- Pay tuition and fees
- Register for classes
- Update personal information
- Explore housing options
- Register for parking
- Access online course materials
- View your email
- Learn about student insurance
- Buy discount tickets to local tourist attractions

You will need your Campus ID and password in order to log in to PAWS. When you first sign on, you will see tabs across the top showing One Stop Shop, Classes, Essentials, etc. Take a few minutes to look at each of these tabs and familiarize yourself with the information and resources available on each one. This will help you a lot later on!

After you meet with an academic advisor and take the appropriate GSU placement tests, you will be ready to register for classes. Here are instructions for registering in PAWS:

1. Log on to PAWS via a web browser.
2. Enter your campus ID, which will be all the information before @student.gsu.edu of your student email

3. If you do not have a campus ID, you will need to go to http://technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/itservices/accounts/ where you can follow directions to activate your campus ID.
4. Click on the "Enrollment (One Stop Shop)" tab.
5. Within the “Enrolling for Courses” menu box, click on check registration status and appointment times to confirm your ability to register
6. To register for classes, click on look-up classes to add (see below for specific directions)
7. Select the appropriate function and continue.

Note: If you get an error message regarding contact information on your account, you will need to update this information before registering. Under the main “Classes” tab, there is a column labeled GoSOLAR, click on Personal Information menu. From here personal contact and emergency contact information can be updated, and the hold will be released.

Also make sure you update your local U.S. address in PAWS:

1. Sign into PAWS.
2. Click the “Enrollment (One Stop Shop)” tab.
3. In the “Updates/Requests Student Record” box, click the Change Address(es) and Phone Number(s).
4. Choose “Change Address and Phone.”
5. At the bottom of the page you will see "Type of Address to Insert"
   a. Select Local
   b. Update your address in Georgia
   c. Click submit
6. Double check in PAWS to ensure that your local and permanent addresses have been updated.

HEALTH INSURANCE

In the United States, the government does not pay for health care. Students must pay for every doctor or hospital visit. Health care in the United States is very expensive. A visit to the doctor’s office may cost $100-$500. A trip to the hospital for a broken arm can cost $500-$1,000. Childbirth expenses cost approximately $6,000. Medical problems can result in debt so extensive that a student may not be able to continue his or her studies.

Because of this, all non-immigrant students are required by the University System of Georgia (USG) to have accident and sickness insurance while at Georgia State. The mandatory
student health insurance will be automatically charged to your student account at the time you register for classes. Our current insurance provider is United Healthcare. Coverage and rates can be found at https://sfs.gsu.edu/resources/student-health-insurance/.

Students with an ACA compliant health insurance that meets the USG waiver requirements may request a waiver from the USG plan. Alternative insurance must meet the standards of the USG plan and must include medical evacuation and repatriation. For more information on waiver requirements and requests, visit https://sfs.gsu.edu/resources/student-health-insurance/waiving-out-of-ship/.

TUITION AND FEES
Each U.S. student who has not been a legal resident of Georgia for at least 12 months preceding the last day to register must pay out-of-state tuition. International students do not qualify for in-state tuition regardless of how long they have lived in Georgia. Refer to the Student Accounts website at http://sfs.gsu.edu/tuition-fees/ for current tuition and fee amounts, along with registration and payment policies.

Paying your School Bills
If you bring money to the U.S. in a check or money order and deposit it in a bank, it may take up to three weeks for the check to be processed and become available for your use. Therefore, we strongly recommend you choose one of the following options to insure that you will have money available at the time of registration:

1. Send a check or money order ahead of time to the university. Please include the student’s name and Panther ID number on the check or money order.
2. Wire your funds electronically to the university.
3. Have a credit card available to pay your bills.
4. Bring the check to the Cashier’s Office

You can pay at the time you register for classes. If not paid at that time, your payment must be received in the Student Accounts Office by the Fee Payment Deadline of the phase you registered in. Accepted fee payment methods include cash, check, money order and credit card.

Wire Transfer
As a secured way of payment, wire transfer is always a recommended way of payment if the student has enough time. International payments must be sent through Flyfire.

Log into PAWS and select the “International Payment” button in the “My Bill” section.

Credit Card
The university has contracted with a third party vendor to process all online MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit card payments made via PAWS. Please note that VISA cards are not accepted for paying tuition fee. A service fee of 2.85% will be assessed by the vendor on each transaction. In doing so, those who choose the convenience of credit card payment methods will bear the direct cost of that convenience and the university and other students will not have to share indirectly in the expense. Credit Card payments cannot be accepted by telephone.

Check
Electronic check is a secure, 24/7 electronic check payment method. It is a simple, no cost alternative to credit cards. You will be able to use your own checking account to make secure payments via the electronic check system available on your PAWS account.

On Campus Payment
On-campus payment by check should be payable to Georgia State University and may be delivered in person to the Revenue, Receivables & Cashiering office.

Mail
Or you can mail your check/money order to

Georgia State University
Attn: Cashiering Services
P.O Box 5099
Atlanta, GA 30302-5099

Please include the student’s name and Panther ID number on the check or money order.

For detailed information about payment please see the Student Accounts website at: https://sfs.gsu.edu/resources/tuition/how-to-pay/.

FINANCIAL AID
There are very few sources of financial assistance for international students. Many graduate students try to obtain a graduate teaching or research assistantship, which provides either a full or half tuition waiver plus a monthly stipend. For information about assistantships, contact your graduate department. The ISSS office offers a limited number of out-of-
state tuition waivers to certain eligible students every semester. In order to qualify for the waiver, you must be within the last year of your studies and be enrolled full time in the term in which you receive the waiver. More information is available on the ISSS website at http://issss.gsu.edu/current-students/additional-information-resources/financial-resources/

For scholarship information within and outside GSU, you can refer to http://app.gsu.edu/scholarships/search_scholarships.cfm for more information. Or you may want to try searching the following websites for scholarship information.

- The Open Society Institute – Grant, Scholarship & Fellowship Search Engine: http://www.soros.org/grants
- Scholarship Search Engine: http://scholarships.fatomei.com/college-scholarships-graduate-fellowships.html

International students who are incoming freshman or incoming transfer students with a valid F1 or H4 VISA are eligible to apply for the Campus Atlanta Scholarship, which reduces tuition form out-of-state to in-state rates. Please check the Campus Atlanta Scholarship description for current minimum academic requirements. For more information, please visit: http://app.gsu.edu/scholarships/search_scholarships.cfm

GEORGIA DRIVER’S LICENSES

Full-time F-1 and J-1 students who wish to drive in Georgia have the option of using an existing home country license or obtaining a Georgia driver’s license. If you decide to drive with your home country license, you will need to keep your panther card and proof of current GSU enrollment in your vehicle at all times—this is required by law. You will also need to keep a copy of the Georgia Code Section 40-5-21(b) in your car at all times.

This is available in the ISSS office or on the ISSS webpage (http://issss.gsu.edu/current-students/additional-information-resources/drivers-license-information). Another drawback to keeping your existing license is that car insurance will be higher for you than with a Georgia license.

If you decide to get a Georgia driver’s license, you will be required to show your foreign license to the Department of Driver Services, and it would no longer be valid in the U.S. Students who do not have a license from their home country but who wish to obtain a Georgia license must take the written and road driving tests.

In order to get your license, visit http://dds.georgia.gov/ to find the Driver’s License Customer Service Center closest to you. Many students in Atlanta go to the South DeKalb Center in Decatur since it is accessible with Panther Express, but you can go to any center in Georgia. The centers have unusual opening hours, so be sure to check this on the website before you go. You’ll need these things:

- Passport
- I-94 card
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Proof of local residence (signed lease agreement, utility bill with your address and name, bank statement with your address and name)
- $20 (cash or card)
- Social Security card or SSN CARD DENIAL NOTICE

If you do not have a social security number, you will need to obtain a SSN CARD DENIAL NOTICE from a local SSA office before visiting a DDS Customer Service Center to apply for a driver’s license. See the above section to find out how to locate and visit a Social Security office. Take all your immigration documents with you and tell the agent that you would like the denial notice. After obtaining the form, bring it to the Customer Service Center when you apply for your driver’s license.
LIFE AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMICS

Educational systems differ from country to country. Here are some things you need to know about academic life at GSU.

The Student/Instructor Relationship

The student/instructor relationship in the U.S. is generally more informal than in other countries. It is acceptable and expected for students to ask questions and discuss topics with the instructor. Some instructors don’t mind being called by their first name; they may even sit on the desk and walk around the room as they speak. In class, students may speak without raising their hand and be recognized. Depending on the rules of the classroom or building, some people eat and drink in class.

Tips for Academic Adjustment and Success

- Professors prefer it if students discuss ideas rather than just sit and listen. The manner in which you express your viewpoint is important, however. Show respect by acknowledging the professor or classmates’ point of view and then offer your opinion. Say, “In my opinion...” or “I think...” or “I feel...” or “I believe...”
- If you do not understand, ask. If you are not yet used to asking questions in class, make an appointment with your professor.
- At the start of each semester you will be handed a syllabus for each course. This is an outline of the course objectives, due dates for assignments, and much more. Keep the syllabus for the duration of the course and refer to it if you are not sure about assignment requirements. Pay close attention when the professor discusses the syllabus as he will often explain during this time how grades will be determined.
- Do not try to write down everything in class. Practice taking notes.
- You are expected to talk in class. A good rule to follow is to raise your hand to ask a question or make a comment at least once every week. If a professor calls on you to answer a question, you should say something. If you don’t know the answer, it’s alright to give a wrong answer. Participation may be included in your grade.

Missing Class

You are expected to go to class on time, to notify your teacher ahead of time if you will be absent, and to participate. It is better to be late to class than to skip class. If you must miss class because of illness, you may need a doctor’s excuse, especially if you have a long illness and you must miss several classes. You can ask for a doctor’s note at the Student Health Center after you have seen the doctor. Ask your professors for their policies on missing class. They may also be included in the syllabus. It is also recommended to notify your professor beforehand if you know you will be absent from a class.

Grading

Grades are on a 4.3 scale, with grades ranging from A+ to F.

A+ = 4.3, A = 4.0, A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.7
D = 1.0
F = 0
W = Student withdrew from class with a passing mark. This grade will not be included in the GPA. Before withdrawing from a course all international students have to consult the F-1 Advisor.
WF = Student withdrew with a failing grade. The F will be averaged into the GPA.
I = Incomplete.
GPA = Grade Point Average is computed by multiplying credit hours by the class numerical grade and then dividing total credits into the total grade points.

Academic Honesty

What constitutes academic honesty varies from culture to culture, and it is important to understand rules of academic conduct at Georgia State. All students are expected to do their own work. If you are caught cheating in any way, you will be severely penalized. Do not take the risk of copying anyone else’s work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violating course rules contained in the course syllabus
- Getting or providing unauthorized assistance from another student on a paper or project
- Providing or receiving information during quizzes and exams
- Falsifying, fabricating, or dishonest reporting of research results
- Taking the place of another student or enlisting another student to take your place in an exam
- Altering grades
- Plagiarizing

Plagiarism means using someone else’s work in your own papers without attributing the work to the real author. While you are expected to draw on many research sources to write papers, you must not claim their work as your own. This is considered stealing. If you plagiarize, you will suffer serious
academic consequences. In the United States, students are expected to disclose and cite any information they received from another source, whether it was a book, an article, or an encyclopedia. Failure to give credit to the original author is considered plagiarism, which is a serious offense. For more information about plagiarism and how to avoid academic dishonesty, please visit: http://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/student-conductpolicy-on-academic-honesty/

Stress
If you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, do not stop going to classes. This will make the situation more difficult. Instead, talk to your professor about your situation. All professors have office hours when they are available to see students, and they encourage students to come talk to them. Don’t hesitate to visit or email your professors throughout the semester. Most of them are willing to help you if they see that you are making every effort to do well in their class.

Take advantage of the Counseling and Testing Center’s Relaxation Room if you are feeling stressed. It contains a state-of-the-art Massage Chair for you relax in between classes in a room by yourself. For more information, please visit: http://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/

HOUSING
For all types of housing, you will need to provide your own pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, dishes, silverware, and pots and pans. If you sign an on-campus housing contract, confirm details with this office soon after arrival.

Hotels
Before you settle down in an apartment or house, you may need to find a temporary place to stay. If you want to find a hotel or inn near GSU campus, you can refer to https://welcome.gsu.edu/ for information about accommodation.

On-Campus Housing
Rooms in GSU’s two residence halls are available primarily for undergraduates. Options are available for both private and shared rooms, and costs for one semester range from $2,160 to $6,400. If you would like to live in a residence hall, apply early! For more information and to fill out an application, see www.myhousing.gsu.edu.

Global Living Learning Community for On-Campus Housing

This Living Learning Community is specifically designed for International Students, to offer special programs, social activities, and social interactions through which residents can make friends with people from all over the world, while learning about their cultures. Each international student is paired with an American student for a great cross-cultural experience. To apply to be a part of this on-campus program, please visit http://myhousing.gsu.edu/current-residents/living-learning-communities/

Off-Campus Housing
When choosing an apartment, consider:
- Furnished or unfurnished
- Private or shared kitchen and bathroom
- Availability of laundry services
- Accessibility to campus or public transportation
- Parking availability (if you have a car)
- Lease term (many leases are at least six months or one year)
- Deposit (in addition to the first month of rent, a security deposit is usually required, which is returned to you if you leave the apartment in good condition)
- Utilities (gas, electricity, water) may be paid by you or the landlord
- Safe neighborhood (talk with local residents or police to learn about safety)
- Number of roommates

Requirements for renting:
- You will usually be required to show income of at least 2-3 times the amount of the rent. To show this, you can bring in pay stubs or find a guarantor.
- The landlord will ask for your rental history. The university housing office can help you with this.

Housing tips:
- If possible, pay by check or money order; not cash.
- Always ask for a receipt in order to have proof that you have paid.
- In the US, a written contract is more important than what is said.
- If possible, bring a friend with you to help ask questions.
- Read carefully before you sign a contract. Ask for a copy.
To find out how far an apartment or house is from GSU, look on Mapquest.com. The address for GSU is 33 Gilmer Street, Atlanta, GA 30303. MapQuest (or a similar site) will be able to give you an idea how long the commute to and from school will be.

To find out which MARTA routes are close to the apartment, visit www.itsmarta.com.

Housing Quick Vocabulary:
- AC/H = Air-conditioning and Heat
- HVAC = Heating and Cooling System
- BR = Bedroom
- BA = Bathroom
- ½ BA = No shower or bathtub
- Util. = Utilities: gas, electricity and water
- Dep. = Deposit, usually one month’s rent or less.

SETTING UP UTILITIES

Electricity Service
There is a special deal for GSU international students. To sign up, you must have an assigned GSU email address.

Registration Procedure
- Go to www.georgiapower.com
- Click “Start/Stop service”
- Click “Start electric service”
- Read statement and click “Begin”
- Read statement and click “Register here”
- Read terms of service and click “I agree”
- Enter a username and password
- Enter first name, last name, and GSU email address, then click “Next”
- Enter a secret question and answer
- Once you have successfully created a username and password, you will receive a confirmation page. Print this and keep it to use later.

Applying for Service
- Click on the button “Click here to continue”
- Enter your new street address
- Be prepared to answer the following questions:
  - Is this a new home?
  - Are you moving to this address?
  - Is this a mobile home?
  - What is your current address?
  - What day would you like service to begin?
  - Home, work, cell phone number
  - Employer
  - Address where bill should be mailed
- Enter GSU school code (000-42-0478) for Social Security Number
- In the box for additional comments, enter “Georgia State University International Student”
- Verify information and click “Submit”
- You will receive a confirmation email

Deposit Waiver Option
Your account will be billed a deposit based on the address to which you are moving a $22.00 establishment charge. We are offering the option of cancelling the deposit. If you would like to have your deposit waived, you must pay your first bill using e-bill and then enroll in Automatic Bank Draft for future bills. Please follow these directions once you receive your first bill.

- Go to www.georgiapower.com
- Log in on the right side of the screen
- Enter your username and password, then click “OK”
- Enter the account number and access code from your bill
- Give your account a name, then click “Next”
- Verify that the bill summary is correct.
- Scroll down and click “Pay my bill” and you will be taken to the payment information page
- Check the amount and date, then click “Next”
- Verify payment amount and click “Submit”
- You will receive an email within two hours

Enrolling in Automatic Bank Draft/Auto Pay
- Click on “Pay My Bill”
- Click “Options” at the top
- Click “Enroll in Auto Pay”
- Select your account
- Read the underlined statement and click “Next”
- Read the statement, check “Yes, I agree”, and click “Enroll”
- Make sure the bank information is correct, then click “Next”
- Verify your information and click “Submit”
- Email the following statement to customerservice@georgiapower.com:
  “I am an international student who attends Georgia State University. I have paid my first bill using e-bill and enrolled in Automatic Bank Draft. My account number is *****-*****. Please verify my payment and ADB enrollment and waive my deposit. Thanks.”
- In the future your bills will come to you via your GSU email address and will be paid automatically from your checking account.
Telephone Service
There are multiple landline phone providers in Atlanta, the two primary ones are Comcast and AT&T.
Contact AT&T (local service) at 1-800-660-1000 or visit: http://www.att.com/
For services from Comcast visit https://www.xfinity.com/learn/home-phone-services

Water Service
Visit the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management online at: http://www.atlantawatershed.org/
You will need:
- Completed water service application
- Notarized lease agreement from owner
- Deposit (usually $80) and account creation fee ($15)

Gas Service
You might want to find out what company the owner or previous tenants used. Choices for gas service in Atlanta are:
- Georgia Natural Gas: http://www.gng.com/
- Gas South: http://www.gassouth.com/home
- Scana Energy: http://www.scanaenergy.com/

Mobile/Cellular Phone Service
There are many options for cellular phone service. Many companies offer service contracts for two years, with deals for free or discounted phones when the contract is signed. Another option, especially for students who will be in Atlanta for less than two years, is pay-as-you-go (also known as prepaid) cards. These cards allow you to prepay for a certain number of minutes, with the option of buying more minutes when you need them. To use this kind of service, you will need to purchase a phone.

Cellular companies:
- AT&T: www.wireless.att.com
- Metro-PCS: http://www.metrobyt-mobile.com/
- Sprint: www.sprint.com
- T-Mobile: www.t-mobile.com
- Verizon: www.verizonwireless.com

Stoves and Ovens
If you have a gas stove that must be hand lit, be sure to light the match first and then turn on the gas burner. If you turn on the gas first, escaped gas may cause an explosion when you strike the match. Most gas stoves have a broiler. This is the bottom drawer that pulls out under the large oven door. If you want to cook meat or other foods with high grease content at a high temperature, you should use the broiler. Broil simply means cooking under direct flame of the fire. On the oven temperature control knob you will find “broil.” Set your oven to this setting for broiling meat.

Do not cook meats with high grease content in your oven. This could cause an oven fire. Baking soda thrown on fires extinguishes them very quickly. Never throw water on a grease fire! Also, do not leave your home when something is cooking on the stove or in the oven. If you suspect a gas leak, notify the gas company as soon as possible and allow proper ventilation.

Ventilation Danger!
American homes do not have adequate ventilation for cooking on an open fire inside the home. Although you can cook on your stove and use the exhaust fan in the hood above, no other cooking with an open fire should be done in the house.

Garbage Collection and Recycling
Once a week the city of Atlanta, and most other cities in the Atlanta area, collects garbage from each neighborhood. All trash must be put in covered containers and placed in a designated location to be picked up. Most apartment complexes have large garbage dumpsters that you can use to dispose of your trash. The city also picks up recyclable items in a separate container.

HEALTH CARE
For All Emergencies: dial 911 on any phone

University Health Clinic
Georgia State Students can visit the university clinic, which treats minor illnesses and injuries. Seeing a doctor and getting medicine from the clinic are free, but for more serious cases they may need to refer you to an outside physician. Some services UHS provides include:
- Primary care services, including diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses, annual physicals, and STD checks and treatment
- Minor emergencies

HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE
Although many appliances and physical features of your home may seem similar to those in your home country, beware of hidden differences! Plumbing, floor, ceiling and wall coverings, and ventilation and heating systems may be very different. Before using cleaning products and appliances, you should read the directions.
• Sports medicine  
• Women’s health treatment  
• Health education  
• Dispensing some prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications  
• Immunizations  
• Laboratory tests, most of which are available at deeply discounted rates

Telehealth appointments are available. To schedule a telehealth appointment, go to the patient portal or call one of the campuses.

The Clinic is located at 141 Piedmont Ave, on the first floor of the Commons student housing building. Call 404-413-1930 for questions or to set up an appointment, visit: http://health.gsu.edu/

Immunization
Before you can attend Georgia State, you are required to receive certain immunizations. If you have these before you leave your home country, bring proof with you to GSU. You may also receive them at the GSU Health Clinic when you arrive. You must schedule an appointment, and you will be required to pay for each immunization you receive.

Counseling Center
The Counseling Center can help with many different areas of student life, ranging from helpful hints to handling severe problems. Counselors offer help with adjusting to the university, resolving conflicts, developing relationships, etc.

Other services include:
• Administering GMAT, GRE, MCAT, and other standardized tests
• Life skills for academic assistance and stress management
• Personal and group counseling
• Help in a school or personal crisis
• Assistance coping with traumatic stress

If you wish to seek guidance with a problem at any time, you can visit the Counseling Center for free. It is located at 75 Piedmont Ave NE, #200a and can be reached at (404) 413-1640 for questions or to set up an appointment. Also see the website for valuable information: http://counselingcenter.gsu.edu/

Gynecology and Maternity
The GSU Health Clinic offers the following services to women:
• Annual preventative health screen
• Contraceptive management
• Women’s health issues
• Information, testing, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections

Planned Parenthood of Georgia (PPGA) also offers annual gynecological examinations, infertility/family planning counseling, birth control, and sexually transmitted disease testing to women for free or at reduced rates. The main office is at 440 Moreland Ave SE, very close to the GSU campus. For the locations of other offices throughout the metro Atlanta area, visit the PPGA website at http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/GA

Hospitals
This is just a small sample of hospitals around Atlanta. Students should refer to the insurance company’s website for hospitals within the network for more benefits.

Grady Memorial Hospital
80 Jesse Hill Dr. SE
Atlanta, GA 30303
(Right beside Georgia State)
404.616.1000
www.gradyhealthsystem.org

Piedmont Hospital
1968 Peachtree Rd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309
404.605.5000
www.piedmont.org

Saint Joseph’s Mercy Foundation
This is one of Atlanta’s largest community outreach programs serving the homeless, uninsured, and immigrant populations in Atlanta. It provides social services, health screenings, and education: http://www.mercyatlanta.org/

North Location:
Mercy Care Chamblee
5134 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341
678.843.8600

Mercy Care at CHRIS 180
1976 Flat Shoals Rd
Atlanta, GA 30316
678.843.8600

Children’s Hospital of Atlanta
1001 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30342
678.843.8600
Dental Care
This list is just a small sample of the dentists available in the Atlanta area and is in no way a recommendation or endorsement of any of the dentists listed. You can search online or ask American students for recommended dentists.

Drs. Solomon Cohen and Steve Drescher
Colony Square
1201 Peachtree Street
Building 400, Suite 1515
Atlanta, GA 30361
678-941-4154
www.midtownatlantadentists.com

Drs. Elise Ashpole and Sheri Katz
1275 McConnell Drive, Suite H
Decatur, GA 30033
(404) 325-5440

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
There are many opportunities, activities, and services available to students at Georgia State. For a current calendar of student activities and university events, visit Panther Involvement Network (PIN) at http://pin.gsu.edu. Also check the ISSS newsletter (sent to your GSU email account) for events throughout the year.

International Student Associations Council
The International Student Associations Council (ISAC) is comprised of the presidents and officers of the 17 international student associations and meets regularly during the semester. The Council is assisted by the International Services staff in planning events of special interest not only for international students, but for the Georgia State community as well. They are your representatives on campus and are here to help you in any way. Please visit http://isss.gsu.edu/current-students/campus-community-involvement/international-student-associations-council-isac/ for a list of current officers and contact information.

PALS
Panthers Abroad Learning Society (PALS) seeks to provide domestic and international students the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural exchange. The PALS program aims to bring students together that may not have otherwise met by offering first-hand experience to become enriched in another culture while educating their PALS partner on their own culture. Students can expect to strengthen their intercultural awareness and communication skills by participating in PALS.

Although the PALS program is open to all Georgia State University students, this program is highly recommended to all international students, and those domestic students who have traveled abroad, plan to travel abroad in the near future or are engaged in an academic major with an international component.

Five components must be met in order to successfully complete the PALS program. The components are as follows:

1. Meet with your PALS partner at least 5 times a semester.
2. Participate in at least 2 shared meals with one another. One meal should be from each other’s home country. This meal can be homemade or from a restaurant.
3. Attend at least 1 GSU event together. This can be an athletic event, student organization event, etc.
4. Participate in a community service project together (coordinated through the Office of Civic Engagement).
5. Submit final evaluation form.

Submit completed applications to International Student and Scholar Services in Sparks Hall room 252.

Intercultural Community Organizations
- Alliance Francaise, 404.436.1211
- Association Purtorriqueno de Georgia, 770.436.5750
- Atlanta Holland Club, 404.231.8553
- Chinese Community Center, 770.451.4456
- Cuban Club, 770.451.3477
- Eastern European Social Adjustment Services, 404.622.2235
- Goethe-Institute of Atlanta, 404.892.2388
- Pan Asian Community Center, 770.220.0741
- Indian American Cultural Association, 770.436.3719
- Latin American Association, 404.638.1800
- Pan African Orthodox Community Service Center, 404.752.6125
- Persian Community Center, 770.409.8966
- Atlanta Muslin Young Professionals, 404.509.6584

Newspaper, Radio, and Television
The Signal is a student-run newspaper that contains news and helpful information. The Signal is published each Tuesday during academic semesters and can be found in more than 50 locations on campus. If you would like to work for the newspaper, all students are welcome to be trained in basic
news, features and sports writing, as well as advertisement sales and newspaper layout and production. Visit www.georgiastatesignal.com.

Album is GSU’s radio station offering diverse new music, music from local bands, news, sports, coverage of GSU Panthers games, and a wide variety of other programming. Visit http://studentmedia.gsu.edu/student-media-organizations/album-88 for more information.

Georgia State University Television (GSUTV) is run by students and allows students from many backgrounds to volunteer. Programming consists of Georgia State productions, music videos, documentaries and movies from college networks, as well as local, national and international syndicates. GSUTV welcomes all students interested in television, broadcasting and production, regardless of major. Visit https://communication.gsu.edu/gsutv/to find out how to get involved.

Theater
The Georgia State University Players is the oldest theater group in Georgia. Students have the opportunity to work alongside local artists in university-sponsored shows to gain exposure in the Atlanta theater community. Visit http://www.gsuplayers.com/ to learn more.

Sports and Recreation
The GSU Student Recreation Center is free and available to all students. It includes the following features:
- 7,000 square foot free weight area
- International regulation squash court
- 4 racquetball courts
- Aquatic center with 8-lane lap pool with diving board - Spa and Dry Sauna
- 35 foot climbing wall with 6 routes
- Bouldering Wall
- Game room
- Aerobics/dance studio
- Martial arts studio
- Main gymnasium featuring four basketball courts with electronic score boards and spectator seating
- 1/8 mile running track
- Omni gym with rounded walls and floors lined for 7 different.
- Fitness center
- Exercise room

You also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of fitness classes and clinics, many of which are free to GSU students and employees. For specific schedules visit http://recreation.gsu.edu/about-us/facilities/student-recreation-center/

There are also various sports clubs and intramurals you can participate in with other students. Students interested in these activities may visit http://recreation.gsu.edu/intramurals-clubs/intramurals/ or visit the lobby reception of Student Recreation Center for more information.

Touch the Earth: Outdoor Activities
Touch the Earth is an outdoor recreation program for both beginners and advanced participants. Organized trips to the North Georgia Mountains and all over the United States include camping, hiking, rafting, canoeing, fishing, water skiing, and more. You can also rent outdoor equipment and take classes on outdoor safety. For more information, visit http://recreation.gsu.edu/touch-the-earth/

Georgia State Sports Teams
GSU’s has 18 men’s and women’s sports teams, including:
- Baseball (men)
- Basketball (men and women)
- Cross-country (men and women)
- Football (men)
- Golf (men and women)
- Soccer (men and women)
- Softball (women)
- Tennis (men and women)
- Track (men and women)
- Volleyball (women)
- Sand Volleyball (women)

Fans can purchase tickets to baseball, men’s basketball and women’s basketball games online or by calling the ticket office at (404) 413-4021. Free admission is offered for men’s football, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis, softball, volleyball, and sand volleyball with a valid Panther ID. For more information on general athletics, visit http://www.georgiastatesports.com/.

Music
Everyone can audition to participate in the following Georgia State music programs:
- Choral ensembles
- Orchestra
- Bands
- Brass ensemble
- Percussion ensemble
- Jazz ensemble
- New music ensemble
- Opera

For additional information, contact the School of Music at 404.413.5910 or visit www.music.gsu.edu.
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

AMIS/AMIGO
The Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS) is a community group that provides friendship and hospitality to international students from all around Atlanta. Their yearly program is called AMIGO, which allows you sign up to spend time with a local family. The family will show you around Atlanta and help you get to know American culture. You can also sign up for AMIS' Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. During the traditional American Thanksgiving holiday, you can enjoy a special dinner with a host American family. Through the Christmas International House program, you can spend two weeks over the winter holiday with an American family in a different state.
http://www.amis-inc.org/

The following is a sample of religious organizations in the Atlanta area and found on Georgia State’s campus. There are many more excellent groups not included on this list because of space constraints. Please visit https://pin.gsu.edu/organizations for a comprehensive list.

Al-Farooq Masjid of Atlanta
442 14th St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
404.874.7521
http://alfarooqmasjid.org/

All Saints Episcopal Church
Noelle York-Simmons
nyorksimmons@allsaintsatlanta.org
404.387.2338
http://www.allsaintsatlanta.org/

Atlanta First United Methodist Church
360 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30308
404.524.8900

Atlanta Hare Krishna Temple
1287 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30306
404.377.8680
www.atlantaharekrishnas.org

Baha’i Unity Center
Victoria Muhammad
770.981.0097
Vickichuck9@yahoo.com

Baptist Collegiate Ministries
125 Edgewood Avenue
Teresa Bell
Teresa@student.org
404.659.8726
www bcmgsu.org

Buckhead Church
3336 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30326
404.814.7000
www.buckheadchurch.org

Buddhist Instruction Ministry
770.772.9927
http://www.fundamental-buddhism.com/needhelp.htm

Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
48 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.catholicshrineatlanta.org
404.521.1866

Catholic Students Association
Stephen Lyness
stephenlyness@hotmail.com
404.233.2145
http://www.archatl.com/education/cm/campus_georgiastate.html

Chabad Intown (Orthodox)
928 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30306
404.989.0434

Congregation Shearith Israel (Traditional)
1180 University Drive
Atlanta, GA 30306
404.873.1743

Episcopal Ministry
Chris Hannum
cclhannum@gmail.com

Hindu Temple
3518 Clarkston Industrial Blvd.
404.297.0501

International Church
2375 Shallowford Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
404.321.3392
http://www.internationalchurch.cc/index.htm
There are some dangerous areas in Atlanta, so before you go to a new area (especially at night!), be sure to ask how safe it is. Georgia State has its own police force, in addition to the City of Atlanta police. On the GSU campus there are 55 emergency call boxes with blue flashing lights. If you feel that you are in danger on campus, find the nearest callbox to automatically dial campus police. Whenever you feel in danger or need help on campus, GSU Police officers can escort you to anywhere on campus.

The police are expected to both enforce the law and assist the public. It is always appropriate to ask the police to help with all kinds of matters such as lost or stolen property, noisy neighbors, and emergency situations. Police are legally prohibited from taking "gifts" or money. They may arrest people who attempt to offer such payment.

Here are some tips about how to stay safe on and off campus:
- Do not leave bags unattended anywhere.
- Do not leave valuables or bags in plain view inside your car at any time. If necessary, put them in the trunk.
- Lock your car doors at all times.
- If a police officer stops your car, do not get out of the car unless instructed to do so. Roll down your window to speak to the officer.
- Do not walk by yourself at night.
- When walking, keep your head up and look directly ahead. Look confident, pay attention, and be aware of your surroundings.
- Never get into a stranger’s car. If someone in a car asks for directions, stand away from the car when talking to him or her.
- Get to know your neighbors at home. If you will be away from home for an extended period of time, ask one of your neighbors to collect your mail and newspapers.

Contact numbers:
- Always dial 911 for true emergencies
- GSU campus police: 404.413.3333
- GSU Police Escort: 404.413.2100

Typically, international students arrive in the United States with concerns about safety. Movies and television, particularly news reports, make the United States appear to be even more violent than it is. If you are careful and take some necessary precautions your stay should be crime free.
MANAGING YOUR MONEY

MONEY AND BANKING

Opening a Bank Account
Make it a priority upon your arrival to open a checking and/or savings account with a bank or the GSU Federal Credit Union. Banks with many branches around Atlanta include:

- Bank of America (www.bankofamerica.com)
- Chase (https://www.chase.com/)
- Georgia’s Own Credit Union (www.georgiasown.org)
- PNC bank (www.pnc.com)
- SunTrust (www.suntrust.com)
- Wells Fargo (www.wellsfargo.com)

When you open an account, the bank will likely ask you for your passport, I-20, and Social Security Number (SSN). If you do not have an SSN, you can tell the bank that international students are not allowed to have SSNs unless they are employed. If the bank refuses to open an account for you, ISSS can write a letter for you to give to the bank.

It is not safe to carry large amounts of cash with you. When first coming to the U.S., it is safest to bring your money in the form of traveler’s checks. If you deposit checks or traveler’s checks into your account, the money can take up to three weeks to be cleared for withdrawal. Once you have opened a U.S. bank account, your parents can deposit money into this account from overseas by wire transfer. When opening your account, be sure to ask the bank official to give you the necessary information your parents would need in order to make such a transfer.

If you have a spouse or other dependents, you may wish to open a joint account so multiple family members can use the same account.

Using an ATM
Automated Teller Machines (or ATMs for short) allow you to make cash withdrawals, deposits, and transfers between accounts. You can also view your account balance. This is free at your own bank and its branches, but when you use another bank’s ATM, both your bank and the other bank could charge you a bank fee of between $1.50 and $2.50. You will need an ATM card or a debit card to use the ATM machine. There is a limit on how much money you can withdraw from an ATM at one time or on one day. Check with your bank to find out what the limit is.

Using a Debit Card
A debit card—also called a check card—is connected to your checking account and is used almost like a regular credit card (such as MasterCard or VISA), except that the charges made are deducted from your checking account upon purchase. You do not get a separate bill at the end of the month as with a credit card. Be sure to keep track of your spending, though. If you spend more money than is in your account, you do not only risk ruining your credit record, but the bank also charges you with a fee of around $25 every time you overdraw your account.

How to Write a Check
Americans use checks rather than paying cash for big purchases. When opening your bank account, you'll be given a checkbook. Using a checkbook for paying rent, your phone bill etc. helps you to keep track of payments.

Here are steps to follow when writing a check:
1. Write the date on which you are “issuing” or writing the check.
2. Write the name of the person or business to which you are making the payment, and draw a line after the name so no one can add to the name.
3. Write the dollar amount in numerals (e.g. $20.53). Put the first number directly after the dollar sign so that there is no room for someone to add another number between the dollar sign and the first number.
4. Write out the dollar amount, and draw a line to fill the space.
5. Sign your name as it is printed on the check (don’t sign in Chinese, Japanese etc.).
6. Write down the purpose of the check in the lower left hand corner, e.g. Groceries, or if it is for payment of an account, write the account number in that space.

U.S. Money Facts
- The dollar is also called a buck or a one. All U.S. paper money is the same size and color.
- American coins have names:
  - Penny = 1 cent
  - Nickel = 5 cents
  - Dime = 10 cents
  - Quarter = 25 cents
  - Half-dollar = 50 cents
  - Dollar = 100 cents
NOTE: Make sure all your banking and personal information is private. In certain instances, thieves will steal the identity of others and use your banking information for themselves. For more information about how to prevent identity theft, please visit: http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/.

EMPLOYMENT
While international students have limitations on where and how much you can work, there are many opportunities for employment. F-1 students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week on campus, beginning as soon as your studies begin. You will learn more about employment at orientation, and if you have questions about working on or off campus at any time during your stay at Georgia State, stop by the ISSS office and talk with an advisor.

The University Career Center can help you find a job on campus or an internship off campus. They can also help you practice and prepare for a job interview, refine your resume (CV) and cover letter, learn how to network, and many other things. Career Services also offers job listings and online venues for finding internships. To learn more, see http://career.gsu.edu/.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
Who is eligible for a SSN?
As an F or J student or scholar, you are eligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) ONLY if you have an offer of employment on campus. You cannot apply until you have an actual job offer. Students who have never worked on campus, but who find authorized employment off campus (like CPT or OPT) are also eligible to apply for a SSN. Persons with F-2, H-4, B-1 or B-2 status may not be employed and cannot obtain a SSN.

The only situations where you, as a noncitizen, are legally required to provide a SSN are 1) to employers for wage and tax reporting purposes, and 2) to the Internal Revenue Service for tax returns. However, banks, apartment owners, telephone companies, and many other businesses will continuously ask you for a SSN even though you may not be eligible for one. Those businesses should be able to provide you the service without a SSN, but if they persist, International Services will write a letter explaining why you cannot have a SSN, and requesting that you be given that service.

How to apply for an SSN
You must receive a formal job offer letter from your potential employer which includes the employer EIN# (586002050 for Georgia State). ISSS has a sample letter available if needed. F-1 students must request a letter from an advisor in International Student & Scholar Services. You will need to provide us with a copy of the employer letter.

Prepare the following items to take with you when you apply:
- **EVERYONE**: Passport, I-94 document, and completed Form SS-5 (available on the SSA website at http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.html)
- **F-1 Students**: Valid I-20 form, employer letter, and ISSS support letter
- **J-1 Students**: DS-2019 form, work authorization letter from your sponsor
- **J-1 Scholars or Researchers**: DS-2019, employer letter
- **J-2 Scholars or Researchers**: DS-2019, employer letter
- **H-1 Students**: Copy of Form I-797 showing approval of H-1 petition

Be sure to wait at least 10 days after you initially entered the United States to visit the Social Security Administration (SSA) office (ISSS will provide you with an exact date when you can apply for your SSN).

There are many locations throughout Atlanta, but the closest one to GSU is:

401 W. Peachtree Street, Suite 2860
Peachtree Summit Federal Building

Accessible via Civic Center MARTA Station

Hours 8:30am-3:30pm (closed holidays)
(404)331-4155 or (800)772-1213

After you successfully apply at an office, the card will be mailed to you in approximately two to four weeks.

U.S. TAXES
Filing correct federal income tax forms is the personal responsibility of each international student. All F-1 and J-1 students and their dependents, regardless of whether or not they have earned money, are required to file an annual tax form of some kind. Tax forms must be postmarked no later than April 15 of each year.
If you were present in the U.S. even for one day as an F or J student, you must complete an IRS tax related form called an 8843 form. International Student and Scholar Services has software for you to use to meet this federal requirement as well as assist you in completing the full federal tax return forms 1040NR-EZ. The software is web-based and you can access this software from any computer with Internet.

If you have to file a federal tax return, you must also file a State of Georgia Income Tax Return. Note, this has nothing to with Georgia State University, but refers to state government.

The ISSS Office provides limited resources to aid students with their taxes, but we are not qualified as tax advisors.

For more information on ISSS tax assistance, please visit https://isss.gsu.edu/current-students/additional-information-resources/tax-information/.

For more information on Federal taxes, visit irs.gov

For information on Georgia taxes, see dor.georgia.gov/taxes
WEATHER

Weather in Atlanta is generally warm in the spring and fall, hot in the summer, and mildly cold in winter.

Summer: June through September is generally hot and humid during the day, with pleasant temperatures at night. Highs are in the 80s-90s Fahrenheit. However, even when it is very hot outside, air-conditioned buildings can be very cold, so you may need to bring a jacket with you even in summer. Also beware of mosquitoes in the summer, especially in areas with lots of plants and trees. You can buy insect repellent at the drugstore or grocery store to help keep them from biting.

Fall: October is variable and can be either very hot or very cold, while November begins to get cold. Expect to start wearing winter clothes in November with temperatures dropping into the 40s Fahrenheit.

Winter: December through February can be very cold, with temperatures in the 30s and even 20s. Snow is rare but does come every few years. Winter highs are generally in the 40s Fahrenheit.

TRANSPORTATION

Arriving in Atlanta

When you arrive at the Atlanta Airport, you can take MARTA (see below for more information) or a taxi to your destination. Some social workers are also available for help. You can contact Laura Brown at laura@gacultureconnection.com or you can call either 678.987.7100 or 770.329.1175. You can also contact the ISSS office to see if other options are available.

MARTA

While many local use only cars to get around town, Atlanta does have an excellent public bus and subway system called MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit System). While the rail system is limited, all neighborhood bus lines feed into the rail stations. The system now offers a free real-time smart phone app so you can see the exact location of buses and arriving trains. Georgia State has its own MARTA bus and subway stops.

Bus:
- Georgia State Univ. Library/Decatur St.
- Georgia State Univ. Concert Hall/ Gilmer St.

Subway:
- Georgia State Station
- Five Points Station
- Peachtree Center Station

To find out how to use MARTA and arrive at GSU, go to www.itsmarta.com. The website gives you information on prices, bus and train routes, and schedules. You can also type in a starting address and find out how to get to GSU from anywhere in Atlanta.

The easiest and least expensive way to buy MARTA tickets and passes is through Georgia State. Students receive a 50% discount on monthly passes, and you can purchase them by visiting the customer service area at Auxiliary and Support Services. For more information, see http://services.gsu.edu/Inter-county Buses

If you will be living farther away from downtown Atlanta, you may still be able to take the bus to GSU. Several metro counties have express bus lines that go downtown on weekdays:

- Buckhead Uptown Connection (BUC) ➜ www.bucride.com
- Cobb Community Transit (CCT) ➜ http://dot.cobbcountyga.gov/cct/route-schedules.htm
- Gwinnett County Transit (GCT) ➜ www.gctransit.com

Driving

If you plan to drive a car while you are in Atlanta, first make sure you have a valid driver’s license. (See the section above on driver’s licenses.) You can park at GSU by purchasing a monthly or semester parking pass. Visit the Parking Services webpage at http://parking.gsu.edu/ to learn how to buy passes and how much they cost.
Remember that you are required by law to wear a seatbelt while driving or riding in a car. You are also required to buy automobile insurance, which is between $500 and $2000 per year, so factor that into your budget.

**Car Insurance**

*Buying Car Insurance*

Before you buy, compare prices at different insurance companies. You can visit [www.bankrate.com/brm/rate/insurance/](http://www.bankrate.com/brm/rate/insurance/) to compare many companies at once. Some popular choices are Geico ([www.geico.com](http://www.geico.com)), Traveler’s ([www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com)), and Allstate ([www.allstate.com](http://www.allstate.com)). You may also choose an independent insurance agent who can recommend the best offer for your situation.

**Terms you should know about car insurance:**

**Liability.** This relates to how much your insurance will pay another person if you are at fault in an accident (that is, if you hit them.) It covers damage to their vehicle as well as treatment for any injuries. The numbers a company will quote you will be something like 100/300, meaning in case of an accident, your insurance company will pay a maximum of $100,000 for car damage or injury per person for people injured in the other car with a maximum of $300,000 for three people. If there were more people in the other vehicle, the $300,000 will be split among them.

**Collision.** This category covers damage to your vehicle if you are at fault in an accident. This covers running your car into another car, a tree, etc.

**Deductible.** Collision comes with a deductible which you specify. If you have a deductible of $500, for example, you pay the first $500 towards repairs of your vehicle in case of an accident. The higher your deductible, the cheaper your insurance rates will be. The insurance broker will use the phrase “500 collision” or “collision at 500” when determining your deductible.

**Comprehensive.** This category covers events other than accidents. This includes theft of your vehicle, theft of your car stereo etc., or incidents such as if you were to hit an animal, if a tree falls on your car, if your windshield is shattered by a rock etc. As with collision, this category also comes with a deductible.

**Traveling around the U.S.**

If you are planning to visit friends or family further away or would like to explore the USA during your summer or winter break, you can, of course, fly. But you can also take the train or bus. This will not only save you money; you will also get to see more of the countryside.

Amtrak provides rail service to all major cities, and Greyhound is the major bus carrier. Megabus is more limited but offers direct service to major cities. These services can even take you into Canada. If you’re adventurous, look into their explorer tickets, which allow unlimited travel for one price.

- Megabus [https://www.megabus.com/](https://www.megabus.com/)

**FOOD AND GROCERIES**

GSU has on-campus dining in the student center for breakfast and lunch. There are many restaurants in the area to choose from during the day, and students living in residence halls have a restaurant open 24 hours. You can purchase a meal plan to use at two dining halls in our residence halls (see [http://dining.gsu.edu/meal-plans/](http://dining.gsu.edu/meal-plans/)).

The closest grocery store to the University Lofts and Commons is the Publix at 595 Piedmont Avenue (one mile away). Common grocery stores around Atlanta include Publix, Kroger, Super Wal-Mart, and the DeKalb Farmer’s Market. Some packaged foods are available at drugstores such as Walgreen’s, CVS, and Rite Aid. Wholesale stores that require annual paid membership offer cheaper foods in large quantities. These include Sam’s Club and Costco.

There are several international farmers markets around Atlanta. The International Farmer’s Market is at 5193 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Chamblee, GA 30341. The Atlanta Farmer’s Market is at 3602 Browns Mill Road SE, Atlanta 30354. The DeKalb Farmer’s Market is at 3000 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur 30030.

**SHOPPING**

In most stores prices are fixed, which means that you cannot bargain for a lower price. The exception to this is buying very expensive items such as a house or car. The posted price generally does NOT include sales tax, which must be calculated in when you make your purchase. The sales tax varies by county but is usually 6-7% of the purchase price.

Whenever you buy something, ask for a receipt. The receipt proves that you have purchased an item on a particular day in a particular store. If the item is damaged or unsatisfactory,
you can usually return the item and receive your money back if you have the receipt.

General purpose:
- Wal-Mart
- Target
- Walgreen’s
- Rite Aid
- CVS
- TJ Maxx
Office/School Supplies:
- Office Max
- Office Depot
- Staples
Electronics:
- Comp USA
- Best Buy
- BrandSmart (discount store)
- Fry’s
Furniture:
- Ikea
- Rooms-to-go

Bargain shopping:
To find very low prices, many students look for ads around campus posted by other students selling something. It is usual to find furniture, books, household supplies, and other items this way. Other good sources for used items are www.craigslist.com (choose the Atlanta tab), the classified ads in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution print edition, and online classifieds at www.ajc.com.

Goodwill stores sell used clothes and furniture at very low prices. You may find other thrift stores around Atlanta also selling donated items at very low prices. In the summer and during warm months, students who live in suburban areas may come across yard sales and garage sales. In the U.S. many families sell their used furniture, clothes, and many other things in front of their homes for one or two days. This may be the cheapest way to buy items, so don’t be afraid to stop and look! While it is not normal to negotiate with sellers in most stores, at yard sales you are free to negotiate prices.

**PLACES TO VISIT**
As a major communication and transportation hub, as an international city, and as a financial center, Atlanta and the state of Georgia to which it belongs have so much to be explored. There are some intriguing places you can visit and events you can attend during holidays.

- Watch the “Only in Downtown” Video

Please visit http://www.atlanta.net/50fun/#orchestra to find 50 Fun Things to See and Do in Atlanta.

Check Creative Loafing at http://clatl.com/ to find out more.

As a GSU student, you can also buy discounted ticket to Disneyland, Georgia Aquarium and so many more places at http://studentcenter.gsu.edu/services/discount-tickets/ or at the lobby reception of student center.
AMERICAN CULTURE

NAMES
First or given names are used in the US more frequently than anywhere else. The last name is the family name. If they are about the same age or status people may call each other by their first names immediately after they meet.

When you meet someone who has a title like "Professor," "Doctor," "Ambassador," "President," or "Dean," it is correct to use that title and the person’s last or family name. "Ms." is an appropriate way to address both married and unmarried women. If invited to address someone by their first name, you may do so. In the classroom if you feel uncomfortable calling your instructor by the first name, you can use a title and their last name.

If you don’t know how to address a person you can follow these general rules:

- Address people of your own approximate age and status by their first name.
- If the person is older use Mr., Mrs., Miss or Ms. and the last name. Ask them "What shall I call you?" or "How shall I address you?"
- If someone appears uncertain about how to address you say, “You can call me…”
- Be patient with people in terms of helping them pronounce your name. Just like some sounds are new to you, there will be sounds that are new to others.

Get in the habit of using your official name when you write your signature. Signing abbreviations of your name can be confusing. It is also helpful for instructors and other people who come in contact with you to know your full name and your nickname. Some international students may use nicknames because people have trouble pronouncing their birth names. Being called by a nickname can indicate you are viewed with respect and affection.

JUST SAY NO
The freedom of speech to which Americans have become accustomed has established a way of communicating that is sometimes seen as very direct. Directness while communicating with others is very acceptable and sometimes expected. DON’T FEEL BAD ABOUT SAYING NO!

In some countries, open rejection or disagreement may be considered rude. This is not the case in the United States. Here it is quite normal to disagree openly. Therefore, the following scenarios have been provided in order to give you a better idea of how to say “No” when you find yourself in one of these situations.

Telemarketing
You may get phone calls from people wanting to sell you things or wanting you to give money to a charity. Credit card companies may try to give you credit cards, marketing companies may ask you to participate in surveys, and telemarketers may try to sell you various products. The people who call may ask for your personal information without telling you why they are asking. They may also keep talking without giving you the chance to talk and explain things that you don’t understand. They will also do their best to keep you on the phone as long as possible. This is their job.

What you can do is say, “No, thank you!” and hang-up the telephone. Don’t stay on the phone any longer once you have said it. If these people come to your door, just say, “No thanks!” and close your door. Don’t worry about being rude—they are used to it. It is possible to have your phone number removed from most of the telemarketers’ lists by registering your number on the National Do Not Call List at www.donotcall.gov.

Religion
People may try to get you to visit or join their church. They may invite you to one of their organization’s events or give you books and magazines about their religion. What you can do if you don’t wish to attend their meetings or church services is simply say, “No, thank you.” It is not rude and they should not get angry. Even if the person has been a good friend or helped you in some way, you have the right not to attend a church service or meeting if you don’t want to.

Panhandlers
Panhandlers (or beggars) are very common in Atlanta, especially around the Five Points area. If you have classes near Five Points, you will probably see panhandlers every day. They may be standing or walking around asking people for money. If they approach you, DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY. Panhandling is illegal and should not be encouraged, and charities provide shelter and food for those who need it.

If you are approached, you can say, “Sorry, I don’t have any money,” or “No, thanks.” If the person becomes aggressive or insists, just walk away. If possible, try to avoid coming near panhandlers at night.
Drugs
Recreational drugs are common in the United States. You are most likely to be offered drugs at a party, a night club, or a bar. It’s all right to say “NO.” Also be aware that many of these drugs are made in people’s homes and cut, or mixed, with deadly substances.

Never set your drink down at a party or bar! People can slip drugs into your drink this way. If you happen to set your cup down, get a new cup and drink. Remember that you always have the right to say no to anything you encounter that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Alcohol
The legal age to purchase and/or drink alcohol is 21, and you must show your identification before buying any kind of alcohol. It is illegal to carry open containers of alcohol in public places like the street, or even transport them in your car. In addition, the laws against drunk driving are very strict. DO NOT DRINK BEFORE YOU DRIVE. Not only is this dangerous to you and others, but you could also lose your license and go to jail – for international students this means deportation.

FRIENDSHIP
A U.S. student may consider you a friend, but he or she may invite you to do something only once or twice a quarter. This is not because he or she does not like you. It simply means that life in the United States is very busy and U.S. students tend to have many commitments (work and family, for instance, in addition to their studies) and not much free time.

Sometimes international students feel that U.S. students are superficial because they act very friendly but do not wish to build a friendship. Acting friendly is a U.S. custom. It is intended to create positive feelings. Some new international students feel confused when someone they do not know says hello to them in the street. This casual greeting is not intended to encourage a conversation or express a romantic interest. It is just another form of American friendliness.

“Hi, how are you?” is a common greeting in the United States, but very often the person who asks the question does not wait for a response. Some international students think this is very rude, but it is not intended to be. It is not customary for the person asking this question to wait for a deep answer. It is customary to reply, “Fine” or “Good.” You may also want to ask how the other person is. She or he will most likely answer with the same brief response.

DATING
When you first start interacting with Americans, it may seem a little awkward in the way they joke around and socialize. Someone you meet may find an interest in you, or you may find an interest in him or her. So, if you are interested, how do you make the first move? If you are not interested, how do you tell that person?

If you like someone:
Tell him or her that you are interested and ask him or her to have dinner or coffee with you sometime. It is all right to be direct in these cases. Don’t worry—even most Americans find this difficult. Do not go out alone with someone you just met. If someone asks you on a date and you wish to accept, agree to meet in a public area with other people around.

If you don’t like someone:
When he or she asks to see you sometime, you can simply say, “Probably not, but thank you.”

If you no longer want to date someone or if you are not interested in having sex with someone who is pressuring you, simply tell him or her directly what you want. Don’t be afraid to state your mind or else he or she may assume you are still interested. If someone behaves aggressively or threateningly, end the relationship. You do not need to be polite if someone makes you feel pressured or scared.

CULTURAL VALUES
Independence
The United States was founded by people who valued independence. An independent spirit is still evident in this culture. Many people from the U.S. believe that they are responsible for their own destinies. Being self-reliant is considered more important than relying on family and friends. Many people from the United States believe that individuals reach maturity at age 18 and should be ready to make independent decisions. Privacy is valued for many of the same reasons. Even among members of a family, issues such as money, marriage, and career decisions may not be discussed out of respect for a person’s privacy.

Work Ethic
People from the United States tend to value being busy, and we often make lists of what we hope to accomplish in a day! You may notice that people in the U.S. walk quickly, talk quickly and pay little attention to manners and politeness. We want to “get down to business” rather than make polite
conversation. We don’t mean to be rude! We just have a lot to do (or think we do).

Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
Many people in the United States like to think that all people are equal—race, color, religion, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexual orientation are unimportant to our value as human beings. Words like “tolerance” and “appreciation” are words that we may use to describe our relationship with people different from ourselves. For this reason, racist and sexist jokes and comments are not tolerated in many social and business settings. In fact, people who make such comments could lose their jobs.

However, despite these principles, many inequalities still exist in the United States. You may hear people make negative comments about other groups. You may even experience discrimination because you are an international student. If this happens to you and you wish to talk about it, talk to an advisor in the ISSS office or a counselor from the Counseling Center. An advisor or counselor who is familiar with these issues will try to understand the situation and make some suggestions for dealing with it.

Some international students are surprised to hear men and women say they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. There is a growing community of Americans who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender and do not believe that it is necessary to keep this a secret. This community has become more visible and accepted, and people who are part of this population form a respected part of U.S. society. You will most likely have a professor, classmate, roommate, or friend who is gay. Remember to treat the people you meet with the same respect and openness that you would want to be treated with.

U.S. HOLIDAYS
There are many different holidays in the United States, the most widely celebrated ones are:

- **January 1** – New Year’s Day. Beginning on the evening of December 31, Americans celebrate the New Year.
- **Third Monday in January** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This holiday celebrates the life of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the U.S. civil rights movement.
- **Third Monday in February** – Presidents’ Day. This is a day to remember past U.S. presidents George Washington, the first U.S. president, and Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president who led the country during the Civil War and is credited with abolishing slavery. Both were born in this month.
- **March 17**—St. Patrick’s Day. Named for the patron saint of Ireland, this day is often celebrated with parades and parties. Many people wear green clothing and put up decorations—even if they’re not of Irish decent! If you do not wear green on this day, classmates may pinch you.
- **Springtime (date varies)**—Easter. This is a traditional Christian holiday, when people decorate eggs and children are visited by the Easter Bunny.
- **Last Monday in May** – Memorial Day. This holiday is a time that Americans remember all of those who died in war for the United States.
- **July 4** – Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence, a document the United States used to declare its independence from England, was signed. Americans celebrate this holiday with picnics and fireworks.
- **First Monday in September** – Labor Day. This holiday recognizes the efforts of American workers.
- **October 31**—Halloween. People often celebrate this holiday by wearing costumes and carving scary faces on pumpkins. Children dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating to get candy.
- **Last Thursday in November** – Thanksgiving. According to legend, the first European settlers of the United States gave thanks for their first harvest season by eating a feast with Native Americans. This is a traditional time for families and friends to eat a big turkey dinner together.
- **December 25** – Christmas Day. This holiday, at one time a traditionally Christian one, is now a time for most people to exchange gifts, decorate homes, and attend gatherings and parties for the few weeks before December 25.

But sometimes we have classes on some of the holidays. For the scheduled paid holidays of GSU, check: https://hr.gsu.edu/service-centers/benefits/active-employees/ or your syllabus to avoid missing class.

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT
Everyone who moves to a new country experiences a period of adjustment and adaptation to the new culture. This is sometimes referred to as “culture shock” because of the difficulty of leaving your home culture and living in a new culture. It includes the shock of a new environment, meeting lots of new people, and learning the ways of a different country. It also includes being separated from the important people in your life, such as family, friends, colleagues, or teachers.

Culture shock is entirely normal, usually unavoidable, and it does not mean anything bad about you or your new home. Actually, it can be a very significant learning experience, because it makes you more aware of your own culture as well as the new culture you have entered. It will give you valuable
skills that will serve you in many ways in the future—it’s part of the benefit of international education.

Some typical symptoms of culture shock are:

- Extreme homesickness
- Loneliness
- Avoiding contact with other people, especially Americans
- Negative feelings and hostility toward American culture and people
- Anger, frustration, confusion
- Tiredness or need for excessive amounts of sleep
- Boredom
- Inability to concentrate or work
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of enjoyment in daily activities
- Lack of confidence
- Feelings of inadequacy or insecurity
- Depression and feelings of helplessness

Although you can’t stop culture shock, there are some things you can do to make yourself feel better. Here are some ideas:

- Understand that your reactions are normal
- Be open-minded and curious about your new environment
- Talk with an International Student Advisor about your feelings
- Make friends with Americans and other international students
- If you struggle with academics, talk with your professors and advisors
- Stay busy with academics, hobbies, friends, and other interesting activities
- Exercise or participate in sports
- Try a new activity that you can’t do in your home country
- Don’t forget the reasons you came to America
- Be patient with yourself and your new culture

When culture shock hits you, just remember that it is a normal part of being an international student. You will pass through periods of ups and downs, but in the end it will all be worth it. Try to focus on all the positive and rewarding aspects of your experience!

For more information on American culture and living in the United States, take a look at the following links.
http://www.leaderu.com/isr
http://www.isep.org/Family/helping_before.asp
http://www.internationalstudent.com
**APPENDIXES**

**DIRECTORY**

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<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>404 /413- 2500</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.georgiastatesports.com">http://www.georgiastatesports.com</a></td>
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<td>Auxiliaty Services</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.services.gsu.edu">http://www.services.gsu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Counseling and Testing Center</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.counselingcenter.gsu.edu">http://www.counselingcenter.gsu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Access and Accomodations Center</td>
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<td><a href="https://access.gsu.edu/">https://access.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>Financial Services</td>
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<td><a href="https://sfs.gsu.edu/">https://sfs.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>Health Clinic</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.health.gsu.edu">http://www.health.gsu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Panther's Pantry</td>
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<td><a href="https://pantry.gsu.edu/">https://pantry.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>Panther Family Association</td>
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<td><a href="https://parents.gsu.edu/pantherfamily/">https://parents.gsu.edu/pantherfamily/</a></td>
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<td>Rialto Center for the Arts</td>
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<td>Student Advisement Center</td>
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<td><a href="http://advisement.gsu.edu/">http://advisement.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>Student Recreation Center</td>
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<td>University Housing</td>
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<td>University Library</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.library.gsu.edu/">http://www.library.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>University Police</td>
<td>404 /413- 3333</td>
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<td><a href="http://safety.gsu.edu/">http://safety.gsu.edu/</a></td>
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</table>

**MEASUREMENT EQUIVALENTS**

**Weight:**
1 ounce = 28.35 grams  
1 pound = 453.59 grams

**Length:**
1 mile = 1609.34 m  
1 inch = 2.54 cm  
1 foot = 30.48 cm  
1 yard = 91.44 cm

**Liquid Volume**
1 teaspoon = 4.929 ml  
1 fluid ounce = 29.57353 ml  
1 cup = 236.59 ml  
1 quart = 0.94635 liters  
1 gallon = 3.7854 liters

**Temperature:**
Formula for conversion from Celsius to Fahrenheit:
\[ F = ((9/5) \times C) + 32 \]
Formula for conversion from Fahrenheit to Celsius:
\[ C = (5/9) \times (F-32) \]