

Career Advancement Atlanta Survival Guide:

How to Get On Track as a Summer Intern in Atlanta

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Atlanta Housing Overview

Atlanta is a top 20 global city known for its thriving economy, vibrant arts scene, and civil rights history. The presence of global commerce, cutting edge research and technology, and a growing film industry make Atlanta a key city for students to call home for their summer.

Staying in Atlanta over the summer has been a popular option for students and there are various factors to consider in choosing the right location. Many locals choose to live along Atlanta's unique Beltline, a 30+ mile urban trail connecting 45 diverse neighborhoods. Others that prefer to drive take advantage of Atlanta's three interstate highways, while others choose to live in one of Atlanta's three skylines: Downtown, Midtown, or Buckhead.

The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Atlanta are all factors that should help determine where you begin your housing search. The earlier you begin looking, the more options you will have and the easier it will be to choose exactly where you want to live for the summer. In the end, it is best to find housing that is near your job location with easy access to public transportation. This should be a priority when looking for housing; it will make your commute to and from work much easier and it will save you a lot of time and money.

Finding Summer Housing

Here is a list of steps you should take when looking for housing:

1. *Utilize your UChicago Network through technology and social media platforms.* Several students from past internships have found temporary housing through the UChicago Marketplace or by posting to Facebook groups and LinkedIn inquiring about a housing vacancy. Connect with other UChicago students by visiting Career Advancement's Facebook page or the UChicago Class Facebook pages.
2. *Consider finding a roommate.* Apartments can be expensive, and you may end up spending a good amount of your summer income paying for rent. If you can find a classmate, friend, or relative who is willing to room with you or put you up for the summer, economically, this could be your best option.

3. *Location is everything.* It is important that your housing situation is near your work and/or near transportation that will get you to work quickly, especially if you do not have a car.
4. *Decide what is important to you.* Once you've decided on what neighborhoods would be convenient for you, it's always helpful to explore what attractions they have to offer. Whether you love trying new restaurants, shopping, or visiting museums and other cultural institutions, try to find a place that will give you the most time to explore your favorite things.
5. *Politely ask your employer about housing resources.* Your employer may have suggestions for where to live or give you the contact information of other interns who will be also on a housing search so that you can room together or get advice from each other.

Online Housing Resources

There are a variety of online housing resources that provide short-term housing vacancies, including:

- <https://atlanta.craigslist.org/>
- <https://www.airbnb.com/s/Atlanta-GA>
- <https://www.roomster.com/>
- <https://www.hotpads.com/>
- <https://www.apartmentfinder.com>

Student Housing Organizations

Student Housing Organizations are corporations that own large residential buildings and rent out rooms to students in the summer. Sometimes the buildings are set up like dormitories with single rooms and collective bathrooms, and other times the rooms are more like studio or one-bedroom apartments. It is important to look and apply for housing as soon as possible. Many of the applications for the following housing options come out in January or February and housing can fill up quickly. There are both pros and cons to living in Student Housing, just as there are positives and negatives to living in a dorm.

Pros

- Amenities such as security, maintenance, etc.
- Opportunity to meet other students living in the same building
- Often much more affordable than finding a private apartment

Cons

- There is a possibility that you'll be matched with a roommate
- There are rules and regulations in most of these places that you'll have to abide by

These institutions offer summer housing:

Georgia Tech Intern lodging Program:

<https://webapps.gatech.edu/cfcampus/confserv/internlodging/information.cfm>

The Intern Lodging Program is open to ANY university or college student that is at least 18 years old and interning with a company in the Atlanta area. You do not need to be a Georgia Tech student. Housing will be in the North Avenue East – Apartments located at 120 North Avenue NW.

Telephone: 404-894-2469

Email: internlodging@housing.gatech.edu

Emory University Summer Intern Housing Program:

<http://www.emory.edu/sihp/aboutus.html>

Located in North Druid Hills, a stately neighborhood in northeast Atlanta, Emory is just minutes from downtown and the Buckhead region of the city. Housing will be on the Clairmont Campus located at: 2425 Dooley Drive, Decatur, GA 30033.

Telephone: 404-727-7632

E-mail: sihp@emory.edu

Georgia State University

<https://myhousing.gsu.edu/conference-services/intern-housing-program/>

Georgia State University is located in Central Downtown Atlanta and is walking distance to the downtown Business District and minutes away from Downtown Attractions (CNN Center, GA Aquarium, etc.) Lodging is located at 141 Piedmont Ave NE Atlanta GA 30303.

Telephone: 404-413-1800

Email: ddavis122@gsu.edu

Atlanta Neighborhoods

Atlanta's vibrant culture stems from its unique neighborhoods, each of which has its own attractions and community. Here is a list of affordable neighborhoods that past interns have suggested for housing options:

Midtown is centrally located in the heart of Atlanta and is hometown to many of Atlanta's businesses. It is also home to Georgia Tech, and Atlanta's Piedmont Park and Botanic Gardens.

Buckhead is located on the north side of Atlanta and one of Atlanta's three skylines, housing many of Atlanta's businesses, primarily the finance sector. This neighborhood has a big city feel with its sky scrapers and shopping centers.

Atlantic Station is located just west of Midtown and has the city's biggest outdoor mall and eateries. Atlantic station has a host of affordable apartment buildings and is close to the Arts Center Transit MARTA stop.

Decatur is located on the East side of Atlanta and is a beautiful residential neighborhood full of green space and walking trails. Downtown Decatur is home to many local favorite restaurants and bars and has its own MARTA station. Emory University is also located in Decatur.

Virginia Highlands | Old Fourth Ward is east of Midtown Atlanta and one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the city. Known for being connected on the Atlanta Beltline, these adjacent neighborhoods are full of local restaurants, bars, and shops.

Rental Tips and Expectations

Applying for a Rental Unit

Most landlords will ask you to complete a rental application form. The application will typically ask for the following information:

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Current and past landlords
- Social Security and driver's license numbers
- Bank account and credit card numbers and addresses
- Financial information regarding your ability to pay the rent (e.g., monthly income)
- Names of people who will be living in the unit

A landlord may ask about information that reflects on your ability to pay the rent; however, federal, state and local laws prohibit landlords from discriminating against classes of people on arbitrary bases (e.g., race, gender, age, family status).

Cost of Living

A few notes to remember while considering housing costs in Atlanta:

- The average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in Atlanta is about \$1400 while a 2-bedroom average rent is \$1700 total.
- While researching for apartments to rent, be aware of scammers on rental websites (e.g. Craigslist). A common tactic used by the seller is stating that they will be out of the city for months, limiting their accessibility. According to two students trying to find housing over the summer, “We also noticed that a lot of the scam responses were the same, someone leaving the city for 3-9 months for a job.”
- Be sure to get in contact (via phone, Skype, etc.) with your landlord or leaser before agreeing to rent the vacancy. Whenever possible, you should visit the space before signing a lease.

Atlanta Transportation

MARTA (Train and Bus)

MARTA is Atlanta’s main public transit system that connects the city’s various neighborhoods and business centers via subway or bus. Standard Fare is \$2.50 one way for either option and reduced fares are sometimes available through local colleges & universities or employer discounts. Fares can be purchased by individual trip, multi day pass, or through a reloadable ‘Breeze Card’. Atlanta Streetcar is also operated through MARTA with a \$1.00 one-way fare.

Personal Vehicle

Many Atlanta locals choose to drive as their main mode of transport which is made easy thanks to Atlanta’s three highways. Parking is available easily throughout the city and at offices. If you choose to drive, finding an apartment near a highway entrance can be beneficial.

Transportation Sharing: Bike and Scooter

For shorter distances a popular option for local commutes is biking. Atlanta has numerous bike trails along with the Beltline and if you don’t own a bike you can rent one through the city’s bike share: Relay. Many neighborhoods also have shared scooters available through: Lime, Lyft, Bird, etc. Please note there are rental hour restrictions on both bikes and scooters.

Connect with Alumni

While you’re in Atlanta this summer, take advantage of the opportunity to connect with another great resource: University of Chicago alumni! Whether you’re interested in working in Atlanta after graduation, or you wish to find out more about certain career paths, networking with alumni may be one of the most beneficial things you do during your summer. Research alumni who are currently working in Atlanta, through the UChicago Wisr Network, an alumni mentoring platform: <https://uchicago.wisr.io/signup> and the online alumni directory: <http://www.uchicagoalumni.org>.

Taxis and Shared Ride Options

Taxis are easy to hail downtown, at the airports and throughout many Atlanta neighborhoods. You can also electronically hail (E-Hail) a taxicab through a mobile app. You can also download the Lyft app (<https://www.lyft.com>) and the Uber mobile app (<https://www.uber.com/>). Fare varies depending on distance and passenger’s treatment.

Atlanta Safety

Atlanta is a very safe city for students to live in. However, here are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship in Atlanta. Using common sense is good advice and you should also read the following tips for a quick refresher.

General Safety Tips:

- Always remember that there is safety in numbers. Walk with friends or take populated routes when going places. Be especially careful when walking at night.
- Plan your route in advance, walk with a purpose, and be alert at all times, especially when talking on a cell phone or using headphones.
- Avoid deserted areas such as parks, alleys, and vacant lots.
- If you think you’re being followed, cross the street, change direction, or go to a public place.
- Never display large amounts of cash or flaunt jewelry or cameras in public. If you need to organize your wallet, duck into a store.
- Don’t keep your wallet in the back pocket of your pants or backpack, and be aware of your wallet or purse in commotions. Pickpockets often use helpers to create disturbances nearby.
- Use caution when using ATMs and don’t carry too much cash around with you. Most places accept credit cards and there are ATMs everywhere. Just make sure you choose one that is in a busy, well-lighted area.
- When Using Public Transportation: On the MARTA website, there are customer safety instructions with a variety of safety information. Visit <https://www.itsmarta.com/safety-and-security.aspx> to find out more.
- Avoid empty subway cars. Ride with many people or in the conductor’s car.

