

Career Advancement **Miami Survival Guide:** How to Prepare for a Successful Summer in Miami

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Welcome to Miami!

Miami is a city like no other. Known for its beautiful beaches, warm weather, diversity, culture, and distinct arts scene. Miami is an exciting metropolitan city with a Latin Flair. Downtown Miami is also home to the largest concentration of international banks in America, and houses many other large firms and businesses. This city also offers a variety of opportunities for UChicago students who are seeking internships and full-time jobs.

The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Miami 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 the UChicago Network through technology and social media platforms.* Several students from past internships have found temporary housing by posting to UChicago 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 vital that your housing situation is near your work and/or near transportation that will get you to work quickly.
4. *Decide what is important to you.* Once you've decided on what neighborhoods or borough 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://miami.craigslist.org/d/housing/search/mdc/hhh>
<https://www.airbnb.com/s/miami/homes>
<https://www.apartments.com/miami-fl/>
<https://www.hotpads.com/>
https://www.sublet.com/city_rentals/
<https://www.studentrent.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: prices typically range from \$2,500 - \$5,000 for the entire summer

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:

University of Miami:

<http://hr1.studentaffairs.miami.edu/conferences/summer-intern-housing/index.html>

The University of Miami is located in Coral Gables and offers summer housing for undergraduates who are currently enrolled in other universities. It is minutes away from the MetroRail and offers reasonably priced, furnished accommodations. Email: conferences@miami.edu; Phone: 305-284-4505.

Florida International University:

<https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/campus-services/housing-and-residential-life/conferences/summer-internship-housing/> FIU offers summer housing on their Maimi-Dade campus. Housing includes a shared living space, private bedroom, and shared bathrooms. Email: housing@fiu.edu; Phone: 305-348-4190.

Miami Neighborhoods

Here is a list of neighborhoods that past interns have suggested for housing options:

Miami Beach is a peninsula that runs parallel to the rest of the city, though various bridges make it easily accessible from the mainland. This popular vacation destination is easily accessible by car and public transportation, and offers easy access to beaches, restaurants, shopping, and nightlife.

Downtown Miami is the financial and commercial center of the city and well known for its cultural and dining offerings. The Miami Metromover offers free public transportation around the area. The downtown area is home of the American Airlines Arena, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, and the Bayside Marketplace.

Wynwood is a colorful, artistic, and vibrant area north of downtown that has many galleries, museums and collections,

and nightlife. This neighborhood is home to many college-aged students and young professionals.

Coral Gables is home to the University of Miami, which offers affordable housing for summer interns. Families, young professionals, and college students converge in this colorful yet leisurely neighborhood. The trolley runs through the neighborhood all day.

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 cost in Miami:

- The average monthly rent for a studio or 1 bedroom apartment ranges from \$1,500 – 2,500.
- 2016-2017 Metcalf Interns who had an internship in the reported to have spent the following over the course of the summer:
 - Average Cost of Food/Utilities/Transportation/Entertainment: \$1800
 - Average Rent: \$1750
 - Average Total Cost: \$3550
- 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.

Miami Transportation

The Miami-Dade Transit

The Miami-Dade Transit provides the main public transportation offering to get around the city and is the 15th largest public transit system in the U.S.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/home.asp>

- *Metromover* is a free train that run along a 4.4 mile circuit in the downtown Miami area. It runs every day from 5am to midnight, stopping at areas of interest such as the American Airlines Arena, Bayside Marketplace, and Miami-Dade College.
<http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/metromover-stations.asp>
- *Metrobus* has a fleet of over 800 busses which run 365 days a year. The buses offer transportation around the greater Miami area, as well as to and from Miami Beach.
<http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/routes.asp>
- *Metrorail* provides services to and from the Miami International Airport, Coral Gables, Downtown Miami, and South Miami.
<http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/metrorail.asp>

Coral Gables Trolley

The Coral Gables Trolley offers transportation within the neighborhood. It runs down the main street of Ponce de Leon Boulevard, going from the Douglas Metrorail Station to Flagler Street. It's a free service that runs Monday to Friday, 6:30am – 8:00pm. <http://cgpublic.etaspot.net/>

Miami Safety

After living in the city of Chicago, you should be well-versed in safety precautions for urban environments. However, here

Connect with Alumni

While you're in Miami this summer, take advantage of the opportunity to connect with another great resource: University of Chicago alumni! Whether you're interested in working in Miami 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 Miami through the UChicagoWISR Network, an alumni mentoring platform: <https://uchicago.wisr.io/signup> and the online alumni directory: <http://www.uchicagoalumni.org>.

are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship in Miami. 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 Miami-Dade's Transit website there are customer safety instructions with a variety of safety information for the Metro. Visit: <http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/passenger-safety.asp> to find out more.
- Avoid empty subway cars. Ride with many people or in the conductor's car (usually the middle car of the train).

