

New Graduate Student
Information Packet
2020-2021

**Georgia
Tech**



School of Chemical and
Biomolecular Engineering

Brought to you by:

AChEGS

Association of Chemical Engineering Graduate Students
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

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CLARIFICATION OF “New Graduate Student Information Packet”

- This is the “unofficial” student guide prepared by AChEGS to help new graduate students smoothly transit to Georgia Tech. For official information, students should consult with Janice Whatley and Dr. Grover and read the ChBE Graduate Handbook.
<https://www.chbe.gatech.edu/gradhandbook>
- New graduate students are also suggested to check the “New Students Checklist” prepared by Georgia Tech <http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/checklist>.
- This “New Graduate Student Information Packet” is complementary to ChBE Graduate Handbook and “New Students Checklist”. Due to COVID-19 and other changes, some of these issues may be different this year, but this represents our best understanding today.
- Besides this file, AChEGS officers also created a slack group to answer questions from new students. https://join.slack.com/t/2020chbegrgraduateclass/shared_invite/zt-eyw33gd1-9ugSWdsx0iSACPtNeRlvbA

CHECKLIST FOR ORIENTATION WEEK

During the school orientation, you will be given an extensive list of things to do before classes start. The following is a summary of some (probably not all) of the items which will be covered. More details are in the rest of this packet, but we wanted to give you this up front:

- **** **Do immediately; do not wait to arrive at Georgia Tech.**
- *** **Do as soon as you arrive or wait for orientation.**
- ** **Do immediately after first orientation session.**
- * **Do at own pace during the first week.**

**** **Create GT Online Account**

After being accepted to Georgia Tech, you should receive your GT Student ID Number (9-digit number). The first thing you should do once you have this is to set up your GT Account. You will use this to log into pretty much any institute-wide online service, so why not set it up now!

Once given your ID number, go to the link: <https://passport.gatech.edu/activation/select-affiliation>

On this webpage, first select “Students”, then on the next page, enter your first name, last name, birthday, and GT Student ID Number. Once you do this, the system should find you, and you can click on your name to advance. On the next page, your GT ID should be shown at the top (NOTE: This is different than your GT Student ID Number). The typical format for this code is *first_initial-last_name-random_number*. The system will then ask you to do various tasks, such as making your password, assigning security questions, and setting up two-factor authentication (see below for more information on this).

If you want to return another time to change your password, set up your GT Outlook account, or set up two-factor authentication, you can return back to the Passport system: <https://passport.gatech.edu>

**** **Health Forms & Immunizations**

This task can be quite a headache, but the most painless way to submit your immunization records is to complete it **online, before you arrive in Atlanta.**

A brief summary of the process required to submit your immunization record online is included below. It is based on the link: <https://health.gatech.edu/immunization/requirements>

The first step that you'll need to take is to download and fill out the required immunization forms to the best of your ability. Domestic and international students use the same "collection" of forms, but may fill out different pages, depending on their country of origin and previous travel outside of the United States. A link is below for your convenience. Once you're done filling these out, print them with all of your information included.

<https://health.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/immunization-forms.pdf>

Next, make an appointment with your family doctor (or urgent care, if you don't have a family doctor nearby). This is important, because some of the required documents require the signature of a nurse or physician. Also, if you are missing any of the mandatory immunizations, you can get them on this same visit. Once you've obtained all mandatory immunizations and have your forms signed (see website linked above for more information), go back to the website and upload your forms. That's it!

Please note that deadlines for online submission are fairly early in the summer (June 10, June 24, July 8 depending on your last name), so it's good to start this as soon as possible. If you are unable to submit your immunization record before Orientation, it is imperative that you visit Stamps Student Health Center with the pertinent information as soon as you arrive to Georgia Tech. Failure to do so will result in a hold on your registration, preventing you from registering for classes. If you are simply transferring documents from your previous institution, make sure that you contact Stamps Student Health Center well ahead of time to ensure no hold is placed on your account for course registration.

*** **Order Parking Pass**

If you plan to park on campus, you'll want to apply for a parking permit as soon as possible using the DriverSeat Portal, found at driverseat.pts.gatech.edu. The details regarding parking permit policies can be found here <http://pts.gatech.edu/news/2020-2021-parking-permit-renewals-and-sales>. Of note, almost all permits will be sold online for 2020-2021. All Annual Individual, SmartPark, Semester and Evening/Weekend Permits will be VIRTUAL with no physical hangtag to be displayed in cars. Carpool and Motorcycle permits will be issued with a physical hangtag, and will be picked up and payed in the PTS office beginning July 27, 2020. BuzzCards will be the primary method of entry in all gated locations. License plate numbers will serve as permit credentials and will be used for enforcement and gate entry in some parking locations. For 2020-2021, annual parking permits cost \$795 for an individual permit, or \$695 for a carpool permit (with at least one other passenger). Here is the map for parking zones.

http://pts.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/images/gt_parking_zones_map_2_18_20.pdf

Also, check out this site when you don't have a parking permit yet and need to park as a visitor.

<https://pts.gatech.edu/visitors>

For last year's class of incoming students, a few people had issues obtaining a permit before registering for classes, because the DriverSeat website did not yet recognize them as Georgia Tech students. If this is the case, **do not panic**. You can wait until after orientation to get a parking pass on campus, it just might not be in the parking decks closest to your labs/classes. More information about parking is included later in this document and at www.pts.gatech.edu.

**** Enroll/Waive Student Health Insurance**

As graduate students in ChBE, you are required to have health insurance. The mandatory insurance coverage is provided by United Health Care and will be charged to your account by the Bursar's office. Since it will be charged to your account, you will pay this in the same way you pay your required fees (see section below for more information on this). The premiums for Fall 2020 can be found from this link: <http://health.gatech.edu/finance/insurance>. All things considered, the coverage is very good for the price, and the Mandatory Insurance also has some nice perks, like free visits to Stamps Student Health Center (no co-pay!).

However, if you are able to provide proof of insurance coverage that meets the requirements of the University System Plan, you will be able to apply for a waiver through United Health Care. When approved, the Bursar's office will waive the charge accordingly. More information about the plan benefits, premiums and the waiver process will be available through Bursar's Office web page at <http://health.gatech.edu/finance/insurance>.

**** Register for Classes**

At orientation, current graduate students will be available to help you register for classes. There is no rush to register before orientation, because the department will ensure that the classes have enough seats for all incoming graduate students. Your account will not show semester fees until you register for classes.

**** Pay Fees**

Each semester that you enroll at Georgia Tech, you will be required to pay Student Fees. This cost was included as a part of your annual stipend. To give an idea, the fee was \$1399.91 for fall 2019, which can be paid as a lump sum or deducted from your paycheck over a few months. The deadline to set up paycheck withdrawal or pay your fees can be checked through Bursar's office (usually the last Monday, i.e. August 24th).

Place: <https://oscar.gatech.edu> or at the Bursar's Office <https://www.bursar.gatech.edu/>.

**** Attend HR Onboarding (GradHiring)**

There are a number of documents that you **must** fill out in order to receive a pay check. Because this process is confusing, and requires a notary for one of the forms, Georgia Tech has an event called GradHiring every year for new students to complete their onboarding all in one place before classes start! Information for GradHiring is found here: <https://hr.gatech.edu/gradhiring>. This website contains a lot of valuable information you should **review carefully**. Of note, with the new OneUSG, all forms must be submitted on-line (no more paper documents at Grad Expo) except for i-9 documents – must be verified in person at Grad Expo.

[For International Students] Normally, if you do not have a social security card, you will need to take proper identification to the local Social Security Office; Suite 2860, 401 W Peachtree St, Atlanta, 30308; phone number 1-800-772-1213. Due to COVID-19, we have not received information about the Social Security Office being open. You can check <http://www.ssa.gov/> for latest information. ChBE normally provide a letter to students needing a social security card. We are waiting on instructions from the Institute. You may ask Dr. Grover and Janice Whatley if you have questions.

* ***Get Your Student I.D. (BuzzCard)***

Due to COVID-19, the buzzcard application is to be processed online. Check out this link for the detailed application process. <https://buzzcard.gatech.edu/students-parents#block-nodeblock-284>

* ***Set Up Duo (Two-Factor Authentication)***

Duo is the two-factor authentication platform that Georgia Tech uses for all online account access. You may self-enroll in Duo online during the first two weeks of the semester. The following link provides detailed instructions on how to do so: <https://faq.oit.gatech.edu/content/how-do-i-enroll-myself-self-enroll-two-factor-authentication>

If you attempt to set up your Duo account online and see a message that says “Access Denied,” you will need to get this set-up in person with either the ChBE IT staff (located in ES&T L2224 or L2245) or by going to the Technology Support Center (TSC) near the Starbucks in the Clough building. You should bring your BuzzCard and the smartphone you wish to use to connect to your account. To save time, consider pre-installing the DUO MOBILE app on your phone. More information is found at: <https://www.twofactor.oit.gatech.edu/>

USEFUL WEBSITES

Contrary to what your advisor may try to tell you, the internet is a good source for some information. Georgia Tech posts lots of information online and you can even accomplish a number of tasks online so that you don't spend your day waiting in line. Here's a quick-and-dirty list of useful sites to check out and why.

Important Sites:

www.gatech.edu	Georgia Tech Main website
www.chbe.gatech.edu	School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering website
https://oscar.gatech.edu	Registration, Account Info, Student Records
www.pts.gatech.edu	Parking Services
www.housing.gatech.edu	Housing Services
www.buzzcard.gatech.edu	Buzzcard Services
www.health.gatech.edu	Health Services
www.oit.gatech.edu	GT account access
http://map.gtalumni.org	Campus Map

Other Useful Tech Sites:

www.ramblinwreck.com	GT Sports
www.library.gatech.edu	You'll learn this one soon enough
www.crc.gatech.edu	Campus Recreation Center (the gym and courts)
www.nextbus.com/	Next Bus on Campus

Atlanta & General Interest Sites:

www.itsmarta.com	MARTA transportation info
www.citysearch.com	Reviews, addresses, and hours for restaurants and bars
www.creativeloafing.com	Creative Loafing Atlanta Entertainment Guide
www.craigslist.org	Apartments, Furniture, Miscellaneous
phd.stanford.edu	Graduate School Humor
www.atltodo.com	Daily events in Atlanta

Useful Apps for your smartphone:

GT Buses	Campus maps and real-time trolley and bus locations
MARTA	Atlanta public transit stop locations and times
Lyft and/or Uber	Basically taxi services, but cheaper and more reliable
Yelp	Reviews of restaurants, stores, and other services around Atlanta

** Once you have your Georgia Tech email address, you can add the email to your Facebook profile and join the following groups:

GT Thrift Shop	Online marketplace for students to sell and buy goods
GT Room Search	Group to find roommates and housing.

CHEMICAL & BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

General School Information

Upon your arrival at Georgia Tech, you will attend two orientations: a general Georgia Tech Graduate Student Orientation, and a ChBE Orientation, given by faculty and staff of the School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering. It is highly recommended that you attend **both**. You will be flooded with important information and handouts, and lots of etcetera. Be sure to ask questions; don't be intimidated by faculty and staff, they chose teaching for a reason. This is a great opportunity for you to resolve any ambiguities about the school and the program. Current graduate students will also be available for questions at the ChBE Orientation, and afterwards will help you register for classes in the ChBE Computing Lab (known by many as "The Dungeon").

If you are receiving full financial support, your tuition will be paid directly to the school by your sponsor. If you are a conditional student and not receiving full support, make sure that you understand what type of payments you are responsible for. ****Note:** All graduate students must pay their semester fees despite sponsorship. The tuition is significantly reduced from the standard full graduate student tuition, but sometimes the reduction will take a while to be applied. Be patient and wait until the reduction is applied before paying your fees and tuition.

Once advisors are assigned you will be assigned to an office, which could occur right away or after a month or two depending on space, availability, and your need. However, you will wander like an open road drifter until then, more than likely working in the ChBE Computer Lab or the L1 Atrium. Once assigned an office, you'll contact the building manager and pay a single \$25 deposit for your key(s) which will afford you access to your office, the mailroom, your lab(s), and a variety of conference rooms (only applies for if you're in ES&T).

Association of Chemical Engineering Graduate Students

The Association of Chemical Engineering Graduate Students, AChEGS (pronounced 'A KEGS'), is an organization of which you are a de-facto member. The current officers are:

President – Jiahe Huang
Email – jhuang464@gatech.edu

Vice-President – Rahul Venkatesh
Email – rvenkatesh6@gatech.edu

Secretary – Hannah Holmes
Email – hholmes33@gatech.edu

Treasurer – Ojuolape Oghenetega
Email – lape.oghenetega@gatech.edu

Social Chair – Valerie Kay
Email – vkay3@gatech.edu

Service Chair – Sabrina Westgate
Email – swestgate3@gatech.edu

Intramural Coordinator – Jose Lopez
Email – jose.lopez@gatech.edu

The mission of AChEGS is to support graduate students by creating opportunities for social engagement, professional development, and service. In pursuit of this mission, AChEGS organizes several frequently recurring events, such as social (happy) hours, faculty lunches, and volunteer activities. AChEGS also

provides athletic opportunities, by fielding numerous intramural sports teams that compete against other departments in the GT Graduate League. Sports include, but are not limited to: soccer (indoor and outdoor), volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, softball, and ultimate Frisbee. Volunteer events are diverse, and include service in Science Olympiad, performing experiment demos at local schools in underprivileged neighborhoods, planting trees, and aiding local relief organizations, such as the International Rescue Committee (aid for refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking). AChEGS also provides a peer-mentor program, providing a platform for students to connect and assist each other through various challenges, such as adjusting to a new city/country and work/life balance.

AChEGS is also a platform by which the graduate students and the school can communicate. The organization seeks to be an advocate for students, where they can securely voice concerns or ideas for improving their experience in the department. Student concerns can be brought up at meetings or in private with a duly appointed representative of AChEGS, and will then be referred to the appropriate faculty or staff members. AChEGS also hosts a yearly Town Hall meeting, open to all ChBE graduate students, where student ideas and concerns are discussed directly with the department chair and graduate program coordinators.

Follow AChEGS on Instagram: Name: [gt.achegs](#)

Link: <https://www.instagram.com/gt.achegs/>

Visit the AChEGS website: <http://achegs.chbe.gatech.edu/>

Academics

Class work is an important part of the graduate school process and will be the most significant part of your fall and (possibly) spring semesters. All of the information you want to know about these requirements and others can be found in the Graduate Handbook at <http://www.chbe.gatech.edu/graduate/handbook>. Seven classes are required and will generally be completed in the first year. The standard fare for incoming students is shown below, with “Thesis” hours making up the difference between class hours taken and 21 hours, the required (and maximum) number of hours to be taken in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Unless you are exempt from some of the required classes, **DO NOT** attempt to take any electives during your first semester. You’ll have plenty of time to pick up your remaining classes (3 for your minor) during the rest of your time at Tech. You can use OSCAR (<https://oscar.gatech.edu/>) or access it through Buzzport at www.buzzport.gatech.edu to survey the class offerings. The Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering handbook that you will receive at orientation (also on the page linked above) explains many of the details about academics, and it is a good idea to read through that section.

I know the aforementioned seems overwhelming, but keep these things in mind:

- This is Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering graduate school! It is supposed to be challenging, or else everyone would be here.

- You won't have an advisor until late in the fall semester, so *you won't have any research responsibilities until then*. Quite a few advisors do not expect students to be in the lab until qualifying exams are over (January), but some do.
- All of us here have been through it and we have survived with just a few cuts and bruises, so don't hesitate to come to us when the going gets tough.

Advisor Selection Process

Early on in the fall semester, faculty members will begin giving short presentations about their research and the various research projects available in their groups. These will take place in the first few weeks as a set of required seminar sessions for new graduate students. You will also receive a list of the available funded projects. Based on the presentations and available projects, you should contact the faculty you would like more information from and set up one-on-one meetings where you can discuss at length the professor's research, policies, philosophies, etc. Use these meetings to get to know the professor and his/her research group. It is also **highly recommended** to talk to the graduate students in the lab(s) you are interested in. This will give you a better perspective on the type of work that goes on in the lab and what the advisor expects, as well as demonstrate your interest in working for that advisor, as advisors will often ask their students who they met with. It is encouraged to consider a variety of faculty and projects and to keep a very open mind during the advisor search (i.e. do not concentrate on a single specific subject area). It is often most important to find an advisor with whom you are personally compatible. This is your chance to see all the neat research going on in the school, so take advantage of it! You may discover you are fascinated by something you hadn't considered before. Your advisor preferences are normally due in late September or early October. You will be asked to submit a list of 8 faculty members and projects that you would be interested in working on. Shortly thereafter, you should receive your advisor assignment. This will be discussed in greater length at orientation.

Qualifying Examination

The qualifying exam consists of a 1-hour oral presentation to a committee of three faculty members. A week prior to your exam, you will receive a journal article covering a topic incorporating principles of Thermo, Transport, and Kinetics (so study extra hard for those classes in the Fall!). During your exam, you will give a 10-minute presentation to your committee, in which you will summarize the main research objectives, results, and conclusions of the paper and, most importantly, provide a **critique** of the work. In this critique, your committee will expect you to discuss the paper's impact/originality, suitability of the methods to answer the research question, directions for further research, data analysis and interpretation (does the data support the conclusions?), and safety issues. When your presentation is over, the remainder of the exam consists of a Q&A session. The Q&A portion of the exam tests your knowledge of chemical engineering fundamentals, which should focus mostly on the material learned undergraduate classes. Topics vary widely, but to give you a general idea, expect to receive questions on chemical/phase equilibrium, shell balances, adsorption isotherms, and reactor design equations. Most questions will focus on how these fundamentals can be applied to the research presented by the paper, but straightforward conceptual questions (regarding equations, definitions, derivations, and dimensionless numbers) are fair game as well.

For first year students, AChEGS serves as a resource to help you prepare for your qualifying exam. AChEGS will host a general information session and panel discussion, where students will describe the format of the exam, explain how to prepare, and share strategies and perspectives to help you perform

well on the exam. In addition, AChEGS will host a practice qualifying exam, available to all first year students. Participation in the practice qualifying exam is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. During times influenced by COVID-19, whether the format of practice qual is in-person or online remains to be determined and we will keep you informed.

Students seeking a PhD are **required** to take the qualifying exam in January during their first year. In addition, PhD-seeking students must obtain a GPA of 3.2 or higher by the end of the Spring semester in their core curriculum classes (Fluids, Thermo, Kinetics, Math Modeling, Mass Transport). Master's students are not required to take the exam but are generally encouraged. Your fall classes are the best way to start preparing for the qualifying exam, so study hard knowing that you need the material for more than just the next test. Bringing your undergrad textbooks/notes to Georgia Tech is also highly recommended. They will be a great resource to help you brush up on important topics that may not be covered in your Fall classes, but could be asked by your committee on the qualifying exam.

Teaching Assistants

ChBE PhD students are required to TA a total of three times and supported MS students are required to TA twice. The workload for a TA assignment is expected to be about 10-15 hours a week (give or take, depending on the class/professor). Since your first semester is fully-loaded with classes, first-year grads will not TA in the Fall. However, you will be completely eligible in the spring or summer of your first years. If you feel a strong desire to TA for a certain class, feel free to email the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, Martha Grover, and she may be able to accommodate you.

Mail (the slow kind)

Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering graduate students automatically have boxes in the mailroom of the ES&T building on the first floor. Mail going through Georgia Tech is slower than regular mail at Christmas, so most people prefer to have letters from home, friends, etc. sent to them through their apartment addresses. If you live on campus, well then I guess you get the brunt of the system.

If you are going to be living in a dorm or don't know your new apartment address at this time and you want to give your friends and family an address before you leave, following is the address where you receive mail (remember, you won't have access to your ChBE box until after the orientation meeting):

(your name)
Georgia Institute of Technology
School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
311 Ferst Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332-0100

Computing

The School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering is PC based. Therefore, for personal compatibility, the Windows PC is favored by students over a Mac. Most of your computer needs will be served by the PC lab in ES&T (room L2230-32). This facility is open exclusively to Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering students (grad and undergrad). These computers are connected to the Georgia Tech computing network (GTNET), which provides you with an Internet connection. Besides these computers, you also have

access to the Macintosh clusters at the Student Center, Rich Building, and the Library; the DOS clusters in the French Building and Library; and the SUN workstations in the Rich Building. These facilities are open to all Tech students. Most research groups have their own computers.

You will automatically have a Microsoft Outlook account for access to your Georgia Tech email. You receive your login and password for this account when you initially receive your BuzzCard. This account is the one listed on all university directories and is viewed by the Institute as your default account, so most messages from other schools/offices at Tech will be sent to this address. This account is less formulaic (typically FirstInitialLastNameSomeNumber@gatech.edu) and harder to remember. When you are setting up your email inbox, you will have the option of adding an alias (if available) that is easier to remember.

The School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering home page can be found at <http://www.chbe.gatech.edu/>. This is a good way to keep up with departmental announcements. The department has a shared directory which you can access through any computer in the network – usually through a lab/office computer or on a computer in the ChBE computer lab. The shared directory has folders for specific labs (you will get access to your lab(s) folders) as well as some other resources. Most importantly, the directory of past qualifying exams and student-produced solution sets is located on the shared drive.

Through Georgia Tech, you will have access to quite a bit of useful software that you would normally have to pay for, which can be found at <https://software.oit.gatech.edu/>. Some software you can download and install on a personal computer, while some can only be installed on department owned computers.

Any computer related questions or requests for further instructions regarding the computing facilities should be addressed to our IT support team.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Office</u>
Kevin Guger	kevin.guger@chbe.gatech.edu	ES&T L2245
Luz Feliciano	luz.feliciano@chbe.gatech.edu	ES&T L2245

GEORGIA TECH INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Registration

As previously mentioned, you can easily register for classes at <http://oscar.gatech.edu> or through <http://buzzport.gatech.edu>. To login to OSCAR, the username is your GT ID number and the password is your birth date (month, date, and year), UNLESS you already set up your GT Computer Account on

Passport. For BuzzPort, also use your GT ID to login, although you may not have access to BUZZPORT until you arrive. If you do not know your GT ID number, go to www.gtids.gatech.edu.

HINT: Your GTID is essential to obtaining the Buzzcard (student ID) and computer account. Note that OSCAR can be accessed through BUZZPORT now, so you really only need to know one thing: your BUZZPORT username and password.

You should be able to register around the second week of August. You do not need to register for classes before orientation. Registration will be done as a group during orientation so that everybody can have their questions answered at the same time. See the Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering section of this handbook for more information on courses you should register for.

After the semester begins you will have 4 days to add classes and until mid-semester to withdraw. You should be sure to register for enough course hours to cover yourself in case you need to drop a course. Graduate students **MUST** register for 21 hours to receive reduced GRA/GTA tuition. If you have any questions, ask Dr. Grover, the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies.

Parking and Transportation

If you choose to drive to campus for your commute, you should attempt to purchase your parking permit through Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) **BEFORE** arriving to campus. Information, pricing, and parking zone maps are found on the Parking and Transportation Services website (www.pts.gatech.edu), while the actual permit application is through the DriverSeat Portal (driverseat.pts.gatech.edu). In recent years, new graduate students have had trouble creating a DriverSeat account and applying for a permit before registering for Fall classes. If you experience trouble with this, you should contact PTS office through phone or email ASAP. Do not wait! You may have to wait in a long line, so come prepared.

There isn't any free, legal street parking within a reasonable distance from campus. You will have to get the permit if you want/plan to drive. An annual parking permit will cost \$795/year. If you are planning to commute with housemates and you can arrange a similar schedule, you may want to purchase a carpool permit (reduced rate of \$695/year) that can be transferred between cars. It is important to note however that both members signing up for the carpool permit are required to live at least 0.5 miles outside campus borders. Your permit allows you access to a single parking zone (see PTS website for parking zone maps) at any time, as well as any non-residential, non-visitor parking area after hours (5pm-8am weekdays, 5pm Friday to 8am Monday).

Here is the map for parking zones.

http://pts.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/images/gt_parking_zones_map_2_18_20.pdf

The closest parking zone for most Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering homes is the W23 garage. However, this zone is often in high demand, so it may be difficult for incoming students to get access to this specific parking deck. Some other suggested parking zones are listed below, where previous ChBE students have previously purchased a permit when W23 had a waitlist:

- W22 (Dalney Garage) – It is very close to W23.
- W21 (Physics/Boggs/Mason) – A large, open surface lot right across the street from the BioQuad
- E40 (Klaus Deck) – Covered, across the street from ES&T

- W10 (CRC) – The garage that belongs to the Campus Recreation Center (where the gym is). It's about a 10-12 minute walk to the BioQuad via Ferst Dr. It may seem far, but it's a viable option where numerous 2018 first-years were able to get a permit.
- W01 (Tech Pkwy/Ferst Dr) – About a 7-10 minute walk down Ferst, but uncovered
- ER55 (Techwood/Fowler) – A shorter walk than the previous two, but from the other direction

During special events (athletic events) you may not be able to park in your usual lot (ER55 and W10 get this occasionally, you'll just be advised to park in a different adjacent lot on a certain day), so check your email from PTS for any temporary situational changes. Parking fines are excessive around here; the best advice is to buy a permit and park in your designated lot during working hours. The fine for those that don't have a Tech permit is \$50 and your car is towed after the third offense.

If you live close enough and want to bike for your commute, you should evaluate whether or not you're comfortable biking based on your location. The Georgia Tech campus itself is very bike-able once you get into it, but outside campus it varies based on location. Atlantic Station and some areas in Midtown are very bike friendly!

The school operates a Stinger (bus) transportation system that travels on several designated routes in and around Home Park (residential area just north of campus). There is also the Tech Trolley, which travels between the CRC, Tech Square, and the MARTA station on 10th street. The Stingerette (404-385-7433) is an evening, on-call transportation service available when the other buses are not running (it's like a free taxi within a given radius of campus). Some off campus locations have been recently added to the Stingerette route, but require a Safe Ride Home Punch Card (\$20 for 10 rides), which can be purchased at the Parking and Transportation Services office. You can obtain the latest information about this system (such as routes and schedules) after you arrive on campus through <https://pts.gatech.edu/campus-bus-routes>.

Food

Tech Square

Located down 5th street across on eastern side of the interstate. Tech Square is very accessible to ES&T and has many good quality options

- Tin Drum – modern Asian fare, highly rated
- Moe's - Tex-Mex Burritos
- Ray's New York Pizza – offers a lunch buffet
- Atwood's Pizza – Very good pizza a little more of a walk from Ray's
- Chuck's Favorite Sandwiches – deli-style sandwiches
- Gyro King – Greek-style food, specializing in gyros
- Barrelhouse – Tavern/pub style food with a wide variety of beer, wine and liquor
- Yogli Mogli – Frozen Yogurt
- Starbucks – located in the Tech Bookstore
- Umma's House – Japanese/Korean Asian fusion
- The Canteen – Food-hall style with a handful of great options, including Yalla and Fred's Meat & Bread Co.

Student Center

Located in the center of campus.

- Cafeteria – includes Great Wraps, Far East Fusion, Zaya Mediterranean, Rosita’s Cantina, Dunkin’ Donuts, Café Spice (Indian), Salad Bar, Deli, Grill, and Hot Entrees.
- Chick-fil-A – fried chicken sandwiches, biscuits, nuggets
- Pizza Hut Express – a half-size that offers individual pizzas and breadsticks
- Subway
- Panda Express – fast casual American-Chinese restaurant

Other Food

Various locations around campus.

- Food Trucks – A rotating selection of food trucks set up on Tech Green for lunch during weekdays
- Rocky Mountain Pizza – technically off-campus, located at corner of Hemphill and Tenth streets serving pizza, burgers, wings, and cheap beer. Their trivia night is highly attended by GT students.
- West Village Dining Hall - west side of campus.
- Brittain Dining Hall – east side of campus.
- Sandwich and Coffee Stands – multiple locations across campus, including IBB and EBB – offer Starbucks coffee, sandwiches, soups, and other options, depending on location

Health Center

You **MUST** have all of your immunizations prior to registration!!!

You will receive more information about immunizations from the School if you are an international student, but know that there are options for taking care of this matter on campus.

A health fee is included in your general fees and it covers most of the available services. The Health Center on campus has a number of doctors available for consultation every day of the week (during Fall and Spring semesters), and there is no charge for these visits if you have paid your fees--just bring your ID. You need to call to make an appointment with one of the staff physicians at (404) 894-1420 or online at www.health.gatech.edu.

The health center has a pharmacy that will fill most of your prescriptions at no cost to you. The health center also does some minor lab testing, x-rays, and has physical therapy equipment. Specialists, such as an orthopedic surgeon, dermatologist, and allergist (you get 1 free box of allergy medication each semester too!), visit the clinic periodically and can be seen for a nominal fee. Call the clinic to make arrangements.

The health center offers gynecological services and examinations at selected hours during the week for a minimal fee; you should call the Women’s Clinic for times and appointments at (404) 894-1434. Pregnancy testing and other common tests are either free or available at a nominal charge. Various related prescriptions can be filled at low cost also. Allergy injections are given free at Tech if you provide the necessary documents and solutions, but the health center does not do allergy testing. There is also a private dental practice on the second floor of the STAMPS building, called Tech Dentistry.

Georgia Tech also has many resources available for mental health. The psychiatry clinic located in STAMPS provides psychiatric services and medication management, and the downstairs pharmacy

makes picking up these prescriptions very convenient. Georgia Tech also has an on-campus counseling center, located in the Smithgall Building, which offers many services, including: individual, group, and couples counseling, as well as counseling for life skills and career. Lastly, the counseling center also has a “Counselor on Call” for urgent mental health concerns. This 24-hour line can be reached at: (404) 894-2575.

If you are married, your spouse may also use the health center. Your spouse must pay the regular student health fee during the first two weeks of each semester. You need to bring your spouse, along with his/her ID and fee money, over to the health center and have them validate the ID. This coverage is not available for anyone other than legal spouses (i.e. children).

In accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of the United States Public Health Service, all students with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC (AIDS Related Complex) or HTLV-III infection (Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus-III) are directed to report this fact to the Director of Health Services as soon as they arrive on campus. Confidentiality will be maintained. Support and counseling for these students is also available.

Further questions should be directed to the Health Center at (404) 894-2584.

Campus Library

You may spend a good deal of your life at Tech in the library, so you may want to know a little about it ahead of time. You must have your student ID with you to enter the library.

The library is open 24 hours every day for students, except during certain holidays and events.

The library can be a good place to study, as some floors have been designated as quiet study areas. The East Wing is generally quieter than the West Wing, where group studying is permitted. Graduate students may rent lockers, and sometimes even small study carrels can be reserved. Lockers may be obtained for your entire stay at Tech for a \$10 deposit, as long as you renew your locker key at the beginning of each semester.

The Georgia Tech Online Catalog, GTEL, is part of the library's Online Information System. Using the Online Catalog, you can search for books and periodicals (1985 - present) using key words and phrases. To master use of GTEL, check the Information Desk for a schedule of an hour course and/or for an information package. GTEL is now also conveniently accessible via the Internet at <http://www.library.gatech.edu>. Older graduate students should be well versed in navigating this Mess; feel free to ask someone if you have questions.

The Circulation Desk is located on the main floor – 1 East (to your right as you walk in). Since we are grad students, we have the ability to check out books for an entire semester. You may renew your books by calling the circulation desk before the item is due or on the library website. A late fee of 25 cents per item per day is charged for overdue items. These fines add up quickly, so try to remember to return or renew.

Student Center and Student Services

The Student Center has lots to offer. The post office and food have already been mentioned. You can also find the following in the Student Center:

- * auditorium
- * bowling alley
- * game room
- * ballroom
- * art display gallery
- * meeting rooms
- * College Optical
- * TVs and Computers
- * Haircuttery
- * crafts center
- * billiard tables
- * piano practice room
- * information desk/Box Office
- * music listening room
- * ATMs
- * Student Travel Agency
- * Burdell's Convenience Store

You can reserve the meeting rooms or register for optional classes such as ballroom dancing, automotive maintenance, etc. at the information desk. You can find out pretty much anything about Tech at the information desk, if you know what to ask. Discount tickets to Tech events (excluding sporting events) can be purchased at the Box Office with a Tech ID (2 tickets per ID).

Behind the Student Center is the Student Services Building (also known as the Flag Building because it displays the flags of all countries represented by students at Tech). This building houses:

- The Graduate Student Senate
- Housing Services
- Office of Student Affairs
- Counseling Center
- Women's Resource Center
- LGBTQIA Resource Center
- Erato (Literary Magazine)
- Blueprint (Yearbook)
- Technique (Student Paper)
- WREK (campus FM radio station)
- ...and many other student organizations

These organizations are always looking for talented and/or interested people to join.

Bookstores and Textbooks

The primary location for purchasing textbooks is the Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech Bookstore, located in the heart of Technology Square. The bookstore is 43,000 square feet and is located at the corner of 5th and Spring Streets. Take advantage of the more than 80,000 general reading and reference titles, grab a cup of coffee in the 78 seat Starbucks Coffee Café, pick out your favorite CD or DVD, or purchase various Georgia Tech paraphernalia. The best feature of Barnes & Noble is that you can find out what your textbooks will be by following the links on the website <http://gatech.bncollege.com/>. A word to the wise, the ChBE Safety and Math Modeling textbooks are only recommended, and the kinetics textbook is available online.

You may want to consider ordering books online. Sites such as www.varsitybooks.com, www.textbooks.com, and www.amazon.com are good places to start. Expect to spend at least \$300 (up to \$400-500) for your fall textbooks; depending on what the professors are requiring this semester and see if you can get it used somewhere. (Perhaps an older student would like to get rid of or let you borrow their old books.)

The Buzzcard office has been moved to the second story of Barnes & Noble as of August 2012. You will have to come here to get your buzzcard for keycard access to everything on campus, including the CRC.

Campus Recreation Center

The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) houses the following:

- Racquetball – 4 courts
- Squash Court
- Basketball Courts (upstairs) – too many to count
- Volleyball – convert the basketball courts
- Badminton – convert the basketball courts
- Table Tennis – 3 tables
- Indoor track
- Olympic Pool
- Diving Pool
- Recreation Pool (with waterslide and “lazy river”!)
- Climbing Wall
- Small Multipurpose Court (Indoor Soccer, Dodgeball, Roller Hockey, etc.)
- Martial Arts practice/performance rooms
- AstroTurf Soccer/Football/Cricket/Frisbee Fields
- And much, much more! Check <http://www.crc.gatech.edu> for more information.

There is a plethora of tennis courts (indoor and outdoor) located adjacent to ES&T – just past the track. We have exclusive use of the indoor courts outside match play. Check the Byer’s Tennis Complex website for availability.

Your Tech ID will get you in the CRC and enable you to check out rackets, balls, goggles, towels, etc. Lockers may be rented as well. If you have any questions about CRC, you can call them at (404) 894-3910.

Many intramural sports are sponsored by the CRC. In the past, we have fielded intramural teams in almost all of the sports offered. In fact, AChEGS sponsored teams have won school championships in racquetball, volleyball, and dodgeball. AChEGS intramural teams will be organized at the beginning of each semester (check your email) by the appointed Intramural Chair.

Campus Organizations and Activities

Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Tech (ORGT) is funded through student activity fees, and offers a wide variety of activities including:

* caving

* backpacking

- * canoeing
- * kayaking

- * rock climbing
- * more can be found at [ORGT's webpage](#)

You can pick up an ORGT flyer at SAC with a listing of their activities for the semester. They also rent equipment to Tech Students at very cheap rates. ORGT is located in the O'Keefe Gym Basement, on East Campus, accessible via 8th Street off Fowler.

Options Classes: Georgia Tech offers a variety of non-credit classes to students. Subjects vary but listed here are just a few past offerings:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Beginner's Car Care | * Kickboxing |
| * Ballroom Dancing | * Celtic Music |
| * Piano Lessons | * Aerobics (water, step, etc) |
| * Yoga | * Various arts and crafts |
| * Spanish, German, Arabic, etc. | |

Fees depend on the particular class. For more information, check at the information desk in the Student Center.

The Georgia Tech Campus has a variety of people with different interests. There are many campus organizations including most sports, academic interests, honor societies, and religious and cultural clubs.

The Graduate Studies department of GT offers group-style peer mentoring in the form of "Grad Groups," which meet once a week for the first eight weeks of classes. These groups are made up of about 16 students with different backgrounds and academic interests and are led by an older grad student. The goals of Grad Groups are to help incoming graduate students acclimate to life at GT, offer networking opportunities with other new grad students, and expose new students to valuable resources you may not be aware of. For more information, check out <http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/grad-groups>

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) has an undergraduate chapter at Tech. They have weekly meetings, and grad students are always invited (They have free food, but you have to be a member). It is a good idea to become a national member of AIChE. The cost for Graduate Student Membership is about \$15/year. You will receive a monthly magazine, "Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Progress," and notices about the monthly meetings of the Atlanta Chapter.

Other Groups: There are many other groups and organizations on campus. You should be receiving information about them during registration and in your Campus P.O. Box. If you do not receive information, check the TECHNIQUE (the Tech paper) and postings in the Student Center or CRC. You can also check <http://jacketpages.gatech.edu>.

Tickets for Varsity Athletic Events

Georgia Tech competes nationally in a variety of intercollegiate sports as a member of the highly competitive Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). The most popular sports include football, baseball, and basketball. Obtaining tickets for these activities can be a confusing process, so here are some hints.

Football: Single game tickets for football games are free for all students. To claim a ticket you must go online to <http://www.ramblinwreck.com/tickets/student-tickets.html> the week leading up to the game. Tickets are offered on a first come first serve basis and go fast for popular visiting opponents. Bring your ticket and Buzzcard to the game for entry. If you wish to bring a non-student friend into the football game you may be able to purchase a guest ticket depending on availability. These go on sale the Wednesday before the game, the price varies depending on the opponent.

Football games are usually on Saturdays; you can pick up a schedule from the Edge Athletic Building next to the Stadium if you do not receive one in your P.O. mailbox, or check online. Get to the stadium about an hour before the game to get a seat, because the Athletic Association has only reserved a limited number of free seats for students.

Basketball: Basketball season begins late in the fall semester and ends around spring break. Being part of the ACC, we regularly host basketball powerhouses like Duke, North Carolina, Virginia, and Louisville. Tickets are also free, and anyone with a BuzzCard can access the games. There's also often free GT gear for the first allotted number of student attendees (check your email for these specials).

Baseball: Getting into a baseball game is easy. Just show up at Russ Chandler Stadium before or during the game, show your student ID to the ticket office, and get a free ticket to enter the game.

LIVING IN ATLANTA

Housing Options

“Where will I live?” you may ask. Well, ChBE grad students live all over Atlanta. Many choose to live near campus, if not on campus. Others desire off-campus apartments. The following information may be helpful in your search. You may try to contact each other about rooming together to cut back on cost, which can be high (unless you are coming from NYC, Boston, or the Bay Area – then it will appear to be cheap!). Following is a summary of your options:

1. Housing on Campus

For graduate students living on campus, there are basically two options, both located on Tenth Street, up Atlantic from ES&T.

Graduate Living Center (GLC)

GLC features shared apartment style space with individual bedrooms and two residents sharing a complete bathroom. All four residents of the apartment share a living room and kitchen. If you live here, you will pay your entire semester’s rent at the beginning of each semester.

Tenth & Home Apartments

Fairly new, very nice individual apartments, which are designed for married students and students who are parents.

More information about graduate housing on campus can be found here:

<https://housing.gatech.edu/move-in-graduate>

2. Off-Campus Housing

Atlanta is a large city, and it is important to be careful and aware of surroundings. We have collected feedback about various off-campus housing from current graduate students, and shared that on slack besides the information listed below. So be sure to join our slack group for more information.

There are several locator services online and it is a good idea to visit some of these websites. Make sure there is not a fee for using this service, because most of them are free. Here are a few:

www.apartmentratings.com - Rates apartments in the area

<https://offcampushousing.emory.edu> - Emory off campus living website

www.craigslist.org – choose Atlanta area

www.promove.com - Free service that helps you find the best places to live in Atlanta

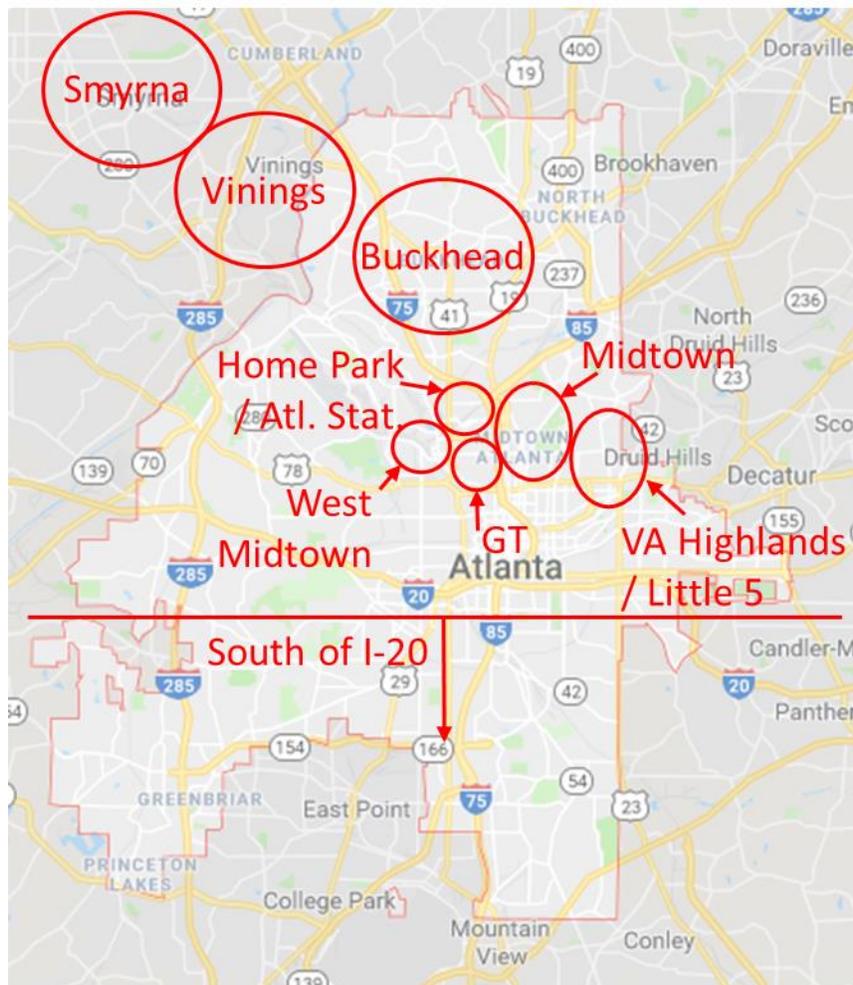
Over the ChBE recruitment weekend, some of you signed up for the housing tour. As a reminder, during the tour, you visited the Prato and Avana Westside. Here are their website links for additional information:

<http://www.thepratoatmidtown-aps.com/>

<https://avanawestside.com/>

We strongly encourage you to visit Atlanta to search for an apartment before orientation (if possible), because the longer you wait, the more inconvenient it will get. An early arrival will help you avoid a hasty decision, and you have a better chance of getting a good deal on rent. You will want to bring a check book to pay for application fees and deposits.

One of the most important decisions is not what building you live in, but where you live in Atlanta. The following neighborhoods are typical for GT students to live in, including a small map to give you an idea of where these neighborhoods are located. Frankly, there is some housing available within walking/biking distance to campus, but most students choose to drive. Later in the packet, you will also find descriptions of what the different neighborhoods have to offer in terms of atmosphere, nightlife, and eats.



HOME PARK: Home Park is very convenient for those who do not have a car or prefer walking/biking for their commute to work. This neighborhood is located just north of campus, between 10th Street and 16th Street. Most of the residents are Tech students, and while there are a few apartment buildings in Home Park, most people living there rent houses. The houses are your typical beat up college homes; however, some are nicer than others. The convenience of walking to campus while not having a dorm room sized place is great, and is one of the main perks of Home Park. Home Park is strictly residential, so it's not the best location for those seeking a more upscale, hip city feel.

ATLANTIC STATION: Atlantic Station is in a central location, just north of Home Park. Just like Home Park, it's just a short drive to Midtown and Downtown, and it is very bike-friendly, perfect for those interested in commuting by bike. The area contains tons of apartments, condos, and townhomes, and there's an IKEA, Publix, Regal Theater, and outdoor shopping area conveniently nearby. This area is not the best option for someone that wants to be in the center of the action, where they can walk to the grocery store, bars, clubs, etc. Also, living Atlantic Station is fairly expensive, comparable (but less) than living in Midtown. That being said, for someone that wants to live in a newer, quiet, low-traffic neighborhood fairly close to Georgia Tech with good shopping nearby, Atlantic Station is a great place.

MIDTOWN: Midtown is the center of Atlanta (also where Georgia Tech is located) and has all of the qualities of a big city: lots of people, places to go, things to see, and yes traffic! Midtown is also home to the majority of Atlanta's arts, festivals, and cultural events. You will never run out of shops to visit, restaurants to try, and festivals to attend! Renting in Midtown can get very expensive, although deals do exist if you look carefully (just make sure the random building next to your apartment doesn't turn into a club at night 😊). If you live in this neighborhood, it would be very easy to walk/bike to campus, and there would be a lot of fun bars and restaurants at your fingertips.

WEST MIDTOWN: When people talk about West Midtown, they often refer to the area west of Georgia Tech around Howell Mill Road. Although this area lies some distance from Midtown, it is brimming with yummy restaurants, popular shops, good breweries, and is home to a lively nightlife scene. In recent years, this has become a popular place for new incoming students to live due to balanced rent prices (less than Atlantic Station), proximity to campus, and new restaurants/bars/breweries. It is not ideal to commute from here to Georgia Tech by bike or walking; driving is a must if you live here.

HIGHLANDS: The Highlands is an area located fairly equidistant between Georgia Tech and our neighboring institution, Emory University. The neighborhood runs along Highland (hence the name) and offers more unique restaurants and bars than you will probably have time to visit! The area is a favorite among graduate students and other young people. In addition, the rent for most apartments in this area is reasonable, especially when living with roommates.

BUCKHEAD: Located north of campus (head north on Peachtree Rd about 4 miles), this area is probably the most pricey area to live and shop in. Buckhead is home to the famous Lenox Mall and is also known for its nightlife.

VININGS: Located just inside of the Perimeter (I-285) in northwest Atlanta, Vinings offers access to major shopping and dining areas while retaining the tranquility of a small southern town. However, the cost of apartments will be less than living closer to Georgia Tech. The tradeoff is convenience (time, gas, and traffic jams).

SMYRNA: Located just outside of the Perimeter (I-285) in northwest Atlanta, Smyrna is a suburban area that offers apartments at great prices with great amenities. It's also close to SunTrust Park (where the Atlanta Braves baseball team plays), and the "Battery", a fun area with great shopping, restaurants, and sports bars. Because this neighborhood is outside the Perimeter, travel time to campus will be at least 20 minutes by car, and longer at rush hour due to traffic.

Apartment Necessities

Furniture

As a graduate student you probably want nice but inexpensive furniture. We are incredibly lucky to have an IKEA store nearby in Atlantic Station. Check them out at www.ikea.com and try to go during weekday business hours to miss the crowds. Also try www.craigslist.org, "Creative Loafing", or the daily paper for discount furniture.

The Salvation Army sells used furniture and is located adjacent to the Tech campus. Also, there will probably be recently graduated students trying to get rid of their furniture. Notices of items for sale are usually found downstairs in the Student Center where the off-campus housing bulletin board is. Check the GT Thrift Shop Facebook page for good deals!

Utilities (electric, gas, and water)

Be sure to ask your apartment owner/manager which utilities you are responsible for and which companies provide service in your area. If your utilities are paid through the dorm or apartment/house, ignore this section.

There are a number of electric and gas service providers in the Atlanta area. Georgia Power/Georgia Natural Gas are the largest, but do not necessarily have the best rates. Fortunately, state law requires that all utility companies post their rates. You even have the option (in some places) to receive Green Power and Green Natural Gas. Keep in mind that a particular apartment complex or housing situation may require the use of a particular provider, depending on location and agreements.

Water and sewer service is handled through either the city or county of your residence. Check with your apartment complexes for how they deal with water / sewer bills, as some complexes act as the intermediary between you and the water company. If you live out of the city you must contact your county public works department. If you live around Tech, you will deal with the Public Works Department of the City of Atlanta.

Transportation

If you don't have a car, or even if you do, you may have a need for Atlanta's rapid public transit system, MARTA. We haven't enclosed maps of the routes, but you can cover a majority of Atlanta by MARTA (if you like the bus). Check out the MARTA web page at www.itsmarta.com for maps of the rail line and the up-to-date information during times influenced by COVID-19. To get bus schedules, you'll have to go down to one of the stations. There are two rail stops within walking distance of the Tech campus. These are Midtown (at 10th St, station N4) and North Avenue (station N3). Once you become more familiar with the Atlanta area, MARTA will become very useful. You should be warned that Atlanta is well-known as a "car-city". It can be tricky without one, but life around Tech should be possible with grocery shuttles

on weekends, a shuttle to the MARTA from campus, and the availability of necessities at least within biking distance. Uber, Lyft, and Zipcar provide additional car sharing options.

Note that Georgia Tech students do receive a discount on monthly MARTA passes. They can be purchased at the Buzzcard office for \$58.50 (normally \$95.00).

Airport

Hartsfield International Airport is the busiest airport in the world, and as such it brings pros and cons. The good news: it's big enough to get you virtually anywhere you need to go for a reasonable price. Delta (headquartered here) and AirTran (they have student rates) both have hubs at Hartsfield and the competition helps to keep fares low for poor graduate students such as ourselves. The bad news: as a large airport, getting there can be hectic, especially at high-travel times. Fridays and holidays are especially chaotic. Taking the MARTA Train is probably the best way to get to the airport at any time, as the airport is the end of the north/south-bound rails and goes directly to Midtown.

Banking

There are plenty of banks in Atlanta. Three of these have bank machines in the student center: Bank of America, SunTrust, and Wells Fargo. These banks typically have information booths in the Student Center during the first few days of class; you can open an account at that time. Tech now requires stipend checks to be direct deposited, so pay attention during orientation on any requirements/procedures that apply.

Wells Fargo:	1 (800) 869-3557
Bank of America:	1-800-299-BANK
SunTrust:	(404) 230-5555

FUN IN ATLANTA

Introduction

Now that we've told you all that you could ever stand to read about Georgia Tech and the necessary aspects of Atlanta living, you should be comforted to find that you are in a city where you can never use the "There's nothing to do here" excuse on a given weekend. Atlanta is the major metropolitan area of the South and has much to offer in the way of entertainment and eating out. There are always events posted on Facebook for festivals, bar crawls, farmer's markets, parades, etc. For the old-school folks who enjoy reading on paper, one of the best ways to get the scoop on the week in Atlanta is by flipping through the pages of Creative Loafing. This paper is available on Wednesdays outside various stores, local restaurants and bars, and even outside the GT Student Center. Creative Loafing has television and movie listings, dance clubs, upcoming concerts, local bar band information, and even restaurant coupons. Another excellent source of local happenings can be found in the Weekend section of the Thursday edition of the Atlanta Journal called Access Atlanta, or the leisure section found in Saturday's paper.

As in every big city, you could eat at a different place each night and still never visit every restaurant. Finding a restaurant or bar with Yelp or City Search (www.citysearch.com) is the next best thing to asking the advice of your favorite older grad student.

Atlanta is also home to a great local band scene, if you like that kind of thing. This is where a lot of up and coming bands got their start, and many established groups still play here. Popular concert venues are the Roxy, Cotton Club, the Tabernacle, State Farm Arena, Chastain Amphitheatre, HI-FI Buys Amphitheatre, etc.

In conclusion to this lovely introduction, we leave you with one thought: there's a lot to do here.

Atlantic Station

Our neighbor to the north just a few blocks away (17th street), is a brand new live, work, play area with townhomes, IKEA, Publix grocery, a slew of retailers, and a bunch of restaurants. This area was originally a factory called Atlantic Steel. Now environmentally clean and shopper friendly, this rejuvenated area showcases Atlanta's commitment to bringing young professionals out of the suburbs and back in the city. Parking is free for the first two hours and it is actually quite convenient. If you live by GT, you will get to know this area very well. Check out the website for a map and a list of stores and happenings at <http://www.atlanticstation.com/>.

Virginia Highlands

One of the more historic areas of Atlanta is Virginia Highlands, or The Highlands. The name is derived from the intersection of Virginia and (you guessed it) Highland. This is a popular hangout for students from nearby Emory University, but it is equally accessible to Georgia Tech students as well. If you were here for recruitment weekend, we went to a bar called Neighbors in this area, and some of you may have explored the Beltline and Ponce City Market on Saturday.

It is easy to get to the Highlands from campus. Just take North Avenue or Ponce de Leon until you hit Highland Avenue and turn left. Like it or not, you are there. The Highlands offers great eats, outdoor patios and a range of drinking establishments. You can spend as much or as little as you want on a Grey Goose martini or pitcher of PBR; on Thai food or a meal in the oldest pub in Atlanta.

Little Five Points

Located near the Highlands, Little Five Points is another cluster of food, folks, and fun. Located where Moreland Avenue meets Euclid Avenue, Little Five Points has shops, restaurants, bars, and clubs, all within a short walking distance. There are a lot of interesting shops, carrying everything from vintage clothing to vinyl to eclectic trinkets. The Porter is also a grad student favorite. Little Five Points is one of the most distinctive parts of Atlanta and is worth checking out.

West Midtown

Located west of GT is West Midtown (yes, it should be easy to remember). If you came to the main recruitment weekend, we went to Ormsby's in the Westside Provisions District, which also has great options for shopping. La Fonda is a good place for margaritas, West Egg has an above-average brunch, and Yeah! Burger is excited about their burgers. A little further North, Ginya Izakaya has great ramen and shareables and Monday Night Brewing is an Atlanta craft beer staple.

Midtown

Our neighbor across the 75/85 highway provides close access (you can take the trolley to the Marta station) to a great selection of hip restaurants and bars. This area tends to be flashier than the Highlands but is not quite at Buckhead's level (see below). Although Midtown has its share of skyscrapers and the famed Fox Theater, it also contains charming residential areas. The gem of midtown is Piedmont Park, which is east of Piedmont Road and north of 10th Street. During the day, there are plenty of people running, laying out, or just going for a walk. If you've got a pup, there is a large dog park here you might want to check out. Also, Midtown is home to Atlanta's art scene, with sites such as the High Museum of Art, Woodruff Arts Center, Center for Puppetry Arts, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Buckhead

For many years, Buckhead was the entertainment hub in Atlanta. Buckhead is a mix of dance clubs, nice bars, and ritzy folks. While the nightlife focus has shifted to Midtown and Highlands, there are still some good bars and clubs here that might offer a break from the normal weekend routine. If you are looking to relive your undergrad days, try Moondogs, Hole in the Wall, or Peachtree Tavern. Fado's is a great Irish Pub where you can get a plate of eggs and a drink for those stressful mornings. The weekends can get packed, but that just means you can meet that many more 'interesting' people, right? Be prepared to shell out \$10 to either Uber, or park your own vehicle there.

Decatur

Decatur is a quaint break from the hustle and bustle of Atlanta's urban sprawl. There are some amazing bars and restaurants here if you are willing to break out of your Atlanta shell. Butter & Cream is

consistently voted as one of the top ice cream shops in the Atlanta area. Additionally, the Dekalb Farmer's Market is one of the most fun places to grocery shop.

Buford Highway

If you are willing to drive 20 minutes northwest of campus, the cultural mecca of Buford is a must-visit. Food from every continent can be found here, and there's a lot of cultural diversity in terms of markets, restaurants, and activities. If you're willing to drive further Northeast, there are even more options in Duluth. A fun Lunar New Year festival is hosted in the small Chinatown every year. Buford Highway Farmers Market (although not a real outdoor farmers market) is an enormous indoor supermarket where you can find literally anything you need to cook international foods at home (similar to DeKalb Farmer's Market near Decatur but easier to navigate and more categorized). Some grad student favorites include: Sokongdong, Bobo's Garden, Pho Dai Lo #2, Tea Top and many others!

Other Notables

For those culturally-minded students, the High Museum of Art and the Archaeological Museum at Emory University are nice places to browse. The Carter Center, the Civil Rights Museum, and the Martin Luther King Center offer insights into more recent history in the United States and in Georgia. Concerts and plays occur next door to the High Museum in the Woodruff Arts Center. The Atlanta Symphony and Atlanta Ballet give regular performances throughout the year. Sci-Trek on Piedmont and the Fernbank Science Museum on Ponce de Leon Avenue are also pretty interesting.

For the not-quite-so-avid or fair weather sports fan, Atlanta is a good place to be. Some Atlanta professional team will probably play your favorite team from home, sometime during the year - many fans living in Atlanta go to games to support their "home" team. The Braves opened a new baseball stadium in 2017 and it is usually not too hard to find cheap tickets. Mercedes-Benz stadium is also newly open as of 2017 and is home to the Atlanta Falcons (NFL) and Atlanta United FC (MLS Soccer). The latter is a new professional soccer team that debuted in 2017 which played its first games to sold-out crowds at Bobby Dodd Stadium on GT's campus before moving to the new stadium. It has a very strong fanbase in Atlanta and the team just won the 2018 MLS Cup. Atlanta also has an NBA team in the Atlanta Hawks which plays in State Farm Arena; even if they don't perform very well, they often have cheap tickets when your favorite team does come to town.

Places to Throw Away Money

Lenox Square is located about 20 minutes north on Peachtree past Piedmont (on MARTA's north-line) or take the exit 1 off of GA 400. And right across the street is Phipps Plaza, the home of exclusive stores such as Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Tiffany's. If you want a diamond ring or mink stole at twice the normal cost, go here. Like Little Five Points, all types of people come to these places. You can see all AND buy all here. Of course, there are the typical suburban malls scattered all around Atlanta: Cumberland, Perimeter, North Point, Northlake, Southlake, Gwinnett, etc. Just pick a direction and if you drive far enough you'll run into one. There are also a number of outlet malls within about an hour's drive that offer some really sweet discounts and make for nice campus getaways when you no longer feel like studying or spending time in the lab.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Visa Process Tips

Disclaimer: The process for a US Visa may change. The accuracy of sections below is not guaranteed. Please research online or contact the Office of International Education for most current information.

After your acceptance from the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering you will need to apply for a US Visa (Student) and plan your travel to the United States.

The Office of International Education (OIE) at Georgia Tech will mail you an I-20 form. Stay in touch with them to get an update on the status of your form (<http://oie.gatech.edu/>). Bear in mind that the time from May-August is very hectic for OIE with new students. Be patient and consult the school's graduate studies office in case of inordinate delays. After you receive your I-20 form, please verify all details on the form including the spelling of your name! This form is the basis for the entire application process. The OIE will also host a webinar in May and again in July to explain requirements in greater detail and give you a chance to ask questions. It is highly recommended that you attend one of these sessions.

You will need to complete a DS-160 form online (<https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>). You will also need to pay the required SEVIS Fee, known as an I-901 form (<https://www.fmjfee.com/>).

After the previous items have been completed, you can apply for a US Visa! Applying for the F-1 student visa may vary depending on the U.S. embassy or consulate you are dealing with. You will be required to pay a non-refundable visa application fee. For the latest on the Visa process please refer to <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html>

Wait times for interview appointments vary by location, season, and other local factors and so, you should apply for your visa early. An F-1 student visa for the USA can be issued up to 120 days in advance of your course of study start date (as written on the I-20 form) so as soon as you are ready with all the documents, don't hesitate to apply.

Required documentation includes:

1. A valid passport (at least 6 months from expiration)
2. Confirmation page of online DS-160 form (2 copies)
3. SEVIS Fee Receipt or I-901 form (2 copies)
4. Interview appointment letter (2 copies)
5. Original form I-20
6. Additional documents for F-1 eligibility for example: transcripts, degrees, test scores, proof of financial stability, etc.

** Note: This is not a complete list. Other documentation may be needed depending on local requirements.

Keep in mind that visa issuance is not guaranteed. You should not make final travel plans until you have your visa approved. Remember that you will only be able to enter USA with an F-1 visa 30 days before your course start date (again I-20 form!), so plan accordingly. As an additional note: historically, the department has been very understanding of visa issues and can provide assistance accordingly. Please don't hesitate to contact the department if you have any issues.

Once you arrive at Georgia Tech you will be required to complete an International Student Check-in organized by the OIE to ensure that all your paperwork is set! Check your email DAILY and keep up with the steps suggested by OIE. In the first weeks of class they have walk-in hours in case you have any additional questions you'd like to deal with in person. You must also attend one of the MANDATORY meetings scheduled in the first week of classes. Failing to attend may cause you to be dropped from your classes.

There are many international students in our department and I can guarantee that someone has already faced the issue that you might be facing, so feel free to ask for our help!

YOUR CLASS

The following is a list of the students that have accepted to attend Georgia Tech this fall (along with contact info). This would be a great time to contact the other students you might have met over the recruiting weekend.

NAME	SCHOOL	G	MA	PGM	E-mail
Alvarado-Velez, Daniel	U. Puerto Rico	M	ChBE	DR	daniel.alvarado@upr.edu
Amrihesari, Mona	BIHE Univ.	F	ChBE	DR	amrimona@gmail.com
Avendano, Marco	Texas A&M U.	M	ChBE	DR	m.esteban.100@hotmail.com
Azimi, Milad	UCLA	M	ChBE	DR	azimim@g.ucla.edu
Aziz, Daniel	U. Florida	M	ChBE	DR	danielaziz9@gmail.com
Bai, Andrew	Michigan/Carnegie	M	ChBE	DR	andrewbai1224@163.com
Chen, Xinyu	Tianjin University	F	ChBE	DR	xinyuchenappli@163.com
Chen, Zhitao	U. Illinois-Urbana	M	ChBE	DR	chenzhitao98@yahoo.com

Crouse, Steven	North Carolina Sta	M	ChBE	DR	steven61973@gmail.com
Dani, Kunal	U. Wisc/John H	M	ChBE	DR	kdani777@yahoo.com
De Janon Gutierrez, Alejandro	Texas A&M U.	M	BIOE	DR	dejanong@gmail.com
Duprez, Natalie	U. South Carolina	F	ChBE	DR	n_duprez@live.com
Gray, Mikaela	Hawaii Pacific	F	ChBE	DR	mikaelagray@gmail.com
Guta, Yoseph	GA Tech	M	ChBE	DR	yguta6@gatech.edu
Heiler, Alexander	Santa Clara Univ.	M	BIOE	DR	aheiler@scu.edu
Lee, Sumin	U. Alabama	F	ChBE	DR	slee185@crimson.ua.edu
Nai, Dingqi	U.Davis/CarMel	M	ChBE	DR	naidingqi0618@gmail.com
Osibo, Anuoluwatobi	U. Louisiana-Lafay	F	ChBE	DR	osiboanuoluwatobi@gmail.com
Palacios-Rolston, Colin	U. Michigan	M	ChBE	DR	cproleston@gmail.com
Park, Jimin	U. CA-Berkeley	M	ChBE	DR	jimin0524@gmail.com
Patterson, Alexandra	U. South Carolina	F	BIOE	DR	atp1@email.sc.edu
Proano, Laura	Univ. of LaSabana	F	ChBE	DR	lproano2019@laspau.org
Salinger, Jamie	UCLA	F	ChBE	DR	jsalinger98@gmail.com
Tian, Nianhan	Carnegie Mellon	F	ChBE	DR	nianhant@andrew.cmu.edu

Tuazon, Harry	U. South Florida	M	BIOE	DR	harry.tuazon@gmail.com
Wang, Ziyuan	GA Tech	M	ChBE	DR	thomas.wzy.8681@gmail.com
Zaw, Kaung Su Khin	U. South Florida	F	ChBE	DR	ksukhinzaw@mail.usf.edu
PHD INTERNATIONAL					
Alshammasi, Mohammed	Cornell Univ.	M	ChBE	DR	alshammasim@gmail.com
Anglou, Elisavet	Imperial College	F	ChBE	DR	elisavet.anglou17@alumni.imperial.ac.uk
Chang, Yuchen	U. Waterloo	M	ChBE	DR	y63chang@uwaterloo.ca
Chen, Xinyu	Tianjin University	F	BIOE	DR	xinyuchenappli@163.com
Chng, Jia Yuan	Univ Coll of London	M	ChBE	DR	jyc214@ic.ac.uk
Cho, Jaehyun	Seoul Nat'l Univ.	M	ChBE	DR	jaehyun0119@kist.re.kr
Chowdhury, Shaafique	Bangladesh Univ.	M	ChBE	DR	shaafiquechowdhury@gmail.com
Filippas, Alexandros	Nat Tech of Athens	M	ChBE	DR	philippasalex@gmail.com
Godbole, Eashaan	Inst. Of Chemical	M	ChBE	DR	egodbole@gmail.com
Gwon, Sojeong	Chungnam Nat'l	F	ChBE	DR	sigwon00@gmail.com

Lin, Geng-Sheng	Nat'l Taiwan Univ	M	ChBE	DR	briangslin@gmail.com
Molel, Evans	U. Pennsylvania	M	ChBE	DR	molel.evans@gmail.com
Oh, Donghyun	Seoul Univ.	M	ChBE	DR	oh.cheme@gmail.com
Park, Habin	U. of Seoul	M	ChBE	DR	habinpark@gmail.com
Ravutla, Suryateja	Indian Inst. Of Tech	M	ChBE	DR	ch14btech11021@iith.ac.in
Sarswat, Akriti	Indian Inst. Of Tech	F	ChBE	DR	akriti@iitk.ac.in
Song, Mingyu	Inha University	M	ChBE	DR	smg931028@gmail.com
Sridharan, Harini	U. of Akron	F	ChBE	DR	harini.sridharan03@gmail.com
Yutthasaksunthorn, Natechanok	U. Illinois	F	ChBE	DR	mp.natechanok@gmail.com

BRIDGE					
Amezcuca, Fidel	Chicago State U.	F	ChBE	MS	famezcua@csu.edu
Wimberly, Sydney	U. Connecticut	F	ChBE	MS	sydney.wimberely@uconn.edu

CDSCI					
Kuiper, Zachary	U. South Florida	M	ChBE	CDSCI	zkuiper@gmail.com

MS					
Adeyemo, Ayobami	U. College London	F	ChBE	MS	ayobami.adeyemo.15@ucl.ac.uk
Bhawnani, Chirag	GA Tech	M	ChBE	MS	cbhawnani3@gatech.edu
Queen, Adaya	USM-West Point	F	ChBE	MS	oliver.queen74@gmail.com

BSMS					
D'Souza, Shavonn	GA Tech	M	ChBE	BSMS	sdsouza31@gatech.edu
Sambatur, Rama	GA Tech	M	ChBE	BSMS	rsambatur3@gatech.edu
Yang, Szu-Hui	GA Tech	F	ChBE	BSMS	stephanie16@gatech.edu
Zhang, Lushuang	GA Tech	F	ChBE	BSMS	sarahzhang0122@yahoo.com