



# Welcome International Students 2022-2023

School of Social Work Building, Athens Campus



# Welcome from Director of Global Engagement

Dr. Jane McPherson



Welcome to the University of Georgia School of Social Work! We are so delighted that you have joined us here in Athens, Georgia. We are excited for you to get to know our School, our University, our local community, and our nation.

As Director of Global Engagement at the School, it is my special pleasure to welcome you. My own life has been hugely enriched by my own global experiences. I studied abroad in Salvador, Brazil, and lived for several years in Cairo, Egypt; now, I collaborate on research with scholars in Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean.

At the School of Social Work, Global Engagement means collaborative engagement with international communities in the US and around the world. With us, you will discover a community of globally-minded students and scholars, and I hope that you will join our educational and social events. We help students design independent international research, study, and service opportunities; and we offer opportunities for StudyAway as well as local field trips. I look forward to getting to know you during your years here and please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, suggestions, or concerns.

We look forward to being with you as deepen your knowledge of social work in the US, and to learning from you about social work and social solutions in your home countries.

Enjoy,

Jane McPherson, PhD, MPH, LCSW

Director of Global Engagement & Associate Professor

UGA School of Social Work

# Welcome from the Global Engagement Graduate Assistants

Hello international friends!

Welcome to the University of Georgia School of Social Work! A lot of preparation, paperwork, traveling, and determination came to this moment and now you are here! We commence your bravery and are excited to see you grow in this new season of life.

Over the next few weeks, possibly even months, you will be adjusting into this new community and program that will become your home and field for the next few years. You may feel homesick and face challenges, but please know that we want to help minimize these feelings as much as possible for you all. We want to serve and learn with you anyway we can.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us and know that we are also committed to reaching out to you as a friend, colleague, and helping hand. We want nothing more than for you to feel comfortable in this transition and for you to successfully blossom as social workers in this program and beyond.

We are truly so excited that you have chosen to be a new member of this community. On behalf of the international students at the School of Social Work, welcome home!

Best wishes,  
Annabel Bunton and Stephanie Sanchez  
SSW Global Engagement Graduate Assistants



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# Programs

## Masters of Social Work (MSW)

Top 30 best social work programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Specializations:

- Micro (clinical) practice
- Macro (community development) practice
- Integrated practice (micro and macro)

Dual master degrees:

- Public Health (MSW/MPH)
- Law (MSW/JD)
- Divinity (MSW/MDiv)

We offer a number of certificates in areas such as marriage and family therapy, nonprofit management and leadership, and gerontology, among others.

For more information, visit [MSW Admissions](#) or contact Michael Robinson, [sswadmin@uga.edu](mailto:sswadmin@uga.edu), (706) 542-5425.



## Ph.D in Social Work

Since 1990 our doctoral program has produced thought leaders in academic, public, and private settings who address persistent and emerging inequities through socially just research.

We provide:

- 4 years of funding in the form of research and teaching assistantships and fellowships
- Experiential learning opportunities through research and teaching practicum, writing workshop, and statistical lab
- Interdisciplinary scholarship within a robust program of study
- Participation in faculty-driven, cohort-based, and independent research
- Multiple graduate certificate opportunities – gerontology, women's studies, qualitative studies, quantitative methods, and nonprofit management & leadership.

For more information, explore our [faculty's research interests](#), look through the [Ph.D. Program Viewbook](#) or contact Tiffany Washington, Ph.D. Program, at [twashing@uga.edu](mailto:twashing@uga.edu) or calling 706-542-5471.



## MA in Nonprofit Management & Leadership (MA NML)

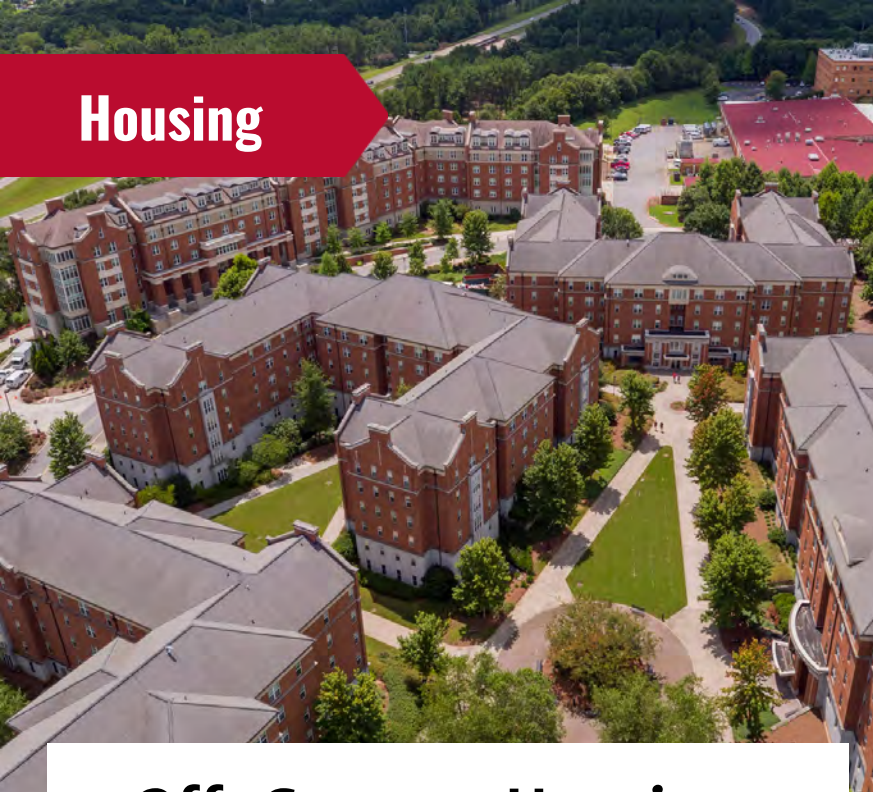
Formerly the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Organizations (MNPO)

33 total credits of coursework and internships including:

- fundraising, financial administration, volunteer management, grant proposal writing, and fundamental theories regarding the role of nonprofits in society.

Electives can be taken across campus and internships are located in Athens, throughout Georgia, across the U.S. and globally.

For more information, visit [MA in Nonprofit Management and Leadership Admissions](#) or contact Anthony Mallon at [ajmallon@uga.edu](mailto:ajmallon@uga.edu) or [nprofit@uga.edu](mailto:nprofit@uga.edu)



## Off-Campus Housing

[UGA Off-Campus Living Guide](#): Comprehensive list of apartment complexes and resources

[UGA/Athens Lease, Subleases, Roommates, Off-Campus Housing & Apartments](#): Facebook group

[Roomies.com - Athens, GA](#): offers rooms for rent by homeowners and apartment dwellers in search of roommates

[Zillow](#): platform for finding apartments to rent

[The Apartment Guide- Athens](#) or [Apartments.com- Athens](#)

- Refresh the page and confirm the public transportation filter has been applied to your search. Consult the apartment complex directly to determine the walking distance to bus stops.

Some Affordable, Furnished Apartment Complexes in Athens, GA.

- The Park at Lakeside
- The Park at Hillside
- The Redland
- Polo Club Apartments
- Rivermill
- Riverclub Apartments

## On-Campus Housing

University Housing provides comfortable, affordable, and secure on-campus housing options for students.

Features:

- Furnishings, air conditioning, WiFi, high-speed Internet access, and cable television.
- Common areas include kitchens, laundry rooms, meeting rooms, computer labs, and lounges.

Graduate students should register immediately after their application to the graduate school has been submitted.

To register for on-campus housing and for more detailed information please visit the [UGA Housing website](#).

"Housing is directly related to transport and one's budget. If you look for a place, it has to have reliable transport and within your budget. Remember to consider whether utilities are inclusive or exclusive of the rent. On campus housing is advantageous as there is a reliable source of transport, however off campus housing gives one freedom. Being in a different environment is mind freeing even if its 15 minutes away from campus. This comes in handy when experiencing expected stress and burn out from school activities.

The leases are usually one year binding, this commitment makes it harder for one to easily change their residence. For both off and on campus, applications should start at least two-three months before expected move in. If off campus, there is an Athens transit bus but slightly limited on weekends."



Joy Ndungu  
(she/her)  
MSW 2023

# International Student Life (ISL)

[International Student Life | Student Affairs UGA](#) has a multitude of programs and services to assist international students with your experience at UGA.

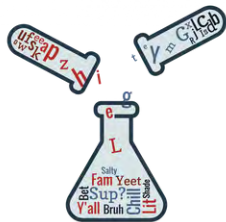
## [International Student Orientation](#)

ISL hosts a new student orientation for incoming international students. Usually, the orientation requires registration and a fee, with campus housing available during registration.

What will students get out of attending UGA's international student orientation?

"I think this is the most direct way to meet other international students, and within a month of just arriving at this school, you may find surprises at the International Student Orientation. You will find students from the same country as your native country who have more experience at this school than you, so you can ask them for advice and make connections."

Ruijie Ma  
(she/her)  
MSW 2024



American-English  
**LANGUAGE LABS**

Language Labs provides a comfortable and reoccurring space to help international students with language skills and culture

[CLICK HERE](#)



Global Buddies promotes cross-cultural relationships between international students with UGA students from the U.S.

[CLICK HERE](#)



International Coffee Hour a weekly meeting for all UGA students, faculty, staff, and community members to gather for coffee and cuisine.

[CLICK HERE](#)

# Important Documentation



## Social Security Card

Do I need this? This is important to have if you are receiving a graduate assistantship from UGA.

Access information here: [Obtaining a Social Security Number.](#)

## ID & Driver's License

Information regarding obtaining a Georgia License: [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#)

For additional help contact [International Student Life \(ISL\).](#)

## UGA OneCard

As a new student, utilize the [OneCard Photo Upload System](#) to obtain your UGA OneCard.

For any additional questions email the Tate Student Center at [ugacard@uga.edu](mailto:ugacard@uga.edu)

## Immigration Services

[Incoming International Students J-1Scholar Pre-Arrival Information](#) (exchange students)  
[Exchange Visitor Orientation](#)  
[Current International Students](#)

For questions email: [immigration@uga.edu](mailto:immigration@uga.edu)



## Banking & ATM Locations on Campus



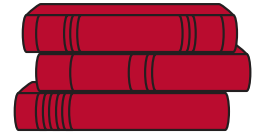
ISL compiled a list of banks in the Athens area, and where you can find ATMs on the UGA campus.

To save you a trip to the bank, link your bank for mobile banking. Most banks have a corresponding application you can download on your phone.

[CLICK HERE](#)



## Textbooks



Textbooks can be a rather large expense for a student.

While our bookstore offers textbooks that are available for every class, we would like to point out that renting or purchasing your textbooks through an online outlet may be a better option if you are looking for a more economical alternative.

Below are a few reputable companies for textbook rentals and purchases that students have used.

### amazon

You can find most textbooks and if you join Amazon Prime as a student, you receive orders in two days and have free returns.

### Chegg

Reputable company for textbook rentals and purchases that students have used.

### DIRECT TEXTBOOK

This online source shops over 200 online stores to find you the best price; however, some of the online stores have had complaints lodged against them and are not always reputable, so make sure you check out the specific store's online reviews before purchasing.

# Transportation



## UGA Transportation System

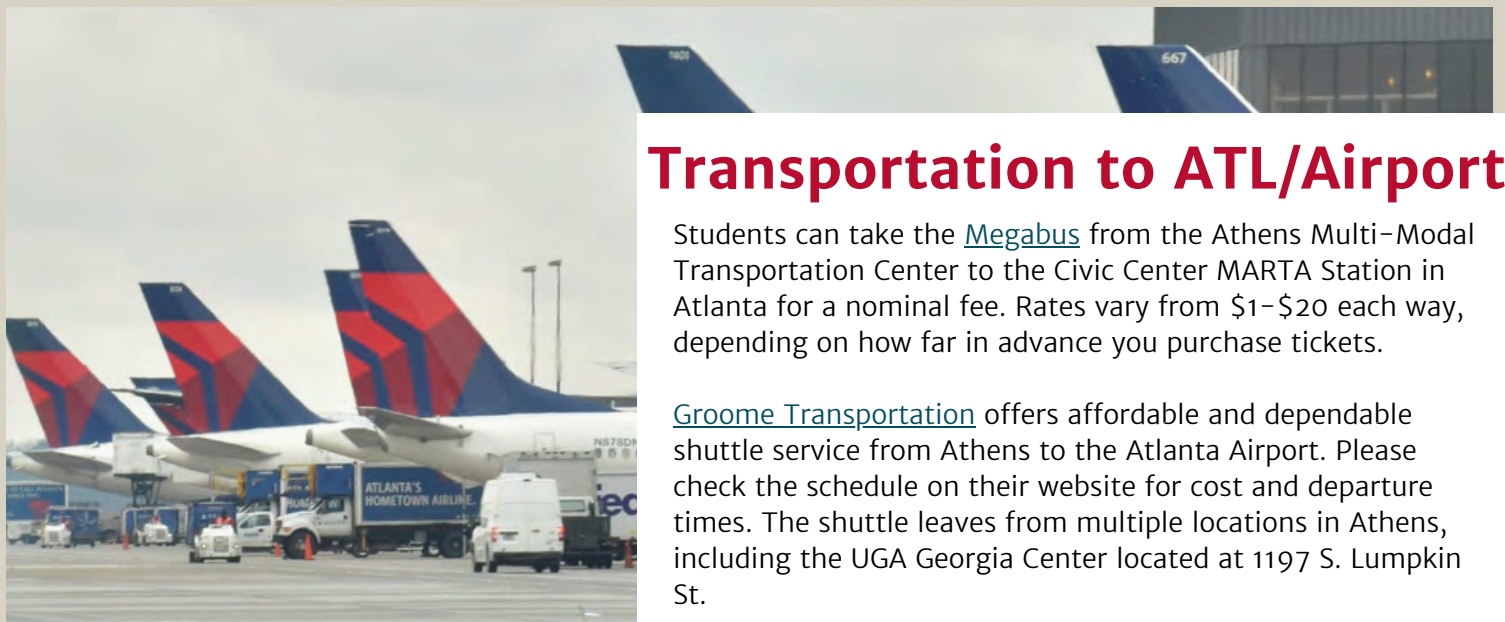
UGA is a large campus and trying to find your way around can be intimidating at first. The best place to find this information would be to download the UGA app to your phone. This app is feasible for both Apple and Android products. The app provides students with walk directions to buildings, bus routes and stops, and bus schedules. If you have other questions, this link will connect you to the [UGA Transportation](#) website.



## Athens Public Transit

For students living off-campus or wanting to venture away from campus, public transportation is free to UGA students who present a valid UGA ID. [Athens Transit routes](#) all over the city: M-F (6AM-10PM) and Sat. & Sun. (7AM - 10PM). Routes can be found on the UGA app.

\**Uber* and *Lyft* are ride-share services and can be accessed by downloading their apps. Prices tend to be higher on Saturdays during game days.



## Transportation to ATL/Airport

Students can take the [Megabus](#) from the Athens Multi-Modal Transportation Center to the Civic Center MARTA Station in Atlanta for a nominal fee. Rates vary from \$1-\$20 each way, depending on how far in advance you purchase tickets.

[Groome Transportation](#) offers affordable and dependable shuttle service from Athens to the Atlanta Airport. Please check the schedule on their website for cost and departure times. The shuttle leaves from multiple locations in Athens, including the UGA Georgia Center located at 1197 S. Lumpkin St.



## University Health Center

The UHC is UGA's central clinic that works to provide medical, dental, mental, eyecare, and prevention services to all enrolled UGA students. Click [here](#) to access the UHC home page where you can view their expansive list of services, upload important medical documentation upon enrollment, and book appointments when needed.

## Health Insurance

Health insurance for international students, and UGA provides a plan through United HealthCare or United Health Savings Fund. To access information on enrolling on a health insurance, click [here](#). You can also access additional links for health insurance information here: [Mandatory Plan](#) and [UGA ISL Health and Wellness](#).

## COVID-19

The University of Georgia continues to work closely with the University Health Center, the University System of Georgia, and local and state public health officials to monitor COVID-19. The top priority in these uncertain times remains the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our campus community. For up-to-date UGA Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and resource, kindly visit this [link](#).



# Food & Dining



## UGA Dining Halls & Restaurants

- Bolton
- The Village Summit
- Oglethorpe
- Snelling
- The Niche (Health Science Campus)



## Grocery Stores

All around Athens, there are several grocery store chains:

- Kroger
- Walmart
- Publix
- Trader Joes
- Costco



Athens also has specialty stores that offer ethnic fare:

### Fooks Food

2026 S.  
Milledge Ave  
706-208-8839  
(Asian grocery store)

### Los Compadres

1380 Prince Ave.  
706-543-6777  
(Hispanic grocery store)

### Oriental Market

1055 Gaines School Road  
706-354-6762  
(Asian Market)

## Local Restaurants

You can find information about the local fare in Athens at Visit Athens GA, Downton Athens GA, and Flagpole. Flagpole publishes an annual list that comprises the "Best of Athens" where readers cast their votes on their favorite restaurants, bars, shops, and coffee. Access the 2022 list [here](#).

You can also download the app, Yelp, where you can the best recommendations based on your taste and preference!



# UGA Resources & Opportunities

## UGA Resources & Helpful Subscriptions

UGA offers an array of useful resources that can enhance academic achievement for all students. Some resources include:

- eLC
- Athena
- UGA Degreeworks
- UGA Writing Center
- Peer tutoring, academic coaching, and first generation support

• Zoom

• Grammarly

ATHENA

Writing Center  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

eLearning Commons  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



## UGA Study Away

The School of Social Work at UGA offers opportunities for study, research, and service in Ghana, Northern Ireland, and the Caribbean during the school's Maymester. Please check here for more information on these trips: [UGA SSW StudyAway](#)

For scholarships on the StudyAway opportunity, please see more [here](#).

For other UGA Study Away opportunities, click [here](#)



## UGA Libraries and Technology Support

All [UGA libraries](#) offer an array of services that grant UGA students access to scholarly records, journals, books, and collections that help to advance our academic experience.

- Main Library
- McBay Science Library
- Miller Learning Center
- Map & Government Information Library
- Media Desk
- Art Library
- Curriculum Materials Library
- Music Collections
- Owens Library
- Carnegie Library Learning Center

If you need any assistance finding articles or navigating the online library services, you can contact the School of Social Work Librarian, Amber Prentiss. Her email is: [amberp@uga.edu](mailto:amberp@uga.edu) and all students are able to schedule an appointment with her.



# What to do in Athens?



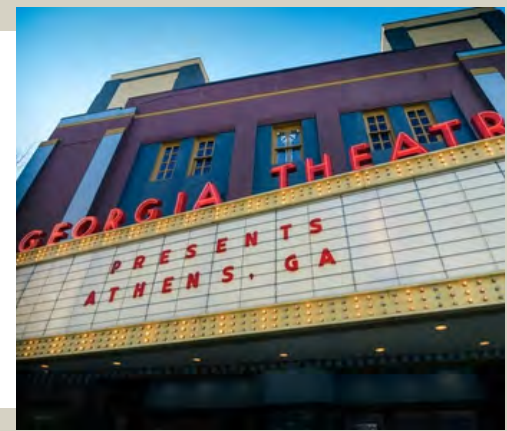
## UGA Football and Sporting Events

UGA Football and sporting events largely contribute to Athens culture, and full-time UGA students are granted tickets to all sporting events. To attend football games, a link will be sent to each student in August to register for tickets. Each awarded ticket is \$10. All other sporting events are free when showing a valid UGA ID. Visit [Georgia Dogs](#) to see more information about all sporting events.

## Music

Athens has a vibrant music scene and several venues throughout the city for live entertainment. Great places to catch music artists in town are:

- [Georgia Theatre](#)
- [The Classic Center](#)
- [UGA Performing Arts Center](#)
- [40 Watt Club](#)
- [Hendershots](#) (Jazz sessions)



## Performing Arts and Theatre

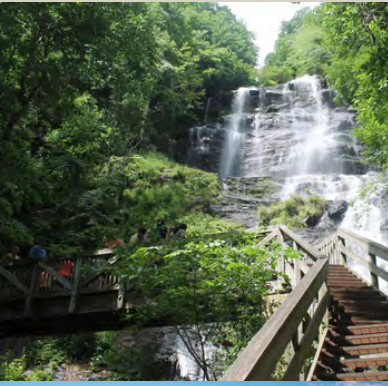
In addition to live music, Athens offers many opportunities to see live Broadway musicals and plays both at [The Classic Center Theatre](#) and [UGA Performing Arts Center](#). Their schedule can be found on their website. You can also experience local talent and theatre with the [Town & Gown Players](#), [Athens Creative Theatre](#), and [Morton Theatre](#).

## Arts and Culture

The [Georgia Museum of Art](#) is located on the UGA Campus. The museum holds over 10,000 works of art and is free of charge. The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.



# Explore Georgia



## Explore Georgia's Mountains

The state of Georgia has so many sites to see. Georgia is home to beautiful state parks and waterfalls, and many are within driving distance from Athens. You can access the [Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites](#) website to browse the parks and their locations. Below are some beautiful options:

- Tallulah Gorge
- Brasstown Bald
- Cloudland Canyon
- Mount Yonah
- Start of Appalachian Trail

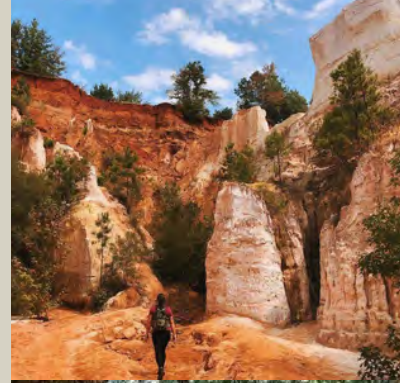
## Explore Georgia's Cities

There are several cities throughout Georgia that hold great richness to Georgia's history. Some of which include Macon, Columbus, Savannah, and our state capital, Atlanta. Each city offers an array of tourist filled activities. Visit [Explore Georgia](#) to begin your city adventure. Below are some places to visit in Atlanta:

- The Georgia Aquarium
- MLK Jr. Memorial
- Zoo Atlanta
- High Museum of Art
- World of Coca Cola
- The Fox Theatre
- Ponce City Market

## Explore Georgia's Beaches

Georgia is home to several barrier islands located 5 hours south of Athens. From riding bikes, fishing, to swimming in the ocean, the islands are great weekend getaway. Visit [Explore Georgia](#) to learn about Georgia's beaches



# Explore Georgia

EXPLORE  
GEORGIA.

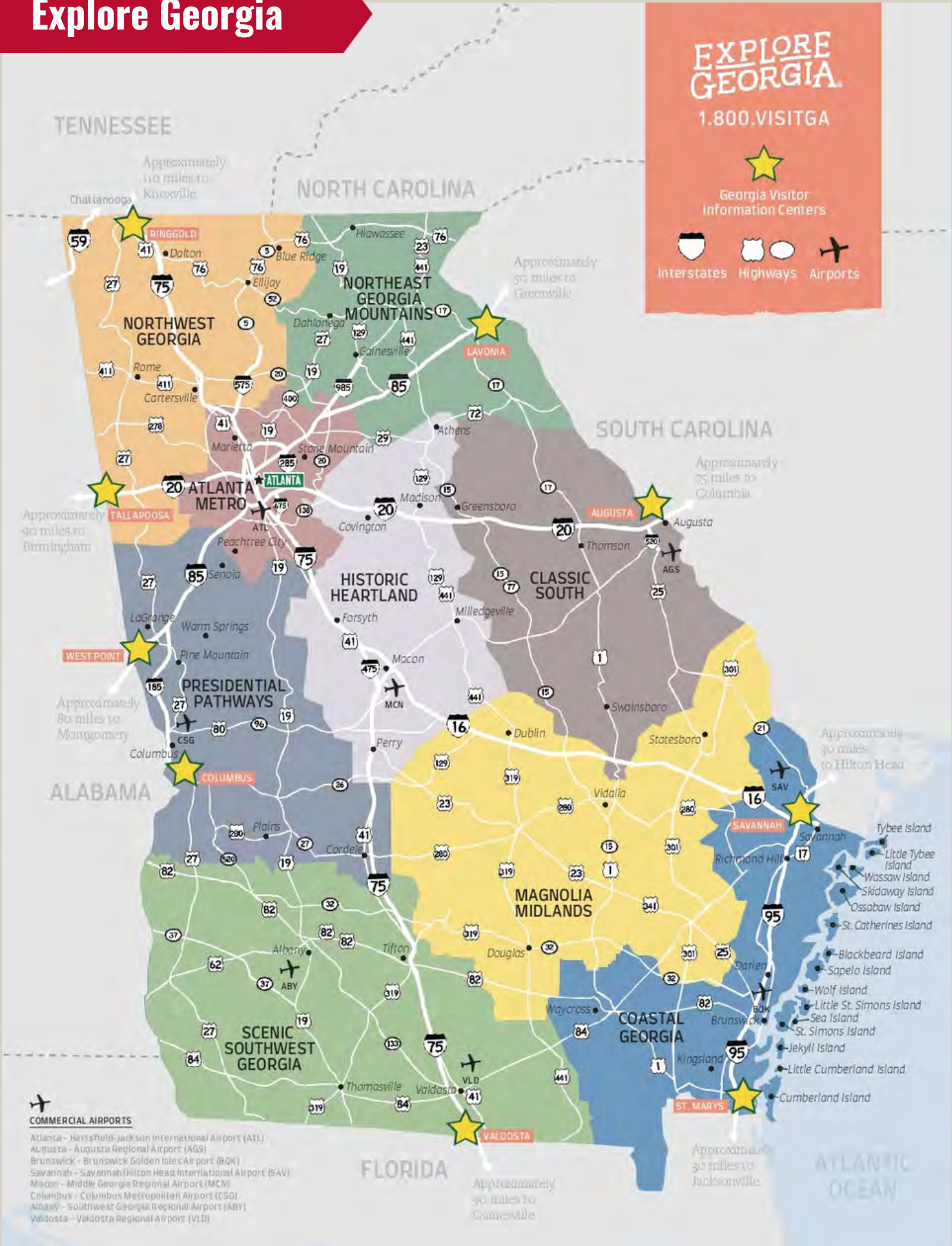
1.800.VISITGA



Georgia Visitor  
Information Centers



Interstates Highways Airports



**COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS**

- Atlanta - Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL)
- Augusta - Augusta Regional Airport (AGS)
- Brunswick - Brunswick Golden Isles Airport (BQK)
- Savannah - Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV)
- Macon - Middle Georgia Regional Airport (MCN)
- Columbus - Columbus Metropolitan Airport (CSG)
- Albany - Southwest Georgia Regional Airport (ABY)
- Valdosta - Valdosta Regional Airport (VLD)



# Post Graduate Career



## UGA Career Center

The University's Career Center contains several resources to help all students prepare for post-graduate ambitions. Some resources include career consulting, resume building, interview practice, and job searching. Visit the [Career Center's website](#) to learn more about their services. The career center also has [virtual resources](#) for international students.

Additionally, creating a [Handshake](#) and [LinkedIn](#) account is a great way to make connections and browse job opportunities.



## SSW - Career Consultant

UGA's School of Social Work, in partnership with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS), shares a career consultant who can assist students with applying for SW related jobs, internships, PhD programs, resume building, and much more.

To schedule an in-person or virtual/online appointment, contact Jessica McLeod-Waddell through

- Your Handshake account
- calling 706-542-3375
- emailing [jessica.mcleod25@uga.edu](mailto:jessica.mcleod25@uga.edu)



## Optional Practice Training (OPT) for F-1 Status Students

OPT is a program that allows many international students to stay in the U.S. for an additional post-graduation year IF you can find employment AND your application is approved. The UGA Office of Global Engagement provides information on this and many other topics on their website: [Current International Students](#).

A PDF “workshop” on OPT is available [here](#).

# Advice & Encouragement

## What advice do you have about participating in classes or meeting with professors?

"For meeting with professors always take an appointment and then go to meet with them. Have specific questions prepared so that you can better utilize your time. Initially I struggled to participate in the class discussion and other activities. My advice is to talk to the professor about the challenges you are facing, they will help you to feel integrated in the class. For participating in the class discussion, I used to write down first what I wanted to say and then I used to say it. I was given this advice to write down my thoughts by a professor."

Fahmida Afroz  
(she/her)  
Current Ph.D.  
Student



"When seeking Internship placements, International students should again consider accessibility (location) as well as structure of the organization. Prioritize your location, type of organization and your professional goals and balance these out. Interning on campus is most convenient when these aspects are considered."

Joy Ndungu  
(she/her)  
MSW 2023



## What should students bring from home?

"Scan of their identity documents. Take some pictures from their room, home, and their loved ones."

-Mariam Fatehi  
Current Ph.D.  
Student

"Special photographs, unique attire that reminds you of your country/ state e.g. a bracelet, t-shirt of your favorite football team. But not to over indulge, because the time spent here will allow you to buy special items from Athens that are equally memorable and important."

- Joy Ndungu (she/her)  
MSW 2023

## What should students think about or prepare for before leaving home?

"Diversity. I faced a lot of old-fashioned thoughts and had to break these old thoughts by learning and experiencing different views in and out of classes and life."

-Juntae Park  
MSW 2023

"Getting used to having conversations in English is very important. If English is not your first language, always try to enhance your English skills. Find someone to talk with in English. Conversations in your classes will be much harder to understand than some audio files for English education you have listened to, so find resources that provide 'raw' conversations."

-Kyunghyun Ahn  
MSW 2024

## Why should students come to UGA?

"I think UGA is one of the best schools where the students have support from the school. As an international student, I have benefited from this supportive school environment and community around the school in developing my academic and practice skills."

- Hyesu Yeo  
Current Ph.D. Student

# Helpful Mobile Apps

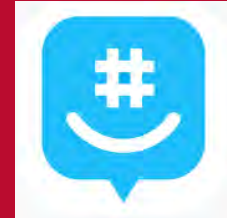
## University Communication



Outlook: UGA Mail



UGA Resources: Campus Maps/ eLC



GroupMe: Cohort Communication

## Money Management



Cash App: Mobile Payment Service to transfer money easily



Venmo: Mobile Payment Service to transfer money easily



Zelle: Mobile way to transfer money between U.S. bank accounts

## Transportation



Lyft: Ride Share Service



Uber: Taxi Service



myStop: Real time bus information: Athens Clarke County Transit

# Helpful Terminology

**CHIP**– Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide no-cost or low-cost health coverage for eligible children in Georgia. These programs provide health coverage for children so that they can get routine check-ups, immunizations, and dental care to keep them healthy.

**DFCS**– The Department of Family and Children Services in Georgia investigates reports of child abuse; finds foster and adoptive homes for abused and neglected children; issues SNAP, Medicaid and TANF; helps out-of-work parents get back on their feet; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help families in need.

**Mandated Reporter** – Person who is required by law to report reasonable suspicions of abuse. This includes physicians, hospitals or medical personnel, dentists, RNs, LPNs, counselors, social workers, school teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, psychologists, child welfare agency personnel, child counseling personnel, law enforcement personnel, and child service organization personnel.

**Medicaid**–Medicaid is a program that provides health care services to individuals that meet the requirements for income, resources, and citizenship.

**Medicare**– a federal system of health insurance for people over 65 years of age and for certain younger people with disabilities.

**Social Security**– In the United States, Social Security is the commonly used term for the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program and is administered by the Social Security Administration. The original Social Security Act was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, and the current version of the Act, as amended, encompasses several social welfares and social insurance programs.

Social Security is funded primarily through payroll taxes called Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax (FICA) or Self Employed Contributions Act Tax (SECA).

**SNAP**– The Georgia Food Stamp Program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)), is a federally-funded program that provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help pay for the cost of food. A household may be one (1) person living alone, a family, or several unrelated individuals cohabitating who routinely purchase and prepare meals together.

**TANF**– Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the monthly cash assistance program, with an employment services component, for low-income families with children under age 18, and children age 18 and attending school full-time.

You can find a comprehensive list of commonly used abbreviations and acronyms in Georgia here: [Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities List](#)

## Helpful Links on U.S. History & Social Policy



Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Library established the Social Welfare History Project to serve the public an educational resource on American social welfare history.

For more information on the most significant events, click [here](#).

To explore Important topics and moments In U.S. History through historical primary sources from the Library of Congress, click [here](#).

**LIBRARY** LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Department of History**  
*College of Liberal Arts*

The University of Texas at Austin's Department of History created an extensive timeline of U.S. Immigration History, click [here](#) to learn more.

# Follow Us On Social Media



## School of Social Work



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Twitter](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Instagram](#)

## UGA Global Social Work and Students for Global Social Work



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)

## International Students at the School of Social Work



[Facebook](#)

