



## International Student Resource Guide

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# A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR INCOMING RSPH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As you prepare for life in Atlanta and the United States, here are some tips and resources to help with the transition process. On behalf of Emory University and the Rollins School of Public Health, we hope you enjoy your studies and life as a member of the RSPH family!



\*Please refer to the ISSS website for additional resources and information for international students:

[www.iss.emory.edu](http://www.iss.emory.edu)

# CHECKLIST BEFORE TRAVELING

## Documents

- Passport, valid for at least 6 months after the date you return to the U.S.
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa (except for citizens of Canada or Bermuda)
- Form I-20 or DS-2019, with a travel signature from within the last year (If you need an updated travel signature, make sure you fill out the travel information e-form in [ISSS Link](#) prior to visiting the ISSS office.)
- SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt (print your receipt)
- Evidence of enrollment: a print-out of your transcript from OPUS is recommended
- Financial documentation such as bank statement, assistantship award letter, etc.; although not required, immigration officers might request these documents at the airport
- RSPH Financial Certificate

## Clothes

In Atlanta, the summers are hot and muggy, the winters are short, cold, and wet, and it is partly cloudy year-round. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 35°F to 89°F and is rarely below 22°F or above 95°F. The hot season lasts for about 4 months from May to September, with an average daily high temperature above 81°F. Bring some shirts and shorts to stay cool, but also bring jackets for rainy and cloudy days. The cool season lasts for about 3 months, from November to February with an average daily high temperature below 60°F. Some long pants, long-sleeved shirts or sweaters and a medium-bulk jacket should keep you warm enough.

## Commodities

- ✓ Razors/ other shaving supplies
- ✓ Nail clippers
- ✓ Makeup
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ Over-the-counter medicines
- ✓ Sunglasses/extra eye glasses/contacts
- ✓ Enough prescription drugs for the length of your stay (You need to make sure you are allowed to bring them into the country and that you have documentation, either the prescription or a doctor's note)
- ✓ Kitchen Ware

\*Daily commodities should be available at local supermarkets

# HOUSING

There is no shortage of available housing for graduate students living close to Emory campus. Check out Emory's off-campus housing website to see listings:

<https://offcampushousing.emory.edu/>

Looking for someone to live with at RSPH? Consider joining this Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/553273868046681/>

Emory has several shuttles that bring students to and from campus. Follow this link for bus routes, maps, and scheduled times:

<http://transportation.emory.edu/shuttles/index.html>

Below are some apartment complexes that tend to be popular for RSPH international students.

<b>President Park</b>  1231 Clairmont Rd, Decatur, GA 30030 (888) 892-1371	<b>Clairmont Reserve</b>  1575 Clairmont Rd, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 315-8101	<b>Highland Lake</b>  10 Highland Lake Cir, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 467-2104	<b>Campus Crossings</b>  1659 Briarcliff Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 (404) 492-8660
<b>Emory Woods</b>  2085 Powell Ln, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 634-3777	<b>Gables Montclair</b>  100 Ladson Ct, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 321-0167	<b>Ashford Druid Hills</b>  1491 Druid Valley Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 (678) 710-8150	<b>Hampton Hall</b>  2217 Briarcliff Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 (404) 634-7780

# PREPARATION BEFORE MOVING

Think carefully before making the final decision of housing with the following checklist and prepare fully before moving to your new home.

Housing Search Comparison	Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three
<b>Location:</b>			
How accessible is it to campus?			
Will you have convenient access to necessary conveniences (grocery store, shops, parking, parks and recreation)?			
<b>Layout: Is the space adequate for your needs?</b>			
Bathrooms (number, size, shower/tub/closet?)			
Bedrooms (number, size, layout?)			
Closets (location and size?)			
Storage Space (location and size?)			
Laundry Facilities (location, cost?)			
Kitchen Appliances (what is provided?)			
Is there ample parking? Are parking spaces reserved? Is a permit required? If there is parking on the street, are there plenty of spaces? Is a city permit required to park on the street?			
Are pets allowed?			
<b>Condition:</b>			
Is the carpet or flooring in good condition?			
Does the thermostat work properly? Test both heating and air conditioning.			
Do all faucets work properly? Check the hot and cold settings.			
Do all light fixtures work properly?			
<b>Cost &amp; Lease Information:</b>			
How much is the monthly rent?			
Are any utilities included in the rent? What is the average cost of utilities?			
What are the move-in/move-out fees and deposits required?			
Are sublets allowed and, if so, is there a fee?			
When does the lease begin and end?			

What are the fees associated with terminating the lease early?			
When do you have to give notice to renew or move out?			
<b>II. Safety and Security</b>			
Check windows and locks to make sure they work properly. Are there bug screens on the windows?			
Check the locks in the apartment. Are there locks on the bedroom doors? (a possible consideration if you are living with roommates)			
Do all smoke detectors work properly? Who is responsible for changing batteries in the detectors?			
Do all doors completely close and lock?			
Is the exterior well-lit? Is shrubbery appropriately trimmed?			
What is the feedback from current tenants? (if possible)			

### Potential Documents required for leasing

- Passport, I-20, I-94
- Financial certificate
- Social Security Number (SSN), if applicable
- Application form
- Guardian's approval, if under 18

# UTILITIES

You may need to sign up for or turn on specific utilities when you move into your new apartment. Check with your landlord or leasing office to find out what is automatic and what you need to be responsible for. A list of companies that service the Atlanta area are provided below.

## Electricity Companies



**Phone:** 1-888-660-5888

**Website:**  
[www.georgiapower.com](http://www.georgiapower.com)



**Phone:** 1-877-472-4932

**Website:** [www.gas-south.com](http://www.gas-south.com)



**Georgia  
Natural Gas**

**Phone:** (770) 850-6200

**Website:** [www.gng.com](http://www.gng.com)

## Internet Companies



**Phone:** 1-800-266-2278

**Website:** [www.xfinity.com](http://www.xfinity.com)



**Phone:** 1-855-757-7328

**Website:**  
[www.spectrum.com](http://www.spectrum.com)



**Phone:** 1-855-571-2823

**Website:** [www.att.com](http://www.att.com)

# BANK ACCOUNT & CREDIT CARD

Opening a bank account makes life much easier in the U.S. Check out the type of account or credit card that meets your needs and is most beneficial for you. A list of banks and credit card companies that service the Atlanta area is provided below.

## Potential Documents required for account opening

- Passport, I-20, I-94
- SSN, If applicable
- Approval of residence (utility payment with address)
- Initial deposit amount required varies by bank
- Credit card applications often require certain credit scores

### Checking & Savings Accounts



**CHASE**

2091 N Decatur Rd,  
Decatur, GA 30033

**Website:** [www.chase.com](http://www.chase.com)

**Bank of America** 

1615 N Decatur Rd,  
Atlanta, GA 30307

**Website:**  
[locators.bankofamerica.com](http://locators.bankofamerica.com)

**WELLS  
FARGO**

725 Houston Mill Rd NE,  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**Website:**  
[www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com)

### Credit Cards



**Website:**  
[www.americanexpress.com](http://www.americanexpress.com)



**Website:** [www.discover.com](http://www.discover.com)



**Website:** [online.citi.com](http://online.citi.com)

# INSURANCE

International students are required to have health insurance during their stay in the U.S. Emory University provides health insurance for all international students. However, you can choose to enroll in other insurance and waive the one with Emory University. More information on this process can be found on the Student Health Services page [here](#). If you plan to have a vehicle, it is also necessary to get car insurance for protection from any accidents or damage to your vehicle.

## Health Insurance



Emory student health insurance plan

**Website:**  
[www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/812808/index.html](http://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/812808/index.html)



Insurance manager for former and current international students

**Website:** [www.isoa.org](http://www.isoa.org)

## Car Insurance



**Website:** [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com)



**Website:** [www.geico.com](http://www.geico.com)



**WE ARE HERE  
TO HELP!**

## Contact Us!

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**RSPH International Students Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1183657158358957/>