

Student Reference Handout - MAE GSB Cut - 2022-23

This handout is put together through the crowdsourcing effort of the Graduate Engineering Student Council (GESC).

Disclaimer: This document is provided for reference and educational purposes. GESC doesn't take any responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of the information.

For feedback and questions, please contact **Harsh Anand**, Vice-Chair of GESC at yvf8rj@virginia.edu.

Graduate Engineering Student Council

gpc2021-22@virginia.edu

Council Position	Name	Contact
Graduate Engineering Student Council Board Contacts (Graduate students)		
Co-Chair	Yunkai Sun Sid Shenoy	ys3ej@virginia.edu sks6bu@virginia.edu
Vice-Chair	Harsh Anand	yyf8rj@virginia.edu
Secretary	Reagan Poretelance	rlp5fh@virginia.edu
Treasurer	Mark Wischhusen	maw9ef@virginia.edu
Academic	Israt Jahan Duti Akhil Shekarn	id8nu@virginia.edu as8hu@virginia.edu
Communications	Cesar Rodriguez	zfq8ek@virginia.edu
Social	Andie Daniels	ad6qv@virginia.edu
Constitution Chair	Collyn Clark	vjk2zh@virginia.edu
Outreach/Advocacy	Benjamin Goffin	bdq3ux@virginia.edu
Mental Health	Sami Felton Tyler Daspit	smf2qp@virginia.edu jtd2ed@virginia.edu
International Student Liaison	Fateme Nikseresht	fn5an@virginia.edu
Faculty and Staff Contacts		
Faculty Contact	Amy Clobes Jim Smith	amc5hu@virginia.edu jas9e@virginia.edu
Social Media and Communication		
Social Media Accounts	Instagram Twitter Facebook	@uvagesc @uvagesc UVa Graduate Engineering Student Council (GESC)

For sponsorship, please contact our Outreach Chair and cc to GESC co-chairs!

References:

- UVA Graduate Studies Guide:
<https://gradstudies.virginia.edu/uva-and-charlottesville-guide>
- UVA Law school student guide: <https://www.law.virginia.edu/charlottesville>
- UVA Graduate & Postdoctoral Diversity Resources:
<https://graddiversity.virginia.edu/resources>
- UVA Global Greeters guide (2020):
<https://issp.virginia.edu/sites/issp2018.virginia.edu/files/2020%20Summer%20Guide%20%231.pdf>
- UVA SEAS Online Orientation Modules (2021)
- GESC INTL Town Hall Meeting Notes (2021):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q1yCBiSqTI4AmwzXul2LhJBO-Fqb_bqn9hKrtgvsh8Y/edit?usp=sharing
- UVA MSE INTL Student Guide:
<https://confluence.its.virginia.edu/display/mseinter/MSE+International+Students+Home>

Department Specific Information

1. Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Position	Name	Contact
Graduate Student Board (GSB) Executive Contacts (graduate students)		
President	Cori Espelien	cme2kd@virginia.edu
Vice President	Emma Tiernan	emt3uq@virginia.edu
Stud-Co Rep (MAE-GESC Rep)	Cesar Rodriguez	zfq8ek@virginia.edu
Treasurer	Kevin Fletcher	kbf4mc@virginia.edu
Social	Jared Rifkin	jr7qc@virginia.edu
	Siddharth Singh	sks4zk@virginia.edu
International Student Liaison	Chinmay Nair	mnw7yz@virginia.edu
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	De'Ajree Branch	zbz8eb@virginia.edu
Recruitment	Max Chern	sah6cr@virginia.edu
Professional Development	Milena Milich	mm9bq@virginia.edu
	Jeesoo Shin	js3bg@virginia.edu
Faculty and Staff Contacts		
Faculty Contact	Patrick Hopkins, Grad Program Director	peh4v@virginia.edu
	Matthew Panzer, Grad Program Director	mbp2q@virginia.edu
	Brenda Perkins, Grad Program Coordinator	bhp6a@virginia.edu
Speaker (Seminar) Series Chair	Baoxing Xu	bx4c@virginia.edu
Space and Media Chair	Lisa Horning	lmf2t@virginia.edu
Social Media and Communications		
Social	Twitter	@uvamae
Communication	Email GSB Exec	mae_gsb@virginia.edu
	Slack	Contact mae_gsb@virginia.edu to be added

- Reference (in-work) student-created website:
 - <https://uvamaegsb.github.io/>
 - <https://uvamaegsb.github.io/documents/Resource-List-Fall-2021.pdf>

Graduate Student Living in Charlottesville

Welcome to Charlottesville! It's a beautiful place to live with tons of activities. This quick guide will help you understand some of the neighborhoods where graduate students live, and how to find the best place for you.

Resources

- Your department listserv! Never a bad idea to ask people around you everyday!
- UVA off-ground housing search: <https://offgroundshousing.student.virginia.edu/>
- "UVA Housing, Sublets & Roommates" FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/808020899282439>
- "UVA - Off Campus Housing" FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uvahousing>
Apartments.com, Zillow
- UVA BME/BIMS Housing Spreadsheet: [UVA BME/BIMs Roommate/Housing Search](#)

Shared Housing

There are many housing options in the area, but you might have to compete with undergraduates. Leases of shared houses are usually renewed as early as November for the following year, so it is good to be on the lookout as early as possible!

You can find a roommate or a group of people to share a house by using social media platforms like Facebook or other resources (e.g. links above).

The nearest residential area to the Engineering campus is the Jefferson Park Avenue and Fry's Spring neighborhood where many graduate students traditionally live because it is within walking distance. There are many other residential areas in Charlottesville, including Pantops, Rugby, Fifeville, Belmont, and further north near Barracks, but living in these areas may require transportation such as a car and can be less convenient in the long run. Make sure you check the transportation section of this guide if you are thinking of locations far from the campus!

Example Monthly Prices:

\$450-\$700 per person (3-4 bedroom)

\$800-\$1600 per person (1-2 bedroom)

Pros	Cons
Generally inexpensive More living space (entire house) Generally walkable distances Often has yard space for gardening and crafts	Furnishing required Living alone is more expensive than in an apartment Utility payments may or may not be included

Apartments

Many first-year students that move from far away choose to live in apartment buildings. Searching for an apartment is generally similar to searching for a house!

One big motivating factor is that many apartments come furnished, making it easier to settle in during the first year (it is important to check to make sure!). While certain popular apartment complexes are further away, some provide specific and regular transportation to the University area. Some examples of popular apartment buildings are:



(1) Shamrock Apts.

Very close to campus, these smaller, simple, unfurnished apartments run from \$600 pp for a 2 bedroom to \$900 for a single room.



(2) Eagle's Landing

This popular apartment complex has both furnished and unfurnished rooms and suites, and offers a shuttle service directly to the engineering area of campus. Prices run from \$500 to \$700 pp for a shared space and \$600 for a private space.



(3) 1800 JPA

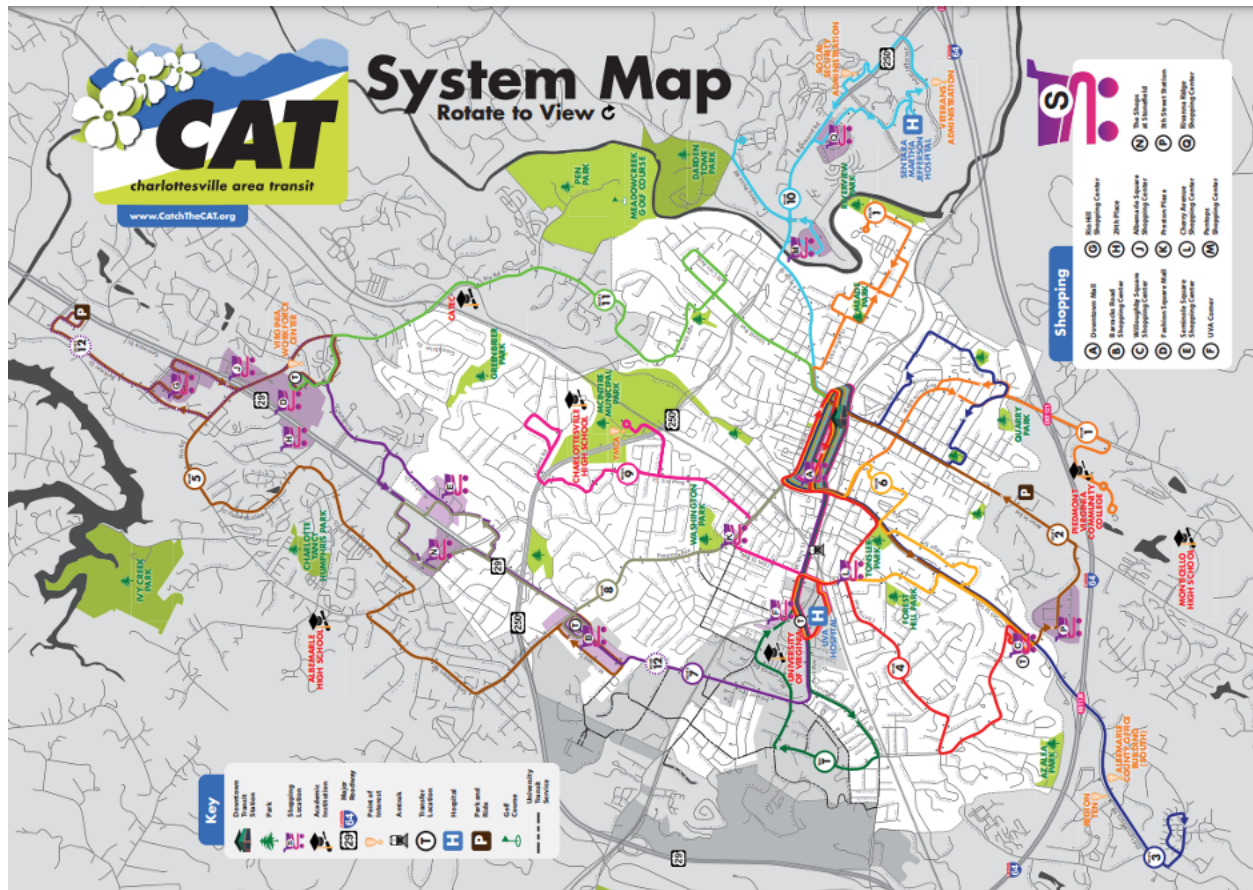
This group of apartments is usually rented out by individuals but is quite close to campus on JPA. Prices run from \$1000-\$1600 total for various apartment sizes, but availability varies.

There are also plenty of other apartment complexes in every Charlottesville neighborhood, which may be cheaper or more upscale but harder to access.

Pros	Cons
Amenities (gym, pools, etc) Furnished spaces available Less expensive than a house if living alone Some places offering multi-year leases (same price as the first year)	Utility payments and hidden fees will increase prices Shared building Less living space

Transportation and Parking

The university offers parking permits for the lots around the engineering area. **These cost around \$700 a year** and can be useful for students with cars who live far from campus. **Charlottesville (CAT) and UVA (UTS) also have an extensive bus system** through the Charlottesville Area Transit program that connects residential areas to campus and downtown.



1. Transit around and beyond Cville

1.1. Free services around ground and Cville:

- [Catch the CAT! \(bus service around town\)](#)
 - UVA students **ride for free!** See map above!
 - **CAT buses regular and holiday schedules (effective 2021-09):**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/481/CAT-Schedules-Maps>
 - CAT buses have fixed leaving time at certain stops! The schedule table informs you about when the buses will leave at those specific stops!
- [Free Trolley](#) (bus service between grounds and downtown)
- [UVA Transit Service](#) (free **UTS** buses)
 - UTS summer schedule: <https://parking.virginia.edu/service-schedule>

- UTS fall weekday & weekend schedules: the first table in the link <https://parking.virginia.edu/university-transit-service-0>
- Other free UTS services ([link to the schedule](#)):
 - [UTS OnDemand](#): free shuttles for weekday late night transit (8pm-5am), usually during weekdays. Need to be booked via “Transloc” app, and wait for the shuttle at specific locations (“hubs”).
 - How to use the UTS OnDemand? <https://parking.virginia.edu/ondemand>
 - [Weekend Taxi Service](#): free to UVA students, offered by yellow cap, very limited service area around UVA (see map in the link), only on weekends late night transit (10pm-5am).
 - How to use the Weekend Taxi Service? <https://parking.virginia.edu/weekend-taxi-riders-guide>
 - [DART](#): free transportation for UVA people who cannot use other UTS services due to disabilities.
 - How to use DART? <https://parking.virginia.edu/system/files/DARTRidersGuide2021-2022.pdf>

1.2. Other services, Ground, around and beyond town:

- Uber, Lyft
- [Yellow Cab](#) (Cville local Taxi)
- [Jaunt](#)
- [Dockless scooters and bikes](#)
- [Greyhound](#) buses
- [Megabus](#)
- [Flixbus](#)

1.3. Air

- Charlottesville airport (CHO)
- Richmond International Airport (RIC)
- Dulles International Airport (IAD) - Washington DC area
- Reagan National Airport (DCA) - Washington DC area
- Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI)
- Lynchburg Regional Airport (LYH)
- Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD)

1.4. Rail

- [Amtrak](#)
- [Washington DC Metro](#)

2. Parking

- <https://parking.virginia.edu/>
- ParkMobile App for zone parking

- ParkMobile Zones with pricing
<https://parking.virginia.edu/parkmobile-zones>

UVA and SEAS Resources

Emergency services:

- **UVA police department:** <https://uvapolice.virginia.edu/>
 - Emergencies dial 911
 - Non-emergencies dial 924-7166
- **UVA Just Report It:** [link and information](#)
 - UVA platform for reporting discrimination, violence, harrassment, etc.
 - When you see something, say something
 - Confidential and anonymous reporting of UVA.
- **Emergencies and Crisis contact info** by UVA student health: <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/emergencies-and-crises>
- **Examples of phishing/scamming emails:** <https://security.virginia.edu/examples-phishing>
- **Contact University Ombuds if the normal channels of assistance do not work, etc.:** <https://eocr.virginia.edu/ombuds>

Locations at UVA campus

- Locations & buildings at UVA: <https://visitormap.virginia.edu/>

UVA VPN: remote access to UVA digital library resources

- How to setup? <https://www.library.virginia.edu/services/off-grounds-access/>

UVA Building access and ID services:

- UVA ID center: <https://idoffice.virginia.edu/>
- Mobile app for UVA office & dorm locks:
 - You can unlock the office & dorm electronic locks (that you have permission to) with your cell phone!
 - Mobile app for UVA door access: “**Mobile ID**” ([website](#))

Cavalier Advantage and Meal Plan balances:

- CSGoldMobile system: <https://csg-web1.eservices.virginia.edu/login/>
 - Mobile app for the balances: “**Get Mobile**” ([iphone](#) & [android](#))

Career development services & consultants:

- CECD

Academia support services

- [SEAS Graduate Writing Lab \(GWL\):](#)
 - Services specifically for tasks of SEAS grads.
 - [One-to-one consulting available](#)
 - [Online training modules available for tasks at different stages of graduate students](#)

- [UVA Center for Teaching Excellence \(CTE\)](#):
 - “[Tomorrow’s Professor Today](#)” training program for UVA grads
- [UVA writing center](#):
 - One-to-one consulting available

Mental Health Resources:

- [UVA Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
 - CAPS Counselors at SEAS: Liz Ramirez-Weaver and Katie Fowler
 - You need to make an appointment via UVA student health system
 - “[TimelyCare](#)” app is helpful and handy when you want to talk to some professional counselors in confidential zoom calls.

Student Health:

- UVA student health, information and reservation: <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/>

Wellness:

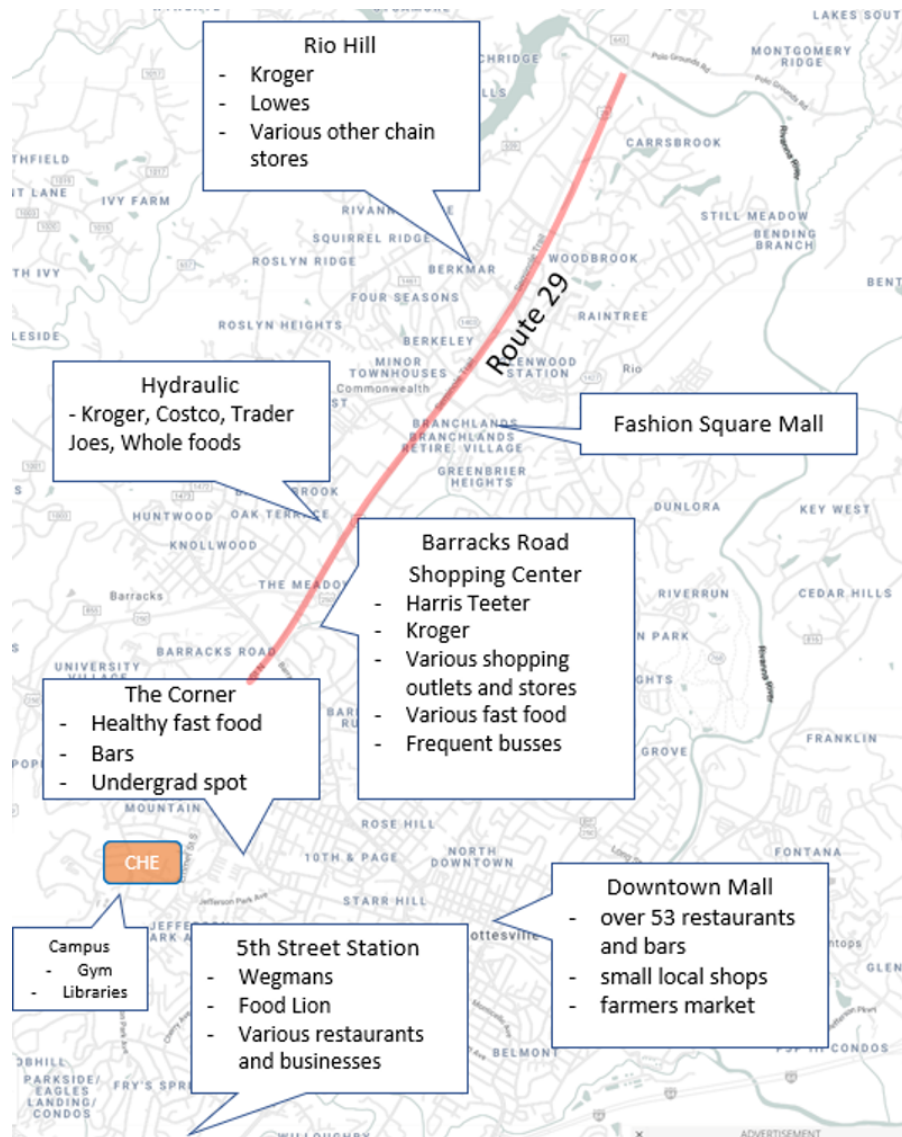
- [Center for Diversity in Engineering \(CDE\)](#):
 - Support (activities, events and space) for minority students at UVA SEAS
 - Location of its student lounge: Thornton D111
- [Student Disability Access Center \(SDAC\)](#)
- [Center for American English Language and Culture \(CAELC\)](#)
 - Host VISAS cafe every week: structured mixer between UVA local and international students
 - Providing other language and integration related services for international students and scholars.

Fun things to do in Charlottesville

You're not a robot, so we've compiled a list of fun activities to get your mind and body away from the stresses of grad school, so that you can return to work refreshed and rejuvenated! Also included in this list are locations to get groceries and how to save a buck when you do so.

1. Grocery Places

There are dozens upon dozens of locations where you can shop in Charlottesville, all with varying proximity to different residential areas. Most of the shopping up Route 29 (north of campus) is best accessed by car, but many bus paths run from campus to places such as Downtown, 5th Street Station, Barracks, and the Corner are easily accessible by bus and by foot.



Grocery places:

- Harris Teeter
 - 5% off for UVA
 - 10% off at certain times
 - Other offers as well
- Kroger
 - Moocho App
- Wegmans
- Costco
 - Membership is required
- Trader Joe's
- Walmart (Far)
- Sam's
 - Membership is required
- Food Lion
- Target (beyond Walmart)
- Farmer's Market during Spring (better weather) downtown
- Foods of all nations
- Instacart (delivered groceries)
- Corner Grocery (For basic stuff)
- Whole Foods

New furnitures, tools, electronics, home improvement places:

- Lowe's
- Havertys
- Best Buy
- Staples

Stores for second-hand furnitures, clothes, books, tools, etc.:

- The Habitat Store: <https://cvillehabitatstore.org/info.html>
- The Salvation Army Thrift Store: <https://salvationarmypotomac.org/charlottesvilleva/family-store/>
- Goodwill

Food pantries:

- <https://www.cvilleloaves.org/>
- <https://pantryatuva.org/>

2. Dining and Restaurants

UVA dining halls (buffets)

- With a meal plan <\$10 per time. Without meal plan ~\$10 per time (they accept credit cards and other transaction options).
- Take-out option available.
- NewComb Hall (Fresh Food Company). [Price, hours and daily menu](#)
- Observatory Hill Dining Room. [Price, hours and daily menu](#)
- Runk Dining Room. [Price, hours and daily menu](#)

UVA dining restaurants

- Food trucks (Street Eats) at UVA ([information and schedule](#))
 - Usually next to the Amphitheater and the Scott Stadium
- NewComb Hall (Pavilion XI, the Pav) ([information and schedule](#))

3. Mailing

- FedEx
 - Close to Barracks road, can be easily accessed by bus
- USPS
- UPS
 - There are few dropboxes around the campus (hours are listed on the dropbox)
- Amazon drop place
 - Whole Foods

4. Movie & Concert Theaters

- Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
 - Near Wegmans
 - Need a car to get there
- Violet Crown
 - Downtown Cville, 20 min walk from the central ground
- Regal Stonefield
 - Near Trader Joe's
 - No crossroads at 29 (Seminole trail) around there, might need a car to get there.
- Paramount
 - At downtown
- Charlottesville Symphony
- The Jefferson Theater (small concert venue for special/indie artists)
 - <http://www.jeffersontheater.com/>
- Friday's at the Downtown Mall (free concerts)
-

5. Sports

- UVA Intramural sports (IM) - Seasonal favorites (kickball, cornhole, soccer, tennis) <https://recsports.virginia.edu/intramural-sports>
- UVA Run Clubs <http://virginia.clubrunning.org/>
- Women's Roller Derby <https://www.charlottesvillederbydames.com/>
- Charlottesville Men's Cricket Club <https://charlottesvillecricket.wordpress.com/>
- Virginia Rugby Football Club <https://virginiarugby.org/>
- Others
 - Mini Golf <https://puttputt.com/charlottesville/>
 - Bowlero (for bowling)

6. Hiking

Around Charlottesville

- [Ragged Mountain Natural Area](#) - 7-mile loop around the reservoir
 - Dogs are not allowed
- [Ivy Creek Natural Area](#) - a network of 7 miles of hiking trails through woods and adjacent to shoreline
 - Dogs are not allowed
- [Saunders-Monticello Trail](#) and [Kemper Park Trails](#)
 - Saunders Monticello Trail - a paved 4-mile out-and-back trail on a gradual incline up to Monticello
 - Kemper Park Trails - A network of other dirt trails through woods and meadows
 - A good place to take dogs! Dogs, however, are not allowed on the boardwalk portions of the Saunders-Monticello Trail

Shenandoah National Park

Admission: \$30 for single vehicle or \$55 for an annual pass (as of January 2020). There are also usually several [fee free days](#) per year

- [Old Rag](#) - very popular 9-mile hike that involves a lot of rock scrambling
 - Will be crowded! Best to get there early in the day
- [Riprap Hollow](#) - a nice 9-mile loop involving scenic views and swimming holes
 - If not feeling up to 9 miles, you can do a 3-mile out-and-back to the two best viewpoints on the trail at Chimney Rock
- [Turk Mountain](#) - one of the best short hikes in Shenandoah's South District with 2.5 miles up to great views at the top
- [Moorman's River](#) - a pretty easy walk, but plenty of swimming holes, perfect for a hot summer day
 - Parking is outside of Shenandoah (no admission required)

Near Blue Ridge Parkway

- Humpback Rocks- a short, but steep trail up to a great viewpoint only about 40 minutes from Charlottesville
 - Options for a 2-mile out-and-back (most popular) or 4-mile loop trail
- Spy Rock
- The Priest
- Crabtree Falls

Good Hiking Website Resources for this Area:

- [Hiking Upward](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Hikes](#)
- [AllTrails](#)

For transportations, please check the transportation section of this guide.

Budget Management

A rule of thumb is to spend no more than 30% of one's income on housing, but this is generally advice for older professionals with mortgages. Remember that your housing costs will not always be the advertised price – monthly utilities may be between \$50 and \$200 a month, and apartments may include hidden fees. Some students may come in and rent an apartment for over \$1500 a month in their first year, not realizing that this is unusually high and this can end up being quite limiting and hard to budget around, so it is best to find a more affordable place earlier in your career.

Maps

The following maps may help you navigate Grounds:

- [UVA Engineering Map](#)
- [Map of UVA](#)
- [Parking Map](#)
- [UVA Transit - Bus schedules and maps](#)
- [Charlottesville Area Transit Map](#) (UVA students show ID to ride free)

Funding Resources

- Then there are the bigger fellowship databases and broader searches- [PROFELLOW](#)
 - [STEMGRADSTUDENTS.SCIENCE.GOV](#)
 - Let others who know you know you are looking. That way if they come across something, they can send it to you.
 - Check out the OGPA [FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES](#) & [LOOKING FOR FUNDING](#) pages & the [SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS](#) page from Grad & Postdoc Diversity Office
 - Sign up for the engineering library's [FUNDING DISCOVERY TOOLS WORKSHOP](#) or watch our [SP2020 FUNDING DISCOVERY TOOLS WORKSHOP ON YOUTUBE](#)
 - Use this training to set up your own automated searches in [PIVOT & GRANTFORWARD](#)
 - [HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY FINDING FUNDING PAGE](#)- databases, tutorials (including Pivot & Grantforward), etc.
 - [UVA GRAD & POSTDOC DIVERSITY PROGRAMS FUNDING SEARCH PAGE](#)
 - Attend an event at UVA on finding funding (Engineering library, GWL, PhD+).
 - Check your program/department resources for funding opportunities
 - Check the opportunities at the bottom of the Engineering Graduate Student Newsletter
 - Pay attention to mass emails, forwarded emails, and department emails as they may contain opportunities
 - Search other fellowship and funding databases
 - [ILLINOIS GRADUATE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP FINDER](#)
 - [RUTGERS FELLOWSHIP & GRANT DATABASE](#)
 - [BERKLEY'S GUIDE TO FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS](#) (lists databases & URM fellowships)
 - GRAPES-[UCLA GRADUATE & POSTDOC FUNDING SEARCH](#)
- [GEORGE MASON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS](#) (list of well known fellowships and pdf listings/guides)