

# Career Advancement Atlanta City Guide:

## How to Prepare for a Successful Summer in Atlanta

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### Atlanta Housing Overview

Atlanta is a top 20 global city known for its thriving economy, vibrant arts scene, and civil rights history. The presence of global commerce, cutting edge research and technology, and a growing film industry make Atlanta a key city for students to call home for their summer.

There are various factors contributing to choosing the right location. Many locals choose to live along Atlanta's unique Beltline, a 30+ mile urban trail connecting 45 diverse neighborhoods. Others prefer to drive, taking advantage of Atlanta's three interstate highways, while others choose to live in one of Atlanta's three skylines: Downtown, Midtown, or Buckhead.

The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Atlanta are all factors that should help determine where you begin your housing search. The earlier you begin looking, the more options you will have and the easier it will be to choose exactly where you want to live for the summer. In the end, it is best to find housing that is near your job location with easy access to public transportation. This should be a priority when looking for housing; it will make your commute to and from work much easier and it will save you a lot of time and money.

### Finding Summer Housing

**Here is a list of steps you should take when looking for housing:**

1. *Consider finding a roommate.* You may end up spending a good amount of your summer income paying for rent. If you can find one or more classmates, friends, or relatives who are willing to room with you or put you up for the summer, economically, this could be your best option.
2. *Location is everything.* One strategy is to search for housing that is close to your workplace and/or near transportation that will get you to work quickly.

3. *Decide what is important to you.* Once you've decided on what neighborhoods would be convenient for you, it's always helpful to explore what attractions they have to offer. Whether you love trying new restaurants, shopping, or visiting museums and other cultural institutions, try to find a place that will give you the most time to explore your favorite things.
4. *Politely ask your employer about housing resources.* Your employer may have suggestions for where to live or give you the contact information of other interns searching for housing so that you can room together or get advice from each other.

### Online Housing Resources

There are a variety of online housing resources that provide short-term housing vacancies, including:

- <https://atlanta.craigslist.org/>
- <https://www.airbnb.com/s/Atlanta-GA>
- <https://www.roomster.com/>
- <https://www.hotpads.com/>
- <https://www.apartmentfinder.com>

### Student Housing Organizations

Student Housing Organizations are corporations that own large residential buildings and rent out rooms to students in the summer. Sometimes the buildings are set up like dormitories with single rooms and collective bathrooms, and other times the rooms are more like studio or one-bedroom apartments. Many of the applications for the following housing options come out in January or February and housing can fill up quickly. There are both pros and cons to living in Student Housing, just as there are positives and negatives to living in a dorm.

### Pros

- Amenities such as security, maintenance, etc.
- Opportunity to meet other students living in the same building
- Potentially more affordable than finding a private apartment

### Cons

- There is a possibility that you'll be matched with a roommate
- There are rules and regulations in most of these places that you'll have to abide by

### These institutions offer summer housing:

#### Georgia Tech Intern lodging Program:

<https://conference.gatech.edu/internlodging>

The Intern Lodging Program is open to any university or college student who is at least 18 years old and interning with a company in the Atlanta area. You do not need to be a Georgia Tech student. Housing will be in the North Avenue East—Apartments located at 120 North Avenue NW.

Telephone: 404-894-2469

Email: [internlodging@housing.gatech.edu](mailto:internlodging@housing.gatech.edu)

#### Emory University Summer Intern Housing Program:

<http://www.emory.edu/sihp/aboutus.html>

Located in North Druid Hills, a stately neighborhood located in northeast Atlanta, Emory is just minutes from downtown and the Buckhead region of the city. Housing will be on the Clairmont Campus located at: 2425 Dooley Drive, Decatur, GA 30033.

Telephone: 404-727-7632

E-mail: [sihp@emory.edu](mailto:sihp@emory.edu)

#### Georgia State University

<https://myhousing.gsu.edu/intern-housing-program/>

Georgia State University is located in Central Downtown Atlanta walking distance to the downtown Business District and minutes away from Downtown attractions (CNN Center, GA Aquarium, etc.). Lodging is located at 141 Piedmont Ave NE Atlanta GA 30303.

Telephone: 404-413-1800

Email: [ddavis122@gsu.edu](mailto:ddavis122@gsu.edu)

## Atlanta Neighborhoods

Atlanta's vibrant culture stems from its unique neighborhoods, each of which has its own attractions and community. Here is a list of affordable neighborhoods that past interns have suggested for housing options:

**Midtown** is centrally located in the heart of Atlanta and is home to many of Atlanta's businesses. It is also home to Georgia Tech, and Atlanta's Piedmont Park and Botanic Gardens.

**Buckhead** is located on the north side of Atlanta and one of Atlanta's three skylines, housing many of Atlanta's businesses primarily the finance sector. This neighborhood has a big city feel with its sky scrapers and shopping centers.

**Atlantic Station** is located just west of Midtown and has the city's biggest outdoor mall and eateries. Atlantic station has a host of affordable apartment buildings and is close to the Arts Center Transit MARTA stop.

**Decatur** is located on the East side of Atlanta and is a beautiful residential neighborhood full of green space and walking trails. Downtown Decatur is home to many local favorite restaurants and bars and has its own MARTA station. Emory University is also located in Decatur.

**Virginia Highlands | Old Fourth Ward** is east of Midtown Atlanta and one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the city. Known for being connected on the Atlanta Beltline, these adjacent neighborhoods are full of local restaurants, bars, and shops.

## Rental Tips and Expectations

### Applying for a Rental Unit

Most landlords will ask you to complete a rental application form. The application will typically ask for the following information:

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Current and past landlords
- Social Security and driver's license numbers
- Bank account, credit card numbers, and addresses
- Financial information regarding your ability to pay the rent (e.g., monthly income)
- Names of people who will be living in the unit

A landlord may ask about information that reflects on your ability to pay the rent; however, federal, state and local laws prohibit landlords from discriminating against classes of people on arbitrary bases (e.g., race, gender, age, family status).



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## Cost of Living

A few notes to remember while considering housing costs in Atlanta:

- Recent Metcalf Interns in Atlanta reported spending a median of \$3000 on rent over the course of the summer.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Fair Market Rent tool](#) can help you determine how reasonably priced your rental options are.
- While researching apartments to rent, be aware of scammers on rental websites (e.g. Craigslist). A common tactic used by the seller is stating that they will be out of the city for months, limiting their accessibility. According to two students trying to find housing over the summer, "We also noticed that a lot of the scam responses were the same, someone leaving the city for 3-9 months for a job."
- Be sure to get in contact (via phone, Skype, etc.) with your landlord or leaser before agreeing to rent the vacancy. Whenever possible, you should visit the space or do a video tour before signing a lease.

## Atlanta Transportation

### MARTA (Train and Bus)

MARTA is Atlanta's main public transit system that connects the city's various neighborhoods and business centers via subway or bus. Standard Fare is \$2.50 one way for either option and reduced fares are sometimes available through local colleges & universities or employer discounts. Fares can be purchased by individual trip, multi day pass, or through a reloadable 'Breeze Card'. Atlanta Streetcar is also operated through MARTA with a \$1.00 one-way fare. (An unlimited 30-day pass may be more economical for you depending on how much you're commuting. See the last bullet in this section for details)

### Personal Vehicle

Many Atlanta locals choose to drive as their main mode of transport which is made easy by Atlanta's three highways. Parking is available easily throughout the city and at offices. If you choose to drive, finding an apartment near a highway entrance can be beneficial.

### Transportation Sharing: Bike and Scooter

For shorter local commutes, biking is a popular option. Atlanta has numerous bike trails along with the Beltline and if you don't own a bike you can rent one through the city's bike share: Relay. Many neighborhoods also have shared scooters available through Lime, Lyft, Bird, etc. Please note there are rental hour restrictions on both

bikes and scooters.

### Taxis and Shared Ride Options

Taxis are easy to hail downtown, at the airports and throughout many Atlanta neighborhoods. You can also electronically hail (E-Hail) a taxicab through a mobile app. Two potential options are the Lyft app (<https://www.lyft.com>) and the Uber mobile app (<https://www.uber.com/>). Fare varies depending on distance and passenger's treatment.

### Monthly Transportation Cost

- **MARTA 30 Day Pass**

If you anticipate taking MARTA (train and bus) more than 38 times each month, a 30 day MARTA pass will be a more economical option than paying for individual rides. These cost \$95 and can be loaded onto your 'Breeze Card'. (The math: each ride is \$2.50, and 38 of those rides cost \$95)

<https://martaguide.com/fares/>

## Atlanta Safety

Atlanta is a very safe city for students to live in. However, here are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship in Atlanta. Using common sense is good advice and you should also read the following tips for a quick refresher.

### General Safety Tips:

- Always remember that there is safety in numbers. Walk with friends or take populated routes when going places. Be especially careful when walking at night.
- Plan your route in advance, walk with a purpose, and be alert at all times, especially when talking on a cell phone or using headphones.
- Avoid deserted areas such as parks, alleys, and vacant lots.
- If you think you're being followed, cross the street, change direction, or go to a public place.
- Never display valuables or large amounts of cash in public. If you need to organize your wallet, duck into a store.
- Don't keep your wallet in the back pocket of your pants or backpack, and be aware of your wallet or purse in commotions. Pickpockets often use helpers to create disturbances nearby.
- Use caution when using ATMs and don't carry too much cash around with you. Most places accept credit cards and there are ATMs everywhere. Just make sure you choose one that is in a busy, well-lighted area.
- When Using Public Transportation: On the MARTA

website, there are customer safety instructions with a variety of safety information. Visit <https://www.itsmarta.com/safety-and-security.aspx> to find out more.

- Avoid empty subway cars. Ride with many people or in the conductor's car.

## Connect with Alumni

While you're in Atlanta this summer, take advantage of the opportunity to connect with another great resource: University of Chicago alumni! Whether you're interested in working in Atlanta after graduation, or you wish to find out more about certain career paths, networking with alumni may be one of the most beneficial things you do during your summer. Research alumni who are currently working in Atlanta, through the UChicago Wisr Network, an alumni mentoring platform: <https://uchicago.wisr.io/signup> and the online alumni directory: <http://www.uchicagoalumni.org>.



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