

Graduate Student's Guide for Housing for Atlanta, GA

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So, you want a place to dwell?

It can be overwhelming to find a proper housing if you did not live in the USA before. You might feel like you cannot start looking for a place to stay since there are too much things to consider, Graduate Student Association (GSA) can help you. Our faculty members and fellow graduate students are always ready to help. Still, it is important that you did your research about Atlanta. Before deciding on a any place or doing any research, think about **two** important things:

*Thanks Yoonyoung Cho for further suggestions.

1. **Your expectations from your future house/room/apartment** 🏠
2. **Your budget** 💰

Your expectations from your future house/room/apartment

1. Are you going to study at home or library? Do you want somewhere that can help you study in silence, or are you a grad student who studies at the library/office/grad lounge? Think about what do you want from your place, and make a list.
2. Are you planning to buy a car? Or, you are going to commute by public transportation? If you are getting a car, you can opt for places that is not close to public transportation (this will increase the number of options for you). If you are going to commute, consider being in a place that is walking distance to busses or MARTA.

Pro Tip 1: Nudge nudge wink wink - did you know that the GSU has MARTA Pass which is a monthly pass that only cost 61\$. What a bargain! Check for more at <https://parking.gsu.edu/transportation/>.

Pro Tip 2: If you are not going to buy a car, you might suffer an symptom called "WOW, the US is huge!" which I suffer time to time. Most supermarkets and important places like bank, postal service, etc. may not be in walking distance. Consider stalking your neighborhood from Google Maps!

3. Are you okay with roommates? If so, opt for sharing a house or apartment. This will lower the costs. BEWARE OF UNDERGRADS! In case you are looking for a place to share, prefer graduate students since they are more likely to have crazy schedule like you.

Pro Tip 3: If you are renting a place in an apartment complex, check online comments. Some places are habitat of GSU, Georgia Tech, and Emory undergrads. I have seen a lot of comments about noisy parties and nasty pukes!

Pro Tip 4: Atlanta is a big city! Security can be a real concern for certain parts of the city. I recommend checking for the neighborhood scores. There are numerous websites to look for these scores. I used <https://www.niche.com/>, but you are open to explore different websites.

Pro Survival Tip - I don't know but this is weird: Living in big city, sometimes might be hard and scary. Something that I learned from locals is that they look at registry of sexual offenders for their neighborhood using the zip code before renting or buying a house. It sounded crazy to me, but it can give you an idea about your neighborhood.

Your budget

1. Oh yes, money! Graduate life means budgeting (but do not despair, you will love adulting!) Some places can charge crazy prices. Expect to spend around 500-900\$ for a room to share.
2. When renting a place, make sure what is included in your rent (wi-fi, electric, water bills, etc.).
3. If you are renting an apartment complex, you are more likely to pay more since these complexes are likely to include things like pest control, maintenance, pool, patio area, common area, gym, etc.

Pro Tip 5: Before signing anything, make sure to read the contract clearly! You have right to ask and be informed about anything that you do not know and want to know. Don't be shy about asking questions!

Pro Tip 6: During your first few weeks in your new place, you will need lots of shopping. Amazon.com gives 6 month free prime membership with student e-mail. Also, Atlanta has Ikea if you need basic and cheaper utensils and furniture for your house.

Where to start?

If you are looking for a room to share, check Facebook groups like:

- **Atlanta House Search:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/286922801512581/>
- **Emory Georgia Tech Subleases, Roommates, Apartments Housing:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EmorySubleasesRoommates/>
- **Georgia Tech (GT) Subleases, Roommates, Housing Apartments - Atlanta:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaTechSubleasesRoommates/>
- **Georgia State (GSU) Subleases, Roommates, Housing Apartments - Atlanta:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSUSubleasesRoommates>

If you are looking for a place of your own like a house or an apartment at the apartment complex, check the following:

- **Zillow:** <https://www.zillow.com/>
- **Apartments.com:** <https://www.apartments.com/>
- **Apartment List:** <https://www.apartmentlist.com/ga>
- **Promove:** <https://atlanta.promove.com/>

- or just **Google** it!

Not sure about what to do? You can rent a place when you arrive here. Consider looking for places online one month before coming to Atlanta and arrange meetings. Beware, first few days will be really hectic, so make sure to arrange your time wisely. Also, be sure to rent a place before coming here:

- **AirBnb**: <https://www.airbnb.com/>
- or rent a room for a month from Facebook groups.