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Welcome to the University of Miami! As you prepare for a spectacular college experience here at the U, know that COISO is here to help. COISO strives to foster an environment rich with opportunities for growth and success for international students.

The University of Miami has nearly 2,800 international students from more than 120 countries, and is celebrated for being one of the nation’s most diverse institutions. We unite people from all over the world, help with the assimilation and integration process, and serve as a point of contact for international students, through meetings, events, and performances open to all students throughout the year.

This guide will help you:
- Prepare for your time at the University of Miami
- Adjust to living in Miami
- Tackle the essentials: driver’s license, housing, bank account, cell phone
- Navigate the campus and the neighborhood
- Locate places to eat

We recommend that you read the booklet before beginning your journey at the University of Miami; it also contains important contact information.

Thank you for choosing the University of Miami... GO ‘CANES!

Best of luck,

Council of International Students and Organizations

A note from the Council of International Students and Organizations (COISO)

COISO E-BOARD
President: Chelsea-Jane (CJ) Arcalas, chelseaarcalas@miami.edu
Vice President of External Affairs: Daryl Teo, dyt3@miami.edu
Vice President of Internal Affairs: Maheshi Pathirana, m xp1015@miami.edu
Secretary: Akki Gunda, axg1288@miami.edu
Treasurer: Nimesh Nagururu, nxn176@miami.edu
HOUSING

RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS (RA) AND FIRST YEAR FELLOWS (FYF)

RAs are student staff members that help students learn about life at Miami and in your residential community. Living on the floor, RAs serve as resources, support persons, and are there to provide a top quality residential experience.

FYFs are peer academic mentors to help in any academic concerns related to major and career exploration, advising students on developing four year plans, and connecting students to campus resources to aid in their success.

FRESHMEN

Stanford Residential College: Two towers - Rosborough and Walsh, 12 floors each.

All student rooms at the University are air conditioned. Cable television service, Internet access, and local telephone service are included in room rent. Students, however, must bring their own telephone. There are two outlets in each room per resident. We recommend using an extension cord.

Each floor has a study room near the elevators, and a water fountain. Stanford has music practice rooms on the first floor.

Hecht Residential College: Two towers - McDonald and Pentland, 12 floors each.

Hecht is similar to Stanford. The towers are connected by a common area on the first floor where the front desk, study room, student mail boxes, vending machines, and laundry facilities are located.

There are two types of rooms in Stanford and Hecht Residential Colleges: Community-style single room and Community-style double room. All rooms are equipped with bed, dresser, desk, chair, bookshelf, trash can, and window coverings. Each floor, has one central bathroom facility that is cleaned daily and floors are assigned to one gender.

Notes

Freshmen are required to live on campus and upperclassmen have the option of living off campus. Many students opt to live off campus after their first year.

If you live in Stanford, Hecht, Eaton, Mahoney, or Pearson, you will be required to have a meal plan on campus. This is not required for University Village, residents as you have a kitchen.

Stanford, Hecht, Eaton, Mahoney, or Pearson residents have the option of having a bed loft, allowing for more space underneath your bed. Many students include a futon or couch if they choose to have the bed lofted.

If you live in Stanford, Hecht, Eaton, Mahoney, or Pearson, you will be required to have a meal plan on campus. This is not required for University Village, residents as you have a kitchen.

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UPPERCLASSMEN

**Eaton Residential College**: Four floors
Eaton is located directly on the eastern side of Lake Osceola. Rooms are set up in a suite arrangement with two double rooms connected by a bathroom. Each floor includes single and double rooms, which have data and phone jacks for each student. There are also study lounges and laundry rooms on each floor.

**Mahoney Residential Colleges**: Seven floors
Mahoney is located at the northeast end of campus on the corner of Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Stanford Drive. This residential college is located within walking distance from the University Center, Merrick and Memorial buildings. Laundry facilities are located on floors 2 and 3, lounges on floors 4 and 5, and kitchens on floors 6 and 7.

**Pearson Residential Colleges**: Seven floors
Pearson Residential College is set up in a suite-style arrangement. Each floor is co-ed and includes of 15 single rooms and 47 doubles. Laundry rooms are located on floors 2 and 3, study rooms on floors 4-7, and Special Interest floors.
**University Village:**

Residency is limited to only full-time juniors and seniors with 60+ academic credits completed. Summer residency does not require students to be enrolled in academic courses.

Within the seven buildings there are five different apartment models ranging from one bedroom/one bath up to four-bedroom/four bath layouts. With the exception of the four-bedroom/two bath model, each of the other apartment models has private bedrooms with full-sized beds and en suite bathrooms.

Each apartment is fully furnished and equipped with kitchen appliances such as refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, and microwave. A washer and dryer are also included in each apartment.

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**DINING SERVICES**

**Residential Meal Plans**

Meal plans are mandatory for students living in the residential colleges (Hecht, Stanford, Mahoney, Pearson, & Eaton). Meal plans are an annual agreement, with a charge in the fall & spring semester. First year/freshman students must select between the following meal plan options: unlimited, 19 meal plan or 14 meal plan. Sign up for a meal plan on CaneLink under Housing.

**Dining Dollars**

Dining dollars can be used at these dining options as seen on the campus map. Dining dollars assigned to block and meal plans are semester values. Dining dollar balances rollover from fall to spring semester, but are forfeited at the end of the spring semester.
CANE LIFE

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Cultural Organizations on Campus

The Council of International Students and Organizations (COISO) is an umbrella organization for many of the cultural organizations on campus. COISO’s main goal is to promote the interests of international students and provide a community of support. If you need assistance reaching any of these organizations, please contact COISO or visit orgsync.com

- African Students Union (ASU)
- Bahamian Students Association (BSA)
- Brazilian Students Association (BRASA)
- Caribbean Students Association (CSA)
- Chinese Student & Scholar Association (CSSA)
- Der Deutsche Klub (The German Club)
- Emet Israel (The Israel Student Organization)
- Federacion de Estudiantes Cubanos (FEC)
- Filipino Student Association (FSA)
- Francophone Association of Ibis Students (FAIS)
- Hindu Students Council
- Hong Kong Students Association (HKSA)
- Indian Students Association (ISA)
- Japanese Culture Circle (JCC)
- Korean Students Union/Association
- Kuwaiti Students Organization
- Mexicanes
- Muslim Students of the University of Miami (MSUM)
- Organization for Jamaican Unity (OJU)
- Planet Kreyol (PK, Haitian Students Organization)
- Russian and Eastern European Club (REEC)
- Saudi Students’ Association (SSA)
- Taiwanese Students Association
- Union Venezolana

Don’t see a group represented? Contact us for help to start a new organization. coiso@miami.edu

Other Cultural Organizations on Campus

- Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA)
- United Black Students (UBS)
- Muslim Students of the University of Miami (MSUM)
- Asian American Students Association (AASA)
- Federación de Estudiantes Cubanos (FEC)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Immunization

Before arriving, all students must complete and submit an immunization compliance form. All international students must also be screened for risk of tuberculosis by completing page two of the immunization form. Immunization information must be entered at mystudenthealth.miami.edu and the completed immunization form must be uploaded to the same site prior to arrival on campus.

Insurance

All international students must purchase the medical insurance offered through the University of Miami at the time of registration unless they provide proof of agency or government sponsor coverage that has been reviewed and approved by the University Student Health Center prior to registration.
University of Miami Honor Council: Honor Code Quick Guide

Cheating: Intent to deceive. Includes all actions, devices and deceptions used in the attempt to commit this act.
Plagiarism: Representing the words/ideas of someone else as your own.
Collusion: Working with two or more people on an academic undertaking for which a student is individually responsible.
Academic Dishonesty: Any other act not specifically covered that violates the academic integrity of the University.

Tips:
- Study in advance.
- Use University resources like ARC tutoring, and the Writing Center.
- Turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones and Apple Watches.
- Always cite sources and give credit to others for their work.
- Read the syllabus for your professor’s expectations and ask your professor to what extent students are allowed to work together.
- Ask an Honor Council member, your professor or come visit the Dean of Students Office for any questions about academic dishonesty.
- For more information, email honorcouncil@miami.edu.

Academic Resource Center (ARC)
305-284-2800
tutoring.arc@miami.edu

Writing Center
305-284-2956

Math Lab
305-284-2575
University of Miami Experience (UMX 100)

The University of Miami Experience (UMX 100) is a graded, online, self-paced course specifically designed to assist first year students and transfer students in making a successful transition to the University of Miami.

Academic Resource Center - Free Tutoring Services

The Peer Tutoring Program at the Camner Center for Academic Resources (ArC) offers University of Miami students support in achieving their academic goals. The Peer Tutoring Program currently has over 100 peer tutors knowledgeable in various subjects, both undergraduate and graduate, working to help fellow students with reaching their academic goals. University of Miami currently enrolled students are eligible to receive tutoring at the ArC at no cost. Each student may request up to two (2) hours of tutoring per current enrolled subject per week.

Writing Center

Take advantage of the Writing Center at the University of Miami where free one-on-one assistance with all types of writing concerns is offered. It is located at the University of Miami Learning Commons in Richter Library. The Writing Center can help you at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to final revisions.

Math Lab

Take advantage of the Math lab on the first floor of the Richter Library, in the Learning Commons. The Math Lab provides tutoring to any student enrolled in an undergraduate math course at the University of Miami. Tutoring is available on a walk-in basis.

Academic Advisors

Every student is assigned an academic advisor in your School. They are there to assist with academic options to your career aspirations.
CAREER BUILDING

Toppel Career Center

The Toppel Career Center helps you every step along your path to career success. Whether you’re looking to solidify your interests or skills, to get ready for a job or internship interview, or to make connections that will launch your career, Toppel is here to help.

RESOURCES

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

ISSS represents the needs and interests of the University of Miami international community and provides support services and programs for international students, scholars, and academic departments.

The professional and dedicated ISSS staff provides expert advice, services, programs, and information to support your educational endeavors and enrich your U.S. experience over the entire course of your stay. For more information, visit miami.edu/isss.

ISSS ADVISORS

Kristin Pongé, Assistant Director
kponge@miami.edu
Advises students whose last names begin with Das through Li, Sim

Sevgi Ural, Assistant Director
s.ural@miami.edu
Advises students whose last names begin with Bal through Dar, and Shen, S through Z

Diana Garner, Assistant Director
dxg621@miami.edu
Advises students whose last names begin with A through Bakhos, and Li, Six through Shen, K

ISSS

1306 Stanford Drive
Whitten University Center
Suite 2275
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-284-2928
isss@miami.edu

Walk-in Advising Hours:
Monday - Friday
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

CAREER BUILDING

Toppel Career Center

5225 Ponce De Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-284-5451
toppel@miami.edu

RESOURCES

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

1306 Stanford Drive
Whitten University Center
Suite 2275
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-284-2928
isss@miami.edu

Safe Ride

Safe Ride
305-398-6128

Office of the Ombudsperson
305-284-4922

Safety

Blue Light Phone Program
The UM Coral Gables campus has over 100 blue light phones which dial UMPD directly for emergency communication.

Safe Ride
The Safe Ride program is an on-demand transportation service offered to students. It operates Sundays through Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

University of Miami Police Department (UMPD) 24/7 Safety Escort Service
A UM Police employee or security officer will make sure you are free to walk the campus safely any time and on any day, holidays and school breaks included.

Bike Registration
UMPD Provides FREE registration and bike locks for all UM community members with a bicycle on campus.

Ombudsperson and University Troubleshooters
Transitioning to University life can be tough at times especially when it’s a new environment. Contact an Ombudsperson or University Troubleshooter to address concerns regarding their University of Miami experience. They encourage and provide guidance to students and try to resolve situations, including but not limited to class registration, financial assistance, grade appeals, health issues, clarification of policies and procedures, and transition to college.
THE CITY

RESTAURANTS

Want to know where to eat near the University of Miami? We asked our international students to share their favorite eateries.

**AMERICAN**

ROK BRGR  
5800 SW 73rd St  
South Miami, FL 33143  
305-663-6099

Station 5  
5845 Sunset Dr  
South Miami, FL 33143  
305-668-7405

**CAFES**

Threefold Café  
141 Giralda Ave  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-704-8007

Greenstreet Café  
3468 Main Hwy  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
305-444-0244

**CHINESE**

Kon Chau Restaurant  
8376 Bird Rd, Miami, FL 33155  
305-553-7799

Silver Palace Chinese Restaurant  
5771 SW 137th Ave  
Miami, FL 33183  
305-382-1598

**CUBAN**

Havana Harry’s  
4612 S Le Jeune Rd  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305-661-2622.

Versailles  
3555 SW 8th St  
Miami, FL 33135  
305-444-0240

**INDIAN**

Bombay Darbar  
2901 Florida Ave  
Miami, FL 33133  
305-444-7272

**INDONESIAN**

Bali Cafe  
109 NE 2nd Ave,  
Miami, FL 33132  
305-358-5751

**ITALIAN**

Vapianos  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL, 33131  
305-374-0311

**THAI/JAPANESE**

Moon Thai  
1118 S Dixie Hwy  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305-668-9890

Ohho Noodles Market  
1100 S Dixie Hwy  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305-663-5881

**VENEZUELAN**

Budare Bistro  
1830 SW 3rd Ave,  
Miami, FL 33129  
786-250-8078

Doggi’s Arepa Bar  
1246 SW 22nd St,  
Miami, FL 33145  
305-999-7498

GROCERY STORES

**Asia Grocery**  
A great place for Indian grocery items, grains, spices, and beauty products.  
6785 SW 56th St Miami, FL 33155

**Lucky Oriental Mart**  
This is a short drive from campus and is a great place to buy Chinese groceries.  
8356 SW 40th St Miami, FL 33155

**Publix**  
This is a great option for fast grocery and is only a 15-20 minute walk from campus.  
1401 Monza Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33146

**Sedano’s**  
This is a short drive from campus and sells Latin food and ingredients.  
4803 SW 8th St, Miami, FL 33134

**Trader Joe’s**  
This is a short drive from campus and contains a unique spectrum of grocery items. Many students fall in love with Trader Joe’s.  
9205 S Dixie Hwy, Miami, FL 33156

**Whole Foods**  
This is only a 15-20 minute walk from campus and is a great place to purchase organic groceries.  
6701 Red Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33143
TRANSPORTATION

Ibis Ride
FREE shuttle system that transports University of Miami students from Coral Gables campus to Wynwood neighborhood Saturday nights.

Metrorail
Metrorail is extremely convenient because it is located right across campus. A one way ticket costs $2.25.

Free Metro Passes: Student Government gives free Metro passes to research students on the Medical Campus

Sunset/Dadeland/University Center Shuttle
FREE shuttle system that transports University of Miami students from Coral Gables campus to Sunset Place and Dadeland Mall Thursday-Sunday.

Uber/Lyft
Similar to a taxi. Just download the app and call a driver!

Zipcar
Cars located on campus are available for rent when needed.

SHOPPING

Sunset Place
Outdoor shopping mall that contains many recreational activities such as bowling and cinema but also has a few retail brands. This is the closest shopping mall from campus and is about a 15 minute walk from UM.

The Shops at Merrick Park
Shopping plaza that contains many upscale retail brands as well as some of the best dining options around UM.

Miracle Mile
Bustling mainstay offers popular boutiques, specialty stores, restaurants and entertainment options.

Dadeland Station
Michaels, Best Buy, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Petsmart.

Dadeland Mall
A shopping mall with many popular brands ranging from Express to Apple.

To campus from Miami International Airport
The Metrorail is the best way to get from the airport to campus. An Uber or Lyft is also a good option if you have a lot of luggage.
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne:
Quiet beach with a magnificent historic lighthouse boasting beautiful views if you climb to the top.

South Beach:
Enjoy the beach, the historic Art Deco architecture, and the fun dining options. The area is great for going out with friends.

Everglades:
Massive wetlands preserve what is home to hundreds of animal species. The Everglades provides a great glimpse into Florida’s natural environment. Take an airboat ride to see alligators and more.

Venetian Pool:

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens:
National Historic Landmark and accredited museum. This Italian Renaissance-style villa was built in 1916. A great location to take pictures.

Wynwood Walls:
Explore some of the world’s greatest artists working in the graffiti and street art genre to Miami in the Wynwood Walls.

ZooMiami:
The largest and oldest zoological garden in Florida, and the only tropical zoo in the United States.

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden:
Sprawling gardens with a stunning collection of rare tropical plants such as palms, cycads, flowering trees, and vines. It’s a very relaxing experience and a great location to appreciate nature.

Perez Art Museum Miami:
Located in downtown Miami, the museum on Biscayne Bay features art by contemporary artists. The building itself is uniquely built. It’s a location you do not want to miss!

USEFUL APPS TO DOWNLOAD

UMiami Mobile App (UMiamiMobile)
Instant access to University of Miami news and events, course information, Hurricane sports schedules and scores, cool videos, and much more.

U-Guardian
U-Guardian is a free smartphone safety app which UM students, faculty, and staff can download on their iOS or Android devices. This app allows the user to pre-register emergency information, utilize virtual trip safety escort, and a one touch call button to UMPD.

Outlook Web App (OWA)
Get school emails right on your phone with the OWA app

GroupMe
GroupMe brings group text messaging to every phone and is heavily used to create group chats in student organizations on campus. It is Android and Apple friendly.

Venmo
Venmo is a free digital wallet that lets you make and share payments with friends. You can easily split the bill, cab fare, or much more.

Yelp
Yelp is a food review app that helps sieve out the yummiest places around Miami.

UberEATS
UberEATS is an online meal ordering and delivery platform. It partners with restaurants in dozens of cities around the world.

Postmates
Postmates is another online meal ordering and delivery platform.
THE ESSENTIALS

DRIVER’S LICENSE

International students may drive with both a license from their country of origin and an International Driver’s License for 90 days in the U.S. before they have to obtain a driver’s license issued by the state of residence. Please visit the ISSS webpage for detailed information on applying for a driver’s license. To obtain a drivers license permit you must first take the theory test at a Department of Motor Vehicles office (DMV).

For first-time issuance of a State of Florida driver’s license or identification card, Florida law requires the following items from students in F-1 or J-1 status:

1. Passport
2. Proof of non-immigrant classification provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Form I-94)
3. F-1 or J-1 status documentation (Form I-20 or DS-2019)
4. Two original proofs of residence (cell phone bills, utility bills, official, original transcripts from UM, apartment lease). Students who live on campus will need to obtain proof of residence from the Department of Housing and Residential Life.
5. SSN cards (if one has been issued)

It is recommended that you take your foreign driver’s license, if one has been issued. You may be exempt from the otherwise mandatory drug and alcohol traffic education course, the driving test, or parts of it. Complete information on the required tests and a link to the driver’s manual can be found at www.dmvflorida.org/driving-test.shtml.

You are strongly advised to call to make an appointment. If you go without an appointment, expect a four to six hour wait for your turn.

Nearest DMV

Mall of Americas
7795 West Flagler Street
Suite M8 & M9
Miami, FL 33144
305-229-6333

Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FLORIDA ID CARD
If you don’t get a drivers license, all international students are encouraged to get a Florida ID card. You will need to bring the following to the nearest DMV:

1. Valid passport
2. Form I-20, DS-2019 (for J-1 students)
3. I-94
4. $25 processing fee
5. Two documents confirming residence

BANKING
Bank of America is extremely convenient because there are Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) located on campus. Citibank and Chase banks are also near campus. You do not need a social security number (SSN) to open a bank account. Look out orientation week for bank representatives on campus.

Typical documentation required to open a bank account:

1. Your passport/photo ID
2. I-94
3. I-20 or DS-2019

CELL PHONE CARRIERS
T-Mobile: Simple choice plans include unlimited international texting and data at no extra cost in more than 120 countries.

AT&T: Similar to T-mobile’s network but does not include the unlimited international texting and data. T-mobile and AT&T are the most common carriers seen among students at UM.

Verizon: Known to have the best coverage, but the plans may be slightly more costly.

Sprint: Generally a more affordable option.
SUMMERTIME
OPTIONS DURING THE SUMMER BREAK

The Toppel Career Center on campus is a great resource to find internships. Please visit the ISSS webpage for detailed information on work authorization. All international students must obtain work authorization to work off campus.

Research programs: Many schools including UM offer summer research programs.

Study abroad (transfer credits): Before you register for summer abroad programs, meet with the Study Abroad office to make sure the credits will transfer.

Volunteer: The Butler Center is a great resource on campus to help you find more volunteer opportunities around Miami.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ Mini Storage</td>
<td>305-662-9546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegeboxes</td>
<td>866-269-4887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door to Door Storage</td>
<td>888-366-7222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Space Storage</td>
<td>305-261-8874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Stor-It</td>
<td>305-667-0926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTBOX</td>
<td>877-627-8269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moving Services

UHaul
Offers rental trucks, trailers, cargo vans and U-Box moving & storage containers.

5794 SW 40th St, Miami, FL 33155
305-666-1201
Important Contacts

Academic Resource Center (ARC)
305-284-2800
tutoring.arc@miami.edu

Advising

School of Architecture
305-284-3731

College of Arts & Sciences
305-284-3437

School Business Administration
305-284-4641

School of Communication
305-284-5234

School of Education and Human Development
305-284-3415

College of Engineering
305-284-3100

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
305-284-2180

Counseling Center
305-284-5511
miami.edu/counseling-center

Facilities
305-284-8282
www.miami.edu/sro

Housing and Residential Life
305-284-4505
housing@miami.edu
miami.edu/housing

International Students and Scholar Services
305-284-2928
isss@miami.edu
miami.edu/isss

Math Lab
305-284-2575

Student Health Services
305-284-9100
studenthealth@miami.edu
miami.edu/newstudenthealth

Toppel Career Center
305-284-5451
toppel@miami.edu
hireacane.miami.edu

Writing Center
305-284-2956

UMPD Emergency
911

Non Emergency
305-284-6666