

# GRADUATE SCHOOL TIPS COMPILATION



## 1. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Tiger Transit, Security Shuttle, Graduate Security Shuttle, GROOME Transportation, Lee-Russell Public Transit, Tiger Taxi.

**Tiger Transit:** Runs more frequently within 1 miles from the campus. Varies ~15-30mins of frequency. Use SPOT app to check their schedule and stops. Till 5pm roads have less traffic. Not available on weekends. Runs little infrequently in summer. At the green space pavilion, there are three stops. And one at Mell Station.

**Night Security Shuttle:** For all students. Runs between 7pm-7am. Will go through various stops but not very far from campus. Takes 5-10mins after you call them and specify your pickup and drop off location. Runs in the summer.

**Graduate Security Shuttle:** For graduate students. 7pm-7am. Does not run in summer.

**Groome Transportation:** Auburn to Atlanta fare is 55\$. For the first-time incoming students, they offer a discounted price of 28\$ for airport pick up service, fill **THIS FORM** to avail it.

## 2. IMMIGRATION AND DOCUMENTS:

Make sure to bring at least three copies of all of your documents, results, passport, visa documents, I-20, I-94. May bring colored passport photos if you need them (color print out can be done in the library using TigerPrint). Bring medical documents.

**SSN:** Go to the Social Security Administration office with all of your documents such as I-20, I-94, Passport, Visa documents. You will get it within 30days.

**HR:** Go to the HR office to set up your payroll and for other official procedures.

**Foy Hall:** For Orientation. Must attend.

**Graduate Office (Hagris Hall):** To submit the results of your previous degrees.

## 3. FOOD SECURITY:

**Campus Pantry.** Get registered at their desk. Keep an eye out to their emails for the schedule. You get to pick 15 food items twice a month for free after you are registered.



#### 4. MEDICAL CARE:

Every graduate student is enrolled to [Blue Cross Blue Shield medical insurance](#). To avail medical facilities, go to the [AU Medical Center](#). Mental health care: set an appointment at SCPS. Dental is not included. Tuberculosis testing, MMR vaccine: please get these done from your home country if possible. Then upload the results on this [medical form](#).

#### 5. EMERGENCY RESOURCES: Find emergency contact information [HERE](#).

#### 6. CITY OF AUBURN SERVICES:

Two Public libraries (Auburn, Opelika). Public Gym: Frank Brown Recreation Center. Several Farmer's Market including one at Opelika and at the Town Creek Park. Toomer's corner. AU Post Office.

#### 7. DRIVING AND PARKING:

Can use your international driver license for 90days. After that go to the "Alabama Law and Enforcement Agency" in Opelika and get your permit and your road test done to get your DL. Several parking spots: B & C. B for special cases. If eligible fill the parking form asap. For DL permit, get the DL request form through AUACCESS.

#### 8. TAXES:

Firstly, fill tax forms provided through FNIS (you will get an email). Usually around March-April, mainly through Sprintax (for international students), you can fill taxes. There are two types of taxes: Federal and State Taxes. Sometimes Auburn University provides a code which you can use to avoid a fee on the Sprintax website. Be cautious and early. After filling, you may post it through the post office or submit online.

#### 9. ACCOMMODATION:

Closer is better. Unless you have a car. Less than 1.2miles from campus is ideal. Some things to consider before choosing a home: 1B/2B/3B/condo/duplex, Roommate or not, Rent with Utilities cost per month, in unit Washer/Dryer or not, Furnished or not. Electricity: [Alabama power](#). Water: [The City of Auburn](#). Gas: [Spire](#). Rental insurance: there are several, for example: Allstate.

#### 10. FURNITURE:

Get help from [Auburn University Interconnect](#) or local International Friends Group or International Students Organization (ISO) on campus, or Laura Fuller from the graduate



school. Attend various international students or other general events on campus.

### **11. BANK, CREDIT CARD:**

Set up on the very first day. Bank: JP MORGAN CHASE, WELLS FARGO, TRUIST, PNC, CADENCE. Credit card: Discover/Amex etc. Use Referrals. Suggestion: wait for a few months for a credit card, at least till you get SSN to have a better credit limit and also to discard possibilities of getting refused for a card.

**12. SHOPPING:** Friday shopping shuttle (Auburn mall, Walmart, Tigertown, Asian Supermarket.) Opelika Farmer's market, Kroger, Publix, Dollar Tree/General, Thrift Stores like Thrifty Lizard, American Thrift Store etc are the city's general go-tos.

**13. PHONE LINE CONNECTION:** T-Mobile, AT&T, Mint Mobile (cheapest), Verizon, Google Fi. Get referral if possible. Apple iPhones sometimes available with a new line.



## **APPS YOU WILL NEED:**

**SPOT:** To check Tiger Transit Schedule. You can also see your movement direction on the spot app map just like google maps. They are on time and regular.

**HANDSHAKE:** To check Career fares on campus and find internship/job opportunities.



AUBURN SAFETY: Sends you immediate notifications if there is a public hazard.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APP: Similar to the website, all AU information.

GET MOBILE: Tiger Card digitalized. Necessary everywhere including libraries, opening department door etc.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD: Dedicated App for your Medical Insurance.

FOLLOW MY HEALTH: Dedicated App for your AU Medical Clinic help.

Other than these, for department specific needs: BOX, OUTLOOK, MICROSOFT TEAMS, ZOOM, ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD, DUO MOBILE, RICOH CONNECTOR, CANVAS STUDENT etc.

For accommodation needs: ALABAMA POWER, MY SPECTRUM INTERNET APP, APPFOLIO PORTAL APP etc.

## AROUND THE CAMPUS:

**RECREATION CENTER:** Various gym facilities and sports materials available. There are dedicated teams for various sports: Swimming, Rock Climbing, Volleyball etc. There is also Soccer complex and Aquatic Center. Check their [website](#) for various indoor-outdoor events such as picnics, cycling, rock climbing, zumba, cpr and much more.

**MELTON STUDENT CENTER:** Many student organization activities are held here. Your photos for your [TIGER CARD](#) are done here. Your Tiger ID is your official student ID for Auburn University. If lost, there is a renewal charge. There is also Printing services, Gaming and Food places inside.

**RBD LIBRARY:** There are two ways to enter the library. Mell classroom building and RBD library. At the library, you can check out books for 90days, check out equipments such as DSLR, laptop etc, film DVDs, 3D print-out options, access softwares like adobe, wolfram cloud, R, Microsoft Teams for free. For writing improvements contact the Miller Writing center. There is also an Audio studio that can be rented. You may book study rooms in advance or use 4<sup>th</sup> floor for silent study time. Printing through tiger print done here. Also, one can request books which are unavailable in the library catalogue through <https://illiad.lib.auburn.edu>



**HAGRIS HALL:** This is the Graduate school office where you submit your results upon arrival. Any graduate school related query, course selection, auditing class. Check out their [NEW STUDENTS CHECKLIST!](#)

**FOY HALL:** International Student & Scholars Services is located here. Must attend their Orientation event, which spans through several days. They also provide Driver's License letter request which is available through AUACCESS. For international travel purposes, you need to get signed through them.

**MARY MARTIN HALL:** Also known as the Finance Office, all financial questions can be asked here. On its second floor there is [Campus Career Closet](#) where you can set an appointment and pick 4 outfits in a school year. Register first.

**JORDAN HARE STADIUM:** Get tickets for various games including American football which happens throughout Fall semester. You can get tickets once they send emails. No buses run on the game days (usually Saturday).

**JULES MUSEUM AND GOUGE PERFORMANCE ART CENTER:** Auburn's cultural/artsy spaces. Free admission at the Jules museum from Tuesday through Sunday. Check out various exhibitions. Gouge center and the Davis Arboretum are also notable.

**CAMPUS DINING HALL:** Check out their student meal plans [HERE](#).

## **THINGS TO DO BEFORE/AFTER ARRIVAL (TIPS):**

1. Book your Groome Transport ASAP.
2. Don't forget to book parking within the scheduled date, if needed.
3. Bring at least 3 copies of all of your required documents.
4. Pack each of them in different luggage bags just so in case any gets damaged, you will still have some with you. In case of missing luggage, complain at the Atlanta airport asap, if possible, as soon as you land.
5. Try to bring all necessary medication from your country.



6. What to prioritize while packing: Documents > Medicine > Regional Food/Spices > Traditional Clothing only available in your home country.
7. What not to prioritize while packing: Too much Western Clothing, Lots of Electronics Gadgets, Lots of Pots and Pans, Bedding etc.
8. Things you might miss while packing: Charging Adapter (US), a few Spectacles (if you wear prescribed ones), all of your medical records (digital form is ok).
9. You will find discounted price on Apple products through the university in the beginning of Fall semester.
10. Grad school is for the strongest and the most extroverted. Make loads of friends and social connection.
11. After your arrival, *on the very first day*, make sure to visit these places: FOY HALL, DEPARTMENT, HR OFFICE, BANK, SSN OFFICE (if possible).
12. Next get your Tiger ID by first getting your photo done at the Melton Center.
13. You have to go to HR for setting up payroll after you have set up a bank account.
14. Also, find your office keys (info available at the department) if your department has such a system.
15. Be sure to sign up for the classes asap because most classes have limited seats.
16. Find out how your department's printers work, and you can print directly through your device by emailing COSAM IT HELPDESK at [cosamhd@auburn.edu](mailto:cosamhd@auburn.edu).
17. Work out the Title IX and ElevatED courses offered by the HR within time. This is extremely necessary to keep getting paid on time and ensuring the smooth sailing of the official procedures.
18. In general, always keep a lookout from the HR and FNIS.
19. Tiger Transits are timelier than you would think!
20. You would spend more money than you can possibly imagine! Rent is paid at the beginning of the month, so you pay rent before getting your keys!
21. You might have to set up your own Electricity, Internet and other Utilities on your arrival asap. More info from your renter/realty.
22. For help with furnitures, you may reach out to Laura Fuller from the graduate school and keep an eye on Facebook marketplace, Buy Nothing or Furniture Giveaway events or other social media groups such as Yard Sale Groups etc.
23. Use Friday Shopping Shuttle to get groceries from Walmart, Asian Supermarkets, Tigertown, Auburn Mall. Runs from 5:30pm onwards. For shopping: look out for Black Friday Sales, Christmas offers etc.
24. Make sure to keep all emergency contacts readily available to you on your phone/otherwise. 911 is the national helpline.
25. Find other graduate school general policies and all information [on this bulletin](#).

**26. War Eagle !**

