Information + Q&A for New International Students

Today’s Topic: Housing & Transportation

International Student Services
Center for Global Engagement
Today’s Content

• Housing
  - On-campus Housing
  - Off-campus Housing
  - Things to consider before renting

• Transportation
  - Transportation Mode
  - Get2FAU Guide
  - Driving in the Florida and Obtaining a FL Driver’s License
On Campus Housing

• Three Apartments (upperclassmen and possibly graduate students):
  - University Village Apartments (UVA)
  - Innovation Village North (IVAN)
  - South Apartments (VAS)

• Five Residential Halls (Mix of Upperclassman and First Year Students):
  - Atlantic Park Towers (APT)
  - Indian River Towers (IRT)
  - Glades Park Towers (GPT)
  - Heritage Park Towers (HPT)
  - Parliament Hall (PAR)

Virtual room tours and room rates:
https://www.fau.edu/housing/tour/
Important to Know About On Campus Housing

• There is always a high demand for On-campus Housing with limited availability.

• On-campus Housing is prioritized to first-year and second year undergraduate students and fills quickly.
  
  • Housing contract for Spring 2024 opened on October 10, 2023, thought the Housing Portal.
  • $100 non-refundable housing deposit.
  • The spring 2024 housing contract will close once spaces have filled.
  • Wait list/Housing Interest Form available.
  • The housing contract covers only the term you apply for.

• Sign up for on campus housing here: https://www.fau.edu/housing/signup/

• FAU Housing website: https://www.fau.edu/housing/
If you receive a On Campus Housing assignment…

- You will get notified directly by the Housing and Residential Education Department (housing@fau.edu).

- **December 7 – January 4**: Housing assignment information is emailed to new spring residents on a weekly basis. You must be registered for spring classes to receive a housing assignment.

- **January 4 - 6, 2024**: Move-In for new spring residents (ONLY if you have a housing assignment).

- The room assignments are on a first come, first served basis, so the date you apply determines the order in which we make assignments. The earlier you apply for housing, and register for classes, the better chance to get your preferred living style.

- Frequently asked questions about on campus housing [https://www.fau.edu/housing/resources/faqs/](https://www.fau.edu/housing/resources/faqs/)
Off Campus Housing Search Websites

• FAU Official Off-campus Housing Website: https://offcampushousing.fau.edu/

• ForRent search tool: https://www.forrent.com/

• Apartments search tool: https://www.apartments.com/

• Use the following search criteria:
  - City/State: Boca Raton, FL
  - Zip Code: 33431 (FAU zip code for options closest to campus)
Off Campus Housing Search via Real Estate Agent

- Agents don’t get paid by tenants (people who want to rent)

- Local Real Estate Agents (Realtors):
  - Richard Bloomfield, Tel. +1 646-330-7827
  - Vivian Li, Tel. +1 954-988-1028 or +1 561-427-6100
Roommate Search for **Off Campus Housing**

- **Private Facebook Group:** [FAU International Roommate Connection](#)
- **Register on [FAU’s Off Campus Housing Site](#) to access the roommate search feature**
Things to Consider Before Renting

• What am I looking for?
  □ Temporary/On/Off Campus Housing?
  □ Real Estate Agent or Self Search?
  □ Furnished or Unfurnished?
  □ Roommate/s or Single?

• Proximity to Campus
  □ Use Google Maps to check how far the place is from the campus
  □ Campus Address: 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431

• Move In Costs
  □ Typical for this area: Security Deposit = two months rent (varies)
  □ First Month’s Rent and Last Month’s Rent (varies)

• Monthly Costs
  □ Rent
  □ Utilities (may or may not be included)
Things to Consider Before Renting (continued)

• Furnished vs Unfurnished Apartments
  ▪ If unfurnished, be prepared to purchase:
    ▪ Furniture (sofa, bed, table, TV, etc.)
    ▪ Linens (bed sheets, towels, etc.)
    ▪ Kitchen supplies (pans, pots, plates, utensils, etc.)
  ▪ Either
    ▪ Toiletries, hand soap, cleaning supplies, etc.

• Apartments are constantly added and removed from the market (Check for new listings often)

• Some landlords require Social Security number

• Be prepared to meet the landlord and/or potential roommates

• Occupancy limits
Suggested Questions to Ask Before Renting

• How much is the rent per month?
• What is included in the rent?
  ❖ Utilities? Cable? Internet?
• What are the move in costs?
• Do you require a Security Deposit?
  ❖ If so, how much?
  ❖ Refundable?
• How many people can reside?
• How will I be penalized if I break the lease?
• How much notice needs to be given before I can terminate the lease agreement?
• Does the lease renew automatically or do I need to request a renewal?
• Do you allow children? What ages? Where is the nearest childcare, school, etc.?
Suggested Questions to Ask Before Renting  (continued)

• Is parking available?
  □ What kind is it? Garage? On the street? Parking lot?
  □ Is there an additional charge?
  □ Is there a guest parking?

• Do you allow pets?
  □ What size?
  □ Are there additional charges?

• Are there laundry facilities available in the apartment, building, or rental complex?

• Do you permit pictures to be hung on the walls or allow any type of improvements?

• Where is the nearest grocery store? Doctor? Mall (shopping area)?

• How, when, and where do you dispose of trash?

• Is there anything else that I need to know about this place and requirements?
Temporary Housing

• Local Hotels
  - To make reservation, call the hotel and inquire about the FAU rate: [FAU Hotel Rates](https://www.fau.edu/global/international/documents/off-campus-housing-resources.pdf)

• Airbnb & Vrbo
  - Both Airbnb and Vrbo offer short term house, apartment, or condo rentals

Off campus Housing Resource Guide
[https://www.fau.edu/global/international/documents/off-campus-housing-resources.pdf](https://www.fau.edu/global/international/documents/off-campus-housing-resources.pdf)
Modes of Transportation

• FAU Shuttle
  - FAU offers a Bus Shuttle that operates throughout campus during the day for students, faculty and staff who park in remote areas or live in the student apartments.
  - FAU also offer a free intercampus shuttle service connecting between the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses

• Train & Bus Services (More Details in next slide)
• Rideshare/Taxi Services
• Driving/Carpooling
• Biking
• Walking
Tri-Rail

- Tri-Rail is a commuter train that links Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach.
- There is now a shuttle that runs directly between the Tri-Rail station at Yamato Road and FAU. The shuttle runs every 20 minutes from 6:45 am - 9:00 pm and is a short 10-minute ride.
- Parking is free at most locations.
- Students have the opportunity to take advantage of Tri-rail's Student Discount Program for the duration of their enrollment at FAU. Students will receive a 50% discount when they show proof of enrollment with either their Owl Card and/or class schedule.
Palm Tran

- *Palm Tran* is popular as a means for public transportation.

- According to Palm Tran, “Palm Tran travels to every major destination in Palm Beach County—from Jupiter to Boca Raton and from Palm Beach to the Glades.

- Palm Tran follows a cash fare style, fares are $2 exact coin change per trip. Fare cards can be issued if payment is in excess over $1.

- QUIK Passes are available in multiple locations, for different time ranges.
Driving in the U.S. and Obtaining a U.S. driver's license

• International students may legally drive in Florida for 30 days with a valid driver’s license and international driver’s license issued from your home country. A Florida driver’s license will be required after the 30 days.

• A Florida driver’s license or a State of Florida identification card can be obtained at any Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) office.

• Driver’s licenses are issued for one year at a time, renewable until the end of the student’s program.

• To learn how to obtain a Florida’s driver’s license, please view our Applying for a Florida Driver’s License (Information for F and J visa Holders) Guide.
International Airports

• FAU Boca Campus is readily accessible from the three international airports below:

  • Palm Beach International Airport (PBI)
    ▫ 24 miles away from FAU Boca campus

  • Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)
    ▫ 27 miles away from FAU Boca campus

  • Miami International Airport (MIA)
    ▫ 48 miles away from FAU Boca campus
From airports to FAU

• There are multiple ways one can get to FAU, listed below are some examples of how one may get to FAU after arriving to Florida:

• **Example 1:** Tri-Rail + Palm Tran (Route 94)/FAU Shuttle
  - Step 1: Take Tri-Rail from Miami/Fort Lauderdale Airport to Boca Raton Station.
  - Step 2: Take FAU Shuttle to Campus, your designated area of stay AKA dorm.

• **Example 2:** Take Uber/Lyft *Note you can take public transportation and then Uber/Lyft.
Get to FAU Guides

• [www.get2fau.com](http://www.get2fau.com) is a website that provides information for getting around our community using public transit. The site also includes information for an “emergency ride home.”

• [Travel and Transportation Guide to FAU Boca Campus](http://www.travelandtransportationguide.com) is a guide that focuses mainly on ground transportation from the airports to FAU Boca campus.
Q&A

• Any Questions?