

**GCREC EMERGENCY CONTACT
INFORMATION**

FIRE – POLICE

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

DIAL 911

Jose Moreno, Farm Manager
813-789-9825

Bob O’Neil, Maintenance Supervisor
863-232-9466

Brian Lapsley, Maintenance
813-369-8974

Nathan Boyd, Assoc. Center Director
813-422-8565

Jack Rechcigl, Center Director
941-773-7587

Christine Cooley, Admin Assistant
813-857-4230

Poison Control 800-222-1222

Hillsborough County Sheriff
Non-Emergency
813-272-5665



<https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/f-1-student/new-f-1-students>

The University of Florida International Center (UFIC) is always excited that students and scholars from around the globe have chosen UF as the place where they will enhance their academic and professional backgrounds. Our international students and scholars serve as representatives from 154 countries, essentially bringing the world to our campus! In turn, the International Center aims to assist students and scholars as they make the transition from their homeland to the United States, and adjust to life at the University of Florida.

International Student Compliance Services is open for business operations Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., excluding observed holidays.

Our team is available via Virtual Office Hours on Zoom, email, appointments, and phone.



STUDY in the STATES

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/guide/f-1/f-1-postsecondary>



14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598

813-419-6670 <https://grec.ifas.ufl.edu>



Gulf Coast Postdoc and Student Association

Gulf Coast Postdoc and Student Association (GCPSA) welcomes you to the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) located at Wimauma, Florida. This association was unofficially started in 2017 with the mission of organizing research seminars by and for students and postdocs of GCREC. In 2018, the association was officially named, and an executive committee was formed with new and updated objectives.

The purpose of **GCPSA** is to enhance the communication and networking between graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and faculty within and outside the GCREC.

Activities Include:

- Professional development workshops
- Industry field trips
- Community outreach and education
- Research seminar series
- Student socials and more!

The goals of the GCPSA are...

- ⇒ To enhance communication and networking between graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and

faculty within and outside the GCREC;

- ⇒ To foster outreach with the industrial and academic scientific communities;
- ⇒ To provide professional enrichment opportunities to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars;
- ⇒ To create and promote intellectual, social, and cultural opportunities, between graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and faculty within and outside the GCREC;
- ⇒ To foster professional mentorship relationships among the postdoctoral scholars and graduate students;
- ⇒ To promote the use of peer groups as a resource for solving challenging research problems;
- ⇒ To foster interdisciplinary collaboration, as is appropriate and feasible, among postdoctoral researchers and graduate students in different research groups.

GCPSA members are here to help you navigate your experience at Gulf Coast REC. Feel free to email the association with any questions or concerns you may have during your stay at GCREC.

ifas-gcrec-gcpsa@ifas.ufl.edu

in the U.S. to make sure you have funds available when you arrive.

- JPMorgan Chase & Co.*
- Bank of America,*
- CitiGroup*
- HSBC*
- CapitalOne*

Health Insurance Options



The University of Florida requires health insurance for all UF students. This insurance must meet the U.S. Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements. All J-2 dependents who are not UF students must have health insurance meeting U.S. Department of State's basic J visa holder insurance requirements. Insurance documentation for J-2 dependents must be submitted to insurance@ufic.ufl.edu.

For more information about UF policies, contact the UF Student Healthcare Center at insurance@shcc.ufl.edu or 352-273-4546. For assistance with the initial waiver process, you may contact the UFIC Health Insurance Advisor, at insurance@ufic.ufl.edu or 352-273-1542.

Research assistants are provided with GatorGradCare insurance. More info and

eligibility in <https://gatorcare.org/gatorgradcare/>. A waiver needs to be completed every year for research assistants to avoid incurring in a fee. This is usually done at the end of every spring semester and is valid for a year. More info in <https://healthcompliance.shcc.ufl.edu/health-insurance-requirement/>.



Apply for a Social Security Number

All students who receive wages from an employer, either by working or participating in a training opportunity, must apply for a Social Security number (SSN). If you apply for an SSN for on-campus employment, you will need the approval letter from your DSO and a letter of approval from your employer. In all other instances, you will need your employment authorization document from USCIS. For more information about this process, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>

3 Tips For Using Your Cellphone Internationally



When you travel to another country and use your smartphone as you would at home — to access maps, check email, text many times a day — you could end up with hundreds of dollars in fees. To connect abroad affordably, you need a strategy. Here are your easiest options.

1. Put your phone in airplane mode.

Only use it (besides features such as the camera) when you can connect to Wi-Fi. Some phones and apps automatically download data when the phone is on and connected, leading to charges — even if you aren't using the phone for calls. To make calls, use apps such as WhatsApp (which is also great for texting photos to friends), FaceTime, Skype, Google Voice, Viber and Facebook Messenger.

2. **Get an international plan.** Every phone carrier offers its customers international plans, which vary. Check with your provider to determine the best plan for your needs.

3. **Buy a prepaid SIM card.** This is a slightly more complicated option: A SIM

card stores your subscriber data in your phone.

When you're traveling internationally, you can replace it with one that gives you a local phone number. The first necessary step: Ask your carrier to “unlock” your phone. The unlocking process varies depending on the phone and the carrier; some new phones are unlocked by default. You can buy a SIM card before you leave. Amazon, for example, sells SIM cards for ranging from around \$17 to \$49, typically for 30 days of use. Another option is to buy a SIM card at your destination from your mobile provider at the airport or a local department store. The upside of buying it when you arrive: A store employee can help you choose the right data plan, install the card and make sure it's the right one for your phone. (Older iPhones, for example, have different SIM cards than new iPhones.)

Apply for a Driver's License or State ID

Driving a car without a driver's license is illegal, but F-1 students are eligible to apply for such a license. To acquire a



driver's license or ID, you must apply for one at your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which can have a different name in some states. For more information about this process, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/>.

Transportation

Your faculty supervisor is responsible for your transportation needs while you are at our center. However, if you choose to purchase a vehicle after obtaining a Florida Drivers License, there are many options available to shop for a car. Most used vehicles will cost a minimum of \$5,000 USD and you will also have to purchase a license tag and car insurance at an additional cost. You should determine your need for a personal vehicle based on the length of time you will be staying in the U.S.



There is no public transportation in the area.

Car insurance is required by law in the State of Florida. You can check options at a variety of insurance companies and discounts may apply for UF affiliates through Liberty Insurance company. Check out Gatorperks at <https://benefits.hr.ufl.edu/gatorperks/> for this

and other discounts.

Housing off site

Housing options off site can be explored at www.apartments.com or rooms to rent at www.roomies.com. Make sure to note requirements for renting which vary from requiring deposits of \$1000 to credit and background checks, etc. Each apartment complex may have different requirements. Your faculty supervisor can advise you.

IT at GREC



Upon arrival you will need to meet with our IT Specialist for the following IT purposes:

- Insure** your personal computer is in compliance with UF regulations.
- Have** your UFID programmed into the main gate for access after hours and on weekend.
- Obtain** a key card for building access—*note there is a \$5 if the card is lost.*

IT Specialist Contact:

Joel Parlin, jwparlin@ufl.edu

Gator Help Desk: (352) 392-4357

<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>