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







The University of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center is a research center dedicated to solving agricultural and horticultural problems for Central Florida growers. The farm is approximately 475 acres and located near Wimauma, Florida. Living at the center allows for many opportunities to learn about multiple disciplines of study as well as being a level of convenience for the research you are coming to do. Our housing offers occupancy of up to 8 people per house. Incoming residents will need to be prepared to accommodate and respect different people, cultures, and ideas. In the past many future relationships have been built and continue to this day. The number of people in the house may vary, however, you will need to be prepared for a possible lack of privacy and sharing of common areas with other residents.

More details can be found on our website here:

https://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/studenthousing-at-balm-location/ Faculty supervisors are required to submit a Housing Request Form to reserve a space in our housing. Incoming residents will not be assigned a room without this form.

Rent is due on the first of each month and is currently \$200 USD. Each house has an assigned Resident Leader (RL). The RL is responsible for assigning housekeeping chores, collecting funds for disposal items, scheduling house meetings, etc. This role is optional and on a rotating basis so every resident will have the opportunity to hold the position. The RL receives a reduce rental amount of \$100 for each month they serve.

HELPFUL HINTS

International Banking \$\$

These banks are your best choice to allow access in your home country and the U.S. It is recommended that you considering starting a checking and/or ngs account prior to your arrival

GCREC Points of Contact for Student Residents:

Christine Cooley

Housing Administrator ccooley@ufl.edu, Front Desk 813-419-6578

Nicole Brown

Fiscal Assistant II—Rent Payments and Inquiries
nicole.brown@ufl.edu, Room 107

nicole.brown@uti.edu, Room 10

813-419-6652

Belinda Missen

HR Representative bmissen@ufl.edu, Room 104 813-419-6573

Faculty Housing Committee Members

Dr. Natalia Peres nperes@ufl.edu
Dr. Seonghee Lee seonghee105@ufl.edu

All our faculty members and administrative office staff have an Open Door Policy. If you require any assistance of any kind, please feel free to come have a chat.

NOTES:		



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

os Ontions

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 oncampus 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 you 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

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 GCREC

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/