WELCOME TO THE NEW GUIDEBOOK

A-SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
AISA is A-School International Student Association, and we are a platform for international students to share ideas and concerns to help each other better integrate into the A-school community academically, socially and culturally.

Instagram: uva.aisa
Gmail: uvaaisa@gmail.com
HOUSING
1. **On-ground**

   [https://housing.virginia.edu/graduate-students](https://housing.virginia.edu/graduate-students)
   
   1. Copeley
   
   2. the Range

2. **Off-ground:**

   1. MSC (about 15min walk to A-school, bus available)
      
      [https://livewithmsc.com/](https://livewithmsc.com/)
   
   2. Uheights (about 25min walk to A-school, bus available)
      
      [https://www.uheights.net/floor_plans.php](https://www.uheights.net/floor_plans.php)
   
   3. Grand Marc (a UVA apartment complex about 10 min walk to A-school, near the Corner)
      
      [https://www.grandmarcuva.com/](https://www.grandmarcuva.com/)
   
   4. Others
      
      [https://offgroundshousing.student.virginia.edu/housing](https://offgroundshousing.student.virginia.edu/housing)
TRANSPORTATION
The City of Charlottesville has some public transportation options that are free or low cost.

1. **Bus: Free for students**
   1. **School**
      
      [link]
      
      Including Gold Line, Green Line, Orange Line, Silver Line, Redline and Blueline. Check the TransLoc Rider app or TransLoc online for live schedule information.

   2. **Public: will need a student card to get free access**
      
      The CAT

   3. **Safe Ride**
      
      [link]
      
      Safe Ride is an on-demand, fare-free, point-to-point transportation service provided after UTS has stopped service for the night.

2. **Train and Airport**
   
   [link]
   
   1. Amtrak (CVS station)
      
      - offering daily direct routes (Crescent, Cardinal and Northeast Regional) to New York City’s Penn Station and Union Station in Washington, D.C.
2. The Charlottesville Albemarle airport (CHO)

3. The Dulles International Airport (IAD) outside at Washington, D.C.

3. Bike

There are a lot of bike lanes around Charlottesville, but drivers can be careless. Be extra careful around Main Street, especially during busy traffic times.

There are Bike storage outside the A-school.

4. Rideshare

Apps like Lyft and Uber are useful for getting around the city when the buses aren’t running or it’s too dark or far to bike safely.
GROCERY
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You can find most groceries and clothing stores in Barracks Road Shopping Center. You can use Instacart to order groceries online at most of these stores. Some stores offer delivery for an extra charge, and others allow you to order online and pick up the order in person. Check online for specific information about each store's policy.

1. ALDI

2. LIDL

3. Kroger
   Could be the cheapest grocery in Charlottesville.

4. Harris Teeter

5. Food Lion
   Low-cost, limited selection of staple food items.

6. Wegman’s
   This is a very large supermarket with some specialty items, and it is a little more expensive. If you’re looking for Kosher items or a wider selection of vegetables or fruit than you can find at most other grocery stores, this store might have it. They also have a large selection of wine, cider, and beer.

7. Costco
   This is a bulk supply store further away than most grocery stores in Charlottesville, and a $60 annual membership is required to shop there. Up to two people living at the same address can use the membership, so you can split the cost of a Costco membership with a
roommate or household member. However, you can find lower prices on bulk necessities like rice, noodles, beans, oil, flour, eggs, dairy, and meat. Costco has a large freezer section with quick meals and frozen fruit and vegetables.

8. Walmart
Walmart has low cost food and a variety of other household necessities like cleaning supplies, bedding, plates and utensils, and cookware.

9. Trader Joe’s
This store has a limited selection of mostly pre-packaged and prepared foods, but it has many allergen-free options.

10. Cville Oriental
This is a good store to get shelf-stable foods and snacks. There is a frozen foods section but a limited selection of fresh vegetables or fruit. If you want other Asian food ingredients, find someone with a car and take a trip to the Korean H-Mart in Richmond.

11. Asian Market
Another smaller Asian Food grovery.

12. H-Mart (Richmond, VA)

13. Dollar Tree
RESTAURANT
1. **Food Court**

The local shopping centers also have many restaurants.

1. Corner
2. Barracks Road Shopping Center
3. Stonefield Shopping Center
4. Downtown Mall
5. Dairy Market

2. **Some Recommendations**

**Halal restaurants**

1. Afghan Kabob

   You can get takeout here, but it’s more of a restaurant to sit down and enjoy dinner in. The vegetarian samosa and qabuli palow are very tasty.

2. Otto Turkish Street Food

3. Mezeh Mediterranean Grill

   This is more of a fast-food style restaurant where you select grains, protein, dressing, and vegetables from a long line, and your choices are combined in a bowl or flatbread all together for you to eat.

**Asian restaurants:**

1. Peter Chang Chinese Restaurant: Szechwan style, spicy
2. Ginkgo Chinese Restaurant
3. DOMA Korean Kitchen
4. Milan Indian Cuisine
CLOTHING
1. **Local options**

   The local shopping centers provide lots of brands like Loft, Madewell, BR, Anthropologie, Nike, etc, you can just explore and find what you need.

   1. Barracks Road Shopping Center
   2. Stonefeild Shopping Center
   3. Downtown Mall

2. **Online options:**

   **Thrift shops:**

   1. Thriftup: [https://www.thredup.com/](https://www.thredup.com/)

      Thredup is a U.S. online thrift store that sells quality used clothes with free returns. Sometimes the tags are still on the clothes, and you can sort by what you are looking for. It’s an easy way to buy clothes during the semester if you find you need something but don’t have the time to go shopping and try things on.

   2. Twice Is Nice (TIN1 and TIN2) : [https://www.twiceisnicestore.org/](https://www.twiceisnicestore.org/)

      Twice is Nice is an entirely donation based upscale resale boutique which features men’s and women’s clothing, accessories, collectibles, home décor, and furnishings generously donated by our community.

   **APPS:**

   Many bands have their own apps and you can just search and download. INS is also a place for shopping clothes.
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD GOOD
If you are moving into a new place, check the lease to find out if your room will have furniture or if you will need to buy a bed and kitchen equipment. If the room is unfurnished, you can buy most of what you need online or delivered from local stores. Amazon is a good place to buy a mattress, and they will ship it in a tightly packed box that unfolds once you take it out.

1. Local shops
   1. SPCA Rummage Store
      A place for used furniture and clothes. Purchases benefit the animal shelter.
   2. Target
   3. Walmart
   4. Bed Bath and Beyond

2. Online shops
   1. Amazon
   2. Ikea
1. **Study**
   1. *Duo Mobile* - Set the access to school website(SIS, Collab, etc) and wifi, etc.
   2. *AllTrails & ViewRanger & Survey123* - Usefull apps for fieldwalk to geo-tag your trace and photos
   3. *dB Meter* - measure the sound
   4. *Angle Pro* - measure the angle
   5. *Lumos* - measure the sun path
   6. *PictureThis* - recognize the plants
   7. ...

2. **Life**
   1. *TransLoc* - track transit and schedule riders
   2. *Livesafe* - safety alerts from your organizedon and friends
   3. *HOOS Health Check* - contribute to the safety and health of the UVA community
   4. *Yelp* - discover top-rated spots, order delivery or takeout
   5. *Instacart* - deliver fresh groceries on your schedule means
   6. ...
LIBRARY
1. **Rebecca Coleman**  
   [https://www.library.virginia.edu/staff/rac8f/](https://www.library.virginia.edu/staff/rac8f/)  
   She is the librarian for the School of Architecture and very helpful for finding materials for research projects.

2. **The Fine Art Library**  
   [https://www.library.virginia.edu/hours#fine-arts](https://www.library.virginia.edu/hours#fine-arts)  
   The library is just adjacent to the A-school. It provides research support and collections for the Schools of Architecture, Art History, Archaeology, and the Classics Department.

3. **The Clemons Library**  
   [https://www.library.virginia.edu/hours#clemons](https://www.library.virginia.edu/hours#clemons)  
   Another library that near the A-school, and the second floor of Clemons Library houses the Dathel and John Georges Student Center. The space contains large study areas and reservable rooms for groups.

4. **Special Collections**  
   [https://www.library.virginia.edu/special-collections/](https://www.library.virginia.edu/special-collections/)  
   The Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library holds more than 16 million objects including manuscripts, archival records, rare books, maps, broadsides, photographs, audio and video recordings and more.
MATERIAL SHOP
MATERIAL SHOPS

Students in the School of Architecture will need to purchase some of their own materials for drawing and model-making. However, before you buy common materials, check the studios for discarded

1. Local options

1. Michael’s craft supply store: [https://www.michaels.com/](https://www.michaels.com/)
   Limited selection of materials at the store next to UVA, but you can order online for them to ship to the store.

2. UVA Bookstore: walkable from A-school, provides frequently used materials like sketchbooks, pens, cardboards, acrylic, clay, etc

3. Walmart: [https://www.walmart.com/](https://www.walmart.com/)
   Lots of useful materials in School Supplies and Crafts category.

4. Martin Hardware: [https://www.martinhardwareinc.com/](https://www.martinhardwareinc.com/)
   You can get lots of interesting modeling materials here like woodboards, wires, screws, paints, etc

2. Online options:

1. Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/](https://www.amazon.com/)
   You know how this works. There’s also an Amazon locker at the Whole Foods store.

2. DickBlick : [https://www.dickblick.com/](https://www.dickblick.com/)
   A massive art supply store that sells most things you could want in packs and as individual pieces, in multiple sizes and colors.

   A stationery store that ships from Japan, excellent source of specialty pens, pencils, and notebooks.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ACADEMIC HELP

1. Center of American English Language & Culture
   This center has many programs to help students practice speaking English and get writing help on essays or papers. If you have a spouse or family member in Charlottesville who could also use English speaking practice, their website has links to local English learning resources.

2. International Center
   There are free English as a Second Language group classes available to students and non-students. https://internationalcenter.virginia.edu/english-language-programs https://internationalcenter.virginia.edu/resources

3. Notetaking
   If you find it difficult to follow a teacher’s lecture because of unfamiliar vocabulary or how fast they speak, you may apply for a notetaker through the Accessible Learning site here: https://yukon.accessiblelearning.com/Virginia/applicationstudent.aspx

4. Disability Accomodations
   If you have a learning disability or suspect you may have difficulty with class work for some other reason, check out the Student Disability Access Center for guidance on how to request accommodations like extra time on an exam or permission to record a class lecture. https://studenthealth.virginia.edu/sdac
STUDENT HEALTH
STUDENT HEALTH

1. **Insurance**
The Aetna student health insurance offered by the university covers routine checkups and tests. See the UVA website [https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/international-students](https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/international-students) for more details on insurance requirements.

2. **Medical services**
Once you have insurance, you can sign up for medical appointments through [https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/medical-services](https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/medical-services).

For a list of other health resources including basic needs, alcohol, birth control, and gender-affirming care, visit [https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/health-links-and-information](https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/health-links-and-information).

3. **Mental health services**
The School of Architecture has a free short-term therapist available to help students with managing academic stress and anxiety. You can schedule a 30-minute phone assessment in one of three ways:

   - Email Dr. Berry at rb7mb@virginia.edu with your availability on Mondays and Thursdays (8am-5pm) or Tuesdays (12-5pm).
   - Schedule an initial assessment at [https://www.healthyhoos.virginia.edu/hhoos](https://www.healthyhoos.virginia.edu/hhoos)
   - Call the CAPS front desk at 434-243-5150 to schedule an appointment.

4. **Emergency**
For emergency medical or emotional problems, call 911 or the University Hospital Emergency Department at 434.924.2231.
1. **Gyms**

   UVA has four indoor gyms, and you can check their locations and hours here:

   [https://recsports.virginia.edu](https://recsports.virginia.edu)
   - North Grounds Rec Center
   - Aquatic & Fitness Center
   - Memorial Gymnasium
   - Slaughter Rec Center

   During the semester, your student fees cover gym access and some free exercise classes at UVA. Some group training classes are between $30-85 per semester. There are also free online-only classes like yoga that you can join over Zoom. During the summers, you must take a summer class to have gym access without buying a membership. Check out classes and the gym schedule here: [https://recsports.virginia.edu/group-fitness](https://recsports.virginia.edu/group-fitness).

2. **COVID-19**

   Precautions are changing, so you can call ahead of time or check the website to make sure you can go to the gym. Some indoor facilities have required sign-ups online to maintain social distancing.

3. **Intramurals**

   If you want to play team sports recreationally, you can sign up for Intramural Sports. Signups start August 16. [https://recsports.virginia.edu/intramural-sports](https://recsports.virginia.edu/intramural-sports)

4. **Outdoor recreation**

   UVA is surrounded by hiking trails. Use the website or phone app [AllTrails](https://www.alltrails.com) to see reviews and hiking difficulty of different trails. The UVA Outdoors Club sponsors camping trips and other adventures, and you can find out more here: [https://outdoorsatuva.org/](https://outdoorsatuva.org/)
JOBS
1. **Off-campus jobs**

As an international student, you may or may not choose to work in the U.S. Even if you don’t need a job for financial reasons, it will probably benefit your resume and education to have an internship during the summer. The Career Services website lists all the resources UVA provides for helping international students seek jobs in the U.S. and find employers who sponsor HB-1 visa students.

[https://career.virginia.edu/resources-diverse-populations/international-students](https://career.virginia.edu/resources-diverse-populations/international-students)

2. **On-campus jobs**

If you want to work at the university as a student worker during the semester or over the summer, check your email a month before the beginning of the semester for an email by Sneha Patel on upcoming jobs within the School of Architecture. Student research assistantship (SRA) or instructional assistantship (SIA) positions within the school are usually easier to get than jobs outside the university and pay between $12-17/hour.

For Fall 2021, find one list of jobs here: [https://www.arch.virginia.edu/resources/student-assistantship-positions/fall-2021-call-for-applications](https://www.arch.virginia.edu/resources/student-assistantship-positions/fall-2021-call-for-applications)

If you become a student worker, consider joining the United Campus Workers UVA student union. The union petitions for higher hourly wages, clearer employment contracts, and better health benefits for student workers. Contact Carmen Wright (cw3vy@virginia.edu) for more information.
Main Members

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