

Pitt Grad Student Survival Guide

Updated on May 5, 2023

Welcome

Welcome to Pitt! Here is a list of resources that may be useful to you during your period as a graduate student in the Department of Music. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it intends to be as comprehensive as possible. If you have tips or information that you believe should be on this list, please let the chair of the DEI committee know. If you're not sure who that is, you can ask any of the full-time faculty.

Emergency Resources

On Campus:

On Campus emergencies (answers 24 hours): 412-624-2121

Campus Police non-emergency number: 412-624-4040 (you can use this number if you want the police to come and open a room for you after hours, for example). <https://www.police.pitt.edu/>

Panther Central (To report maintenance issues, answers 24 hours): 412-648-1100. <https://www.pc.pitt.edu/>

SafeRider Service: 412-648-2255. <https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services/saferider>

Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE): 412-648-7856.

<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/share/>

Student Conduct Office: 412-648-7910. <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/conduct/>

Title IX Office: Title IX assists in responding to and addressing reports of harassment and all types of discrimination. 412-648-7860. <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance>

University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930. <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cc/>

Student Health Center: 412- 383-1800. If you need a doctor in a non-emergency situation, call the Student Health Center. They do walk-ins and appointments and are much cheaper than going to the ER.

<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/>

In Pittsburgh:

Police, ambulance, and other types of emergencies: 911

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape: 1-866-363-7273

Center for Victims: 412-392-8582

Magee-Women's Hospital (ER): 412-641-4933

UPMC Presbyterian (ER): 412-647-3333. Go to the ER only in case of accident or extreme urgency.

The Student Health Center is equipped to help in most non-emergency medical situations, and they also offer vaccinations and tests:

Vaccination and Health Connection Hub:

<https://www.safety.pitt.edu/pitt-vaccination-and-health-connection-hub>

Student Health Center: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/appointment/>

Community Resources

Places of Worship:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/religious-resources/local-places-worship>

Disabilities Support:

You can request accommodations, apply for services and know more about your rights by following this link: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services>

LGBTQIA+ Resources:

The official Pitt page for LGBTQIA+ student resources: <https://www.lgbtq.pitt.edu/>

Diversity and Inclusion office: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/dean/diversity/>

Information about student resources (Pantry, wellness, emergency, Title IX, mental health resources): <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/>

Important Information for International Students: The Office of International Services (OIS) is responsible for processing your immigration documents. However, each international student is responsible for maintaining their status while in the US. You must be enrolled in at least 9 credits each semester to maintain your status, and you must communicate with OIS if you change your address. Also, you must keep all your I-20s, even if they are expired. You are authorized to work 20 hours a week at the university. If you want to apply for a job or internship outside the university you will have to apply for a CPT (Curricular Practical Training, short-term), but that usually takes time off your OPT (Optional Practical Training – 12 months). Talk to your immigration specialist, they know the best option for you. You can work full-time (40 hours/week) during the summer without applying for a CPT, if you work at the university (any job, it does not have to be related to your degree). However, you must speak with the specialist before you do. Work outside the university may be also authorized during the summer, on a case-by-case basis. You can find your specialist here: <https://www.ois.pitt.edu/about-us/whoismyis/>. More info about the OIS on this link: <https://www.ois.pitt.edu/>

Resources for Hispanic and Latinx students:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/hispanic-or-latinx-resources>

Resources for Asian American and Pacific Islander students:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/asian-american-and-pacific-islander-resources>

Resources for Black students:

Afro-American Music Institute: Engaging youth in the practice, theory, and knowledge of Afro American musical contributions to the world. 7131 Hamilton Ave. 412-241-6775.

<https://www.afroamericanmusic.org/>

The August Wilson African American Cultural Center: The August Wilson African American Cultural Center is a U.S. nonprofit arts organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that presents performing and visual arts programs that celebrate the contributions of African Americans not only in Western Pennsylvania, but nationally and internationally. 980 Liberty Avenue. <https://awaacc.org/>

Pittsburgh Black Music Festival: Fantastic free cultural event happening every summer in downtown

Black and African American Resources at Pitt:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/black-and-african-american-resource>

On Campus

Campus map

This interactive map will help you move around campus: <https://www.map.pitt.edu/>. It has the addresses to all buildings on campus, medical resources, bike stations and shuttle buses (with complete itineraries). Just click on the stop name to know where to get on the bus.

Where to eat

On campus:

Cathedral of Learning, ground floor. Several options of to-go meals or restaurants. Info: <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/cathedral-cafe>

William Pitt Union, ground floor: Schenley Café: <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/schenley-cafe>

Litchfield Towers: The Eatery: <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/the-eatery>

Forbes Street Market. On Forbes Avenue, across from Hillman and the Barco Law Building: <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/forbes-street-market>

Other dining halls (walking distance from the Music building, or easily reachable by shuttle): <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt>

Off Campus but within walking distance:

There are many restaurants on Craig Street, Schenley Plaza, Forbes Avenue and Fifth Avenue. These are not all the options, as there are more on Oakland Avenue and vicinity. All are walking distance from the Music building. Just type the name of the restaurant on Google Maps and you will quickly find it.

On Craig Street: Quiznos, Union Grill, Lucca Ristorante, Ali Baba, Sushi Fuku, Lulu's Noodles, Little Asia, Yuva Indian Kitchen, Patron Pronto, Chikn, Pad Thai Noodle, Subway, Rose Tea Café Express, Crepes Parisiennes, EatUnique, Rumi Grill House, All India.

On Forbes Avenue: Piada Italian Street Food, Roots Natural Kitchen, Primanti Bros, Stack'd, Noodles and Company, Pamela's, Forbes Gyro, CHiKN, Noodle House, Hello Bistro, The Colombian Spot, Chipotle, Viva los Tacos, The Halal Guys, Asia Tea House (on Schenley Plaza), the Porch (on Schenley Plaza), Hemingway's Café.

On Oakland Avenue: Fuel and Fuddle (open late hours), Oishi Bento, Chick-n Grille, Wild Ninja Asian Grill, Szechuan Express, Chickn' Bubbly, Atarashi, Mount Everest Sushi, Las Palmas (restaurant and Latino market), Pie Express.

On Fifth Avenue: Moe's Southwest Grill, Mala Hotpot, Prince of India, Sculli's Pizza, Halal Pitt, Shah's Halal (food trucks).

There are many other options not listed here. Walk around Oakland and you may find a favorite spot. There are also several food trucks that park on Fifth Avenue, in front of Alumni Hall or close to Ruskin Avenue.

Coffee shops/kiosks: The **closest place to get a coffee** is in the Information Sciences building. It is located on Bellefield Ave, behind the Music building. Just walk up the street. The Information Science is the first building on your left, passing the Music building parking lot and the dorms. There is also Starbucks (N. Craig St, Forbes Ave, Cathedral of Learning ground floor), Dunkin' Donuts (Forbes Ave), and the university has a list of coffee shops around campus: <https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/coffee-shops>

Study Places

Hillman Library: ground floor, 3rd and 4th floors. You can reserve a study room or lab at: <https://pitt.libcal.com/>. The schedule fills up really quick, so reserve your room on the website at least a week before the time you want.

Music building: 3rd floor lounge. Also, we have a Grad office that is located on the 2nd floor. You can access it by swiping your Panther Card. There are computers and storage space in the office, but do not leave your instruments or bags on the floor, the office is small. Make sure the door is closed when you leave.

Alumni Hall: there is a study lounge on the ground floor. You can also use the computers and printers in the Computing Lab in the basement (**these printers are the closest to the Music building**).

Cathedral of Learning: ground floor (Commons Room), 35th floor (Honors College), Nationality Rooms.

You can also sit on the lawn outside during the warmer months.

William Pitt Union: 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th, main and ground floor study lounges. There is also outside seating on Bigelow Blvd and on Fifth Avenue. Room 524 (5th floor) is the Graduate Lounge, reserved for graduate students only.

Frick Fine Arts Library, across Schenley Plaza.

Petersen Events Center: the 2nd floor has plenty of seating and it is quiet after lunch hours.

Wesley Posvar Hall: all floors have study rooms or lounges.

Bellefield Hall: there is a study lounge on the second floor.

Carnegie Library (across from Hillman on Schenley Plaza). The Music Room on the 2nd floor (up the stairs to the left) has a lot of interesting resources. You can borrow CDs, DVDs, magazines, books, and a few musical instruments. Do yourself a favor and get a Library card asap, the Carnegie sometimes holds books/resources that are not available at Hillman. And if you want to relax you can borrow the complete seasons of your favorite show. The library also has a coffee shop on the ground floor (to the right).

Almost all the buildings around campus have one or more study lounges.

Some people like to study at the Phipps Conservatory (1 Schenley Drive). There are no study rooms or lounges, but Phipps offers limited seating and a quiet (and very beautiful) environment, making it a perfect spot for reading. In the summer you can also study or relax on the hill across from Phipps (Flagstaff Hill).

Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, The Café Carnegie (inside the Carnegie Museum of Art): these coffee shops offer seating and wi-fi and are within walking distance from the Music building.

There are also many other coffee shops around Pittsburgh. Neighborhoods offer different options of coffee shops with Wi-Fi. Your options are Starbucks (Squirrel Hill, Oakland, Shadyside, Bakery Square, and many others), Yinz Coffee (North Side, East Liberty, Bloomfield), Commonplace Coffee (Point Breeze, Squirrel Hill, North Side), 61C Coffee (Squirrel Hill), Big Dog Coffee (South Side), Biddle's Escape (Edgewood/Wilkinsburg), Adda Coffee (North Shore, Shadyside), and many others. Type "coffee shop with wi-fi near me" on Google Maps and you will see plenty of suggestions.

Where to get your Panther Card

Get your Panther card as soon as possible. You will use it as your ID, to access all buildings on campus, as your PRT card and to pay for meals, in case you want to use campus dining services. You can get your card at the Panther Central office, inside the Litchfield Towers lobby. Refer to FAQs in this link:

<https://www.pc.pitt.edu/panther-card/faq>

The Music Department

Link to the Grad Handbook:

Read the Grad Handbook! It has vital information about your degree:

<https://www.music.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Music%20Graduate%20Handbook%20of%20Rules%20and%20Policies%2010-15-2020.pdf>

People to know in the Department of Music:

Department phone number: 412-624-4126. Email: musicdpt@pitt.edu

For general questions about your degree, graduation dates, paperwork related to grad studies or to pass around emails that are of interest to the student community: Ian A. Bennett: iab5@pitt.edu

Department coordinator: Philip Thompson: concerts@pitt.edu

Concert info, schedule, social media, Pitt website, communications: Robert Frankenberry: mf11@pitt.edu

Library: Jim Cassaro. Ask Jim about collections, where to find information and how to use library resources. He also knows who to refer you to outside the Department of Music, and how to make the best of your time when using the University Library System: cassaro@pitt.edu

Director of Graduate Studies: Michael Heller is the DGS for the 22-23 AY: michael.heller@pitt.edu

Department Chair: Adriana Helbig: anh59@pitt.edu

MGSO: Music Graduate Student Association. Works on establishing a communication channel between students, faculty, the DGS and Chair; holds a biannual department conference; offers travel grants to professional meetings/conferences outside Pittsburgh. Contact: mgsa@pitt.edu or president for the 23/24 AY, Hannah Strong: has189@pitt.edu

For more information about staff, faculty and graduate students (emails, bios, area of research): <https://www.music.pitt.edu/people/people>

For more information that is specific to your research track (Composition, Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Jazz Studies): <https://www.music.pitt.edu/graduate>

Facilities:

The Music building has classrooms, offices, practice rooms (on the ground floor), an Electronic Music Studio, Ethnomusicology Lab, among others. Read the complete information here: <https://www.music.pitt.edu/about/facilities>

Practice Rooms: located on the basement floor, first come first serve, use your ID card to enter.

Lockers: located on the basement floor. Keep an eye for the signs or ask directly in the office about how to get a locker at the beginning of the AY. There are also instrument lockers on Bellefield Hall, 3rd floor

(for cellos, basses, or other larger instruments). These are located on the 3rd floor and are used mainly by members of the Pitt Symphony. Ask Roger Zahab about them.

Instruments available for grad student use: there are basses, a piano, and percussion instruments available at Bellefield Hall. Also, if you are a member of an ensemble, larger instruments (piano, the gamelan, a drum set) are available for you to rehearse and perform at the trailer behind the Music building.

Pianos: available in classrooms and practice rooms. Available to all students when there are no classes happening in the room.

Ensembles that you can participate in:

African Music and Dance ensemble, Afropop ensemble, Heinz Chapel Choir, Women's Choral Ensemble, Men's Glee Club, University Gamelan, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz ensemble. Auditions happen usually during the first week of classes in the Fall. Read the complete information here:

<https://www.music.pitt.edu/performance-and-lecture-series/ensembles>

Other teaching and performance spaces: large lecture classes are held in classrooms in the Cathedral of Learning and David Lawrence Hall. The Stephen Foster Memorial houses the library and museum of the Center for American Music. Concerts by the Heinz Chapel Choir and Bach and the Baroque are held in Heinz Memorial Chapel. We also make use of the chamber music and lecture hall in the Frick Fine Arts Building. Talk to Robert Frankenberry if you want to rent out these spaces (see his email address above).

Public Events:

The Annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert: an annual event that hosts great names in the jazz scene for master classes, workshops, lectures and a concert: <https://www.jazz.pitt.edu/seminar>

MOTE: Music on the Edge series: concert series dedicated to the performance of contemporary music. <https://www.music.pitt.edu/mote>.

Microtonal Music Festival: co-presented with the Andy Warhol Museum. Concerts and symposia by leading performers, composers and theorists of microtonal music: <https://www.warhol.org/events/sound-series-beyond-microtonal-music-festival-featuring-ray-kallay-duo-and-mikroensemble/>

Concerts: all the ensembles cited above perform regularly on campus. Tickets are usually free for Pitt students with ID. Some events may require pre-registration. More information: <https://www.music.pitt.edu/performance-and-lecture-series/ensembles> or on the Pitt Events Calendar: <https://calendar.pitt.edu/>

Visiting Scholar Series: Each semester the Department of Music presents visiting scholars who are leaders in their fields. All lectures are free and open to the Pitt community. <https://www.music.pitt.edu/visiting-scholars>

Department social media:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzhaYWy3kDp19c8mskKBMlg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/musicatpitt/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/musicatpitt/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/musicatpitt>

Soundcloud (recorded performances and podcast): <https://soundcloud.com/user-387639231>

Podcast: <https://www.music.pitt.edu/podcast>

University of Pittsburgh Music Archives:

Theodore M. Finney Music Library: Located on the lower level in the Music building. Houses a research level collection that supports the graduate programs in composition and theory, ethnomusicology, and musicology.

The Center for American Music: library, museum, and research center on music from the United States. Located at the Stephen Foster Memorial. Visits by appointment only. 412-624-4100 or more info at: <https://sites.pitt.edu/~amerimus/Museum.htm>

Sonny Rollins International Jazz Archive: contains video and audio tapes of more than 30 years of the department's annual Jazz Seminar and Concert.

The Erroll Garner Archive: The collection is managed by and housed at Pitt's Archives Service Center, an archival facility well-versed in dealing with large and complex collections, which is part of Pitt's Archives & Special Collections. More information: <https://pitt.libguides.com/ErrollGarner>

The Hillman Library: The Hillman is the main library in the University Library System, which connects all libraries on campus. It is not a musical archive per se, but it holds books, sound recordings and other materials that may be useful for music graduate students.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh: Not only is this a great public library available to you for membership, but it also has a nice reading room off Schenley Plaza with a coffee shop (Yinz Coffee). It also has a music reading room and a lending library of musical instruments such as synths, mixers, pedals, sequencers, and recording equipment. Check it out at <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/services/music-resources/musical-instrument-lending-library-2/>

TA's/GSAs/Fellowships:

The Department of Music offers funding for five years for each graduate student. This funding may be a fellowship appointment (with no need to commit to working/teaching at the department) or a TA (Teaching Assistant) or TF (Teaching Fellow) appointment. Students receiving TA/TF appointments will teach one or more classes during the semester, working up to 20 hours a week. The department also has GSA (Graduate Student Assistant) positions for each area (Comp/Theory, Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Jazz Studies). Students who receive this type of appointment will work by giving support to professors in their area. More information on funding stipends and policies:

<https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/funding/stipends> or at:

<https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/financial-support/teaching-and-research-appointments-tatfsgsgr>

Funding

The department offers yearly fellowships (Mellon, Gutierrez, A&S, Provost's Humanities). All grad students can apply for these fellowships (some may require you to be ABD, but others do not, read the announcements carefully). Announcements go out around the first week of November. More info: <https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/financial-support/fellowships-internal>. Since funding is guaranteed by the school for five years, students can apply for these fellowships up to their fourth year in the program.

Page of the Graduate Studies office with links to several external funding opportunities:

<https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/funding/external-funding-opportunities>

Humanities Engage:

Immersive Dissertation research Fellowship:

<https://www.humanitiescareers.pitt.edu/annual-funding-competitions-immersive-dissertation-research-fellowships>

Pitch Your Own Immersive Fellowship:

<https://www.humanitiesengage.pitt.edu/pitch-your-own-immersive-fellowship-2022-2023>

For ABD students:

Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship for Historically Underrepresented Doctoral Students. The goal of the Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship for Historically Underrepresented Doctoral Students is to support Underrepresented Racial Minority (URM)* students who are underrepresented in their field and whose racial/ethnic background contributes to the diversity of their program and field. The University of Pittsburgh uses the term Underrepresented Racial Minority (URM) to refer to students who identify as Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or two or more of these races. International students or students in their fifth year in the program are eligible for this fellowship.

<https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/funding/pitt-funding-opportunities/provosts-dissertation-year-fellowship-historically#:~:text=The%20goal%20of%20the%20Provost's,of%20their%20program%20and%20field>

External funding:

Pivot: <https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/funding/external-funding-opportunities>

There are also external funding opportunities (dissertation fellowships) from AMS, SAM, SEM and SMT. These fellowships are very competitive, but you should check all of them; sometimes the AMS may have opportunities for composers, SAM may have grants for musicologists, and vice versa.

AMS: https://www.amsmusicology.org/page/ongoing_grants#

SAM: <https://www.american-music.org/page/AwardOverview>

SEM: https://www.ethnomusicology.org/page/Prizes_Home

SMT: <https://societymusictheory.org/grants>

Summer Fellowships (2nd and 3rd Years):

There is no summer funding for 1st year students (unless you have an Irvis fellowship), but you can get an A&S Summer Research Fellowship during your 2nd and 3rd years in the program. Keep an eye for the announcements (emails) going out around the first or second week of March. All grad students in the department can apply for the A&S summer research fellowship. Funding can be used for travel, lodging, per diem or eventual expenses, or to develop a composition/project during the summer. To know more about the Irvis and other fellowships, go to <https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/financial-support/fellowships□internal>.

Other types of summer funding:

A&S GSO Summer Research Award. \$500 award for research trips/dissertation completion (not for travel to conferences): <http://pre.asgso.pitt.edu/awards-and-grants/summer-research-grant/>

A&S Summer Research Fellowship: Awarded by the Music department to students in their second year and up. Check for email announcements around mid-March! Award is up to \$ 3000.

The Nationality Rooms offer summer funding for research. **International students cannot apply for these scholarships.** More info at: <https://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/opportunities/scholarships>

Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) Graduate Student Field Research Grants. For research related to Latin American topics. Open to students enrolled in their certificate. https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/grad_field_research

Humanities Center Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship. This is a very competitive program (the stipend for Summer 2023 was \$10,000), and it awards multidisciplinary works related to the Humanities and to an annual theme chosen by the HC. More info: <https://www.humcenter.pitt.edu/graduate-student-summer-research-fellowship>

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Program (FLAS). Offers yearly or summer funding for US nationals who want to learn a foreign language outside the US. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf/eligibility.html>

Humanities Engage. Offers several types of summer funding (fellowships, scholarships, internships). International students may need to apply for an OPT/CPT for these opportunities. More info: <https://www.humanitiescareers.pitt.edu/funding-opportunities/phd-students>

Other Graduate certificates outside the music department may offer summer funding, or even yearly fellowships. Every student enrolled in one of these certificates (Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Asian Studies, African Studies etc) is eligible for these programs. Speak with the specialist from the department where you are getting the certificate. The Center for African Studies has a page with information on some of these funding opportunities: <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/fellowships-funding>

Summer jobs on campus – How to get a summer job on/off campus if you are an international student:

Look for positions and apply for summer jobs on campus on the Talent Center page: https://cfopitt.taleo.net/careersection/pitt_temp_external/jobsearch.ftl?lang=en&portal=16100023232%20

If you are an international student, you can apply for a summer job using the same link. However, there are additional requirements. Review the “Important Information for International Students” section for more information, or talk to your OIS liaison.

Travel grants (to go to conferences):

A&S GSO travel grants. Read all the prerequisites and pre-apply here: <http://pre.asgso.pitt.edu/awards-and-grants/travel-grant/travel-grant/>

GPSG travel grant: <https://www.pittgpsg.com/travel-grants>

Some certificates also offer travel grants for conference participation. Talk to your advisor in that department and ask them more information: each department has a different procedure, and they will be able to guide you during your application.

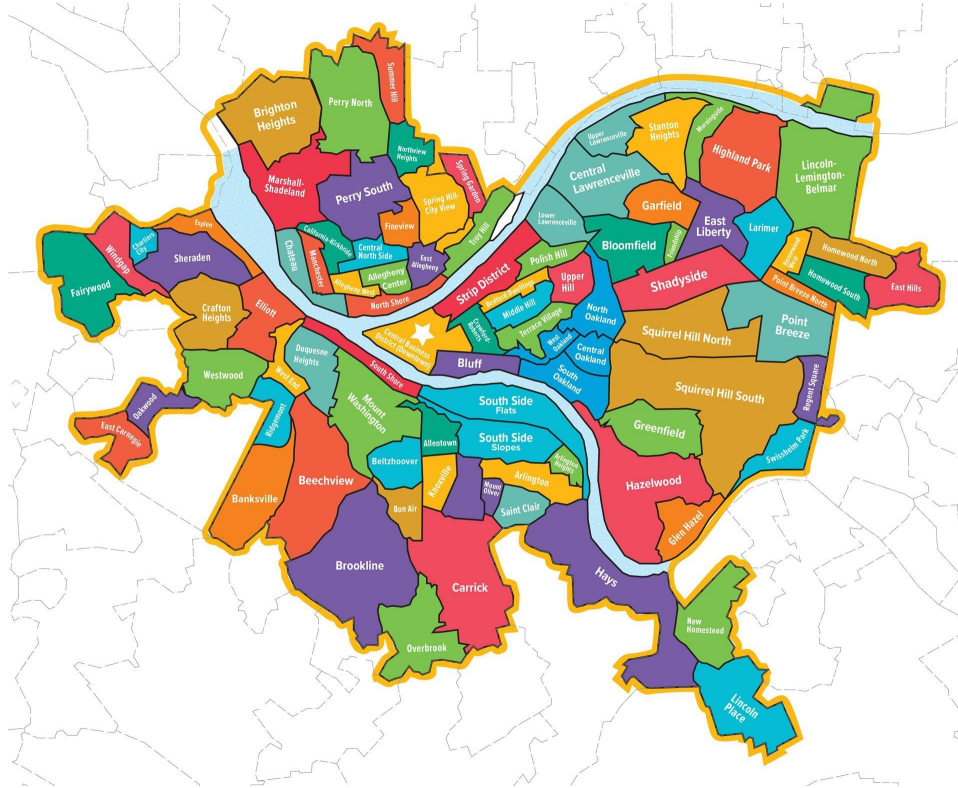
AMS/SMT/SEM: Check on the conference website if the organization offers travel grants. Please do it as soon as you receive the notice of approval of your paper, as these options are limited and application deadlines happen much earlier than the conferences. Another option is to volunteer to work at the conference, as some organizations waive registration fees for volunteers.

Info on grant writing workshops, research funding and procedures:

Pitt Research Navigator: <https://www.research.pitt.edu/pitt-research-navigator>

Where to Live?

Pittsburgh's 25 neighborhoods:



Neighborhoods that are convenient to Pitt students (regarding transportation options): Oakland, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, East Liberty, Greenfield, South Side, Highland Park, Bloomfield, Friendship. Each neighborhood has a distinctive character and vibe, so it is recommended that you come to Pittsburgh to try to look for apartments or roommates in person before the beginning of the AY, if you can. Also, email colleagues in the program and ask for tips, one of them may be letting go of their lease and you may take it over.

High crime areas in the city include neighborhoods like Homewood, Uptown, the Hill District and parts of the South Side. However, keep in mind that Pittsburgh was rated as the second safest and most affordable city to live in in the US in 2021, so overall you will feel (and be) safe. Just be aware of your surroundings when walking alone and remember to lock your doors/windows at night.

How to find listings:

Pitt's official Off-Campus Housing Marketplace:

https://listings.oel.pitt.edu/listing?gclid=CjwKCAjw682TBhATEiwA9cr131pKLP-XVXHF2yGB9DaKhfTh4txZ5X2SeufeSE4UheDxRXEbjyIcWxoCKDwQAvD_BwE

Craigslist: Looking for housing on Craigslist is safe in general, but if it looks too good to be true, maybe it is too good to be true! Ask as many questions as you can about the listing you are interested in, and search for property owner reputation on Google (if the renter is not a company).

<https://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/search/hhh>. Another easy way to protect yourself against scammers is to look for the property on Google Maps: street view will show you if the listing is real or not.

Facebook Marketplace: many opportunities for finding housing or roommates. Just go to Filters and type Pittsburgh, PA, to see listings in the area (even if you are not in PA). Use the same discretion you would use for a Craigslist listing.

Facebook groups: University of Pittsburgh (PITT) Housing, Sublets, and Roommates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/472437623292131>. Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Housing, Sublet and Roommates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206101910004393>

Commercial websites: <https://www.apartments.com/>, www.zillow.com, www.apartmentlist.com, www.trulia.com

Landlord experiences:

Reputable landlords and real estate managers in Pittsburgh, PA:

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=private+landlords&find_loc=Pittsburgh%2C+PA,

<https://www.rentcollegepads.com/blog/campus/carnegie-mellon-university/carnegie-mellon-university-off-campus-housing-10-top-rated-pittsburgh-landlords/>, or

<https://www.expertise.com/pa/pittsburgh/property-management>.

Mozart Management is on the Yelp list, but many students in the program had issues with this company. They are slow to act regarding building and apartment maintenance, and some students reported not having hot water, heat, or electricity in their apartments for days. In case you want to check your landlord before you close the deal, Google “is XXXX legit” and you will find information about them. Also, you can refer to the Landlord Watchlist to know which ones to avoid:

<https://landlordwatchpa.org/wall-of-shame/#allegheeny>

Tenant rights in Pittsburgh:

Tenant rights in Pittsburgh follow PA state law. Find more information here:

<https://www.avail.co/education/laws/pennsylvania-landlord-tenant-law>

Transportation

Free Bus, T (light rail), and Inclines: Ride Pittsburgh Regional Transit fare-free with your Panther Card (Pitt ID). Any time, weekdays or weekends. Buses are the most common form of public transportation, and you simply scan the card at the reader when you enter the front of the bus. You can also download the PRT app on your phone and pay with your cell phone, if you don't have your Pitt ID with you yet. You can ask the bus driver if you have questions.

Find information about routes here: <https://www.rideprt.org/> or here: https://www.rideprt.org/all-schedules/#Bus_Schedules_section

Use the True Time tool to find how long it is going to take for your bus to arrive. Access it here <http://truetime.rideprt.org/home> or text the bus stop number (the number on the top right corner of the bus stop sign) to **41411** to receive a text with the next buses arriving at that stop. Tip: during the colder months, you can text the bus stop number or access True Time before leaving your apartment to avoid a long wait in the cold.

Your free Pittsburgh Regional Transit rides include:

1. The Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines (remember this when friends and family visit)
2. The T light rail or subway
3. The 28X bus that runs between Pittsburgh International Airport and Oakland. The 28X also stops downtown and runs through the Robinson Township shopping area (it stops right in front of Ikea, if you need some furniture).

Pitt shuttle buses: track them at <https://www.pittshuttle.com/routes>. Click on the shuttle line to see a map of all stops around campus and to see your shuttle in real time. More options here: <https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services>

DisAbility shuttle: <https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services/disability-shuttle>. Submit a Disability Shuttle Eligibility Form here:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services/resources/campus-transportation>

Safe Rider: evening and early morning special transportation. Info:

<https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services/saferider>

Transit apps: After the pandemic, buses in Pittsburgh became a little less reliable. They may arrive a few minutes earlier or later than the scheduled time. To make sure your bus is arriving, there are several apps you can download to your phone. Two of the more reliable ones are Transit and Moovit. When used in combination with the True Time tool or the 41411-text tool, they will show exactly how long you will have to wait for your bus.

Lyft, Uber, and Cab: download the apps to your phone to have the option of riding with Lyft or Uber. Just keep in mind that fares go up during early mornings on weekdays, due to increased demand. Cab/taxi services: zTrip – 412-777-7777; Classy Cab – 412-322-5080; Steel City Black Car Service/Taxi - 412-733-8480. Find more options here:

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Cab+Companies&find_loc=Pittsburgh%2C+PA

You can also rent a car per day: <https://www.zipcar.com/>

Personal Transit (bikes/scooters): There are bike lanes in all main streets/avenues around campus. See information about how to register your bike and find parking around campus here:

<https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/biking>. You can also rent a bike on campus. See how to do it here:

<https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/pogoh>.

There is also the option of renting an electric scooter (e-scooter) on campus and in select neighborhoods around Pittsburgh. Go to <https://www.spin.app/> to learn where to find and how to rent them, or download the app (Spin) to your mobile phone. Learn more about the rules for your scooter ride here:

<https://move-pgh.com/blog/wheretoridescooterspgh>. Always wear a helmet!

Car Repair: there are many options for car repairs in neighborhoods like Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, South Side and others. Here are a few suggestions:

https://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=autorepair&find_loc=Pittsburgh%2C+PA. In case you prefer more personalized suggestions from people living in Pittsburgh for a longer time, you can join the Nextdoor group in your neighborhood and ask your neighbors. Join Nextdoor here: www.nextdoor.com.

Parking: There are parking meters around campus, as well as parking lots. You may purchase a permit to enter some of the parking lots or pay only for the time you need to park on campus. Find more info here:

<https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/parking> or

<https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/parking/permits/student-parking-permits> for student permits.

Parking apps: You can pay for parking using your credit/debit card at the street meters or from your cell phone, using apps like ParkMobile, Meter Feeder and Flowbird. Just download them to your phone and add a payment method. It is especially useful to have at least one of these downloaded to your phone: you can add time to your parking remotely if your class/lesson/rehearsal is taking a little longer than expected.

More info on campus mobility: <https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility>

Shopping

Pitt Food Pantry:

If you are in a situation of food insecurity, the University has a food pantry where you can get food for free every other week. The pantry is located at the O'Hara Student Center, on upper campus. More info and schedule here: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittserves/the-pitt-pantry/>

Farmers Markets:

Several neighborhoods have farmers markets during the warmer months, and in case they happen indoors, all year round. Some suggestions here: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/events/farmers-market> and here: <https://goodfoodpittsburgh.com/pennsylvania-farmers-markets-2022/>

Grocery chains:

The most popular place to get groceries in the city is Giant Eagle. There are stores in Squirrel Hill, Greenfield, Homestead (at the Waterfront shopping center), and many other locations. Store locator: <https://www.gianteagle.com/store-locator>

Market District (also part of the same store chain) is a bit more upscale and offers more grocery options than Giant Eagle. Stores on Center Avenue, the Water Works (Freeport Rd), and other locations outside Pittsburgh. Store locator: <https://www.marketdistrict.com/store-locator/find-a-store>

If you are on a budget, shop at Aldi. Good and varied produce selection and discount products in all sections. Stores on Baum Blvd, East Carson Street, Penn Avenue, or at 8th Avenue, in Homestead. Store locator: <https://www.aldi.us/stores/en-us/Search?SingleSlotGeo=Pittsburgh>

Trader Joe's: 6343 Penn Avenue, close to Bakery Square. <https://locations.traderjoes.com/pa/pittsburgh/>

Whole Foods: 5700 Penn Ave. Natural and organic grocery items. www.wholefoodsmarket.com

Target: grocery and household items, clothing, electronics and more. Stores in East Liberty and in Homestead (at the Waterfront). Store locator: <https://www.target.com/store-locator/find-stores>

Individual markets:

Latino: Las Palmas. 326 Atwood Street (walking distance from campus). 412-682-1115.

Asian: Panda Supermarket. 5816 Forbes Ave. 412-409-4430.

Ukrainian: Natalyia European Food. 4370 Murray Ave. 412-421-2380.

Indian: Bombay Food Market. 4605 Centre Ave. 412-687-7100.

Korean: Seoul Mart. 4701 Fifth Avenue. 412-622-7313.

Japanese: Tokyo Japanese Food Store. 5855 Ellsworth Ave. 412-661-3777.

Kosher: Murray Avenue Kosher. 1916 Murray Avenue. 412-421-1015.

These are only a few suggestions closer to campus. You may find more options on Google.

The Strip District:

Several other markets selling Italian, Polish, Chinese, Korean, Latino and other international foods are in the Strip District. Walk around Penn Avenue between 27th and 16th streets to get to know some of these markets or to try some of the best international restaurants in Pittsburgh. Here are some suggestions:

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=international+food+market&find_loc=Pittsburgh%2C+PA.

Pittsburgh Musical Instrument Shops and repairs:

The String Workshop – Bow repair, repairs for orchestral string instruments. 2005 E Carson St. 412-390-0670

Wolkwein’s Music – General repairs for strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments. 138 Industry Drive. 412-788-5900.

Peter Stumpf. Piano tuner. 412-881-3067

Acoustic Music Works – guitar/string instruments repairs. 2142 Murray Ave. 412-422-0710.

Pittsburgh Guitars. 1305 E Carson St. <https://pittsburghguitars.com/>

Furniture:

You can buy new furniture from Ikea. There is only one store in Pittsburgh, but you can order Ikea furniture online and the store will deliver it to you. The store is located close to the International Airport, at Robinson Town Center: 2001 Park Manor Blvd. 888-888-4532, or at

https://www.ikea.com/us/en/stores/pittsburgh/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=map&utm_content=pittsburgh.

Amazon and other websites may also be a good option to purchase furniture as they will deliver it to you, but always verify if you are buying from a trusted website, and how long shipping will take/how much it will cost.

Used furniture:

Facebook Marketplace: find gently used listings from your neighbors for a low price.

Buy Nothing groups in your neighborhood: Buy Nothing are Facebook groups where people donate furniture, clothing, and even food they don't want or will not use to their neighbors. There are also announcements about free furniture left on the curbside (very common during the end of the school year). These groups are local, so you have to search Facebook to join your neighborhood group.

Craigslist: you can refine your search to look for listings around your neighborhood.

Used Books:

Abebooks.com is a single web site that offers used books from a consortium dealer. This is always a good place to look before buying new. Info: <https://www.abebooks.com/>. You can also try Thriftbooks (<https://www.thriftbooks.com>) or Alibris (<https://www.alibris.com/>).

Going Out

Places where you might play music (Jam sessions, open mics, collaborative hangs)

The Government Center. 715 East Street. <https://www.thegovernmentcenter.com/>

Con Alma: 5884 Ellsworth Avenue, 613 Penn Ave (Downtown). Music booking: <https://www.conalmapgh.com/music-booking>

Quantum Spirits: 230 E Main St. Carnegie, PA. <https://quantumspirits.com/>

Kingfly Spirits: 2613 Smallman St. <https://www.kingflyspirits.com/events>

The Pittsburgh Banjo Club: 271 McKinley Ave. <https://www.thepittsburghbanjoclub.com/>

The Space Upstairs: 214 N Lexington St. <https://www.thespaceupstairs.org/events>

Telephone (Open Improv Lab and other events): 5120 Penn Avenue.
<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/telephone/Location?oid=22538611>

Several events and concerts in Pittsburgh are advertised on Facebook. Open the tab “Events” to look for concerts in your area. You may also sign up for the Eventbrite newsletter, as many venues advertise concerts and sell tickets there: <https://www.eventbrite.com>

Pitt Arts:

Program for undergraduate, professional, and graduate students that promotes free museum visits, art encounters, the Artful Wednesdays concert series (at Nordy’s Place, WPU lower level, every Wednesday at noon – free performance and free lunch), and the Cheap Seats program. The museums included in the program are: Mattress Factory, John Heinz History Center, Fort Pitt Museum, Andy Warhol Museum, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall, Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, Carnegie Science Center and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden. All free with Pitt ID during the academic year. **Free Museum Visits are suspended during the Summer and resume in late August for the Fall and Spring Semesters.** More information: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts/freemuseum/>

Cheap Seats:

Program for Pitt students, faculty, and staff with a valid Pitt ID. Buy discounted tickets for performances of the following ensembles/organizations: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh CLO and CLO Cabaret, City Theater, Quantum Theater, PICT Classic Theater, Renaissance & Baroque/Chatham Baroque, and

Calliope: Pittsburgh Folk Music Society. Some tickets are priced as low as \$11. More info and links to purchase tickets: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts/cheapseats/>

City of Asylum:

COA provides sanctuary to endangered writers and artists, and offers free literary, arts, and humanities programs. COA's musical events range from symphonic to jazz, folk, protest music and others. There is also a bookstore and a restaurant on site, making it a great entertainment and cultural option. Events are free but you must reserve tickets online: <https://cityofasylum.org/events/>.

Pittsburgh Cultural District:

In case you want to purchase non-discount tickets, or the show you want to see is not on Cheap Seats: <https://trustarts.org/>

The Frick Pittsburgh:

Museum, park and café. Offers tours of the Clayton Mansion, Car and Carriage Museum (free), and temporary art exhibits (discounted prices for students). Free wi-fi in the premises, which makes it a great place to study outside during the summer. <https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/>

History of Pittsburgh:

If you'd like to learn more about the history of the city, you can visit the Heinz History Center (<https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/>), and Rivers of Steel (<https://riversofsteel.com/>).

Other Entertainment Options:

Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium: 7370 Baker Street. <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/>

Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historical Landmark: offers tours to the furnaces and drive-in movies during the warmer months. <https://riversofsteel.com/attractions/carrie-furnaces/>

Senator John Heinz History Center: museum; one of the best attractions is the "Neighborhoods" exhibit, simulating each of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods (including Mr. Roger's Neighborhood). <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/>

Pittsburgh Public Parks: there are many parks around the city, offering trails, bike trails, and entertainment for children. The parks closest to campus are Schenley Park (across from Phipps Conservatory) and Frick Park (in Squirrel Hill). Highland Park is also a short bus ride away. Learn more about these parks and others at <https://pittsburghparks.org/>.

Riverfront parks: several parks and trails connect Point State Park (downtown) to the Strip District, Oakland, the North Shore, and the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP). Learn more about these trails here: <https://riverlifepgh.org/riverfront-guide/>

Fallingwater: house designed in 1935 by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), now turned into a visitation site, park, museum, and café. Open from March to December, 67.1 miles from Pittsburgh via I-76. <https://fallingwater.org/>

Three Rivers Arts Festival: huge arts and music festival happening during the summer, usually in June. Info:

https://traf.trustarts.org/?gclid=Cj0KCOjwnNyUBhCZARIsAI9AYIHrO6qTmqcvN5yG7zFTeXBI7vGFqQmHHrEP7hZ2rtOe2WjDFoKmvmaAaAt8-EALw_wcB

Juneteenth Freedom Day: music and arts festival in celebration of Juneteenth, in downtown Pittsburgh.

Info: <https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/juneteenth-freedom-day/>

Pittsburgh Black Music Festival: Celebrating the history and heritage of Black music in America. Info:

<https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/pittsburgh-black-music-festival/>

Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival: three-day festival with local, national and international names of Jazz. Info: <https://pittsburghjazzfest.org/>

Movies:

The Manor: neighborhood movie theater in Squirrel Hill. Discount prices during Bargain Wednesdays (all day) and matinees. 1279 Murray Ave. <https://www.manorpg.com/>

Harris Theater: 809 Liberty Ave. International and non-commercial movies.

https://trustarts.org/pct_home/visit/facilities/harris-theater

AMC Waterfront: blockbusters and commercial movies. Discount Tuesdays. At the Waterfront, in Homestead. 300 West Waterfront Dr.

<https://www.amctheatres.com/movie-theatres/pittsburgh/amc-waterfront-22>

Movie Scoop Waterworks Luxury Cinema: blockbusters and commercial movies. 930 Freeport Rd, at the Water Works mall. Discount prices on Mondays (all day). <https://www.moviescoop.com/waterworks>

Row House Cinema: Film Festivals, international and diverse movies. Offers 5- and 10-movie passes. 4115 Butler St. <https://rowhousecinema.com/>

Pitt Sports Events:

Students with ID can purchase tickets to Panther football and men's basketball games at special prices. Other "olympic" sports are either free with student ID or have unrestricted attendance. More info here:

<https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/2017/6/17/tickets-pitt-tickets-students-html.aspx>

Places to see shows:

Stage A/E: 400 North Shore Dr. <http://www.stagepittsburgh.com/>

PPG Paints Arena: hockey games and rock concerts. <https://www.ppgpaintsarena.com/>

Heinz Field: home of the Steelers, houses rock concerts, jazz festivals and others. <https://heinzfield.com/>

Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland: adjacent to the Carnegie Museums, houses concert series, lectures, and the Jazz Seminar Concert.

<https://carnegiemuseums.org/great-event-spaces/carnegie-museums-in-oakland/>

Carnegie Library of Homestead: 510 E 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA. <https://librarymusic hall.com/>

Heinz Hall, Benedum Center, Byham Theater, Arcade Comedy Theater: see Pittsburgh Cultural Trust or Cheap Seats.

Mr. Smalls Theater: 400 Lincoln Ave, Millvale, PA. <https://mrsmalls.com/>

Mr. Roboto Project: 5106 Penn Ave. <https://www.therobotoproject.com/>

Collision: colligionpgh@gmail.com for address.

Brillobox: 4104 Penn Ave. <http://www.brilloboxpgh.com/>

Thunderbird Café and Music Hall: 4053 Butler Street. <https://thunderbirdmusic hall.com/>

Belvederes Ultra Dive: 4016 Butler St. <http://belvederesultradive.com/>

The Bridge Music Bar: 6018 Broad St. <https://www.thebridgemusicbar.com/>

The Hill Dance Academy Theater (Swing dance/DJ dance classes every Wednesday): 2900 Bedford Avenue.

<https://www.pittsburghswingdance.com/?fbclid=IwAR2Ee1p-HIqleCOf2UKMBLbOX-j8W8uwAZYDhZNdU1SwsScCyB7OwKqq45o>