Pitt Grad Student Survival Guide
Updated 7/22/22

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/
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 have a COVID clinic: https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-clinics (Vaccinations and tests).
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/

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:
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 Pittsburgh. [https://www.facebook.com/PghBlackMusicFest/](https://www.facebook.com/PghBlackMusicFest/)

WPA Juneteenth: Celebratory event happening every June in downtown Pittsburgh. [https://www.wpajuneteenth.com/](https://www.wpajuneteenth.com/)

Black and African American Resources at Pitt: [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/black-and-african-american-resources](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/diverse-populations/black-and-african-american-resources)

**Link to the Grad Handbook**


**Campus map**

This interactive map will help you move around campus: [https://www.map.pitt.edu/](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 around campus**

**On campus:**

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


Litchfield Towers: The Eatery: [https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/the-eatery](https://dineoncampus.com/pitt/the-eatery)


Other dining halls (not walking distance from the Music building): [https://dineoncampus.com/pitt](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. 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, 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: Thirsty Scholar (bar and grill), Moe’s Southwest Grill, Mala Hotpot, Prince of India, Scuilli’s Pizza, Halal Pitt (food truck).

There are many other options not listed here. Walk around Oakland and you may find a favorite spot.

Coffee shops/kiosks: The closest place to get a coffee is on 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 around campus

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), Crazy Mocha (Squirrel Hill and North Side), Commonplace Coffee (Point Breeze, Squirrel Hill, North Side), The Coffee Tree Roasters and 61C Coffee (Squirrel Hill), Big Dog Coffee (South Side), Biddle’s Escape (Edgewood/Wilkinsburg), 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 Port Authority 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

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: rnf11@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: mgso@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 in 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


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 Pitt community. https://www.music.pitt.edu/visiting-scholars

Department social media:

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzhaYWY3kDp19c8mskKBMIg

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
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: the Carnegie library is not part of the University Library System, but it holds more than 35,000 sound recordings and other collections that may be of interest.

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-tatfgsagsr

The department also 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

Page of the Graduate Studies office with links to several external funding opportunities: https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/funding/external-funding-opportunities
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.

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

There are also external funding opportunities (fellowships, grants, and travel grants) 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:**

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: 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 2022 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 need to apply for a 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) 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.
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.
Listings: grad students in the Department subletting apartments or rooms, short and long-term (check these out!!!):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oYvYeQe3v5AM6uWdu3ACBwFXIhEnuY2UfYDvE9e9ES4/edit?usp=sharing

How to find listings:

Pitt’s official Off-Campus Housing Marketplace:
https://listings.ocl.pitt.edu/listing?gclid=CjwKCAjw682TBhATEiwA9cr131pKLP-XVXHF2yGB9DaKhfTh4txZ5X2SeufeSE4UheDxRXEbjyIcWxoCKDwQAyD_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

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).

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


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

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/#allegheny

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 Port Authority 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 ask the bus driver if you have questions.

Find information about routes here: [https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/port-authority](https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/port-authority) or here: [https://www.portauthority.org/all-schedules/#Bus_Schedules_section](https://www.portauthority.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.portauthority.org/home](http://truetime.portauthority.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 Port Authority 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.

Pitt shuttle buses: track them at [https://www.pittshuttle.com/routes](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](https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services)


Safe Rider: evening and early morning special transportation. Info: [https://www.pts.pitt.edu/mobility/shuttle-services/saferider](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. You can also ride with 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 finding 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.sustainable.pitt.edu/healthy-ride-pitt/. During the Summer of 2022 the system will receive a new name and will have new rules. See more 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. 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 cell phone. It is especially useful to have at least one of these downloaded to your phone: you can add time to your parking if your class/lesson/rehearsal is taking a little longer than expected.

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

Pittsburgh Musical Instrument Shops and repairs:

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

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/

**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. It also has 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/

**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 across from the Litchfield Towers, in the Bellefield Presbyterian Church. 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 Shadyside, 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/](https://locations.traderjoes.com/pa/pittsburgh/)

Whole Foods: 5880 Centre Ave. Natural and organic grocery items. [www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://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](https://www.target.com/store-locator/find-stores)

Individual markets/bakeries:


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

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


Gluten free: Gluuteny Bakery. 1923 Murray Ave. 412-521-4890. Order online: [https://www.gluuteny.com/](https://www.gluuteny.com/)

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

Furniture:

You can buy new furniture from Ikea. There is only one store in Pittsburgh, but you can order furniture online and Ikea 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](https://www.ikea.com/us/en/stores/pittsburgh/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=map&utm_content=pittsburgh).

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/](https://www.abebooks.com/). You can also try Thriftbooks ([https://www.thriftbooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com)) or Alibris ([https://www.alibris.com/](https://www.alibris.com/)).

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

The Government Center. 715 East Street. [https://www.thegovernmentcenter.com/](https://www.thegovernmentcenter.com/)

Con Alma: 5884 Elsworth Avenue, 613 Penn Ave (Downtown). Music booking: [https://www.conalmapgh.com/music-booking](https://www.conalmapgh.com/music-booking)


Kingfly Spirits: 2613 Smallman St. [https://www.kingflyspirits.com/events](https://www.kingflyspirits.com/events)

The Pittsburgh Banjo Club: 271 McKinley Ave. [https://www.thepittsburghbanjoclub.com/](https://www.thepittsburghbanjoclub.com/)

The Space Upstairs: 214 N Lexington St. [https://www.thespaceupstairs.org/events](https://www.thespaceupstairs.org/events)

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 local Eventbrite newsletter, as many venues advertise concerts and sell tickets there: [https://www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Going Out

**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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/)), and Rivers of Steel ([https://riversofsteel.com/](https://riversofsteel.com/)).
Other Entertainment Options:

Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium: 7370 Baker Street. [https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/](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/](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/](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://www.pittsburghparks.org/](https://www.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/](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/](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=Cj0KCQjwnNyUBhCZARIsAI9AYYlHrQ6qTmqcvN5yG7zFTeXBI7vGFqQmHHR7EP7hZ2rtOe2WjDFoKvnmAaAt8-EALw_wcB](https://traf.trustarts.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwnNyUBhCZARIsAI9AYYlHrQ6qTmqcvN5yG7zFTeXBI7vGFqQmHHR7EP7hZ2rtOe2WjDFoKvnmAaAt8-EALw_wcB)

Juneteenth Freedom Day: music and arts festival in celebration of Juneteenth, in downtown Pittsburgh. Info: [https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/juneteenth-freedom-day/](https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/juneteenth-freedom-day/)


Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival: three-day festival with local, national and international names of Jazz. Info: [https://pittsburghjazzfest.org/](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.manorpgh.com/](https://www.manorpgh.com/)


Row House Cinema: Film Festivals, international and diverse movies. Offers 5- and 10–movie passes. 4115 Butler St. [https://rowhousecinema.com/](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](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/](http://www.stagepittsburgh.com/)

PPG Paints Arena: hockey games and rock concerts. [https://www.ppgpaintsarena.com/](https://www.ppgpaintsarena.com/)

Heinz Field: home of the Steelers, houses rock concerts, jazz festivals and others. [https://heinzfield.com/](https://heinzfield.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/](https://mrsmalls.com/)

Mr. Roboto Project: 5106 Penn Ave. [https://www.therobotoproject.com/](https://www.therobotoproject.com/)

Collision: [colligionpgh@gmail.com](mailto:colligionpgh@gmail.com) for address.


Thunderbird Café and Music Hall: 4053 Butler Street. [https://thunderbirdmusichall.com/](https://thunderbirdmusichall.com/)