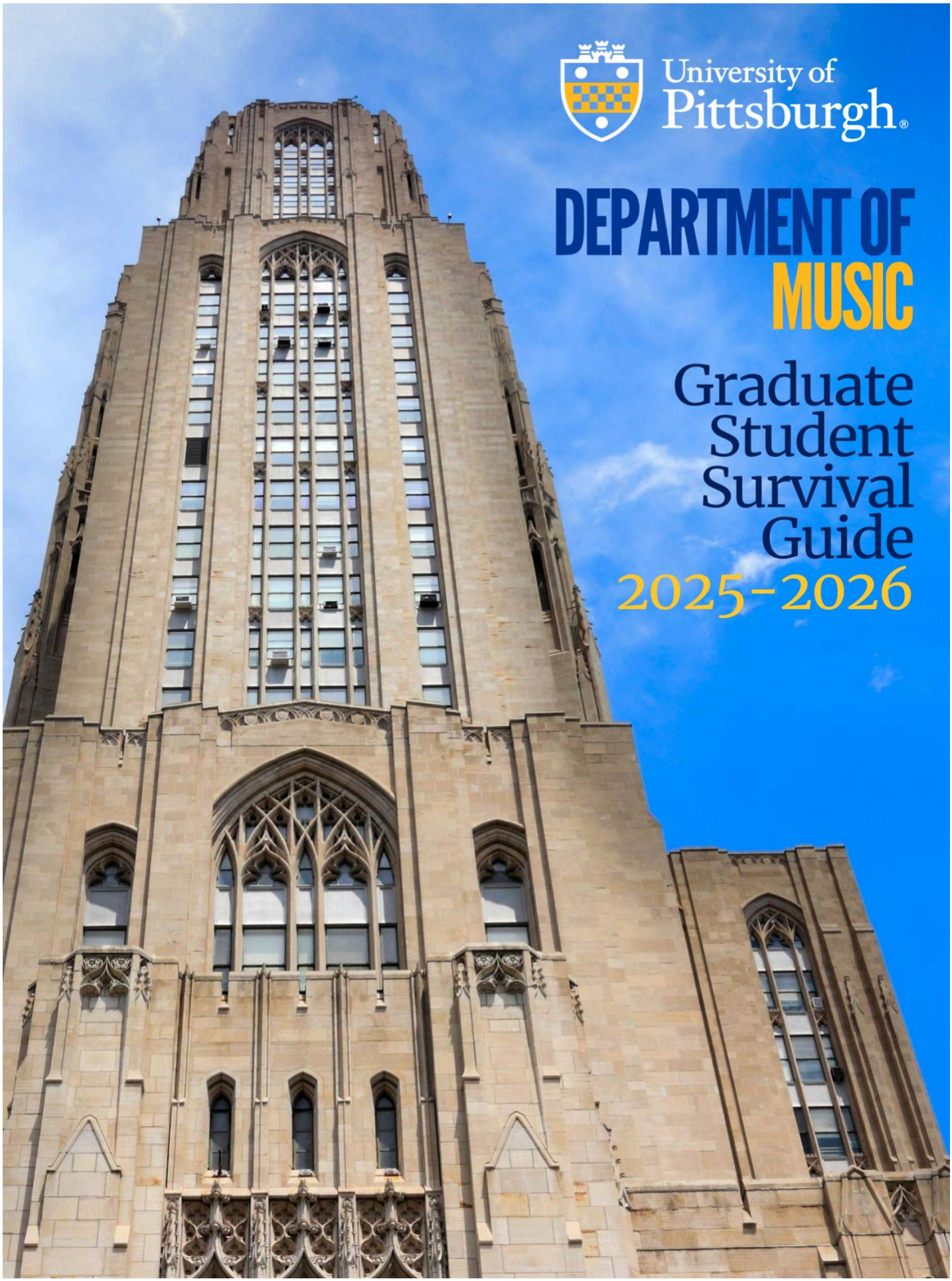

University of Pittsburgh®
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Graduate Student Survival Guide
2025-2026

GRADUATE STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your Companion to Graduate Life in the Pitt Department of Music | **2025–2026**

Acknowledgments

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Finally, thank you to the University's administrative offices, student service units, and local partners whose resources are listed here. Your work makes the Pitt graduate experience both possible and enriching.

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Welcome to Pitt

Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh and to the Department of Music. We are glad you are here.

This guide is designed to help you navigate your first months as a graduate student and to serve as a resource throughout your time at Pitt. Whether you are new to Pittsburgh or have called this city home before, starting graduate school brings unique challenges and opportunities.

Inside, you will find information on everything from emergency contacts and campus resources to housing, transportation, funding, and opportunities to connect with your peers. While this guide cannot replace the depth of the official Graduate Handbook, it complements it by sharing practical tips, community insights, and quick-reference information in one place.

We encourage you to explore each section, bookmark the links you will use most often, and make notes as you discover resources and spaces that work for you. The Department of Music is home to a diverse and supportive community of faculty, staff, and students who are here to help you succeed —academically, artistically, and personally.

We are excited to have you at Pitt! We look forward to seeing the ways you will contribute to the life of the department and the wider University community.

Emergency Resources

We hope you will never need to use this section, but it is important to know where to turn if something urgent happens. Save these numbers in your phone and keep them somewhere easy to find.

On Campus

- **Emergencies (24 hours):** 412-624-2121
- **Campus Police (non-emergency):** 412-624-4040
  Use this number if you need assistance such as having a room unlocked after hours.
  Website: Pitt Police
- **Panther Central (maintenance issues, 24 hours):** 412-648-1100
  Website: Panther Central
- **SafeRider Service:** 412-648-2255
  Provides safe transportation within certain boundaries during evening and early morning hours.
  Website: SafeRider
- **Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE):** 412-648-7856
  Website: SHARE
- **Student Conduct Office:** 412-648-7910
  Website: Student Conduct
- **Title IX Office:** 412-648-7860
  Handles reports of harassment and all types of discrimination.
  Website: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance
- **University Counseling Center:** 412-648-7930
  Website: Counseling Center
- **Student Health Center:** 412-383-1800
  Walk-ins and appointments available for non-emergency medical needs at lower cost than ER visits.
  Website: Student Health Services

In Pittsburgh

- **Police, Fire, and Medical 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

Tip: The Student Health Center can help with most non-emergency medical needs, including vaccinations and testing. Visit the Vaccination and Health Connection Hub or make an appointment online.

Community Resources

Graduate school is more than classes and research. It is also about finding the networks, spaces, and services that make you feel at home. Pitt offers many resources for connection, support, and belonging.

Religious and Spiritual Resources

The University's Religious Resources directory lists places of worship and campus ministries serving different faith traditions. A few nearby options include:

- **Redeemed Christian Church of God** — 900 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15221
- **Eastminster Presbyterian Church** — 250 N Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
- **Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (ICP)** — 4100 Bigelow Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Disability Support

If you have a disability or medical condition, Pitt's Disability Resources and Services can help you request accommodations, access services, and understand your rights.

LGBTQIA+ Resources

The LGBTQIA+ Student Resources page lists campus groups, events, and support networks. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion also offers guidance and advocacy.

International Student Support

The Office of International Services (OIS) helps you maintain visa status, apply for work authorization, and navigate life in the United States. Key reminders:

- Enroll in at least 9 credits per semester.
- Keep all I-20 forms, even expired ones.
- You may work up to 20 hours/week on campus during the semester, and full-time in the summer (on campus) without additional authorization.
- Off-campus work requires Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT); consult your OIS specialist before accepting a position.
  Find your OIS specialist here: Who is my IS?

Cultural and Identity-Based Resources

Pitt maintains dedicated support pages for different communities:

- Hispanic and Latinx Resources
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Resources
- Black and African American Resources

You can also explore community organizations such as:

- **Afro-American Music Institute** — 7131 Hamilton Ave; Website
- **August Wilson African American Cultural Center** — 980 Liberty Ave; Website
- **Pittsburgh Black Music Festival** — annual free summer event downtown.

On Campus Essentials

Campus Map and Navigation Tools

Use Pitt's Interactive Campus Map to find buildings, shuttle stops, bike stations, and medical services. Click on any shuttle stop to see pickup locations and full routes.

Dining on Campus

You will find a variety of dining halls and quick-service spots close to the Music Building. Menus and hours are available at What's on the Menu and Hours of Operation.

Popular On-Campus Dining Locations

- **Cathedral of Learning (Ground Floor)** — Multiple to-go and sit-down options.
- **William Pitt Union (Ground Floor)** — Fast casual choices and snacks.
- **The Eatery at Litchfield Towers** — Website
- **Forbes Street Market** — Across from Hillman Library and David Lawrence Hall.

Off-Campus Dining (Walking Distance)

Oakland offers many food options just steps from the Music Building. Popular nearby areas include Craig Street, Schenley Plaza, Forbes Avenue, Fifth Avenue, and Oakland Avenue. Explore to find your favorites.

Craig Street: Union Grill, Ali Baba, Lulu's Noodles, Yuva Indian Kitchen, Patron Pronto, Sushi Fuku, Rose Tea Café Express, Crepes Parisiennes, EatUnique, Rumi Grill House, All India, and more.

Forbes Avenue: Primanti Bros, Roots Natural Kitchen, Pamela's, Hello Bistro, Chipotle, The Colombian Spot, The Porch at Schenley, and others.

Oakland Avenue: Fuel and Fuddle (open late), Oishi Bento, Chick'n Grille, Las Palmas, and more.

Fifth Avenue: Moe's Southwest Grill, Mala Hotpot, Prince of India, Scuilli's Pizza, Shah's Halal (food trucks), and others.

Coffee Shops and Quick Stops

Sometimes you just need caffeine or a quiet place to sit.

Closest to the Music Building:

- **Tazza D'Oro** — 125 Lytton Ave (inside the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh)
- **Starbucks** — Cathedral of Learning Ground Floor; N. Craig Street; Forbes Avenue
- **Dunkin' Donuts** — Forbes Avenue

More Options Nearby: Use What's on the Menu for on-campus cafés, or check out this Pittsburgh Coffee Map for a city-wide view.

Study and Work Spaces

Graduate school comes with a lot of reading, writing, and project work. Fortunately, Pitt and nearby areas offer a variety of spaces to suit your study style — whether you need absolute quiet, group collaboration areas, or a change of scenery.

On-Campus Libraries and Study Lounges

Hillman Library: Ground, third, and fourth floors have open seating and study areas. Reserve group study rooms or computer labs at Pitt LibCal. Reserve at least a week in advance — spaces fill quickly.

Music Building (Grad Office & Lounges):

- Graduate Office (2nd floor Mezzanine) has computers and storage space (accessible via Panther Card).
- Third-floor lounge offers casual seating for reading or conversation.
- Please keep the space tidy and secure before leaving.

Alumni Hall: Study lounge on the ground floor; computers and printers available in the basement Computing Lab (closest printers to the Music Building).

Cathedral of Learning: Commons Room (ground floor) for a classic, open atmosphere; Honors College (35th floor) for quiet study; Nationality Rooms for inspiration.

William Pitt Union: Multiple lounges (1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th floors); Graduate Lounge in Room 524 (graduate students only).

Frick Fine Arts Library: Peaceful, academic setting just across Schenley Plaza.

Petersen Events Center: Quiet study areas on the 2nd floor, especially after lunch hours.

Wesley Posvar Hall: Study rooms and lounges on every floor.

Bellefield Hall: Study lounge on the 2nd floor.

Public and Community Spaces

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main Branch (across from Hillman)

- Music Room on 2nd floor: borrow CDs, DVDs, magazines, books, and some musical instruments.
- Get a free library card! It gives you access to items not always available at Pitt libraries.
- Coffee shop (Yinz Coffee) on the ground floor.

Phipps Conservatory and Flagstaff Hill — No study rooms, but offers limited seating in a beautiful, quiet environment. In warmer months, the lawn across from Phipps is perfect for reading outdoors.

Coffee Shops with Wi-Fi

Beyond campus, Pittsburgh neighborhoods are full of cafés with space for studying:

- **Starbucks** (Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Bakery Square, and more)
- **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)

Search "coffee shop with Wi-Fi near me" in Google Maps to discover hidden gems.

Your Panther Card

Your Panther Card is now digital, giving you easy, secure access to campus services right from your phone.

You will use it to:

- Access campus buildings, including the Music Building and graduate student spaces
- Check out library materials
- Pay for meals at campus dining locations (if you add funds)
- Use campus printers and copiers

Getting Your Digital Panther Card

1. Log in to myPitt and follow the instructions for adding your Panther Card to your mobile wallet (Apple Wallet for iOS, Google Wallet for Android).
2. You can still request a physical card from **Panther Central** in the Litchfield Towers lobby if needed for special circumstances.

FAQs and setup help: Panther Card FAQ

Using Public Transit

Graduate students ride Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) buses, inclines, and light rail for free by scanning their digital pass in the **PRT app**.

- Download the **PRT app** on iOS or Android
- Log in with your Pitt credentials to activate your pass
- Scan your phone at the farebox when boarding

Tip: Keep your phone charged, and have the PRT app or your Panther Card wallet entry open before you reach the scanner to make boarding quick and smooth.

The Music Department

Welcome to your academic home at Pitt. The Department of Music offers a vibrant community of scholars, performers, and creators. This section introduces you to the people, spaces, and opportunities you will encounter most often.

Key Contacts

Save these contacts—you will use them often.

General Department Office

- Phone: 412-624-4126
- Email: musicdpt@pitt.edu

Graduate Program and Administration

- **Ian A. Bennett** — Graduate program, graduation dates, and paperwork: iab5@pitt.edu
- **Philip Thompson** — Department coordinator and concert/event communications: concerts@pitt.edu
- **Chris Lynch** — Music library collections and research support: chl291@pitt.edu
- **Director of Graduate Studies (2025–26)**: **Shalini Ayyagari** — sayyagari@pitt.edu
- **Department Chair**: **Aaron Johnson** — draj@pitt.edu

Graduate Student Leadership

Music Graduate Student Organization (MGSO) — Advocates for grad students, facilitates communication with faculty, organizes a biannual department conference, and offers travel grants.

2025–26 MGSO Leadership

- **President:** Echo Davidson — eld127@pitt.edu
- **Vice President:** Avery Faust — aef114@pitt.edu
- **Treasurer:** Kritika Rathore — krr148@pitt.edu
- **Secretary:** Ali Sadeqi — als981@pitt.edu
- **ASGSO Representatives:**
    - Ali Hassan — alh489@pitt.edu
    - Sam Harris — sah485@pitt.edu

Facilities

The Music Building includes:

- Classrooms and offices
- Practice rooms (basement level; ID card access, first-come-first-serve)
- Electronic Music Studio

Lockers — Located in the basement; inquire in the main office early in the academic year. Larger instrument lockers are in Bellefield Hall, 3rd floor (primarily for members of the Pitt Symphony; contact Roger Zahab).

Instruments — Department-owned basses, pianos, percussion instruments, gamelan, and drum set are available for ensemble members and approved projects.

Other Spaces — Large lectures may be held in Cathedral of Learning or David Lawrence Hall. Special performance venues include Heinz Memorial Chapel, Frick Fine Arts Building, and the Stephen Foster Memorial.

Full facilities list: Music Facilities

Ensembles

Participation is open to graduate students and often to the wider Pitt community. Ensembles include:

- 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 are typically held in the first week of the fall term. Details: Performance Ensembles

Public Events

The department hosts concerts, lectures, and festivals throughout the year:

- **Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert** — Master classes, workshops, lectures, and a headline concert: Pitt Jazz Seminar
- **Music on the Edge** — Contemporary music concert series: MOTE
- **Microtonal Music Festival** — Performances and symposia featuring leading composers and theorists.
- **Visiting Scholar Series** — Free lectures by leading scholars in music.

Events calendar: Pitt Music Events

Social Media and Online Presence

Stay informed by following the department online:

- **YouTube**: Music at Pitt
- **Facebook**: Music at Pitt
- **Instagram**: @musicatpitt
- **SoundCloud**: Recorded performances and podcasts
- **Podcast**: Music at Pitt

Music Archives and Libraries

Pitt offers exceptional library and archival resources for music research, performance preparation, and creative projects. Many of these collections are unique to the University and can be accessed with your Panther Card or Pitt login.

Theodore M. Finney Music Library

Located on the lower level of the Music Building, the Finney Library houses a research-level collection supporting graduate study in composition, theory, ethnomusicology, jazz studies, and musicology.

Tip: Meet with **Chris Lynch**, our music librarian, early in your first semester. He can help you find hard-to-access materials and navigate the University Library System efficiently.

The Center for American Music

Housed at the Stephen Foster Memorial, this center combines a library, museum, and research hub focused on music from the United States. Visits are by appointment: call 412-624-4100 or visit the Center's website.

Sonny Rollins International Jazz Archive

A treasure for jazz scholars, this collection contains more than 30 years of video and audio from Pitt's annual Jazz Seminar and Concert.

The Erroll Garner Archive

Managed by Pitt's Archives Service Center, this large and complex collection includes recordings, scores, photographs, and memorabilia. Learn more at the Erroll Garner Archive page.

Hillman Library

Pitt's main library connects all University Library System branches and offers additional music-related holdings, as well as general research materials. Study spaces and reservable rooms make it a convenient work hub outside the Music Building.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main Branch

Located across from Schenley Plaza from Hillman, Carnegie is open to the public and offers:

- A **Music Room** with CDs, DVDs, books, magazines, and even musical instruments (synths, mixers, pedals, sequencers, and recording gear) for loans.
- A **library card** (free to residents) that can give you access to materials unavailable in Pitt's system.
- **Yinz Coffee** on the ground floor for study breaks.

Pro Tip: The Carnegie Library sometimes holds scores and recordings not available in the University Library System — worth checking before you request interlibrary loans.

Funding and Employment

Graduate study can be demanding, and Pitt offers several ways to support yourself financially while you are here. Below is an overview of common funding sources, campus employment, and helpful contacts.

Assistantships and Fellowships

These are typically awarded as part of your admission offer or renewed on a yearly basis. They usually include:

- A stipend
- Full or partial tuition remission
- Health insurance coverage

Types of positions

- **Teaching Assistant (TA)** — Supports faculty in instruction, grading, and classroom management.
- **Teaching Fellow (TF)** — Serves as the primary instructor for a course.
- **Graduate Student Assistant (GSA)** — Performs administrative or research duties for the department or faculty.
- **Graduate Student Researcher (GSR)** — Works on funded research projects.

Tip: Review your appointment letter carefully each year for details about duties, workload, and renewal.

Departmental Opportunities

Some positions open during the academic year for special projects, event support, or administrative help. Watch for announcements from the Department of Music or the **MGSO Instagram** (@pittmgso) where leadership often posts opportunities and reminders.

University-Wide Opportunities

Pitt's Office of Graduate Studies and other campus units regularly post openings for graduate assistants, researchers, or fellows.

- Check the **University Career Center** job portal.
- Visit the **Office of Graduate Studies** website for funding calls.

External Funding

Graduate students are encouraged to seek external grants, scholarships, and fellowships — especially for research travel or conference participation. Pitt's **Office of Research** offers grant-writing workshops and proposal review.

Short-Term and Hourly Jobs

If you need flexible work to supplement your stipend:

- **Student Union and Campus Recreation** often hire for front desk, events, or facility staff.
- The **University Library System** posts occasional part-time positions.
- The **Music Department** may need ushers or stage crew for concerts.

Travel Funding

MGSO offers small travel grants to help cover conference or research travel costs. Awards are competitive and usually require:

- Proof of acceptance to present at a conference or participate in a research activity
- A brief application form
- Submission deadlines announced via MGSO Instagram

Other travel funding may be available through the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO) or through University-wide competitions.

Contacts for Funding Questions

- **Ian A. Bennett** — Graduate program, stipend payments, appointment details: iab5@pitt.edu
- **MGSO** — Travel grants and peer advice: mgsoinfo@gmail.com and Insta - @pittmgso
- **ASGSO** — Additional funding opportunities: asgso@pitt.edu

Living in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own character, and you'll quickly learn which spots feel like home. The city is large enough to offer plenty of culture and amenities, yet small enough to be easy to navigate and affordable compared to many other university towns.

Neighborhoods

- **Oakland** — Home to the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Living here means you can walk to campus, Hillman Library, and Schenley Plaza. Housing can be a mix of historic walk-ups and newer apartments.
- **Shadyside** — Tree-lined streets, coffee shops, and boutiques. Slightly more expensive than Oakland but still within biking or bus distance.
- **Squirrel Hill** — Diverse dining options, quiet residential streets, and multiple grocery stores (including kosher and Asian markets). About a 10–15 minute bus ride to campus.
- **Bloomfield & Lawrenceville** — Known for nightlife, restaurants, and an artsy atmosphere. More affordable housing than Shadyside, but longer commutes.
- **South Side** — Offers both affordable rentals and busy entertainment streets. Bus routes connect you to Oakland and downtown.

Tip: Many grad students live with roommates to save on rent. Check Pitt's **Off-Campus Living** website for vetted listings.

Transportation

Panther Card (Digital) — Your Panther Card is now available digitally through **myPitt** and can be added to your smartphone wallet. Use it to access campus buildings, library resources, and Pitt shuttles.

Port Authority Buses — All buses are now boarded with the **PRT app** (Pittsburgh Regional Transit), available for iOS and Android. Download the app, log in with your Pitt credentials, and your fare is covered.

Pitt Shuttle — Free shuttle service between Oakland campuses and key off-campus locations. Schedules are posted online and on the Pitt Shuttle Tracker.

Biking — Pittsburgh has an expanding network of bike lanes and trails. Healthy Ride bike rentals are available at stations around the city.

Weather and What to Expect

- **Fall** — Mild and colorful, but expect rain.
- **Winter** — Snow, ice, and occasional deep cold—good boots and a heavy coat are essential.
- **Spring** — Can be unpredictable: sunny days mixed with snow flurries.
- **Summer** — Warm and humid, often with thunderstorms.

Pro Tip: Always check the weather before leaving the house — Pittsburgh is famous for quick changes.

Food and Groceries

- **Near Campus:** Fuel & Fuddle (pub), Asia Tea House (Taiwanese), Chick'n Bubbly (Korean fried chicken), Las Palmas (Mexican street food stand).
- **Groceries:** Giant Eagle, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods (East Liberty), multiple Asian markets in Squirrel Hill.
- **Farmer's Markets:** Oakland Farmers Market (Thursdays, June–October) and Squirrel Hill Farmers Market (Sundays).

Arts and Culture

Pittsburgh has a thriving arts scene:

- **Carnegie Museum of Art & Natural History** — Free with your Pitt ID.
- **Andy Warhol Museum** — Free with Pitt ID.
- **City Theatre** and **Pittsburgh Public Theater** — Student discounts available.
- **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** — Rush tickets for students are an affordable way to hear world-class performances.

Health and Wellness

Graduate school can be exciting and rewarding, but it can also be stressful. Pitt offers a wide range of services to help you stay physically healthy, mentally resilient, and socially connected during your time here.

Student Health Services

Located in Nordenberg Hall, **Student Health Services** provides primary care, urgent care, and preventative services for students.

- Routine checkups, immunizations, and physicals
- Illness and injury care
- Women's health services
- Travel health consultations

Appointments can be made online through **myPitt** or by phone at 412-383-1800. More information: Student Health Services website.

Tip: If you need care after hours, UPMC Urgent Care centers are located throughout the city and accept most insurance plans.

University Counseling Center (UCC)

Graduate life comes with unique pressures—balancing coursework, research, teaching, and personal life can be challenging. The **UCC** offers:

- Individual counseling
- Group therapy and workshops
- Crisis services
- Referrals for specialized care

Services are free to Pitt students and confidential. Call 412-648-7930 or visit the UCC website to schedule.

Wellness Programs

Pitt's **Healthy U** initiative and the **Stress Free Zone** (located in the William Pitt Union) offer yoga, mindfulness sessions, biofeedback tools, and relaxation spaces.

Campus Recreation

Trees Hall and the **Baierl Student Recreation Center** have gyms, weight rooms, cardio equipment, and indoor courts. Group fitness classes are free with your student ID. Outdoor enthusiasts can join **Pitt Outdoors Club** for hiking, kayaking, and camping trips.

Health Insurance

Graduate students with assistantships or fellowships are usually eligible for University-sponsored health insurance through UPMC Health Plan. Review your appointment letter and the Pitt Graduate Student Health Insurance page for details.

Support for International Students

The **Office of International Services (OIS)** can connect you to medical providers familiar with your cultural or linguistic needs. They can also assist with insurance questions and understanding U.S. healthcare.

Pro Tip: Don’t wait until a small issue becomes a big one—schedule regular check-ins for your physical and mental health, just as you would for academic advising.

Technology and Campus Resources

Pitt's tech and academic systems are designed to support your coursework, research, and campus life. Taking a little time to get familiar with them early will save you stress later.

myPitt

Your personal gateway to University resources. Use it to:

- Access course registration and schedules
- View your financial account and pay bills
- Get your **digital Panther Card**
- Log into online learning platforms and library resources

Log in at my.pitt.edu using your Pitt credentials. You can customize your dashboard so the tools you use most are front and center.

CourseWeb (Canvas)

Pitt's learning management system (LMS). Instructors use it to post syllabi, assignments, grades, and announcements. You can also participate in discussion boards and submit work. Access it through myPitt or directly at canvas.pitt.edu.

Library Resources

The **University Library System (ULS)** provides access to millions of books, journals, scores, and streaming media. As a graduate music student, you'll also use:

- **Ask a Librarian** chat for quick questions.
- **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** to borrow materials from other universities at no cost.

Tip: Your digital Panther Card lets you check out physical items and access online databases off-campus.

Pitt IT

Pitt Information Technology offers:

- Free and discounted software (including Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud, MATLAB, Sibelius, Finale)
- Cloud storage through OneDrive and Box
- Device setup and troubleshooting
- 24/7 IT Help Desk: 412-624-HELP (4357)

Visit technology.pitt.edu for full services.

Printing and Scanning

Printers are available in campus libraries, Bellefield Hall, and other campus locations. The nearest printer to the Music Building is in **Bellefield Hall's Computing Lab** on the 2nd floor.

Use your Panther Funds to pay for printing. You can send jobs from your laptop or phone to Pitt Print stations and release them with your digital Panther Card or login.

Specialized Music Technology

- **Music Technology Lab** (Music Building) — Workstations with music notation, sequencing, and audio editing software.
- **Electronic Music Studio** — For recording, mixing, and sound design projects.
- Contact the department's tech coordinator for training and access.

Pro Tip: Set up multi-factor authentication (Duo Mobile) on your phone right away. Without it, you can't access most Pitt systems.

Getting Involved and Building Community

Graduate school is richer when you're part of a strong network. The Department of Music and the University offer many ways to connect with others, share ideas, and make Pittsburgh feel like home.

Within the Department — The Music Graduate Student Organization (MGSO), the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and the department's ensembles all offer opportunities for collaboration and leadership. See earlier sections for full details and contacts.

Across the University — Consider joining the Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO) and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) for events, funding opportunities, and advocacy.

Why it Matters — Getting involved can help you:

- Build a support network beyond your immediate cohort
- Learn about opportunities early
- Gain leadership and organizational skills
- Stay connected to the wider academic and cultural life at Pitt