Office of Study Abroad

EXCHANGE STUDENT HANDBOOK

PREPARED FOR UNA STUDENTS
Welcome to Florida International University (FIU)! We are happy to see that you’ve expressed an interest in joining our exchange program.

Please take some time to read through our handbook. Don’t forget, we are always here to help answer any questions that you might have!!

~ The Office of Study Abroad
Florida International University – Miami’s public research university – is one of America’s most dynamics institutions of higher learning. Since opening in 1972, FIU has achieved many benchmarks of excellence that have taken other universities more than a century to reach. The university has a nationally renowned faculty, students from throughout the US and more than 130 foreign countries, and its alumni have risen to prominence in every field and are a testament to the University's academic excellence. The University offers more than 190 baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree programs in 19 colleges and schools.

FIU has more than 46,000 students, 1,000 full time faculty, and 134,000 alumni, making it the largest university in South Florida and placing it among the nation’s 25 largest colleges and universities.

**CAMPUSES**

FIU has two major campuses, Modesto A. Maidique in western Miami-Dade County and the Biscayne Bay Campus in northeast Miami. It also has an academic site that serves Broward County, the Pines Center in Pembroke Pines, Florida, as well as a 40-acre research facility that houses the Engineering Center, and Downtown Center for graduate business courses in Downtown, Miami.

Architecturally distinctive **Modesto A. Maidique**, FIU's first campus and administrative headquarters, occupies 342 acres of lush tropical landscaped grounds. Apartment-style and traditional residence halls, the Golden Panther Sports Arena, a state-of-the-art eight-story library, an environmental preserve and recreation center contribute to a pleasant collegiate atmosphere.

The **Biscayne Bay** campus encompasses nearly 200 acres, including a natural mangrove preserve. Its scenic campus offers direct access to the bay, apartment-style housing, a library, an aquatic center, and the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center, a state-of-the-art facility that can accommodate up to 500 persons.

There is a shuttle bus that loops between Modesto A. Maidique and Biscayne Bay from Monday through Friday, allowing students to take classes in either campus. There is a small cost to take this bus. Some academic units such as Hospitality Management, Nursing, Journalism and Mass Communication are based at the Biscayne Bay Campus.
The mission of the Office of Study Abroad (OSA) is to promote international programs and educational exchange, and to help create a community that can respond to the increasing international needs and obligations of the University.

Each year more than 800 FIU students study abroad in dozens of different nations. In turn, an average of 3,800 international students and scholars from more than 100 countries select FIU as their academic destination. A total of 30 exchange partners have international agreements with FIU, and FIU faculty lead more than 35 summer programs in three continents. FIU’s international exchange and study abroad programs are open to both FIU students and students from other universities.

The OSA facilitates the University's interaction with local and international interest groups, serves as a liaison with universities and visitors from abroad, and promotes the international mission of the University. The OSA will be your main contact with the university for matters related to admissions, immigration and housing. We will facilitate your stay as a short term exchange student. You are required to notify OSA of any changes to your academic program or housing.

Modesto A. Maidique Campus
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11200 SW 8th St
Miami, FL 33199
Tel: +1 (305) 348-1913
Fax: +1 (305) 348-1941
http://studyabroad.fiu.edu
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As a participant in the BCBUSA program, you will be required to participate in a community engagement project. The Office of Study Abroad at FIU, in collaboration with the FIU Center for Leadership and Service will assist you in identifying an appropriate project in which you will be able to participate during your stay in Miami.

The mission of the Center for Leadership and Service is to provide students with developmental and experiential opportunities that foster leadership and community involvement, grounded in values and moral purpose. Through leadership education, service learning, advocacy, and volunteerism, students will become active global citizens on campus, in their respective communities, and in the workplace.

You can begin to learn about the numerous projects that we lead in the community by going to: http://leadserve.fiu.edu/index.php/service-learning/
FIU CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Center for Accounting, Auditing, and Tax Studies
Center for the Administration of Justice
Center for Advanced Distributed Systems Engineering
Center for Advanced Technology and Education
FIU Applied Research Center
The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum
Institute for Asian Studies
Child and Family Psychosocial Research Center
Cuban Research Institute
Center for Diversity in Engineering and Computing
Engineering Manufacturing Center
English Language Institute
Florida - Caribbean Institute
Florida Center for Analytical Electron Microscopy
Florida - Mexico Institute
Eugenio Pino & Family Global Entrepreneurship Center
High Performance Database Research Center
Institute for Hospitality & Tourism Education & Research
Infant Development Research Center
Intercultural Dance & Music Institute

Center for International Business Education & Research
International Forensic Research Institute
International Hurricane Research Center
International Media Center
Center for Internet Augmented Research and Assessment
Jerome Bain Real Estate Institute
Institute for Judaic & Near Eastern Studies
Knight Ridder Center for Excellence in Management
Center for Labor Research and Studies
Latin American and Caribbean Center
Lehman Center for Transportation Research
Metropolitan Center
Institute for Public Management and Community Services
Institute for Public Opinion Research
Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship Studies
Ryder Center for Supply Chain Management
Southeast Environmental Research Center
Center for the Study of Matter at Extreme Conditions
Telecommunications and Information Technology Institute
Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies
Center for Urban Education and Innovation
The Wolfsonian
Women's Studies Center
FIU ACADEMIC UNITS

College of Architecture and the Arts
College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business Administration
College of Education
College of Engineering and Computing
Honors College
College of Law
College of Medicine
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work
Housing and Residential Life

All J-1 Exchange students are required to live on campus at the Modesto A. Maidique campus.

There are five housing complexes located at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. They include three new state of the art housing facilities that have been opened in the last few years providing on campus housing for an additional 1,300 students. Total housing capacity on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus is 1,900 bed spaces. There are multiple room types providing a variety of different levels of accommodations to meet your housing needs.

All of our housing facilities have unlimited access to the web, basic cable T.V., and utilities, which are included in the room rental rate. Each of the residence halls is staffed with both professional and paraprofessional personnel to insure our facilities are safe and well maintained.

To learn more about the various housing options and to view room layouts, please visit http://www.housing.fiu.edu/halls.html

As a participant in the BCBUSA program, you will be placed in the Global Living Learning Community. This unique living/learning experience educates leaders for global engagement. The goal of this program is to help residents become citizens of the world by bringing the world into the community through intercultural awareness, leadership development, experiential learning, and an introduction to a variety of campus, community, and global resources. Global Community residents participate in numerous activities to explore current world events and international perspectives as they prepare for leadership roles as active global citizens. To learn more about this community, please go to: http://leadserve.fiu.edu/index.php/global-livinglearning-community/

Setting Up a Meal Plan

Depending on where you will be living on campus, you may or may not opt to choose an on campus meal plan. For information regarding meal plans, please see below. http://www.campusdish.com/en-us/CSS/FloridaInternationalUniv
The Department of Campus Life provides a variety of programs and services to students and the University community. Students' academic learning is enhanced through their active participation in additional educational opportunities in the areas of leadership development, communication and organizational skills, service, event planning, and evaluation techniques. There are many areas in which students may choose to become involved, including Fraternity & Sorority Life, Homecoming Council, Honors Council, Student Government Council, Multifaith Council, Panther Rage, Student Organizations Council, and Student Programming Council.

The university hosts a wealth of student organizations in a variety of fields that include the arts, business, international/multicultural affairs, engineering, health and wellness, and many more. For a complete list of student organizations, please visit the Council of Student Organizations website at: http://cso.fiu.edu/ and click on the student organizations link.

One of the best things you can do as an exchange student is to GET INVOLVED! Learn what's going on around you by checking with your Residence Assistant. Your RA will be a great source of information for all activities planned in the residence halls. They have a very active calendar of events.

Check the Campus Life site, http://www.fiu.edu/~camplife/, to learn about other activities such as performances on campus.

Sport events - www.fiusports.com

Check out the International Student Club activities – www.fiu.edu/~isss

Visit the Frost Art Museum at FIU – http://thefrost.fiu.edu/

RECREATION CENTER: http://www.fiu.edu/~camprec/RecFac.htm
The FIU Recreation Center provides a variety of recreational venues, including a two-court gym for intramural sports, basketball courts, a tennis center, group fitness classes, and a state-of-the-art recreation facility, which is home to a number of free-weight, cardio, and resistance machines.

ATHLETICS: For additional information on FIU Athletics, please visit: http://fiusports.com/

GRAHAM CENTER: http://guc.fiu.edu/
The Graham Center, located at Modesto A. Maidique Campus of Florida International University, is essential to campus life and to the University's mission of providing a pleasant and educational environment for camaraderie and enhancement of the University's community spirit. The experiences afforded to students strive to expand knowledge, develop skills, and clarify values for individual and community growth.

As the "living room" of the campus, the Center offers unique facilities, conveniences, services and amenities needed in the daily life of our vibrant University community.
You will find many services on campus at the Graham Center:

**Bookstore**: You can buy your textbooks, collegiate wear and gifts.

**Copy Center**: make photocopies and get your class materials. Also a FedEx mailing station

**Santi International**: Unisex Hair Salon (305) 348-7666

**University Credit Union**: Open an account – ATM service

**Starbucks Café**: located inside the bookstore and the Green Library

Jamba Juice: located inside the Graham Center

Chili’s Too: Located inside the Graham Center

For further information, check the Panther Dining Services site

JOIN THE STUDY ABROAD CLUB AT FIU!!

The mission of the Study Abroad Club at FIU is to promote study abroad and international student exchange programs, while providing opportunities for FIU students to interact with incoming international exchange students through club activities.

In addition to promoting study abroad through campus activities, the club seeks to help acclimate inbound students into the FIU community by including them in events and helping them meet other FIU students.

The club is open to anyone and everyone, but specifically to all students who have gone abroad, are planning to go abroad, are here at FIU from abroad and through the International Student Exchange Program. You are all invited to join the club.

Members from the Study Abroad Club will join the Office of Study Abroad in welcoming you to FIU and to Miami during the OSA mandatory orientation meeting.

To learn more about the Study Abroad Club, please email us at edabroad@fiu.edu
As you begin to prepare for your international student exchange experience, you may want to take into account the following estimates on expected cost of attendance for a semester at FIU:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Per Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>waived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student ID</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP housing average</td>
<td>$4300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meal plan</td>
<td>$1,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>books and supplies</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health insurance</td>
<td>Paid for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintenance</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total per semester**  $9110.00

**Total per month**  $2,277.00
Miami, one of the most international cities in the hemisphere, is Florida's largest urban center and a major transportation and business hub of the southeastern U.S. Greater Miami, which comprises the city of Miami and surrounding Miami-Dade County, includes Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Hialeah and many smaller communities.

The Miami area's history dates back to the discovery of the "New World." Ponce de Leon saw the tip of Key Biscayne in 1513 and named it, more than 100 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. In the 1850s only about 50 persons lived permanently on Biscayne Bay, and it wasn't until the 1870s that Bahamian wreckers helped found the area's first real community, Coconut Grove. Miami was incorporated in 1896, the same year that Standard Oil co-founder and railroad magnate Henry Flagler decided to extend his railroad south from West Palm Beach to Miami.

During the land boom of the 1920s, Miami's population swelled and, thanks to its inviting, subtropical climate, it emerged as one of the nation's great winter resorts. Miami Beach is known for its historic art deco district and the numerous hotels that line its beaches, and the area is filled with marinas and golf courses. Since the 1950s, commercial growth has grown significantly. Miami International Airport is the nation's largest international cargo hub and third in terms of international passengers. The Port of Miami is the number one cruise port in the world.

The Miami of the 21st century is an exciting, dynamic global marketplace. But being a global marketplace does not mean it is just a trading post for goods. Miami is a metropolis that is a major transfer station for peoples and ideas from throughout the world. Miami, once a town of tourists and retirees, has been reinvented into a hemispheric crossroads for trade, travel, culture and communications.

You will find many useful stores right across from campus. Just cross 107th Avenue to walk to the shopping malls. Among other things, you will find:

**Stores**

Publix: Supermarket - Opens Monday through Saturday 7:00am-11:00pm and Sunday 7:00am-10:00pm

Walgreens: Pharmacy/Drugstore - 24 hours Monday-Sunday

**Shopping Malls:** The closest malls to FIU are Dolphin Mall and International Mall.

**International Mall:** located at 1455 NW 107th Avenue. International Mall includes four department stores (Macy’s, Kohl’s, JCPenney, Sears) and more than 120 retail stores and a variety of restaurants. Visit their website at [http://www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?ID=141](http://www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?ID=141)

From FIU to International Mall: Bus 71 – the bus stop will be on 107th Avenue, just south of the university entrance

**Dolphin Mall:** located at 114th Ave and NW 12th Street. It’s Miami-Dade County’s largest value retail/entertainment center. It features more than 200 shopping, dining and entertainment venues, plus a 850 seat food court. The mall has 1.4 million square-feet and showcases its shops and restaurants in three distinctive and imaginative shopping zones: Playas, Ramblas and Moda. Visit their website at [http://www.shoppdolphinmall.com](http://www.shoppdolphinmall.com)

From FIU to Dolphin Mall: Bus 71 to International Mall – You will have to walk east to reach the Mall.

**Restaurants (In or Near Dolphin Mall)**

| Charcoal’s Latin Grill/La Fogata | Dave & Buster’s |
| Johnny Rockets | Latin Grill |
| Sbarro’s Pizzeria | Suki Hana |
| Tango Grill | Texas de Brazil |
| TGI Friday’s |

**Close to International Mall**

- The Knife—Argentine Churrasqueria: 1455 NW 107th Avenue
- La Carreta – Cuban Restaurant: 10633 NW 12th Street – (305)463-9778
  8650 Bird Road— (305) 553-8383

**Along 107th Avenue**

- Los Ranchos Steakhouse: 125 SW 107th Street – (305) 552-6767
- La Nonna Italian Restaurant: 117 SW 107th Avenue - (305)228-4900
- San Marco Italian Restaurant: 10613 NW 12th Street –(305)591-7227
GETTING AROUND MIAMI

Miami, similar to Los Angeles and other US major cities, has been built around the use of cars. Public transportation, although improving in the last decade, is still deficient compared to other cities in the US, Europe and other parts of the world.

The Metro-Dade Transit provides several ways of transportation depending upon where you want to go. There are several bus routes (via Metro-bus) that have a stop at the University and connect with the Metro-rail and Tri-rail systems, enabling travel throughout the tri-county area (including Dade, Broward and Palm Beach County). For further information, visit: http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/

**Metro-bus** - Metro-passes for Metro-bus, Metro-rail and Metro-mover can be purchased from the FIU Parking & Traffic Department on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus for $50.00 per month. Metro-passes are limited, so to ensure you get a metro-pass through FIU, you should pre-pay by the second week of each month for the following month's metro-pass. Your prepaid metro-pass can be picked up a week prior to the beginning of its effective month (i.e. metro-pass for August would be paid for the second week of July and picked up the last week of July).

Also, one very helpful feature is the Trip Planner to figure out how to get from one location to another by bus: you put in your starting and ending addresses and time of departure or arrival, and it will give you several routes you could use.

**Metro-rail** - Miami-Dade County's rapid transit system runs from Kendall through South Miami, Coral Gables, and downtown Miami; to the Civic Center/Jackson Memorial Hospital area; and to Brownsville, Liberty City, and Hialeah, with connections to Broward and Palm Beach counties at the Tri-Rail/Metro-rail transfer station. For more information, see http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/transit/metrorail.asp

**Tri-Rail** - Tri-Rail is South Florida's commuter railroad, operating seven days a week from 18 train stations. It's a regional commuter rail system with trains running parallel to Interstate 95 servicing Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Based on zoned travel, round-trip prices range from $3.50 to $9.25, or discounted monthly tickets available to students. If you want to know more, visit http://www.tri-rail.com/

**Taxis**

Taxi rides can be expensive. But, if you get together with a group of friends, you can share the cost of the trip, making it more accessible. One of the most well known companies is Yellow Cab (305) 444-4444, or (305) 777-7777.
The Office of Study Abroad at Florida International University seeks to provide excellent service to all of its students. Every year we welcome exchange students from partners all over the world. In keeping with our spirit of excellent service, we always meet with our exchange students prior to their departure and find out a bit more about what their experience was like here at FIU and in Miami. The following are some of the comments and advice that our exchange students have asked that we share with you as you prepare for your journey:

**About classes at FIU:**

“The Teaching Assistant (TA) in a course is very helpful to students. If there are questions in the class, ask TA if you have one in your class.”

“The teachers are great and you will learn a lot.”

“Choose courses quickly; some classes close up quickly.”

**About Transportation and Getting Around FIU and Miami:**

“Buy a car or meet friends with cars.”

“You need to be open minded. Be prepared; FIU is a large University.”

“Look for the bus schedules on Internet and plan your route before you use it.”

**About Campus and City Life**

“Work on meeting born and bred Miami people, they can show you things like the nightlife perfectly.”

“Don’t be the whole time with international students and meet other people.”

“Shopping in Miami is awesome!”

“People in Miami tend not to be on time.”

“Go to South Beach as often as possible.”

“Attend FIU events.”

“Don’t be shy to talk to others.”

**General Comments About the ISE Program at FIU**

“I would recommend anyone I could to take part in this program. It opens your eyes to another side of life that otherwise would go unnoticed. It changes your way of thinking in all aspects.”

“Be open, you will know people really different from you, and you need to respect their ideas.”

“FIU is such a good university, so you can meet many good people.”

“It’s an experience from which I’ve learned a lot of things, like responsibility and a new learning system based in Internet.”
The FIU Office of Study Abroad is excited to be welcoming you to the university, and we are here to facilitate the process for you as you prepare to embark in this life-changing journey that lies ahead of you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at sugomez@fiu.edu or (305) 348-1913.

We look forward to seeing you soon!!

Don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook!!

https://www.facebook.com/fiustudyabroad

Warm regards,

The OSA Staff