



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE

2022

Disclaimer: This guide was originally prepared by the Brazilian Country Captains in partnership with the LATAM Business Group and translated by the GBC International Committee based on information compiled from students and alumni. This guide does not constitute official documentation from the University of Chicago and is not intended to replace guidelines contained in the official documentation. In case of any doubt, it is recommended to follow the guidelines provided directly by the University. If any information seems misleading or outdated, please contact the University. We are not responsible for how the content on this guide is interpreted and we do not accept any responsibility for the results of any action taken on the basis of the information provided on this guide.

Index

BEFORE CHICAGO	2
Cost of Living	2
Scholarship	2
Loans	3
Visa	3
Apartments/ Houses	4
Shopping/Furniture	8
Vaccinations	10
IN CHICAGO	11
OIA Arrival Registration	11
Bank Account, Credit Card and Transfers	11
Cell Phone	12
Cable TV and Internet Cable	13
ComEd - Electricity	13
Documents (Local Identification, Social Security Number and Student ID)	14
Computer and Software	14
Supermarkets	14
Gym	16
Cleaning	17
Car and Transportation	17
Car	18
Pets	19
Clothing	20
US Income Tax	21
Enjoying Chicago	21
Eating out in Chicago	23
AT SCHOOL	24
Health	24
Books	25
Magazines and Newspapers	25
Social Life	25
FOR PARTNERS, who are an essential part of the booth community	26
Partners' Club	26
J-2 Work Authorization	27
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	27
Courses	27
Volunteering	27

BEFORE CHICAGO

After paying the initial deposit (which will then be deducted from *tuition*) and guaranteeing your place, you need to take care of some documentation and other preparations while still in your home country.

Cost of Living

The [Official Cost of Attendance \(COA\)](#) is released every year by the university (which also serves as a reference for calculating your loan). It is worth noting that some adjustments must be made in order to arrive at a realistic cost of attendance, since the amount estimated by the university does not completely cover significant costs such as: expenses with moving to Chicago, expenses with trips (Random Walks, Career Treks), expenses with winter clothes, etc. In addition, there are some comments regarding the official COA:

- Health Insurance: the amount corresponds to the official plan of the university (U-SHIP). However, other cheaper plans (\$ 1,500 - \$ 3,000 per year) are also available. More information on the Health Insurance topic.
- Rent and utilities: the COA considers only the academic term, excluding summer.

Some relevant comments to define the cost of living:

- Rent: varies a lot in the same building. It is worthwhile to follow the buildings you are interested in and take advantage of potential discounts that may appear.
- Utilities: figure out if your building charges for heating/AC separately. Your electricity bill can increase to up to \$300 / month during the winter if that is the case.
- Mobile: it is possible to reduce the cost through a “Family Plan” with other students or using a cheap plan like Mint Mobile.
- Travel: travel costs can be as high or as low as you wish. It is worth considering that there is some social pressure to participate in at least one of the class trips (RW, SkiTrip, Thanksgiving, Spring Break, etc.) and that the experience of going on a trip with your friends from b-school is a must!
- Winter: Burlington and other similar stores (Ross, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, ...) offer a variety of options for all needs with a lower cost (30-50% of branded clothing). However, there are plenty of other options for buying winter clothes.
- Moving in: you can buy your furniture through a 2Y student furniture pack, brand new at IKEA, Amazon, Wayfair, or used through Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist (both great in Chicago).

Scholarship

Booth has a few specific scholarships, which can be divided into three types:

- **Scholarships awarded upon admission:** most frequent type. Some examples are the 1898 scholarship and Nelson Germano's.
- **Scholarships awarded between the result of admission and the start of classes:** they occur in some cases. In order to do this, the ideal is to speak directly to the person at Admissions who is responsible for you.
- **Scholarships awarded between 1st and 2nd year:** occur in very few cases, for students with exemplary academic performance and who are very active in the community of Booth.

Loans

In general, for those who are determined to take out a loan, the order of priority is as follows:

- **Federal Student Loans via the FAFSA:** Loan financed by the US government, only for those with US citizenship or permanent residents (green card)
- **Private Loans in the US:** best option for those who have an American co-signer.
- **Other lenders (Prodigy, Discover, etc):** finances up to 100% of the college's estimated COA without the need for citizenship or a co-signer.

For questions, contact the Chicago Booth Financial Aid Office at 773.702.3964 (financial.aid@ChicagoBooth.edu).

Loan limits

The student loans listed above go through Booth on both approval and receipt of money. That is, during the process of obtaining the loan, Booth will validate the amount that is being requested. And during the loan disbursement, the money is deposited to the college, which in turn retains the costs related to tuition and other fees and transfers the excess amount to the student's account.

It is important to note that Booth limits all financial aid (loans, scholarships, sponsorships, etc.) to the cost of Attendance (COA). That way, the most you can borrow is: COA - Scholarships - Sponsorships.

Adjustments in the COA

Students who have dependents (partners, children) can ask Booth for a COA more adjusted to their reality. This letter that Booth issues can be used to send to Prodigy or Discover, thus increasing the loan ceiling. As the COA is also used as a reference for how much the student has to prove financial resources to attend school (both for the school and for the visa), it is important to note that the adjusted COA implies proving more resources (which can be through the larger loan).

Visa

Types of Visa

Non-American students have two visa options for studying full-time in the USA: the F-1 and the J-1. While they both play the role of allowing you to study in the US legally, they do have some practical differences in ways that make it easier for you to choose both.

For more detailed information on visa types, consult the Office of International Affairs: <https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/students/admitted/>.

Obtaining a Visa

This information is highly dependent on your country of residence, so we recommend contacting the OIA for more information.

Apartments/ Houses

The admitted student portal features testimonials and information about the neighborhoods where students normally live. It is important to remember that choosing the neighborhood where you live and the type of residence is very personal. In general, students start searching for an apartment at least ~ 2 months before their respective move to Chicago. The vast majority of the buildings have an administration office that is responsible for negotiating the lease terms with the students, and it is not necessary to hire a broker for the process.

It is worth remembering that apartment prices can vary significantly within the same building for several reasons: (1) floor; (2) face / direction (apartments more exposed to the sun are more expensive); (3) type of floor (with or without carpet); (4) duration of the contract; (5) time of negotiation (prices rise during the summer); (6) new lease vs. transfer among students.

The first decision to be made is in which neighborhood to live. The main advantage of Hyde Park is the proximity to the university, but it is a more limited area in terms of shops, restaurants and social life. The main advantage of Downtown / Loop / Streeterville is the easy access to the entire structure of the city (shops, restaurants, parks, clubs, etc.), in addition to the proximity to most of the students of Booth and the ease of commuting to other Chicago neighborhoods. Just keep in mind that less than 5% of the students live in Hyde Park, versus 70% living in three buildings facing each other (MPP, MILA, 73 East).

The following is an overview of the regions and housing options.

Downtown / Loop

According to school statistics, 80-90% of current students live in Downtown, close to the Metra station (train that is used to go to campus). It is worth mentioning that the city has a pedway (underground path), which is important during the winter - and, in the case of some buildings, allows the return trip to the Metra without being exposed to cold or snow. The Gleacher Center (Downtown campus where classes are held at night) is walking distance from all the buildings on the map below - just across the Chicago River). Among the most popular buildings between students, we highlight the MPP, Park Millennium, Columbus Plaza, Tides, Shoreham, 73 East Lake, MILA, Aqua and Coast. Below, a map to better visualize the distance between the buildings (in red) and the Metra station (in blue, on the left, below).



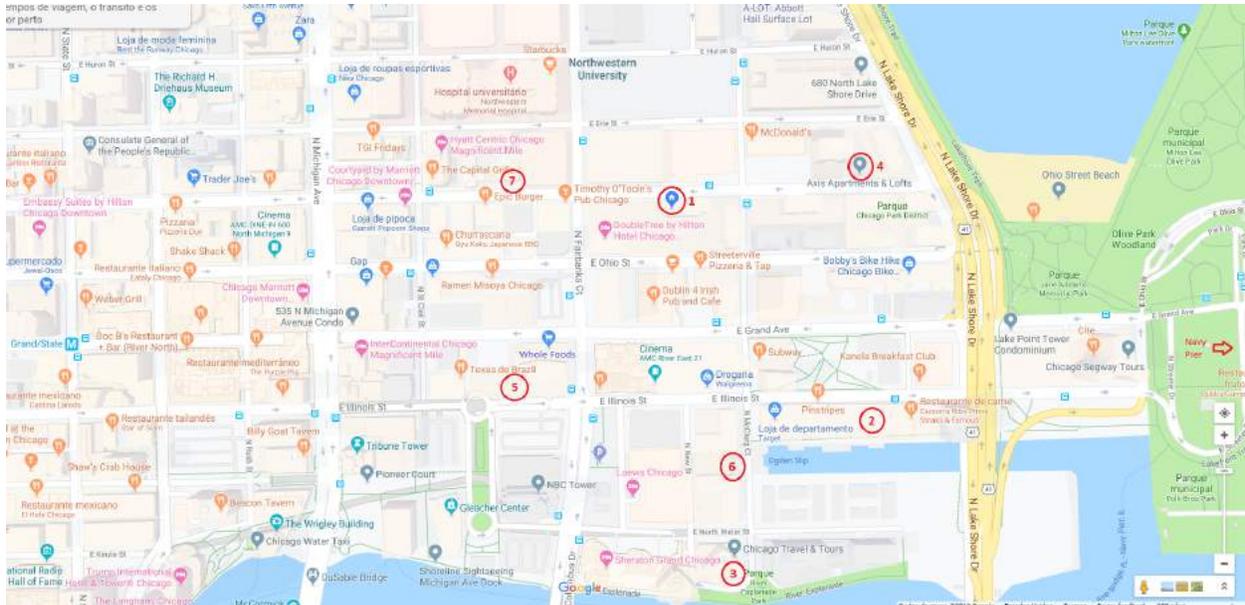
Streeterville

[Streeterville](#) is the neighborhood between Michigan Avenue and [Navy Pier](#), where the Gleacher Center is located. It is a neighborhood with many great options of [cafes](#), [restaurants](#), [cinemas](#), [grocery stores](#) (Whole Foods, Target, Bockwinkel's, Trader Joe's, etc), [parks](#), and is just off the [Magnificent Mile](#) of Michigan Avenue (equivalent of 5th Avenue NYC in Chicago). With more building options, Streeterville is also an excellent value for money, a way to [live closer to services](#) versus [Lakeshore East](#) and still keep walking-distance (10-15 min walking) from where most of the students live.

To reach the Harper Center, take [bus # 2](#) which takes 40-45 minutes (including a total 7 min walk, versus 16-18 min from Lakeshore). As an option, the walk to Metra (Millennium Station) takes 13-18 min [*distances were measured on Google Maps*].

There are several buildings in Streeterville and most of them have excellent amenities. Some of the apartments (leased via leasing office, i.e. the apartment owner is a building manager) are [McClurg Court](#) [1, on the map below], [Lofts at River East](#) [2] , [Cityfront Place](#) [3], [Axis](#) [4] and [Optima](#) [5]. All of these have great amenities and services and, in general, prices are better than comparable Lakeshore East.

For condos (owners are individuals) it is best to look for a real estate agent, such as [Streeterville Properties](#), or sites such as Zillow and HotPads. Good choices are the [480 McClurg Court](#) [6] and the [230 E Ontario](#) [7].

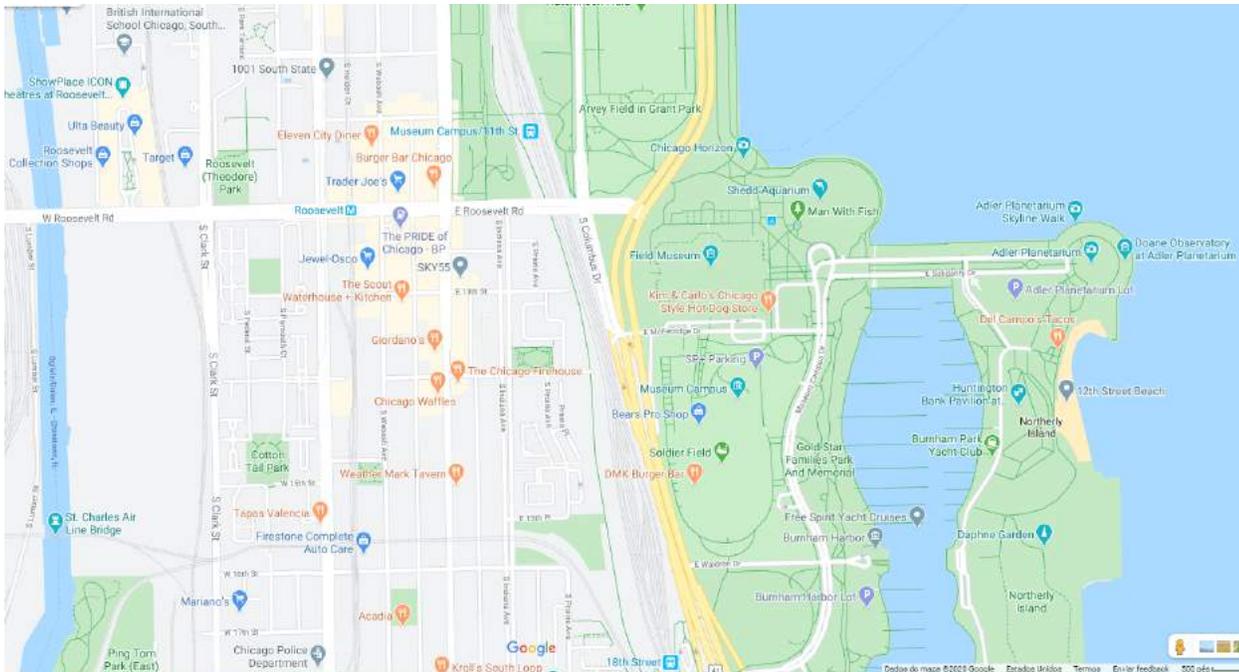


South Loop

The South Loop is a more residential neighborhood, making it an especially popular choice for parents with school-age kids because the neighborhood has great public schools (and Chicago public schools serve according to their zip code). Many Boothies with kids live here.

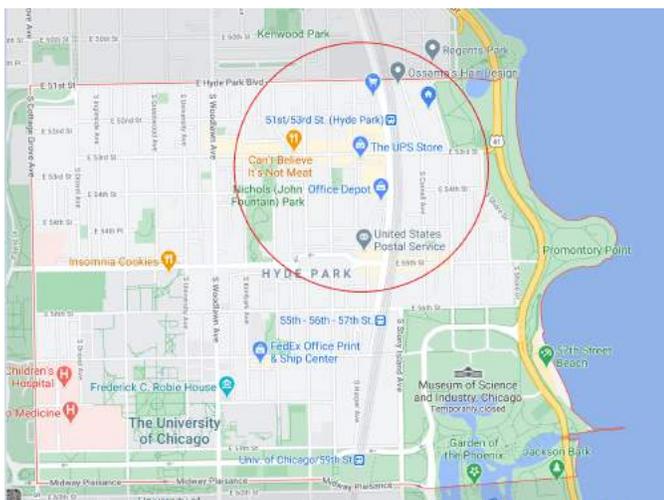
The neighborhood has great grocery options located a few blocks away from the apartments. These include stores like Whole Foods, Jewel Osco, Trader Joe's, Mariano's, and Target. The Metra station can be 1-4 blocks away, depending on your building's location on the South Loop. In addition to Metra, there are bus lines that stop at the entrance to the campus – which can be a great option in winter. The “L” station for the green, red and orange lines is also nearby.

Among the condominium options in the South Loop, a little more than half consist of “apartments” that are owned by individuals who decide to rent their units. Rental listings can be found on Craigslist or through brokers. Among the “condos” of companies that rent all apartments, the most popular are: Sky55, 1130smichigan and 1212smichigan.



Hyde Park

Living close to the University means being only a few minutes away from campus (Harper Center) with the option of using the college shuttle. Hyde Park also features a wide range of townhouses between houses and apartments. They are bigger, older and cheaper apartments. We advise avoiding streets south of 59th and west of Cottage Grove for safety. The red circle is known as Downtown Hyde Park and has many shops, restaurants and markets such as Whole Foods, Marshalls, Five Guys, pharmacies, pet shops, etc. When making this choice, there are some important points to consider: especially from the second quarter onwards. It is likely that you will not need to go to Harper every day of the week, given the flexible curriculum. In addition, right from the start, we have the option of taking classes with the evening and weekend MBA classes at Gleacher, a campus located in the Loop.



Lincoln Park and Other Neighborhoods

The option to live in other neighborhoods should consider access to school. In regions such as Lincoln Park or West Loop, it is recommended to have a car to go to school.

Shopping/Furniture

Only a few apartments are pre-furnished (with sofa, bed, etc.) but most apartments come with the kitchen ready (refrigerator, stove, microwave and dishwasher). The existence of a washing machine and dryer inside the unit is one of the differentiating items between the buildings (however, some people like to have washing machines and dryers in the common areas of the building, as it allows them to spend less time washing 2-4 machines at the same time).

In **Appendix 1** there is more detailed information about items you might need to buy.

New Furniture

Ikea (www.ikea.com): A lot of Booth students shop there. It is an hour's drive from downtown. There you will find practically everything you want to furnish your apartment. There are two stores (Schaumburg and Bolingbrook) and both are about 45 minutes from Chicago. You can buy anything you want there at great prices, from living room furniture to glasses and decorations. You can go to Uber's store (~40 USD) and ask to deliver your purchases directly to your home without assembly (~80 USD for delivery + ~USD 40 for store staff to place your order) or ask IKEA assemble (delivery/assembly value + variable value calculated by the note value - approx. 500 USD). Another option is to rent a U-Haul truck or similar (yes, you can drive a truck and you can bet it will be tiring but fun!), which costs an average of USD 110. (it tends to be a little better if you pay for the setup). Consider using the U-Haul with the help of one more person. Going to IKEA is an all-day event, so it's good to plan ahead! Take a look at the site before you go, and already make a list of the items you want to buy, as this avoids a second trip to the store.

Dania Furniture (www.daniafurniture.com): modern furniture of good quality and a little more expensive than at Ikea.

Crate & Barrel (www.crateandbarrel.com): is a more sophisticated store, and this is reflected in the prices. It has everything from furniture to decorative items. The store is in Old Town - 10-15 minutes by bus. There is an option with more modern furniture that is from the same network, called CB2, practically at the same address.

Bed Bath & Beyond (www.bedbathandbeyond.com): Things for the kitchen and home. It's worth it to go online and register and print a coupon for 20% off an item. Plus, if I'm not mistaken, there's a loyalty program that costs 30-40 dollars, and gives you 20% off on any purchase - online or in-store. The nearest store is in Oldtown, 10-15 minutes by public transport from the Loop.

Target (www.target.com): good option to buy "accessories" for the house (bed linen, kitchen utensils, bathroom curtain, etc). Easiest way to get there and "L" (taking the red line at State, get off at Roosevelt). There is a smaller store downtown (1 S State St).

1-800 Mattress (<https://www.1800mattress.com/>): You can purchase online or over the phone. Several brands available.

Wayfair (<https://www.wayfair.com/>): great store for furniture and decorative items in general.

Baxton Outlet (<http://www.baxtonstudiooutlet.com/>): This store is one of Wayfair's suppliers (which renames the brand on the site). Very good quality furniture. They have a store near Chicago, but not all furniture is available at the store. You can place the order over the phone and have it delivered to your home (they charge a flat fee of \$80, regardless of the amount of furniture) or ask to pick it up at the store (they don't charge for transporting the merchandise to the store, but you are in charge of the cost of fetching there).

Other stores: Ashley Furniture (furniture and decorative items in general), Lampsplus (lighting), Rugs.com (carpets), Amazon (anything - including the vendors listed here), HomeGoods, Overstock.com, The Container Store (everything that you can imagine to optimize space), Office Max, Office Depot, Linens & Things, Best Buy, etc.

Used Furniture

For those who don't mind having used or semi-new furniture, the other option is to buy certain items or all the furniture for students who are graduating: sofa, bed, cutlery, crockery set, stereo, printer, bicycle, vacuum cleaner, everything. You can't imagine the amount and variety of things people sell! An advantage, in addition to the price, is not having to go out and buy absolutely everything (with all those countless little items that you only remember when you need them). Now the downside is to buy without seeing them live (as it is customary to take pictures of the items and send them by email) and having to find a place to keep them.

In general, by the time you are arriving in Chicago, several second-years are thinking/trying to sell their furniture. With the number of international students and from other parts of the US, it is quite common to see people selling their furniture in a 'bundle' (e.g. selling all the furniture in the house for 40% of the original price). As it doesn't make much sense to be haggling in this situation, people put things up for sale with a lot of discounts, so it's worth keeping an eye on Slack. Later on, graduating students will send a spreadsheet with lists of furniture being sold/donated. The downside of buying this way is that unless you see the furniture live (First Day, for example), sales are essentially done through photos.

In short: how to find used furniture for sale:

- From home: Slack; sending emails to the second-years.
- In Chicago there will be several scattered ads for all buildings and also insite www.craigslist.com (this site can also be a good option for those who choose to rent a house, despite from the crude look, the network of people he uses is gigantic).

Moving and/or Assembly

If you need storage for the furniture between the seller's departure and his arrival in Chicago, Clutter (<https://www.clutter.com/>) is a good option. The company does the entire process of removing the furniture, storage and delivery to your address (and even assemble the larger furniture depending on the time you have). The entire

service costs around \$800 but can vary greatly depending on the amount of furniture and storage time you will need. They have a referral discount scheme, so be sure to talk to second-years if you need to use this service.

Now get ready to assemble the furniture! A screwdriver (electric) and a hammer are enough to assemble everything. Some students can lend these tools to you. Assembling Ikea furniture is easy, but depending on the quantity, it can be laborious.

If you choose to buy used furniture and need help moving or if you simply want help assembling new furniture, here are some contacts that can help:

- TaskRabbit (<https://www.taskrabbit.com/>) - site that allows you to find people who perform the most diverse services. Search for "Help Moving". 2Ys may be able to give referrals that result in discounts for both.
- Handy (<https://www.handy.com/>) - similar to TaskRabbit.
- Other Personal Contacts: There are many people who also offer these services. For more up-to-date contacts, it's worth asking for 2nd years, on Booth's slack or searching on facebook groups.

Vaccinations

There are several options to prove that you have had the necessary vaccinations required to study at the University of Chicago. Pay attention to the information on the Admitted Students website for deadlines, since without the vouchers you can't register for the winter quarter.

You can receive your vaccinations at school when you arrive in Chicago. Another option is getting them in your home country and submitting a university vaccine form certified by your doctor.

You can use the opportunity to get vaccinations for **yellow fever, flu (and H1N1) and other regional diseases at the airport** and ask for proof, as depending on the destinations you choose for the Random Walk, or other trips during the MBA, such vaccinations may be necessary.

IN CHICAGO

Your first days will be busy, with checking in at the Office of International Affairs, opening a bank account, making a cell phone plan, installing internet and more. But do not worry! This section of the Guide describes step-by-step what you need to do once you arrive in Chicago.

This section also brings you what you need to know for your daily life in Chicago, such as supermarkets, gyms, transportation, etc.

Finally, this section has some suggestions on how to get the most out of this impressive city!

OIA Arrival Registration

Within 5-days of your arrival in Chicago, you must complete the F-1/J-1 International Student Check-In with the Office of International Affairs (OIA). **This can be done online.** You will be required to provide a copy of your I-94 arrival record and current U.S. address (even if it is temporary). It is important that you complete check-in to avoid losing status.

If you can, update your information in the University Directory first (with the address where you will be staying in Chicago) as they will ask for this information.

To register your arrival online, [follow the instructions on the OIA website](#). An I-94 arrival record is issued to you each time you arrive in the U.S. (not just the first time). OIA recommends that you obtain your I-94 each time you arrive and keep a screen grab as this arrival record is your proof and evidence that you traveled to the U.S. and arrived in F-1 or J-1 status (same with any dependents in F-2 or J-2 status).

Other information relevant to international students [can be found here](#).

OIA also recommends that students make electronic copies of their important immigration documents (e.g. passport, I-20 or DS-2019, F-1 or J-1 visa sticker) and determine a way to keep these documents safe while in Chicago. A lost or stolen document is easier to replace if you have a copy than otherwise.

Bank Account, Credit Card and Transfers

Bank Account

Opening an account is very simple: just bring an ID (passport), some proof of student status and a copy of the rental agreement to prove your address. StudentID and/or I-20 also helps. It's worth asking if a minimum deposit is required (in some cases \$50). It is noteworthy that in the United States it is possible to make purchases over the Internet with a debit card.

The most popular banks are Citibank, Chase and Bank of America. The closest bank to Harper is Citibank, which has an on-campus branch next to Bookstore (Ellis Avenue at 58th), but there are plenty of other options in the Loop/Downtown.

Credit Card

It is important to bring an international card for the first days and/or emergencies (don't forget to clear your use with the bank).

Once here, apply for the credit card from Citibank (usually the issue period is 30 days). This makes it easier to get a card without having to build a credit history. To apply for a credit card, you must already have your university card in hand (Student ID).

One option for a credit card is Deserve Edu (<https://www.deserve.com/credit-cards/>), to apply you need to have an open checking account in the US, you complete an online application stating that you are an international student (you don't need SSN in this case), take a photo of your documents (passport, visa, I-20) and connect your bank account.

International transfers

Once the bank account is open, a popular option for international transfers are brokers and specialized sites such as Transferwise.

International bank transfers are simple, but usually have a fee and have bad exchange rates. Some people are able to negotiate with the bank to reduce the price of the service.

Another option would be to exchange remittances through smaller institutions.

Cell Phone

To get a cell phone chip as soon as you arrive in the US, you might need to make a deposit of around \$500 (for those who don't have SSN and a credit history), but in some places (like AT&T or Verizon, it's worth asking at T-Mobile) you can request a waiver of this deposit when you bring some proof that you are studying at the University of Chicago (such as your letter of admission).

In the postpaid plan, all calls to numbers within the US (including mobile) are free within the plan. Most Booth students have an AT&T or T-Mobile line.

It generally **is cheaper to purchase a family cell phone plan** and share it with one or more people than to have individual plans. Simply monitor whether each plan member is using their data allowance limit, or arrange for a prorated usage charge. Many international students do this. If you want to join an existing family plan, talk to second-years.

T-Mobile is one of the cheaper options, costing around \$30 a month in the “family” plan (can be done among students without family relationships). Important to mention that the T-Mobile signal works well anywhere in the city, except Tides, Shoreham and Coast (so don't have T-Mobile if you're going to live in one of these buildings).

AT&T is the most popular operator among students, with a great signal. They also offer cheaper options with a “family” plan.

These plans typically provide call and message coverage in Canada and Mexico at no additional cost.

Apparently, the marginally better operator is Verizon (better signal and greater US coverage). But that's why they are a little more expensive and more restrictive on credit.

If you don't want to join a family plan, you can use T-Mobile via the start-up [ConnectED Mobile](#), which requires no SSN, no deposit and starts the contract with a promotional price. Ask for referrals for second-years.

It's always better to wait for a promotion to upgrade your cell phone for better versions. And do some research to see if a regular line contract has a minimum period (generally 1 year). For those who want to spend less, try to unlock your phone with your carriers before coming here.

You can opt for a prepaid phone, such as the [AT&T Prepaid](#), which can be purchased from AT&T or any store (such as Best Buy).

To avoid receiving telemarketing calls, just register your number here: <https://www.donotcall.gov/register.html>. After registering, you will need to click on a link that you will receive via email.

Cable TV and Internet Cable

TV

Before evaluating cable TV options, make sure your building doesn't already include a basic package.

Internet

The same tip of cable TV should be followed in the case of the Internet: most buildings already have a basic connection package that is very good. You can upgrade packages at additional cost.

The university offers a broadband connection on campus, called uchicago-secure. For more details on how to access this network, [see here](#).

ComEd - Electricity

You will probably need to put your name on your apartment's electricity bill (by default the bill will be in the name of the administrator or owner). If you don't have an SSN, you must first do an identity check.

You should go to the following address: 117 W Lake St, at the entrance to the building that leads to the Clark/Lake subway, on the opposite sidewalk from McDonalds (the official building address is 100 West Randolph Street, but Google Maps will take you to the opposite side of building). Entering on the right, there are some booths that make the identity check of ComEd (opposite the subway turnstiles).

You must bring two different documents (passport and credit card, for example, list of possible documents [here](#), under “How do I verify my identity...”) and have your apartment address written in the ComEd standard. (Check [here](#), click on New Customer, Residential and then on Address Lookup, under Service Address).

After verification of your identity, you will receive a paper with the Confirmation number and the Reference number. Also ask for your Account number and write it down.

With that done, you can call the ComEd number (800-334-7661) and ask to transfer the bill to your name.

There are other addresses where you can check ComEd, but this is the closest.

Documents (Local Identification, Social Security Number and Student ID)

Social Security Number

Students with F-1 are currently not eligible for SSN while they have no income in the US. For more detailed information about the SSN, visit the Office of International Affairs website (<https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/ssn>).

You will probably receive an SSN during your Summer Internship if it is located in the US.

Student ID

The school will send you the information for you to request the Student ID when you are still in your home country. To do this, you will need to submit a photo by email on the date indicated (probably between late June and early July). If the photo is submitted by the indicated deadline, the student ID will generally be available on the first day of class.

Computer and Software

The school usually makes agreements with some manufacturers to sell computers at a discount ([see here](#)). In addition, the websites of some manufacturers (e.g. HP, Lenovo and Sony) have an exclusive page for students and teachers, with discounts starting at 10% for computers and accessories. Register with your email @chicagobooth.edu. Anyway, **don't forget to search elsewhere and look at the final value, with taxes**: it could end up being cheaper on Amazon anyway... Finally, before closing your purchase on the internet, search for discount coupon codes .

Another tip is that **you can get a lot of software for free or with very generous discounts** for students. Entering the IT website through the Booth Portal ([see here](#)) you can download Office, Windows, Think-Cell (for on-call consultants), Tableau, antivirus and others for free. In the same place, you can search for software that can be accessed remotely, such as Stata.

Supermarkets

Downtown

Mariano's: The largest supermarket with the best variety for those living in LSE (Within LakeShore East, 333 E Benton Pl). It also sells sushi and other ready-to-eat foods.

Bockwinkel's's: It's not the cheapest, but it's good quality (222 N Columbus Dr.) and it's right next to several buildings (underneath the Park Millenium). It also sells cleaning and hygiene products, etc.

Streeterville

Whole Foods (30 W Huron St): organic supermarket, has very high quality products, ready-to-eat foods, but has a higher price point than the others.

Trader Joe's (44 E Ontario St): excellent for food products, with a very interesting price and great quality (most products are private label). It has mainly meats, vegetables, vegetables and fruits, in addition to grocery items and great frozen meals.

Bockwinkel's (320 E Ohio St): is under McClurg Court, which is super convenient, especially during winter. Medium-large in size, it has a good variety of fresh and quality products. It also sells cleaning and hygiene products, etc. But it's not the cheapest.

Target (401 E Illinois St): This is a department store, but it also sells groceries (to a lesser extent). Great for buying cleaning products, hygiene, household items, etc.

Jewel Osco (550 North State St): supermarket with everything. Lots of variety, good fresh stuff and good value.

South Loop

Jewel Osco: Wabash with Roosevelt

Target: Clark with Roosevelt.

Whole Foods: Channel with Roosevelt.

Trader Joe's: Wabash with Roosevelt.

Panozzo Italian Market: Small Italian market, great for buying cold cuts, cheese and pasta (including pizza dough). Every day there are some hot dishes and sandwiches that can be bought by the pound. (1303 S Michigan)

Mariano's: 1615 S Clark St – great variety, also sells ready-to-eat

Hyde Park

Whole Foods: 5118 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60615. Opposite train station (Metra 51st/53rd St. Hyde Park)

Trader Joe's: 1528 E 55th St, Chicago, IL 60615.

Target: 1346 E 53rd St, Chicago, IL 60615. Target convenience store, medium size, but it has everything.

Open Produce: 1635 E 55th St, Chicago, IL 60615. Convenience stores are open until 2am.

Internet

An excellent option for those without a car – especially in winter! – is the Peapod (www.peapod.com). Very convenient, the delivery person leaves the groceries in your kitchen! Pricing is similar to Dominick's and is an excellent option for heavier items, in winter, etc.

Another option is the app called Instacart that also delivers your purchases at home.

But perhaps the most popular option is Amazon Fresh. Delivery fee is \$4.99, but for purchases over \$35, delivery is free. You choose a delivery interval of 2 hours and the delivery person leaves everything at your apartment door. If you order alcoholic beverages, the delivery person will knock on your door to ask for your passport and signature, but in a normal delivery, he just leaves the bags at your door and really leaves. It is also worth mentioning that refrigerated items come in a special package to preserve the temperature.

Gym

Most buildings have good gyms. In the case of some buildings in Downtown and Streeterville the gyms are well equipped and the price is included in the rent!

For those who want more options, there is Lakeshore Fitness (www.lakeshoresf.com) at 211 North Stetson, which is very close to some buildings (Columbus Plaza, Park Millenium and Millenium Park Plaza) and is integrated with the pedway. This gym has almost everything on its 7 floors: swimming pool, basketball court, functional/crossfit equipment, climbing wall, squash courts, weight training and aerobics room, as well as several classes.

Another great option downtown is LA Fitness. It has the best weight room in the region, but it can get pretty crowded at peak times. It is close to all buildings on 55 East Randolph.

In Streeterville, right next to Gleacher, there is a cheap option, Planet Fitness. The gym has less equipment and options than Lakeshore Fitness but is much cheaper <https://www.planetfitness.com/>

For those who like functional training, a gym that is really hot in Chicago is the Orange Theory, where you train with a heart monitor. They have a unit in Streeterville right next door to Whole Foods and you can take a free trial class and get group discounts (<https://www.orangetheoryfitness.com/>). Still in Streeterville, SL Boxing Conditioning (<http://slpersonaltraining.com/>) is worth checking out [Yelp](#).

Another great alternative is the free gym at the University (Ratner), a super new and well equipped gym located 10 minutes from Booth. It's worth a visit, it's on Ellis Ave and 55th St., as it has a great structure (with a pool) and again, it's free.

Cleaning

You can buy handy tools and utensils to keep your apartment clean, such as Roombas, Vacuum cleaners, Swiffers and more.

Some students end up choosing to have a cleaning person to help with the maintenance of the apartment. Be it 1x a week, 1x every 15 days, or simply when you feel like it.

Here the cleaning staff or companies usually charge by the hour and the service can vary a lot. In general, they come to do more heavy cleaning (vacuuming, dusting, cleaning the bathrooms and kitchen), but they can also do laundry, ironing, etc. Some people and companies that offer this service in Chicago:

- www.homejoy.com
- www.handy.com
- www.scrubzz.com
- www.myclean.com

Car and Transportation

If you live in Downtown, Streeterville, and even other neighborhoods, Chicago's public transportation (Subway, Metra and Divvy bikes) and apps (Uber, Lyft) often solve your needs .

Public Transportation

Chicago has an excellent public transportation system. To go from Campus to Downtown there are two very good options: the Metra and the bus. The Metra (line ME – Metra Electric - Chicago-University Park) and the bus (lines #6, #2, #173 and #192) are very comfortable and safe for those coming or going to Downtown/Hyde Park. The most common Metra stations are: to Downtown (Randolph St), to Booth (55th-56th-57th St or 59th St, depending on time).

Train and bus timetables are available on the Internet (Metra - <http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home.html> and CTA - <http://www.transitchicago.com/>) and on smartphone apps: you you can access free of charge from your iPhone or Android the updated schedule of Metra, the bus or even search for which bus to take between one location and another. Applications: [Ventra](#) (official government app), GoogleMaps, Transit Buddy, Embark Metra, EMbark CTA, Transit Stop.

It is worth buying the CTA (Ventra Card) if you use the bus - www.transitchicago.com or www.yourcta.com - and/or the Metra card at the station itself. On these sites, there are also maps, routes and timetables for buses and trains. You can purchase passes for 1, 2, 3 and 5 days and 1 month of unlimited use of the metro and bus system or 10 trips and 1

month for Metra. For CTA, it is possible to buy the Ventra Card at any Walgreens or CVS and schedule automatic top-ups as well as monitor the card balance over the internet.

The CTA card can be used by more than one person as long as both people start the route at the same location. In addition, there is a single ticket type that additionally charges a bit extra for another bus or subway that you take in a two-hour period.

Divvy bike stations are located in many spots around the city and can be very convenient for short and long distances.

Uber/Lyft

The per-app transport also works very well. Uber is very convenient and cheaper than taxis. Other options are Lyft (very common, with plenty of offers and often cheaper than Uber) and Curb (for taxis). Many students end up using Uber/Lyft (mostly during the winter), splitting between 4 Boothies (or more in an Uber XL). There is also the Uber POOL, or Shared Lyft option, where you share the ride with other passengers, and pay approximately half the price on a predefined fare. Chicago also has an extensive taxi fleet, with high availability in the downtown area.

ZipCar

An interesting option for those who don't have a car but want the flexibility to rent by the hour in nearby locations is Zipcar (www.zipcar.com). It's very practical and easy, as you just register on the site, leave a debit or credit card and fax a receipt from the Detran site that certifies that you don't have serious fines in your wallet. Then, just stop by the Zipcar store in Wabash and pick up your card, or ask the company to send it to you (although it's no longer necessary with the iPhone, for example, it's always good to have...).

In addition to Zipcar, there is also iGo and Turo. Check the prices and the places where both have cars because the prices charged are very similar.

Car

Driver's License

Under Illinois law, foreign students and their accompanying persons may use their original country license for as long as they remain in the US studying. Getting your Driver's License will be important if you choose to purchase a car in Chicago. For this you will need the SSN, but if you don't have one, you will need to go to the Social Security Office (there is one on 63rd with Cottage Grove or Downtown at 77 W Jackson Blvd, suite 300) carrying passport, I-20 and ask for a letter to explain that you are not eligible to take SSN. Then just take this letter with all the documents mentioned above to the Secretary of State Facility (5301 W. Lexington Ave.) where you will take the theoretical and practical test. Do it all on the same day and the letter will be out on time. Important detail: you need to go with your car (or rented with insurance).

If you prefer, you can take the paper test in one day, and the practice in another. In this case, you can take the paper test at the Secretary of State Facility (100 W. Randolph) downtown, and the practice at the Secretary of State Facility mentioned above.

To prepare for the paper test, it is worth doing online simulations (most of them are free), such as the one on the website <https://driving-tests.org/illinois/illinois-permit-practice-test/>.

For more details go to http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/drlicid.html#tvd

Where to buy a car

One option when buying a car is to look for a graduating student who is interested in selling their vehicle. Another option is to search online. There are two types of sellers: private and dealers. The advantage of buying a car directly from someone else is that you pay less tax. At dealers they will charge 8.75% Sales tax while private transactions will be taxed according to the year of the car. In most cases, dealers don't offer any advantage as they don't give any guarantees (unless it's in the pre-owned programs of some automakers, but they include this in the price).

Pets

It is important to remember that there is nothing better than asking your front desk what the building offers because there are people who work daily with owners of different animals inside each building doing all kinds of services such as bathing, grooming, walking and food.

Where to bathe - usually buildings have a space just for this or you can take advantage of it when you have a bathtub at home. To find any information close to where you live, just google "Dog grooming" and there are several places to help you.

How to buy food - Of course, every supermarket here has food for your pet, but the ease of using the app for everything here makes it easy. The supermarket app 'instacart' has Petco which has delivery of almost everything within 2 hours. Another app that also helps you buy anything, including prescription drugs, is Chewy.

Veterinary - There are two types of establishments to take care of your animal: traditional veterinary clinics (Primary Vet) and specialized hospitals. Ideally, you should know at least one of each, as the services are complementary. Primary Vet are traditional clinics, which operate on a fixed schedule (usually Monday to Saturday) and offer care for problems of low/medium complexity. Specialized hospitals have 24-hour emergency services and specialized teams of Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Neurology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, and so on. The cost of care at the hospital is much higher than at the Primary Vet. Since we're talking about health, we recommend finding a team you trust, regardless of distance. A few options:

- Primary Vet:
 - Lincoln Square Animal Hospital (<https://lincolnsquareanimalhospital.com/>)
 - Eastside Veterinary Clinic
 - GoodVets

- Hospital and Emergency: MedVet (<https://www.medvetforpets.com/location/medvet-chicago/>)

Animal health insurance - Some Primary Vets have their own Wellness Care plan, covering vaccinations and a certain number of appointments per year. In addition, there are classic health insurances covering Wellness Care and/or Unexpected Accidents and Illness. There is no perfect plan, it depends a lot on your pet's age/health and needs. A few popular options are Pets Best (an arm of Progressive), Lemonade, Healthy Paws, Figo, Nationwide, GEICO, Trupanion and others. The plans work in the form of a refund and usually transfer within 10 days of request. Since any medical expenses here are very expensive, including veterinary medicine, we strongly recommend hiring a plan to avoid surprises in your budget.

Travel Caregivers - There are also several apps and pet shops that offer this service. One such app is Rover. Through it, you can also find dog walks, dog sitting (the person goes to your house) and what we call a hotel is dog boarding.

Clothing

One of the biggest concerns is when to buy winter coats. In addition to outlets, there are several stores in the city that sell coats. It is important to be aware of the offers as prices and quality vary a lot – for example from US\$50 to US\$1,300. Some store suggestions:

- North Face (Streeterville – 875 N Michigan Ave): More expensive, but sells good stuff – including winter shoes.
- Columbia (Streeterville - 830 N Michigan Ave): Very similar to North Face, but cheaper.
- Eddie Bauer (available at outlets and via website): Columbia and North Face equivalent quality and great prices (one coat for ~\$200).
- Canada Goose (Streeterville - 800 N Michigan Ave) - the brand that is considered the best and also the most expensive.
- Uniqlo (Streeterville - 830 Michigan Ave)
- H&M (Streeterville - 840 Michigan Ave)
- General department stores have plenty of variety and many different brands:
 - Macy's
 - Nordstrom
 - Saks
 - Neiman Marcus
- Outlets can also be a great choice:
 - Premium Outlet Aurora: Outlet 45 min from Chicago

- Prime: Outlet also about 45 minutes from Chicago (it has a Columbia and North Face store).
- Fashion Outlets – in Rosemont, accessible by the CTA.
- Burlington Coat Factory: has coats suitable for the Chicago winter at good prices. (1 North State Street).

US Income Tax

In the two years you are here, you will necessarily (whether or not you have income!) you will have to send your income tax return by mail (the address/department also varies depending on the situation). The Office of International Affairs (OIA) offers a software that helps in preparing the IR (Sprintax) and the whole process is very fast and self-explanatory: based on questions, it analyzes your specific situation (for example, if you don't know if you are a US non-resident alien...) and at the end it generates all the applicable forms that have already been completed and saves the information for the following year.

The school will send emails when these dates are close and more details are available at <https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/practical/taxes.shtml> or by emailing international-affairs@uchicago.edu.

Enjoying Chicago

Chicago has a lot of entertainment options besides school! It's impossible to list everything, but the city has a lot to do: Chicago Theatre, Sears Tower, Opera, museums, aquarium, sporting events, planetarium, etc. Not to mention seasonal events. You won't believe it but it's quite possible to run out of time in these 2 years!

The city's cultural scene is quite intense: it's worth keeping an eye on Time Out (<https://www.timeout.com/chicago/>) to find out about the shows, exhibitions, plays, games that will take place in the city each week. It's also worth following up on www.do312.com and some instagram profiles, such as [@chicagobucketlist](https://www.instagram.com/chicagobucketlist).

Below are some tips on the main tourist attractions and tours:

1. Millennium Park: it is the “postcard of the city” with the famous “Bean”, several other installations/works of art and an auditorium by Frank Gehry. During the summer, it's worth keeping an eye on the free concert schedule.
2. Art Institute of Chicago: Voted “Best Museum in the US” by TripAdvisor and is the second largest museum in the US. It has the second largest collection of impressionists in the world and also an excellent collection of modern/contemporary Americans. With a Booth card, it's free!
3. Architectural Boat Cruise: Chicago is known as the “architectural capital of the world” as the city had to be rebuilt after a fire brought down 1/3 of the buildings in the late 19th century. It is one of the most emblematic tours you have around here. Architecture Foundation tours have a more technical appeal about buildings. Shoreline tours are less attached to architectural details.
4. Riverwalk: a very recent project that created a large boardwalk beside the river. Great for running or just taking a walk. It's also worth sitting down and having a beer/wine and snacking in one of the bars located there.

5. Navy Pier: is one of the main tourist attractions in the city, with a Ferris wheel and several American chain restaurants, as well as fireworks during the summer.
6. Magnificent Mile: Chicago's 5th Avenue. Most stores are scattered around here.
7. Museum of Contemporary Art: Smaller museum with interesting temporary exhibitions.
8. Walk tour at The Loop: Chicago's commercial hub, where half the population comes to work in the morning and leaves at 5pm. It has several interesting buildings from very different times. It also has some giant installations/sculptures scattered around the neighborhood. As many of the other attractions are in the neighborhood's outskirts, it's worth "entering" the Loop for a walk if you have free time.
9. Sears (Willis) Tower: It is the biggest building in the city and was the biggest building in the world for some time. Try to visit when the weather is clear to better enjoy the panoramic view. An alternative to seeing Chicago from above if you don't feel like paying the price of a ticket to go up to the Sears Tower is to go up for a drink at the John Hancock Center bar (drinks are expensive, but much cheaper than a ticket for the Skydeck).
10. Cycle/run at the Lakefront Trail: Chicago has a trail that spans 18 miles. It's a beautiful place to go for a run or take a bike ride (just rent a Divvy) and keep up with the changing city skyline. A suggestion is to head north from Navy Pier to Montrose Beach. Several people got excited about the city and started to participate in marathons or even in Iron Man competitions.
11. Sport games: Chicago people are quite fanatical about their teams, so it can be tricky to get tickets at the last minute. The teams in town are the Bulls (basketball), Blackhawks (hockey), Bears (football) and Cubs and White Sox (baseball).
12. Second City: Tina Fey, [Amy Poehler](#), [Steve Carrell](#) and many other comedians started performing at this comedy theater here in Chicago. The shows are really cool.
13. Music: In this regard, Chicago has many, many options! In addition to the famous Jazz and Blues scene that can be accompanied in the classics House of Blues, Kingston Mines, BLUES, Buddy Guy's Legends and Green Mill, the city is part of the tour itinerary of almost every artist. Just go to www.songkick.com or www.bandsintown.com to see who's coming. It is worth visiting the most emblematic bars and concert halls, such as The Vic, Lincoln Hall, Thalia Hall, Aragon Ballroom, The Riviera Theater and Bottom Lounge, as well as several dive bars where you can hear good music (Delilah's, Old Town Ale House, Reggie's, Double Door, Empty Bottle). Chicago also has a very interesting festival scene. In addition to Lollapalooza (30/Jul), created here, we have the Blues Festival (5/Jun), Pitchfork (17/Jul), North Coast (28/Aug) and Riot Fest (11/Sep). Another cool thing to follow here is [Sofar Sounds](#), to see intimate/secret concerts by lesser known bands.
14. Frank Lloyd Wright: If you are interested in architecture, don't miss Frank Lloyd Wright's home/studio in Oak Park. This neighborhood is a little far from the center (~45 minutes by train), but it's worth the visit because it concentrates several houses he built in a few blocks.
15. Other neighborhoods: there are several neighborhoods that are nice to go out to eat/drink/walk around. Each neighborhood has its own history and different footprint. You don't have to live in the Loop alone! Wicker Park

is bohemian/alternative, Old Town is classic, Lincoln Park is phyno, Logan Square is hipster, Pilsen has authentic Mexican food, and the West Loop has a thriving food scene around Fulton Market. But Chicago also has Chinatown, Greek and Italian neighborhoods, and even a Ukrainian village. We may be in the midwest but it's very cosmopolitan.

Eating out in Chicago

Chicago has a very rich and diverse food scene - here you can find good restaurants for all tastes and budgets. To choose from, it's also worth checking out guides, apps like Yelp, and Instagram profiles like [@infatuation_chi](#) and [@chicagofoodauthority](#). Anyway, below is a short list of "favorites".

- \$\$\$\$: Alinea, Spiaggia, Next
- \$\$\$: Blackbird, Oriole, Proxy, RPM, Gibson's steakhouse
- \$\$: Au Cheval, Girl & the Goat, Goat, Squid Cafe, Cindy's, Avec, Purple Pig, Beatrix, Gyu -Kaku
- \$: Kizuki Ramen, Ramen-san, Pizza Parlor, Time Out Market, Velvet Tacos, Big & Little's, Cafecito, Crisp, JP Grazianos

Also, Chicago has a few dishes to call your own:

- Deep dish pizza: It's like one pizza or pie with lots of cheese, but the tomato sauce goes on top of the cheese and not the dough. Giordano's and Lou Malnati's are the most famous.
- Hot dog: Chicago has its own version of a hot dog, closer to São Paulo (full of stuff inside) than New Yorker (only sausage). The most famous is Portillo's, but Devil Dawgs and Gene & Jude's are worth a visit.
- Caramel popcorn: another icon of the city. Garrett's is the most famous.

In the fast food style, there are options everywhere, such as: Chipotle, Cosi, Lyfe Kitchen, Subway, Potbelly, Five Guys, Shake Shack and Sweetgreen.

On campus, the school cafeteria is the most convenient place to have lunch, but there are also some good options:

- Reynolds Club, campus building with a few options
- Restaurants on 57th St, like Medici and Noodles Etc (that's the name. ...)
- Food trucks on South Ellis Ave, west of Quadrangle
- Plein Air Cafe, next to Booth

Now, when you're hungry and too lazy to get out of the house (and don't want any more pizza), the easiest options are GrubHub, DoorDash, Caviar, UberEats, which have delivery from several restaurants.

AT SCHOOL

Don't worry about courses, books, career services and bidding information just yet, you will get more information on that during orientation. Please refer to the [Career Services](#) and [Academic Services](#) webpages once you have access to the intranet if you want to prepare in advance.

Health

Standard Plan

The school offers a standard health plan for students, which will be included in your first bill if you do not demonstrate that you have purchased a plan alternative. In addition, it offers separate plans for dental and eye insurance, which are not included in the standard package.

The American health system is quite particular. UChicago provides a simple video to explain how the deductibles, coinsurance, and copays system works on [this link](#).

Alternative Plans

The standard college option (U-SHIP) is relatively expensive and there are cheaper alternatives for international students. The University of Chicago itself suggests some plans, with values that reach almost a third of the standard plan. Please be aware that alternative plans are not necessarily equivalent to the university plan in terms of services offered, so make an informed decision when choosing your healthcare plan.

You will be billed once, for the total plan amount (usually 9 or 10 months) and most plans have different rates for students aged 29 and under. The age limit is checked at the time of signing the contract. Therefore, if you turn 30 during the term of your plan, it will not have the value readjusted. The maximum contract term is 12 months and it must be renewed for the second year.

Plan websites:

- U-SHIP (“standard” plan): <https://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/student-health-insurance-0>
- ISO-Share for U. of Chicago <https://www.isoa.org/>
- CompassBenefits Group: <https://www.studenthealthusa.com/>
- PSI: <https://www.psiservice.com/portal.do?schoolId=S1ofOmRRP>

To-dos:

- Before choosing a plan, check the list of accepted plans with the university's Student Health Insurance Coordinator

- If you choose an alternative plan, submit an application for waiver for the university (check deadline during orientation)
- After contracting your health plan, ask for the physical copy of the health insurance card at <https://www.uhcsr.com/SelfServiceSupport/Students/myAccount/AccountLogin.aspx> (this link works for U-SHIP and Compass Benefits Group, if it doesn't work for your plan, check directly with the insurance company)

Books

When the time comes, talk to the second year students. It is possible to attend several courses in Booth without spending on books. Much of the content is made available for free by the teacher on Booth's internal system (Canvas) – slides, articles, etc.

Assess the need to buy books and compare prices as they can be more expensive at school (in fact, the school's own website usually has price comparisons between suppliers). If you want to buy a book, in general, the best option is Amazon.

It's worth paying attention to Slack/Facebook as there are students selling used books or course packs at very attractive prices. In addition, the school's own bookstore also sells used versions of the books. By the way, this is also a good option for those who don't want to take their books away: at the end of the semester, the school's bookstore sends an email with the price they pay to buy books.

Magazines and Newspapers

Career Services offers access to an information site called Factiva (search for 'Factiva' on [this site](#), which needs intranet access and has many other searchable resources). On Factiva you can read the main periodicals, including the Wall Street Journal, Business Week, The Economist, Time, etc. There is usually some delay for magazines. The school also offers free access to the full content of the Financial Times website and apps.

For those who prefer the printed version, be aware of promotions and discounts that may appear in your mail folder or in promotions made for students: the WSJ (use the email `..@uchicago.edu`), The Economist and FT have promotions for students and in some cases even Booth will present them (for example, the WSJ usually has a special promotion at an event we have about on-campus and external service providers).

Social Life

Chicago Booth is definitely not just about the academic experience: there's no shortage of events and things to do! During this period here, we go back to riding our bikes, carrying a backpack, staying up late, playing soccer, tennis, golf, sleeping in the afternoon, having our own schedules... And no boss!

Some examples of Booth's social events and activities:

TNDC (Thursday Night Drinking Club) – Every Thursday Booth's crowd goes to a different bar, with special drink prices. To receive the invitation, simply register on the mailing list and participate in the TNDC! Most of the time, the bar is closed to college people only.

LPE – Every Friday, starting at 4:30 pm, drinks and food are distributed free of charge at the Harper Center!

Student Groups – There are many opportunities you have to meet new students who share the same interests as you. There are regional groups, sports groups (rugby, football, basketball, volleyball, golf, etc), women in business, groups focused on recruitment and career preparation (Consulting, I-Banking, Private Equity, Corporate and Management, Tech, Marketing etc.), third sector (Net Impact, International Development Group), social (wine, golf, poker etc.). Below is a brief presentation of some of these clubs – which you will have the opportunity to get to know better at the beginning of classes, when there will be a fair where the co-chairs will be available for more information:

- Partners Club: so that partners can integrate with the school's staff, we suggest that you start contacting club representatives now. The co-chairs are very lively and so is the social agenda, which helps in changing and evaluating activities to be done here in Chicago.
- Wine Club: one of the biggest clubs in the school, organizes events where members meet to taste wine almost every week. Some events included tasting of several Portuguese wines, different Napa Valley wines, periodic competitions for who brings the best wine to the event, among others.
- Epicurean Club: for those who love food, this is the best club. In addition to the opportunity to cook for other students (or simply try other people's food), there are events to explore Chicago's locales. Some of the events organized include a lecture on luxury chocolates (with tasting!), oil and vinegar tasting, cheese tasting, a tour of a tea shop, etc.

FOR PARTNERS, who are an essential part of the booth community

Dear Partners, practically everything said in the sections above will impact your life as much as your Boothie's. Know that you are most welcome in the vast majority of activities offered by the college and our community would not be the same without you!

Partners' Club

The Booth Partners Club is an official club for Booth Student Partners. The club's goal is to make each partner's "Booth Experience" as positive and memorable as any student's by organizing events for partners to connect.

An interesting fun fact: even though the Partner's Club is the only non-student-run club in Booth, it is the most active club on campus! Over 75 events throughout the year are offered (at least once a week, but usually more!).

In addition to the events, you'll find at Booth Partners a community of people just like you, who are surviving the Chicago winter for the first time, trying to find a decent nanny, looking for a new activity in the city, and helping his/her Boothie survive the recruitment. More than that, the club is an opportunity to create your own friendship circles and develop relationships independent of your/his Boothie's relationships. Remember that, (very likely) especially during

the first year, Boothies will be largely absent due to the recruitment process - Booth Partners offers you the opportunity to be surrounded by friends who share your unique experience as a Partner .

For more information, visit <https://groups.chicagobooth.edu/ftpartners/about-us/>

J-2 Work Authorization

Partners with a J-2 visa can apply for Work Authorization, which allows them to work for a fee during their MBA period. For more details on how to apply, see <https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/j2workauth>

For further questions, Booth students can also email the OIA (Office of International Affairs).

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Courses

The French Pastry School: The pastry school offers professional courses and continuing education. Options vary between courses of just three days or months. A good option for professionals in the area and food lovers alike. More information: <http://www.frenchpastryschool.com>

Art Institute (Downtown): Photography, painting, drawing and others. There are one, five and ten week courses, and the tuition fee is \$580.

Graham School: The school located in the Gleacher Center offers a range of interesting courses for students and partners, from subjects ranging from art to gastronomy. It's worth checking out on the website: <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/noncredit>

Lill Street: The school offers some more alternative one-off courses such as pottery, embroidery, among others. The courses are always up to date so you need to keep an eye on the website: <http://lillstreet.com>

Sur La Tablehomeware: The store also offers free cooking courses. Website: <http://www.surlatable.com>

Eataly: In addition to being a gastronomic delight, Eataly also offers courses and specific events: <https://www.eataly.com>

Volunteering

Let's be realistic: when will we have as much free time as we have during the two years of MBA? This period is an excellent opportunity to dedicate yourself to some kind of volunteer work!

The benefits of this type of activity are numerous. Especially in an international environment, in a city like Chicago - which brings together people of multiple nationalities - having the possibility to learn from this diversity is valuable. Plus, it's a great way to meet new people, make friends, and immerse yourself in a new culture. It is also a possibility for those who want to gain experience in a new area of activity and is an excellent alternative to remain intellectually

and professionally active. Aside from all rational arguments, volunteer work is a great alternative to ward off boredom, improve networking, and enhance sensitivity and empathy.

We've listed some of the most popular volunteer programs below. However, if you or your partner can't find any activity on this list that you identify with, don't give up! Chicago is a huge city, full of volunteer opportunities: do some research and use your network of contacts and college to find something that motivates you to donate some of your time to those who need it.

- Make-A-Wish Foundation Illinois: <https://illinois.wish.org/ways-to-help/volunteering>
- Art Institute of Chicago: <https://www.artic.edu/careers/volunteer-opportunities>
- Teach for America: <https://www.teachforamerica.org/where-we-work/chicago-northwest-indiana>
- Big Brother Big Sister: <https://bbbschgo.org/volunteer/>
- Chicago Cares: <https://www.chicagocares.org/volunteers>
- Inspiration Cafe: <http://www.inspirationcorp.org/inspiration-cafe-pages-37.php>
- New Leash on Life : <http://www.nlolchicago.org/volunteering>
- Paws Chicago: <http://www.pawschicago.org/how-to-help/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/>
- Greater Chicago Food Depository: <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/volunteer/>
- Anti-cruelty Society: <https://anticruelty.org/become-a-volunteer>

LAST TIPS!

- If you can arrange to come with another student, do it! You have no idea how it helps to make the initial purchases with at least someone else.
- Allow at least a week to calmly furnish the house. The search for furniture, utensils, supermarkets, etc. takes a few days.
- **Join the Random Walk!** It's an interesting opportunity to travel to a different place and meet people who will be in your class in Chicago Booth.
- Follow the schedule of events taking place in Chicago in the summer! This is a time when many events take place in the city – fireworks at Navy Pier, Lollapalooza, concerts by interesting bands, etc. This can help you choose the best time to come here.
- If you leave the United States after entering on an F1 or J1 visa, be sure to bring the I-20 to return to the country.

→ **Start the countdown and don't hesitate to contact the second-year students who are already here for whatever you need!!! Best of luck for the incoming class, we wish you an incredible MBA experience!**

APPENDIX 1 – SHOPPING LIST

Room:

- Sofa (it is worth considering a sofa bed for visitors)
- TV
- Sound (or sound box for iPod/iPhone)
- Bookshelf for living room / books Coffee
- table(s) for living room
- Dining table Dining
- chairs
- Lamps and lamps (suitables have low lighting)
- Humidifier (very useful as the heater leaves the air dry)

Kitchen:

- Microwave (most apartments already have)
- Trash cans (normal and recyclable)
- Crockery (large and dessert plates, glasses, bowls, etc.)
- Kitchen stuff (pots, cutlery, dish towels, pots, molds, oven mitts, can opener, corkscrew, etc.)
- Coffee maker
- Toaster / George Foreman grill
- Blender
- Mixer

- Vacuum Cleaner

Room:

- Bed or frame with mattress (don't forget the bed frame)
- Bedside table(s)
- Lamps and lamps (suitables have low lighting)
- Desk
- Study chair
- Notebook
- Hangers Sheet
- set
- Humidifier (very useful as the heater leaves the air dry)

Bathroom :

- Trash can
- Bathroom curtain
- Brush holder
- Towel Set