

PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

COMMUNICATION
leadership

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Produced by

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INTRODUCTION

Hello, fellow Comm Leader, and welcome to the Practical Guide to Seattle! We are a group of current and graduated Comm Lead International students who, just like you, have moved to Seattle from across the world to complete our graduate studies.

Last quarter, we got together with a few international students (you may have heard of us as International Ambassadors) and shared the challenges we experienced when moving to a new country. It was stressful, especially on our first day: we all felt scared and a little lost, didn't know what stores to go to to buy toothbrushes and pillowcases for the first night in Seattle and some couldn't even find their way to the UW campus from the airport (true story).

It all worked out fine, of course, but definitely not relaxing. That's why we decided to put our minds together and write this practical guide to help you during your first days in Seattle. It covers everything from navigating the public transport system in Seattle to getting cell phone service, purchasing everyday things like tableware (in case you need that!) and even securing your first apartment.

As current Seattle dwellers and Comm Lead students, we want you to experience this exciting chapter of your life to its fullest and stress-free. So please refer to this guide anytime and feel free to contact any of the Comm Lead students when you feel like you need a hand, even if it's just to buy some groceries.

WELCOME TO SEATTLE

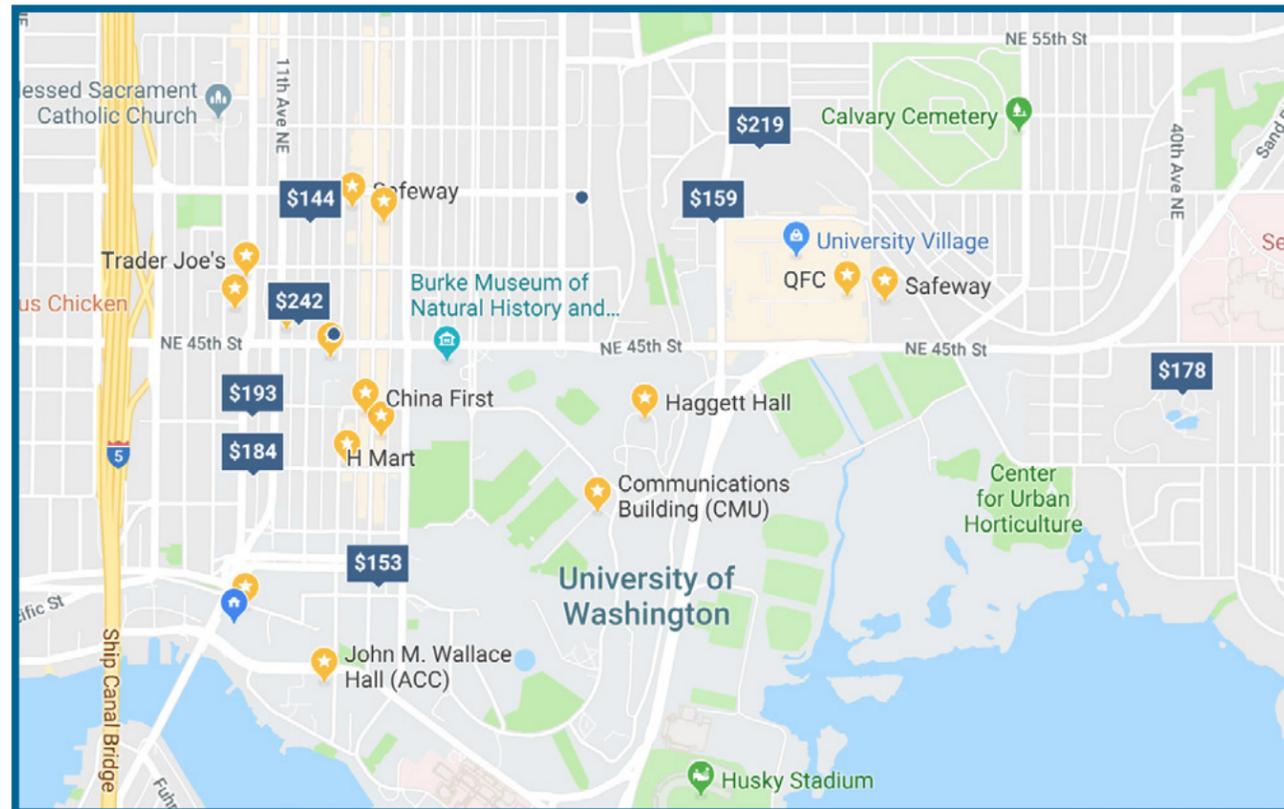
Welcome to Seattle - home of some of the biggest tech companies in the world, delicious food and the heart of the Pacific Northwest. By now you are probably quite tired from your trip (flight or drive, whatever it may be), so let's jump right in and get you home.

First, connect to the SeaTac airport free Wi-Fi to let your family and friends know that you have arrived. Also, it may be a good idea to double check on your place of stay.



1. Find your hotel first

Upon arrival, double check your housing reservation and the address. If you haven't yet reserved a hotel or rented an apartment, don't worry, we've got some helpful links for you. Check out the following hotels that offer student discounts for short term stays:



- [The College Inn](#)
- [Residence Inn Seattle University District](#)
- [Silver Cloud Inn](#)
- [University Inn](#)
- [University Motel Suites](#)
- [Travelodge Seattle University](#)
- [Watertown Hotel](#)

Got everything? Time to go!

2. Traveling from the Airport

SEATAC

- Link light rail from Seatac/Airport Stn Rail to UW / Husky Stadium Link | Duration: 44 min | Cost: \$3 - \$4 USD
- Link light rail from Seatac/Airport Stn Rail to Pioneer Sqr Stn & 3rd Av - James - Bay A | Duration: 33 min | Cost: \$2 - \$4 USD. 3 minutes transfer. Bus no. 70 from Prefontaine PI S & Yesler Way to 15th Ave NE & NE 45th St | Duration: 32 min | Cost: \$3 USD
- Taxi from Seattle Airport (SEA) to University District | Duration: 23 min | Cost: One-Way from: \$120 - \$150 USD
- Drive from Seattle Airport (SEA) to University District | Duration: 23 min | Cost: Approximate fuel cost: \$1 - \$3 USD
- Towncar from Seattle Airport to University District | Duration: 23 min | Cost: \$70 - \$110 USD
- Shuttle from Seattle Airport to University District | Duration: 23 min | Cost: \$16 - \$75 USD
- Uber from Seattle Airport (SEA) to University District | Duration: 23 min | Cost: \$30 - \$45 USD

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Here's some more information from the UW Transportation in case you need it:
<https://faculty.washington.edu/karyiu/ATP/2008/Transportation.pdf>

3. Long-Term Housing and Accommodation

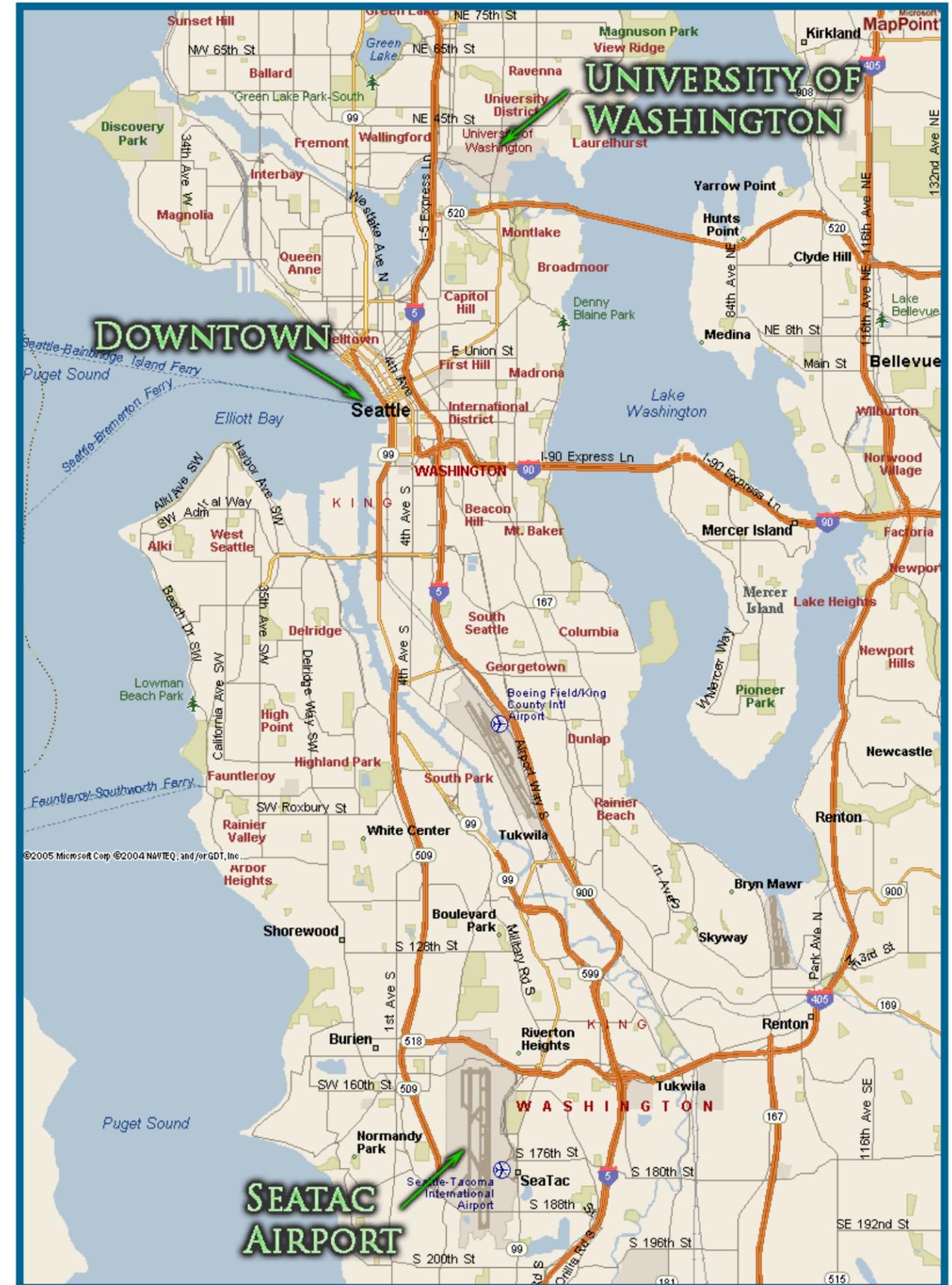


Since our program takes about 5 quarters to complete, we recommend finding a more permanent place to stay. Our academic advisor Heather has carefully laid out this information for you on the Comm Lead Student Resources page, but here is a quick reminder of the options:

On-Campus Housing: This allows you to be staying in a residence hall or apartment on the beautiful UW campus. You'll be just a short walk from classrooms, libraries, computing centers, cafes and other facilities. To apply for housing on campus, you must first be admitted to your program. You will also need to set up your UW NetID. The earlier you submit your application, the better the chance of getting your preferred location. Please contact UW Housing & Food Services for more information about the application process.

Off-Campus Apartments & Shared Housing: The University District is the most popular off-campus neighborhood for students. It is within walking distance of campus and has bus service to many points in the city and surrounding area. Rents in the U-District (as it is often called) may be higher than in other similar neighborhoods due to its proximity to the UW.

A variety of residential neighborhoods surround the University District. Bryant, Ravenna, Roosevelt and Wedgewood are quiet neighborhoods featuring housing of all types at prices lower than in the University District. Northgate is a more urban neighborhood with a large shopping mall and a major public transit center. Montlake is a peaceful community where many students live in shared housing. Capitol Hill is a vibrant urban neighborhood that offers a strong selection of apartments and shared homes at a range of prices.



4. Cell Phone Connection

Special discounts on monthly wireless costs and benefits with both AT&T and T-Mobile for UW Departments and University affiliated organizations. Verizon and Sprint also offer discounts but are not part their agreements with the UW. T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T all have cell sites on campus as well as other methods to improve coverage.

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Most carriers also offer some benefits to UW employees and others affiliated with the UW. The individual offers do vary and change over time, so check with the carriers.

Retail store locations:

- Main campus – University Village Store – (206) 729-7184; 4626 25th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98105
- Bothell campus – Woodinville Store – (425) 402-9797; 18021 Garden Way NE Woodinville, WA 98072
- Tacoma Campus – Lincoln Plaza Store – (253) 671-0966; 2505 S. 38th St. Tacoma, WA 98409

General Sales Support & Customer Service:

- 1-800-331-0500, or visit an AT&T retail location or store.
- Identify yourself as a student of University of Washington – 2850396.

General Customer Service:

- Call 800-331-0500 regarding your personal AT&T account; billing; service plan changes; etc.

5. Getting your Washington State Driver's Permit

One of the first things that you may want to do if you wish to learn driving or obtain the permit to drive is by getting your Instructions permit if you do not have a waiver. This includes a knowledge test. You must pass the knowledge/permit test at a [testing center](#) before you can get your permit. If you are enrolled in a Driver's Ed course, your school will be testing you and will therefore provide you with a waiver so you do not have to take the knowledge test prior to getting your learner's permit.

There are two types of knowledge test waivers:

- **Electronic Waiver:** Your school will submit your waiver electronically to the DOL. It will be on file when you are ready to get your permit.
- **Printed Waiver:** Your school will give you a printed waiver that you will need to bring with you to your local driver license office to get your permit.

If you do not have a waiver and are taking the permit test, the test consists of 40 questions regarding road signs and road rules taken from the Washington Driver Guide. You'll need to answer 32 questions or more correctly in order to pass. If you don't pass on your first attempt, you can take the test again, but you will have a wait period. If you fail a second time, you have to wait even longer before trying again.

After passing the exam, you will also need to:

- Have your photo taken.
- Pass a vision screening.
- Pay a \$25 application fee to the DOL.
- In addition, if you're taking your test from a driver training school, you'll need to check with your school to find out the amount they charge for testing. This fee is charged by the school, and isn't included in the application fee.

You may pay your fee with:

- Cash.
- Check.
- MasterCard and American Express credit/debit cards.
- Some VISA debit cards.

NOTE: There's a vendor-charged fee applied to credit/debit card purchases and credit/debit cards are not accepted at Coulee Dam, Davenport, Friday Harbor, Forks, Goldendale, Newport, Republic, and South Bend.

The DOL provides [a basic practice test](#) to help you prepare for the written test. If you want to ensure passing on your first attempt, we also suggest preparing with an [online practice test](#).

Behind-the-Wheel Driving Requirements

With your Washington learner's permit in your possession at all times, you need to complete 50 hours of supervised training, with 10 hours occurring at night.

During this time, you must always be accompanied by someone who has been licensed for 5 years or more. Once confident, book your test preferably at the same centre you gave your learner's permit test. You can [find more information here](#).

6. Applying for Social Security Number

If you're lucky and land in a campus job, at the very beginning, the next thing for you to do to start working is to get your Social Security Card. [This document](#) explains every step in detail.

For more information on money matters, take a look at the [UW Money Matters](#) webpage.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Now that you've safely arrived, it's time to relax and explore the area a bit. We recommend starting with the University of Washington campus since this is where you may be spending a lot of your time in the upcoming months.

1. Tour the campus + Helpful Apps

First, here's a good printable campus map to save on your phone: <http://www.washington.edu/visit/files/2017/11/PrintedCampusMap-fall-2017.pdf>

You may also find these maps throughout campus, such as in the Visitor Center and the Official UW Bookstore. Take one and keep it on you for the first few days! You can also download the official UW app - New Huskies [iTunes/Android] - which also includes the campus map as well as some other resources like the time schedule, calendar and campus information.

Okay, let's take a tour of the campus!

To take a tour, simply show up to the Husky Union Building (HUB) and complete an on-site registration to join the tour only.

2. Visit the International Student Office

Next up, you need to pay a visit to the International Student Office to check in and find out all of the resources available to you as an international student. You would want to do this in the first few days of your stay in Seattle.

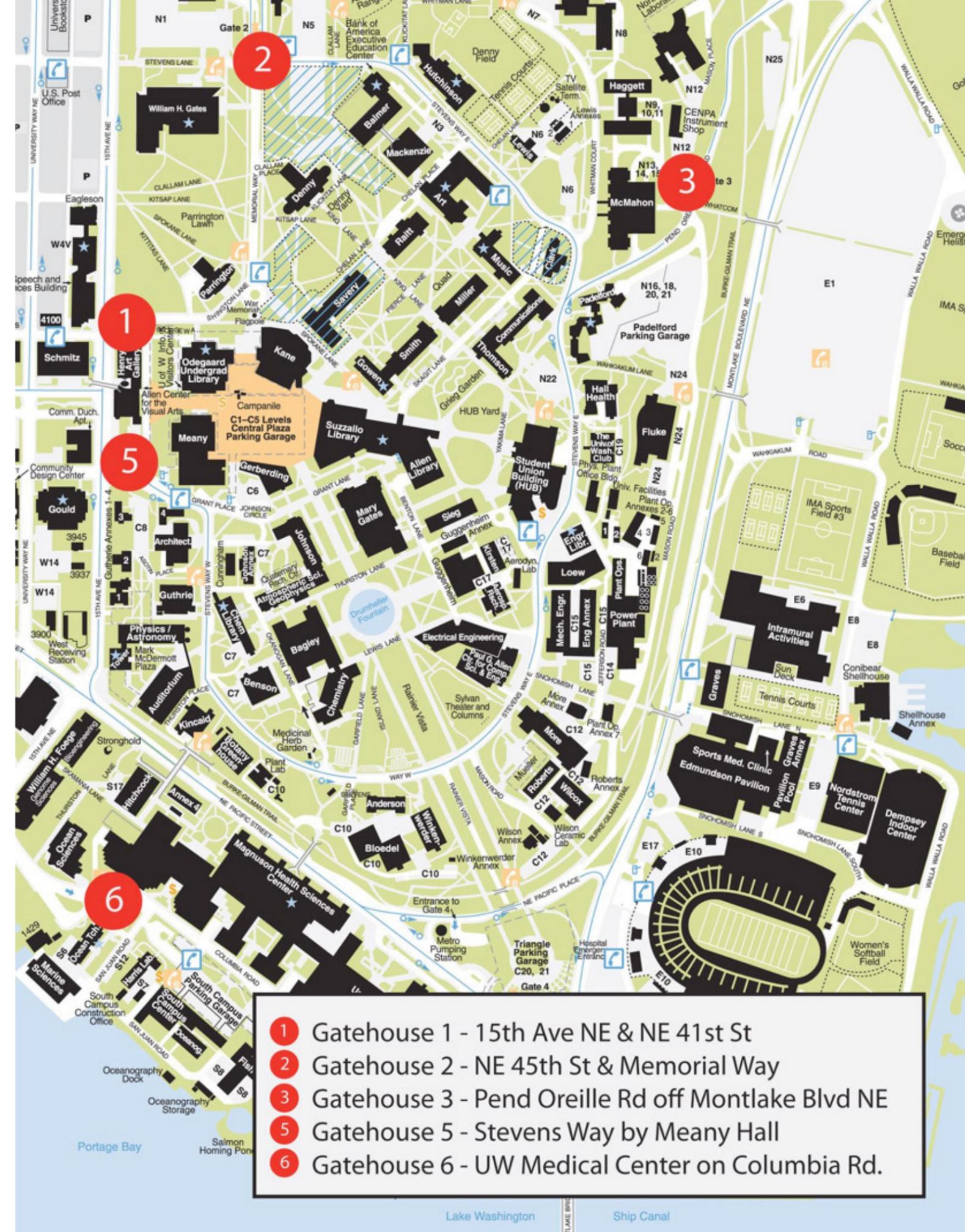
Please visit the [International Student Service website](#) in detail. Any information pertaining to documentation, FAQs, work authorisation in the United States while on student status, policies, and rules can be found in the site. Also, follow ISS on Facebook and stay up-to-date on announcements.

Currently offered tours

MON, TUE, WED, FRI

9am, 11:30am, 2pm

THU 9am, 11:30am



- 1 Gatehouse 1 - 15th Ave NE & NE 41st St
- 2 Gatehouse 2 - NE 45th St & Memorial Way
- 3 Gatehouse 3 - Pend Oreille Rd off Montlake Blvd NE
- 5 Gatehouse 5 - Stevens Way by Meany Hall
- 6 Gatehouse 6 - UW Medical Center on Columbia Rd.

SHOPPING

We won't deny, we love first-time shopping when arriving to a new place. At this point, you might want to stock up on food, home supplies and weather-relevant clothing (was it raining when you arrived?). The UW Campus and the nearby areas include a few small stores, however, we recommend the following for their variety and prices:



1. Nearest Malls

- **U-Village:** 2623 NE University Village St, Seattle, WA 98105
- **Northgate Mall:** 401 NE Northgate Way, Seattle, WA 98125
- **Bellevue Square:** 575 Bellevue Square, Bellevue, WA 98004

2. Food, Groceries and Home Supplies

- **Target** - a one-stop-shop for food, clothing, home supplies, medicine and entertainment. The nearest one to the UW campus is located at the North Gate Mall (Address: 302 NE Northgate Way, Seattle, WA 98125)
- **Trader Joe's** - affordable, organic and delicious food. The nearest one to UW campus is located on 4555 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105
- **Safeway** - groceries and some medicine. The nearest one to UW Campus is located on 3020 NE 45th St, Seattle, WA 98105 and in the U-Village Mall.
- **QFC** - similar to safeway, although the prices may vary. The nearest one to UW Campus is located in the U-Village Mall.

3. Apps we can't live without (and you won't be able to, either)

- **Transit App** - accurate bus schedules and bus routes to help you navigate the city,
- **One Bus Away** - accurate bus arrival times to help you feel less stressed when waiting for a bus
- **Amazon (Prime, Fresh)** - delivery services of just about anything within 2 days. You can get 6 months for free if you sign up with your UW Student Email.
- **Spotify** - unlimited music for your studying, bus riding or just chillin'. You can also get cheap premium membership with your student email.
- **Hulu, Netflix and Amazon Prime Video** (included with Prime membership) - for endless nights of binge-watching TV shows and "The Bachelor".
- **Starbucks App** - because everyone in Seattle has one.
- **Seattle ZipCar** - to get away. There is so much to see in Washington!
- **Lime Bike** - for convenient bike ride rentals when it's sunny out. Make sure to have a hand sanitizer on you when you rent these.
- **Lyft or Uber** - taxis are so old school.

TOUR SEATTLE

We hope you got settled in and comfortable using the resources above!

Seattle is a beautiful, eccentric city with many attractions, cafes and cozy corners to experience. In case you haven't had a chance to do this yet, we recommend taking a few days to explore it before you begin your studies.



Seattle's Top 20 Things to Do

1. Space Needle
2. Museum of Pop Culture
3. Pike Place Market
4. Seattle Art Museum
5. Central Public Library
6. Smith Tower or Columbia Tower
7. Washington State Ferries
8. Seattle Great Wheel
9. Pioneer Square
10. Seattle Underground Tour

Don't worry, there is more than 20 things to do in Seattle. For more recommendations on where to go, what to eat and activities to do, feel free to reach out to your classmates and the Comm Lead community, we always have ideas!

11. Baseball or Football Game
12. Kerry Park
13. Chinatown - International District
14. South Lake Union
15. MOHAI Museum
16. Seattle Starbucks
17. The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour
18. Kayaking in the UW Boat Center
19. The Fremont, Ballard and Capitol Hill neighborhoods
20. Seattle Gasworks Park

Contact Information and Additional Resources

Well, that should help you get started! If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to anyone in the Comm Lead community or any of the International Ambassadors. Below are also some more resources for you to note for the upcoming year:



Comm Lead:

1. Comm Lead [website](#)
2. Comm Lead [Student Resources](#)
3. Comm Lead [Facebook page](#)
4. Comm Lead [Cohort 18 Facebook Page](#)
5. Comm Lead [MCDM & MCCN Professional Page](#)
5. Comm Lead [International Ambassadors](#)
6. Comm Lead [International Students Facebook page](#)

Comm Lead faculty and staff biographies and contact information can be found [here](#).

Our offices are located in the [Communications Building \(CMU\)](#) on the UW Seattle Campus, at 4109 E Stevens Way NE, Seattle, Washington ([Links to an external site](#)).

The general program email is commlead@uw.edu, and the voicemail line is 206.543.6745.

University of Washington

University of Washington Common Phone Numbers and Emails:
<http://www.washington.edu/about/common-phone-numbers-and-emails/>