## What We Think You Should Know: A Quick Guide for Grad Students, by Grad Students

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First of all, CONGRATULATIONS! You’ve finally passed the GRE, submitted hours worth of work on applications, packed your bags (hopefully carried them on the airplane due to Philly’s baggage handlers), and have arrived in the wonderful community of Newark, DE. We are here to tell you a little something about our home and why we think it’s the place you should call home for the next few years.

**History and Facts**

The University of Delaware is located in Newark, DE (pronounced New Ark as it was once spelled) and traces its roots to a small private academy founded in 1743. The University is one of the oldest land grant institutions in the country, and this rich historical culture is clearly seen in the classical appearance of its vine-clad halls. On February 7, 1843, the once-named Newark College changed its title to the University of Delaware, the name it holds to this date. The original buildings still stand and are located on the Northeast corner of route 896 and Main Street. In September of 1914, UD merged with a locally established women’s college to form the entirety of the present university community.

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1 It is actually important that you pronounce this correctly ;). The locals don’t take kindly to the other pronunciation of this word, and you will likely be corrected by all within earshot if overheard.

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**Dining Experience**

There are several great places to eat on Main Street for any appetite or budget. From the chain restaurants you find in any town to unique restaurants you can only find in Newark, you’re sure to find something to suit your needs. A few highlights include:

- **Ali Baba’s**: traditional Mediterranean fare and décor.
- **Brew Ha Ha**: a local coffee shop conveniently located near Colburn Lab. You’re likely to run into people you know here.
- **Deer Park Tavern**: the historical hotel-turned-restaurant rumored to have been a frequent stopping place of Edgar Allen Poe. These days, you are much more likely to find students in search of Deer Park’s daily specials, live music, and trivia. The first-years would also like to endorse The Corduroys, who perform here, as their favorite local cover band.
- **Freddy’s Wraps**: a huge variety of food serving salads, sandwiches, rice, bowls, chicken wings, and of course wraps.
- **Home Grown Café**: fresh, local food for the carnivore, omnivore, vegetarian, or vegan. They also have live music regularly and a laid back atmosphere for night-life.
- **Iron Hill Brewery**: a small brewpub featuring beers brewed on site and an excellent menu.
- **Kildares**: an Irish pub often frequented for happy hours. They also have DJs for dancing and a karaoke night.
- **Klondike Kate’s** (or just Kate’s): offers a familiar family atmosphere during the day and a fun place for socializing or dancing at night. Watch the blackboard out front for the specials of the day (Tuesday’s are half-priced nachos).
- **Peace a Pizza**: non-traditional pizza choices including, but not limited to, honey chicken, Philly cheesesteak, mac’n’cheese, and more. Normal flavors are available as well, and it’s certainly worth a visit.
- **Post-House**: this charming old-school, small-town diner serves your typical cheap but delicious breakfast and other such comfort foods. The layout will definitely take you back in time, especially as the only option for seating is a long bar of stools.
- **Santa Fe**: a Mexican restaurant featuring a fantastic lunch burrito bar during the week and many other traditional Mexican dishes. Also a fun place for happy hour.
- **Stone Balloon Wine House**: a bit pricey but nice for a date. Huge wine selection and nice atmosphere.

In addition, there are annual events that provide opportunities for tasting all that Main Street has to offer. These include Food and Brew, where restaurants have food paired with beer tastings, Wine and dine, similar to food and brew (but with wine), and restaurant week, where restaurants prepare special menus at special prices so you can try some of those pricey places too!
Housing

Housing is perhaps one of the greatest concerns of new students to the area. Obviously, there are several options available to you, and many will be discussed here. Likewise, you are encouraged to talk to your graduate student hosts about any issues you may have. They are more than happy to help you with even the smallest details.

On Campus Housing
The University of Delaware provides graduate housing, and the price tends to vary slightly every year. The most recent information can be found at http://www.udel.edu/housing/ for pricing and services. Although most graduate students do not live on campus, there are several advantages to choosing this option. Cable television, high speed internet, and utilities are included in the price of rent so there is no question how much will be out of pocket each month. Additionally, the housing is conveniently located.

Off Campus Housing
Like any college town, off campus housing abounds in Newark. Generally, this is the option that most graduate students prefer. Downtown Newark and the near-campus area is very historical and thus the available housing is older. This is a draw for many people that like the architecture of an old home. Newer housing is available a short distance from campus. Housing tends to be less expensive further from campus, and many graduate students live up to 10 miles away.

We wanted to compile a list of places where graduate students live. This is by no means a comprehensive or “recommended” list, but merely some information to get you started on the housing search. There is something for everyone!

Walking/biking distance from campus
- Christina Mill (UD Bus stops a short walk away)
- Apartments at Pinebrook (UD Bus stops here)
- University Courtyard (furnished, UD Bus stops here)
- School Lane Apartments (UD Bus stops here)
- Studio Green (UD Bus stops here)

Driving Distance from Campus
- Rockwood Apartments
- Oaktree Apartments
- West Creek Village Apartments (MD)
- Apple Chase Apartments
- Brandywine Woods
- School Bell Apartments
- St. Andrew’s Apartments

Houses
- Options closer or farther from campus
- How to find them
  - Talk to current students
  - Internet
  - Drive, seeking “for rent” signs

Roommates…or not
- Live with other graduate students in or out of the department
- Ask your host if they know anyone looking for a place to live

- Email your classmates - You will receive a list of all the email addresses of your new classmates, and they are just as receptive as you in looking for cost-saving housing options
- Many students are comfortable with searching the local classified ads. http://www.udel.edu/classifieds and Craigslist are good resources too.
- Students also live alone (there are certainly affordable 1 bedroom apartments on graduate stipend)

Transportation / Getting Around

This section will help with the issue of getting around Newark once you get here. It is also useful for picking where you may want to live, if you want to take the buses in every day, or if you want to use public transportation for any other reason.

Personal Automobiles
Many (but not all) grad students have personal automobiles. Since Newark is not a very big town but there is plenty going on in nearby cities, your own car really helps to get around. If you want to drive your car to school and park in a nearby faculty/staff lot, the car needs to be registered with the university. Different parking permits are available for different parking zones (and different prices), so check out the University of Delaware’s parking services website for more information: http://www.udel.edu/transportation/parking/
**UD Shuttle Buses**
A good site to start finding out about public transportation is located at http://www.udel.edu/transportation/. The University has shuttle busses that run loops given on the UD shuttle bus page. These shuttles are FREE!!! These routes change between days, evenings and weekends, so note the changes. Most public transportation in Newark is NOT 24 hours, 7 days a week. This may be good to know for the late-nights. The shuttle busses do come to some apartment complexes close to campus, so this may affect the place you want to live.

**Unicity Shuttle**
Unicity is a FREE bus system that also runs loops around the campus and surrounding areas. This bus has a tendency to drive larger loops, so it takes some time to get from place to place. It does travel throughout the city of Newark and to Wilmington. More information can be found at the following URL: http://www.udel.edu/transportation/unicity_route/

**DART**
DART is the local bus company operated by the state, so you have to pay for these busses. Bus routes can connect you around Delaware to Wilmington, Dover, etc. (and some go to Elkton, MD where some grad students live). DART services are available at http://www.dartfirststate.com.

**SEPTA / AMTRAK**
SEPTA is Philadelphia’s public transportation system and has one regional railway line that reaches Wilmington and Newark. These rail lines run on weekdays but are sparse on weekends and holidays. These are not useful to go out to Philadelphia at night because of the limited nighttime lines into Newark. http://www.septa.org/ AMTRAK is an expansive rail system that has stations in Newark, Wilmington and Philadelphia. This is a great way to get between major cities without a car but can be rather expensive. http://www.amtrak.com

**Airports**
The closest major airport is Philadelphia International (PHL). In order to get there, driving is quick (about forty minutes). Another alternative is to make some good friends to get you to the airport and pick you up again. Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) is the next closest and still easy (about one hour).

**More Fun**
While there’s plenty to do on the weekdays and weekends in Newark, it is sometimes nice to escape from the immediate surroundings of campus. Now that you know how to get around, here’s a list of suggested things to see:

**Nearby Outdoor Fun**
Away but not too far from campus are two state parks. **White Clay Creek** is a beautiful area just north of campus perfect for hiking and picnics, and in addition to those things, **Lums Pond** offers kayaking or other boat rentals. At the very least, you will be sure to visit these parks during annual department picnics. Also near Newark is the **Woodside Farms Creamery**, home of bacon ice cream and other such unique but delicious flavors, **Milburn Orchards**, a perfect place for picking apples in the fall, and **Longwood Gardens**, a conservatory built by Pierre du Pont with magnificent horticultural displays. If that is not enough for you, do not forget to attend **Oktoberfest** in the fall, Kennet Square’s annual **Mushroom Festival**, or to fundraise and sign a team up for the annual 5k **Mud Run** Obstacle Course sponsored by the Leukemia Research Foundation of Delaware. It’s in the end of September, so we suggest practicing now!

**Greater Delaware**
Most of what’s been discussed so far is set in North Delaware, but don’t forget about South Delaware. “Woah, woah, woah, there’s a ‘South Delaware?’ Is it really called the ‘South,’ or is it just called ‘over there?’” If you don’t know what we’re referencing, we suggest googling the Daily Show’s Episode on “Delaware’s North vs. South Battle.” Anyway, South Delaware is home to **Punkin Chunkin** (a competition where teams of people build trebuchets, cannons, and other such throwing devices to hurl pumpkins hundreds or thousands of feet), **Dogfish Head Brewery** for tours and tastings, Dover International Speedway for **NASCAR**, **white sand beaches**, and numerous other beautiful or historic areas. However, if the things South Delaware has to offer are not sophisticated enough for your tastes, you may always venture north to the rolling hills of the **Brandywine Valley** or to our closest major city, **Wilmington**.
Philadelphia
Larger than Wilmington is Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Philly Cheesesteaks, an awesome Lindy Hop and Blues dancing scene, live concerts, numerous sporting venues and teams, and more. It’s your standard big city, and it’s only a 45 minute drive away!

Baltimore
Just in case you get bored with Philly (ha!), there’s always Baltimore, a similar hour or so drive away. Here too you may find concerts, bars, sports, dancing, and your typical city affairs, but add to that mix the National Aquarium and Inner Harbor, both housed on the Chesapeake Bay.

Washington DC
If you’re feeling more adventurous, there are always things going on in Washington DC. Depending on traffic, the jaunt can take anywhere 1.5-2 hours (driving part of the way and taking the metro is an option too). Here you can find all our capital has to offer, including but not limited to the Smithsonian Museums, National Mall & Memorial Parks, the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, and whatever other rallies are being hosted on a particular day. A large group of us enjoyed the Rally to Restore Sanity this past fall.

While this list comprised some of the most prevalent destinations of the current chemical engineering grad student community, these are certainly not all of them.

New York City is about three hours away, and skiing in the Appalachians is equally close. In short, if you want anything from a country vibe or sunny beaches to your bustling major cities, you’re sure to find it just a short distance away!

Other Things You Want to Know
You know the drill. You applied and have been accepted, and you almost have your foot in the door. But do you remember high school? Once you got there, you wish there had been things someone had told you. Like which hallway not to walk down after a varsity game, or which classes were an easy A. Well, this is grad school – none of the classes are easy, but there are always infinitesimally many details that do not seem all too important in the big scheme of things. However, once you settle down, these become very helpful in making your stay pleasant. Here’s offering some tips for things that may not have crossed your mind to ask when thinking about the University of Delaware.

Buying things...
There is no sales tax in Delaware! That means that price you see on the clothing tag, in the grocery store, on the menu is the actual price you pay! How cool is that! Especially exciting for big purchases (see “before you buy that new car”)

Fitness at UD
The Carpenter Sports Building, aka “the Little Bob”, is the primary recreation facility on campus. There is a student fitness area that has general cardiovascular exercise equipment such as treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, etc. There are also free weights and machine weight equipment in this area. It is generally easy to be able to use the equipment you want in this area; however, it can get crowded in the morning and late afternoons.

Besides this, you can find 4 full-size basketball courts, 5 raquetball courts, 1 squash court, a climbing wall, and a natatorium that houses an Olympic size pool and diving well in the “Little Bob”. There are also several fitness classes. The center has basketballs, squash balls, and racquetballs for rent. However, they do not rent racquets. It is very common to find Chemical Engineering graduate students at the “Little Bob,” either climbing on the wall, playing basketball, playing racquetball or squash, or lifting weights. For more
information about the fitness opportunities on campus, you may visit the following website: http://www.udel.edu/fitness/index.html

**Before you buy that new car**
You may want to hold off on buying that new car before you get to Delaware. To change the title/registration over, you are charged a fee of about 7% of the current worth of the car. It may just make sense to wait and buy that new car in Delaware, rather than pay twice. Check out the department of transportation’s website on switching over and other motor vehicle details at www.deldot.net.

**But I don’t want to drive**
Fortunately, you don’t HAVE to. While it may make getting around on the weekends a bit tough, the University does offer a free shuttle service. It stops near many apartment complexes including Christiana Commons, Pine Brook Apartments, and the University Courtyard. Visit www.udel.edu/bus and check out the bus route when choosing a place to live. Cabs are not very common. For more information on public transportation, please see the transport section of this brochure.

**Looking for something cheap to do?**
Well, the University offers newly released movies for about $3, which are usually played in the Trabrant Center. Occasionally, during breaks, there will be free movies/films. And the Brunswick Bowling Alley (behind the Newark Shopping Center) is a cheap night out bowling. If you are looking to play pool you can go to Grotto’s (45 E. Main St) or Timothy’s (100 Creekview Rd, off Paper Mill Road). Also, pool is available on campus at the Perkin’s Student Center on Academy. It’s a 300-yard walk due south of Colburn Lab.

**School supplies**
The University Bookstore is located in the Perkins Student Center on Academy Street. There is a smaller bookstore in the Trabrant Student Center. There are other, non-affiliated bookstores located on Main Street. However, it is often cheapest to buy books online.

**Matlab**
It helps to know how to use the program Matlab. If you have a chance, pick up a book and become familiar with basic commands and how to use the program. You won’t regret it.

**And Above All Else!**
The great thing about grad school is that no matter how difficult it is, you and your classmates are in it together. Think of the first year of grad school as an opportunity to bond with your fellow students and develop a good rapport amongst your peers. Throughout your career here, you will have successes and failures, and sharing them with people who are going through the same trials and tribulations will make it much more manageable. We believe that one of our greatest strengths in this department is our sense of community, so don’t hesitate to jump in!

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**Picture Tour**

*Old College* is the original home of the Univ. of Delaware. It now houses an art museum and serves as a reminder of the generations that have passed through Delaware’s gates.

*The Little Bob*, as it is called, is the main fitness center on campus. It houses many basketball and racquetball courts, a climbing wall, a full-featured cardio and weightlifting room, and a natatorium.
The **Green** (although not so green in this picture) is kept lush during the growing season. It is where students come to relax, throw a frisbee, read, or socialize between class. It’s also an incredible place for snow angels in the winter.

**Morris Library** is the largest library on campus. It houses most of the fiction books on campus and also has private and group study rooms. Get there early during exam week; they fill up quickly.

**Perkins Student Center** is also a place to eat and relax on campus. It is adjacent to the bookstore and there are eateries, pool tables, and other quick things to occupy some time.

**Trabant Student Center** is the place to accomplish most anything on campus. They have eateries, copy and fax facilities, and a bank. Local events are posted along the walls here. Also, the student organization offices are located on the second floor.

The **Post-House Restaurant** has been in Newark as long as Newark has been. The head cook here has been working here almost 40 years! She makes a mean breakfast, and at $4.99 it can’t be beat. After those 8 am classes, be sure to check it out.

This is a picture of **Main Street** taken from Academy looking west. It’s a common view in a North-Eastern town. Newark blends well the traditional colonial feel with the college town vibrancies.