



MSEd's Unofficial Guide to Moving to Chicago

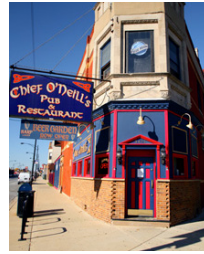


NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Master of Science in Education



A City of Neighborhoods



While things like the Sears Tower, the Magnificent Mile, and our famous sports teams always come to mind when one thinks of Chicago, in reality Chicago is a rich and diverse city made up of almost 100 distinct neighborhoods - each with its own unique personality. When considering a move to Chicago it is important to think about which of these neighborhoods best suits you and your lifestyle.

- View a map of Chicago's neighborhoods and learn about what each has to offer at www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods/.
- Consider an apartment search site like www.places4students.com help find the apartment and neighborhood that is right for you.

Plan your Living Expenses Budget

Adjusting to living on a student income can be challenging. Whether you're a full-time student or only taking a class or two each quarter, you may need to modify your budget and expenses to your new financial situation. Planning your living expenses budget can help you narrow the search for where you want to live and prioritize your spending.

- Consider a free budgeting tool like www.mint.com.
- Search apartments by price at www.rent.com.





Think About Your Transportation Needs

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is the second largest public transportation system in the nation. Its system of trains and buses makes it easy to get almost anywhere in the city and near suburbs - including Northwestern's Evanston campus. The Metra rail system offers another way to get to Evanston from the city and surrounding suburbs.

Driving in Chicago is also an option. Check with your landlord about the parking options near your apartment. You may be able to rent a parking space. If you need to park on the street you may need to buy an additional parking permit for your neighborhood.

- Learn about CTA locations and routes at www.transitchicago.com.
- Learn about Metra locations and routes at www.metrarail.com.



Explore On-Campus Living Options

Northwestern University offers three options for graduate student living - Engelhart Hall, Seabury Hall and Loder Hall. Furnished and unfurnished studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments are available to graduate students, their partners and families. Rent is billed quarterly and utilities are included. Availability is limited, so interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Learn more about living in graduate student housing at www.northwestern.edu/living/graduate-housing/.

Consider a Roommate

Sharing housing with a roommate can help your rent dollars go a lot further - and provide you with some great companionship. Talk with other future students to see what their housing plans are for next year. Some other students may also be thinking about finding a roommate. New students from the Chicago area may have friends who are looking for roommates or giving up great apartments. You can also search for roommates online.



No matter where you find your roommate, be sure to research that person thoroughly and have agreements about financial and household responsibilities in place before you move in.

Be a Tourist in Your Own City

Enjoy your new city to its fullest. There is so much to see and do in Chicago - whether you're a lifelong resident or just visiting for a few days. Here are some suggestions of things you should see:

- Visit the Art Institute - and say hello to the famous lions outside.
- Take in a show - Broadway in Chicago.
- See a Cubs or White Sox game.
- Check out an exhibit at the Field Museum.
- See the fish at Shedd Aquarium.
- Experience one of Chicago's many neighborhood festivals.
- Go to Navy Pier and ride the giant Ferris wheel.
- Get some Chicago style pizza.
- Spend the day in Millennium Park and window shop the Magnificent Mile.