

Welcome to State College! GSSL New Student Guide

-compiled by ANNa, chrisANN, hANNah-

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1. Welcome:

Congrats! You're one of us and we are so excited about this! We hope you enjoy this guide and we hope that you find it useful. Chrisann hopes you are never in the same room as a bat. Hannah hopes you like fun and music and stuff. And Anna just really wants you to come to her apartment for dinner and a movie.

This "Welcome Guide" was compiled by Anna, Chrisann, and Hannah for your reading pleasure and as a guide to your new journey in the department and at Penn State. When in doubt – contact any of us or the GGSA!

2. Expectations in the Department

- Work hard; don't complain too much; be a nice person; drink beer (just kidding)
- Volunteer for the department: sign up for roles at the beginning of the year
 - See opportunities below
- Use professional titles (the *SIE*) until that faculty member offers another name or the informal address (*DU*)

- Be strong and brave: attend office hours and send emails to faculty when have questions, concerns, and comments

3. Directory

- The GSSL department includes: German and Slavic Language Professors, Teaching Professors, Research Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Graduate Students (PhD candidates and Foreign Teaching Assistants)
 - Link to the directory: <http://german.la.psu.edu/people>
 - Ask Hannah to snap a photo of you for the page
 - Most of the department is located in Burrowes, 2nd floor
- The Administrative Office is located on the 4th floor of Burrowes. Key players are:
 - Rebecca Bressler: (814) 865-0214; rmb4@psu.edu
 - Olivia Brown: (814) 865-1168; odb2@psu.edu
 - Laura Shaffer: (814) 865-1352; lab5@psu.edu
 - All others can be found at: <http://sll.la.psu.edu/who-we-are-contact-us>

4. Cubes

- All graduate students are assigned a cube to share with another graduate student in the department (in 253 Burrowes Bldg.).
- Your login for this computer will be different than your normal PSU login information.
- You will have a key to the cubes' door - please always close and lock the door if you are the last one to leave
- All items (including food) that sit on the front table are available to use (and eat)
- The cubes are our regular working space. You can offer office hours here but be considerate of other people when offering oral, make-up exams, or other meeting (you can book a room in the library for those: <http://psu.libcal.com/spaces?lid=506>)
- Printing: this printer can be finicky; this printer can take a LONG time; be respectful of others in the department and don't use this to do lots of print copies (use the copier on the fourth floor in the mailroom)

5. Mailroom

- Located on the fourth floor of Burrowes, the mail room has a copier (use the last 5 digits of your PSU ID), a scanner, a fax machine, and your mailbox!

6. Library Resources

- OUR Library Expert: Tara Murray, tem10@psu.edu (Applied Linguistics, German Language and Literature, Slavic Languages and Literatures)
 - Contact her with specific resource, research etc. questions
- Hours for the libraries change (school cancellations, weekends, breaks) Here is the website for the current hours of operation:
 - <https://libraries.psu.edu/hours-and-locations>
- Find articles: <https://libraries.psu.edu/>
 - You must type the name of the article EXACTLY as it appears in print
- Use a library computer
 - Use your PSU email/CANVAS/Workday etc. username and password
- Take out a book
 - Use your PSU ID card as a library card
- When PSU does have your book/article etc.
 - Book: you can request to have it brought to the front desk for pickup. You will receive an email that it has arrived. Bring your PSU ID for pickup.
 - Article: It will appear as “ONLINE” when you search. Then you can download.
- When PSU doesn't have your book/article etc., look for it here:
 - ILL: <https://libraries.psu.edu/services/interlibrary-loan-services>
 - CAT: <https://cat.libraries.psu.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/?ps=z7KQYOhNxq/UP-PAT/X/60/26/X>
 - Book: You will receive an email that it has arrived at the front desk. Bring your PSU ID for pickup.
 - Article: It may take a few days, but you will be sent an email with the article as a PDF
- Need a computer charger? Want iMovie? Has your computer broken and you need a substitute until it is fixed?
 - The library has a lot of technology you can use/download and equipment you can borrow: <https://libraries.psu.edu/services/technology-equipment>
- The US Daily and the New York Times are located in white receptacles across campus. They are free when you swipe your PSU ID.
- There is a PSU IT Service Desk that can help you with fixing your computer, updates, or downloading PSU-sponsored softwares.
 - Website: <https://it.psu.edu/get-support>

7. Department Events:

Official:

- Speaker Series: invited guest speakers to speak about a variety of topics: ranging from history, philosophy, literature, and linguistics. YOU SHOULD GO.
- Job Talks: prospective faculty members to the GSSL department present their research. YOU SHOULD GO.
- Department Wide Dinners: At the beginning of of the year, there will be several dinners
 - (1) welcome dinner with the Comparative Literature department
 - (2) dinner for German graduate students to volunteer for year long departmental “duties”. YOU SHOULD GO
- Kaffeestunde: weekly hourly afternoon tea, coffee, and snacks free and open to the public; all are welcome who would like to speak German with others.

Unofficial:

- Bierstunde: faculty members, graduate students, other graduate students who speak German and like beer, and of-age undergraduates go somewhere for a few hours to drink a beer or two and chat.

Beyond the Department Events:

- CLS (Center for Language Science) Speaker Series: language science and (applied) linguistics speaker series hosts invited guests, current faculty, and graduate student speakers to present their past or current research. Fridays at 9:00 in Moore; all are welcome. ADVISED FOR LINGUISTICS
- Poetry without Borders: yearly event free and open to the public, where students and faculty at Penn State are invited to read poetry in a language that they speak.

8. Volunteer Opportunities (Clubs and Organizations):

German Specifically

- Kaffeestunde - set/pick up, make coffee, stick around, chat in German, buy snacks...
- Filmabend - organize which films and who in the department will be responsible for showing them; send weekly emails alerting entire department and undergraduate students of the weekly film
- Webmasters - in charge of keeping social media, website, etc. updated
- Speaker Series/Job Talks - in charge of sending out information concerning these talks

- German Graduate Student Organization - various elected roles: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary
- German Day: planning, orchestrating, organizing, and running German Day.
- Poetry without Borders: planning, orchestrating, organizing, and running Poetry without Borders.

Beyond the Department

- YSSS (Young Scholar Speaker Series) - a yearly language science/ linguistics/ applied linguistics poster session hosted by Penn State for all stages of language research
- SLA Reading Group - a small reading group that reads and discusses SLA articles
- Comparative Literature Speaker Series - a weekly talk (same as our department's), but a comparative literature focus.

9. Campus Map

- Google Maps has most campus buildings listed and searchable.
- An interactive official map of campus can be found here: <https://map.psu.edu>

10. Getting Around: Parking and Buses

- Parking is expensive! Students cannot park in public campus garages until after 4:00pm on weekdays. However on weekends (but not holidays), parking is free in on-campus garages (exceptions for big game weekends). Parking permits for on-campus garages and lots are limited. More information about parking registration can be found here: <https://transportation.psu.edu/student-parking-registration>
- Off-campus garages nearest campus include the Pugh Street, Fraser Street garages, and Beaver Avenue garages. Parking is \$1.00/hour (Monday-Saturday 6am-6pm) and \$.75 (Monday-Saturday 6pm-6am). You can pay at the Pay Station via card or cash, or on the way out at the garage exit via card only (the signs don't tell you this). On "special event" weekends (including home football games), parking is \$2.25/hour. Monthly & prepaid garage passes are available.
- Street parking is rare during the week near campus. There is also limited lot parking downtown. These parking spaces can be paid for through the Parkmobile app or at meters/kiosks. All downtown parking is free on Sundays from 6am-10pm. More information about downtown parking & garages can be found here: <https://www.downtownstatecollege.com/get-around/parking-information/>
- CATA Bus: Make sure to fill out application prior to going to the Eisenhower parking deck to pick up pass. They will not help you until you've completed it and

have a confirmation email. The pass costs either \$15/month or around \$180 for the academic year through end of June. Bring your Penn State ID card and a document verifying your address (lease, bill etc.).

- Link to RIDEpass application for Penn State students:

https://www.absecom.psu.edu/PARKING_RIDE_PASS/USER_PAGES/RIDE_PASS_WIN.CFM

To be eligible for the RIDEPass, you need to live at least 0.75 miles away from any CATA campus service Blue Loop or Red Link stop, you can't have a daytime-access Penn State parking permit, and you can't have an additional bus pass issued by your apartment complex.

- If you can't or don't want to get a RIDEPass and also don't have a bus pass issued by your apartment complex, you can still take the bus for \$2.00 (you can get a transfer ticket if you need to take more than one bus line to get anywhere). You need to have the exact fare, as you will not receive any change! If you only have a \$5 bill, your bus ride will be \$5 instead of \$2. You can buy tokens at the CATA office which is located next to the Schlow library (intersection of Beaver and Allen).

11. Housing

- Normal Rent/Month for a:
 - One Bedroom: \$650-900
 - Two Bedroom: \$960-1200
 - Where current students have lived (but may not recommend): Nittany Gardens, Imperial Towers, Executive House, Tremont, Fairmount East Apartments, Park Crest Terrace
- Local property companies: Check out these websites for listings & rates.
 - Associated Realty Property Management: <http://www.ARP.com>
 - Apartment Store: <https://statecollege.apartmentstore.com/>
 - Apartments State College: <https://www.apartmentsstatecollege.com>
- Craigslist: <https://pennstate.craigslist.org/>
- Trulia: https://www.trulia.com/PA/State_College/
- Facebook (Penn State (PSU) Housing, Sublets, and Roommates): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1318520284920038/>
- PSU page to help find housing: <https://livingoffcampus.psu.edu/>

12. Places to Go & Things to Do!

There's tons to do around the State College area, from dining to hiking to axe throwing.

Dining

- Happy Valley Brewing Company (137 Elmwood St): Local microbrewery & eatery.
- Cafe Lemont (921 Pike St, Lemont): Cozy cafe with local art and house-roasted coffee.
- Cozy Thai (232 S Allen St): Chic digs & tasty food.
- Fuji and Jade Garden (next to My Thai): GREAT cocktails & Japanese fare.
- Indian Pavilion (222 E Calder Way): The best Indian in town & BYOB
- My Thai (422 Westerly Pkwy): Super yummy Thai & BYOB
- Green Bowl (131 W Beaver Ave): All-you-can-eat custom stir fry for \$15. Recommend bringing homework & eating in.
- Saint's Cafe (123 W Beaver Ave): The quintessential State College coffee shop.
- Webster's Bookstore Cafe (133 E. Beaver Avenue): Used books, local wares, good coffee & foods (including vegan & vegetarian options); chill local music gigs.

Bars

- Champs (139 S Allen St): Great nachos & good happy hour deals.
- Chumley's (108 W College Ave): Downtown gay bar with great beer selection. Karaoke and Trivia. Free pizza on Fridays.
- Doggy's Pub (108 S Pugh St): Dive-y digs with cheap stuff on tap.
- Federal Taphouse (above downtown Target): extensive tap list, little pricier chain. Food is great for non-veggies
- Good Intent Cider (167 S Potter St, Bellefonte): Nearby cidery with flights!
- Jax (recently renovated/formerly Dark Horse): Cheap drinks but undergrad hangout.
- Liberty Craft House (346 E College Ave): Extensive tap list, usually not overcrowded, but the food is just so-so.
- Local Whiskey: So much whiskey & trays of fries. Good happy hour deals after 10pm.
- Zeno's Pub (100 W College Ave): The quintessential Penn State dive bar. An institution.

Outdoors

- Mount Nittany: <http://www.hikemountnittany.com/>
- Rothrock State Park: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/FindAForest/Rothrock/Pages/default.aspx>
- Whipple Dam: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/WhippleDamStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>

- Stone Valley: <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/campusrec/stonevalley>
- Tussey Mountain: Winter sports, snowtubing, and outdoor concerts & events in the summer! <http://www.tusseymountain.com/>

Shopping

Downtown State College shops:

- Appalachian Outdoors (123 S Allen St): Outdoor retailer to get your warm on.
- The Nittany Quill (111 S Fraser St): Beautiful local cards & gifts
- The Makery (209 W Calder Way): Handmade gifts & arts workshops
- Comic Swap (110 S Fraser St): Great selection of comics, graphic novels, games, and merch, and super chill staff.
- Amazon@StateCollege (134 S Allen St): You can deliver to lockers and sometimes get same-day shipping! They also give out random free samples on site.
- Tons of retailers here: <https://www.downtownstatecollege.com/experience/shop/>
- Nittany Mall (2901 East College Avenue): If you need Bath & Body Works, Express, or Victoria's Secret. Otherwise lowkey sketch.
<https://www.shopnittanymall.com/>

Groceries

- Weis: 3 locations! 1471 Martin St; 560 Westerly Pkwy; 110 Rolling Ridge Dr
- Trader Joe's: 243 Patriot Ln
- Walmart: 2 locations! 1665 N Atherton St; 363 Benner Pike
- Wegmans: 345 Colonnade Blvd
- McLanahan's Downtown Market: overpriced but if you're in a pinch! 116 S Allen St or 414 E College Ave
- Farmers Markets:
 - Downtown State College Farmers Market: Tuesdays & Fridays 11:30am-5:30pm on Locust Lane off College Ave.
 - Amish Farmers Market: Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays @ Hills Plaza parking lot on South Atherton (super affordable & good quality; cash only)
 - North Atherton Farmers Market: Saturdays 10am-2pm @ 2615 Greentech Dr (Home Depot parking lot)
 - Boalsburg Farmers Market: Tuesdays 2pm-6pm @ 51 Boal Ave, Boalsburg, PA
 - More: <http://centrecountyfarmersmarkets.weebly.com/local-markets.html>

Fun

- *Dancing:*
 - Center Social Dance: (donation)

- Swing, Argentine Tango, Blue, Fusion
 - Penn State Social Dance Club: \$10/semester
 - Bachata, Salsa, Zuke, Ballroom (Waltz, Samba, Foxtrot, Argentine Tango)
 - KPMD (Campus K-Pop Group): Saturday Nights Dance, Tuesday Nights Talk:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/PSUKPMD/>
- *Live Music:*
 - Otto's Pub (2235 N Atherton St): Live music on Fridays, 9-11pm!
 - Zeno's Pub (100 W College Ave): Live music Tuesday-Saturday, including Bluegrass night on Wednesday, where the \$3 cover also gets you a pulled pork sandwich.
- *Bowling:*
 - Northland Bowling (1521 Martin St): Bowling is fun, food is cheap, and \$10 paint night every other Thursday.
- *Paint Night:*
 - Northland Bowling (1521 Martin St): Bowling is fun, food is cheap, and \$10 paint night every other Thursday.
- *State College First Friday:*
 - First Fridays: once a month (on the first Friday) downtown State College: <https://www.downtownstatecollege.com/first-friday/>
- *Axe Throwing (278 W Hamilton Ave):* <https://throwaxes.com/>

Nearby Towns

- Bellefonte: Some good food locations, live music, and cute! Worth the trip.
- Lemont: Best Thai restaurant in the area.
- Boalsburg: Cute, quaint, right near the forest.

13. Healthcare Service Providers

WITH STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY (SHIP PROGRAM)

All medical care that is conducted in UHS (INCLUDING PHARMACY) is free for us with our health insurance. This includes STD testing, blood work, vaccinations, regular check-ups, women's health, physical therapy, mental health through CAPS, etc.

Vision

Nittany Eye Care

(see this website for additional providers <https://www.highmarkblueshield.com/home/> for our coverage, we have Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Davis Vision)

State College Eye Care (611 University Dr #111)

- Small office (just Dr. Young and two office assistants), but super friendly. Appointments need to be scheduled a couple months in advance

Dental

Nittany Dental

(see this website for additional providers <https://www.unitedconcordia.com/find-a-dentist/#>)

type in Nittany Dental for our benefits to find providers)

Dr. Younkins & Associates (205 E Beaver Ave)

- Conveniently located near campus
- Dr. Younkins himself is a little brusque, but the staff is great

Oral surgeon: Dr. Olsen & Associates (205 E Beaver Ave #2)

- Located in the same office complex as Dr. Younkins; they often handle cases together

Orthodontist: Pine Orthodontics (205 E Beaver Ave #5)

- Completing the trifecta of oral/dental healthcare providers at 205 Beaver Ave is Dr. Pine.
- Orthodontics are NOT covered by insurance (except in case of an accident), but you can get a free consultation at Dr. Pine's, and they're very accommodating with payment plans for students

Endodontist: Dr. Marc Hertzberg at State Endodontics (2590 Park Center Blvd)

- For all your root canal needs

Psychiatry & Psychotherapy

PSU Counselling and Physical Services

- CAPS has both short-term and long-term options:
 - Long-term will be referred out to Cedarbrook which is also on campus
 - Short-term (8-10 sessions): more crisis counseling to get you patched up and on your way. Not a long-term option
 - Support groups and group therapy specifically geared towards graduate students (you should not have to worry about coming into contact with your students in this setting!!)
 - CAPS has walk-in counseling if you are in a crisis

Pharmacy

- UHS has a pharmacy next to the check-in for appointments on the second floor

- CVS accepts prescriptions from UHS, but you will have to pay a copay for the prescription (decently minimal with our insurance plan)
- Boalsburg Apothecary takes PSU SHIP.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM FOR SOMETHING SUCH AS RABIES OR STAPH INFECTIONS OUTSIDE OF NORMAL WORKING HOURS: [CALL PSU REGISTERED NURSE HOTLINE TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE NOT DENIED COVERAGE \(814-863-4463\)](#)

RECOMMENDED PROVIDERS BEYOND PSU: IF ON SEPARATE PLAN (SUCH AS FAMILY'S)

Geisinger: a **GIANT** medical group that includes services: Walk-In, Inpatient/Outpatient, General and Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Physical Therapy, Eye-Care

- Takes most insurances
- Has a large variety of providers, will try to find a provider that matches you
- Once in their system, visiting other branches for other services is very easy.

14. Other

- Throughout the first year, you have to complete the following online trainings which you can find on the PSU Learning Resource Network (<https://lrn.psu.edu/>):
 - Building a Safe Penn State: Reporting Child Abuse
 - Understanding Title IX at Penn State
 - Information Security Awareness
 - FERPA Tutorial & Quiz
 - CITI-Training (for SARI requirements)
 - Annual Compliance Training
- If you travel abroad for conferences or research purposes using PSU funding, make sure to register your travel with the Travel Safety Network (<https://tsn.psu.edu/>) at least 30 days prior to departure. If you fail to do so, this may have serious consequences, such as a personal audience with the Director of Graduate Studies (ask Katherine for more details).