Welcome to Durham!

A Guide to Succeeding in the United States

Church World Service, 2014

What is inside?

1. Durham Geography
2. North Carolina Facts
3. Stores in Durham
4. Transportation in Durham
5. Important Phone Numbers
6. United States Government
7. Body and Home Tips
8. American Norms
9. Basic Laws
10. Learning English
11. Getting a Job

Hello!

Congratulations on your arrival and welcome to your new home! We understand that arriving in a foreign place is scary and overwhelming so we created this guide to help you find success and happiness in the United States. The following pages contain information about Durham and the resources this city has, but also about the United States. We hope you will find it helpful as you begin your new life!

Do you have more questions?

Call Church World Service at 919-680-4310 or visit at 112 South Duke Street #4B Durham, NC 27701
Where are you?

1) Durham is located in North Carolina, which is in the South East region of the United States.

2) Durham is part of the “Research Triangle,” the area of North Carolina anchored by three major universities: Duke University, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University.

3) On one side of North Carolina is the Atlantic Ocean, but North Carolina is also bordered by four other states: Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Facts about Durham:

• The population is 239,358.
• Home to Duke University, the 8th best university in the country.
• Known as the City of Medicine because health care is such a major industry here.
• Home to the Durham Bulls baseball team.
North Carolina Facts

Nickname: Tar Heel State
Abbreviation: N.C.
Capital: Raleigh
Largest city: Charlotte, 550,000 residents
Population: 9.75 million
Governor: Pat McCroy
State bird: Cardinal
State flower: Dogwood
Major industries: Technology, medicine, tobacco, textiles, furniture

Major cities in NC include Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh.
STORES IN DURHAM

Target Address 1:
4037 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.
Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-765-0008

Target Address 2:
8210 Renaissance Pkwy. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-425-0001

Walmart Address 1:
1525 Glenn School Rd. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-688-3595

Walmart Address 2:
5450 New Hope Commons Dr.
Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-489-4412

Family Dollar Address 1:
401 E Lakewood Ave. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-683-8013

Family Dollar Address 2:
3825 S. Roxboro St. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-484-2459

Dollar Tree Address 1:
1517 Glenn School Rd. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-688-5039

Dollar Tree Address 2:
907 N. Miami Blvd. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-544-1314

Big Lots Address 1:
4723 NC Highway 55 Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-806-1445

Big Lots Address 2:
2000 Avondale Dr. Durham NC
Phone #: (919)-220-9523
TRANSPORTATION

Bus Companies

Go to:
http://www.gotriangle.org/transit/data-schedules-maps/
or
Call (919)-485-7433
For information on DATA buses, maps and stops
And to track locations of the buses go to:
http://live.gotriangle.org

Go to:
http://www.durham-nc.com/visitors/transportation/bcc/map.html
or
Call 485-RIDE
For information on Bull City bus stop locations
And for real-life locations of the buses:
http://live.gotriangle.org

Paying and Passes

DATA Bus Passes:
5-day, 7-day, and 30-day passes
Available at the Durham Station and at the DATA Operations Office
Located at 1903 Fay Street, Durham, NC 27704.
DATA IDs are now available on the first floor of Durham Station. Please remember to bring Proof of Age and Medicare card if applicable

The Bull City Connector is FREE
But you will need money or a bus pass to transfer to a different route

For fare prices go to:
http://www.gotriangle.org/go-local/partners/durham-area-transit-authority//fares.cfm
PHONE NUMBERS

911

EMERGENCIES!!!!

Non-Emergency Police Number 919-560-4600

Call for problems like:
- Accidentally take the wrong doses of your medications
- Exposed to a chemical and you’re not sure what will happen

1-800-222-1222

Poison Control

Call for problems like:
- You are bitten by an unknown animal
- When animals/pets are loose around the neighborhood
- When disputes arise between neighbors about animals

Animal Control 919-560-0900
United States Government
The Basics

The central government is located in Washington D.C.

The Branches

Executive: Led by the President to enforce our laws and lead the military

Legislative: Made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate to write our laws.

Judicial: Led by the Supreme Court to judge if our laws are fair or need changes

What can you do?

First: After 5 years of living in the United States, you can apply to become a U.S. citizen.

Second: As a citizen, you can vote for who you want to be your representatives in the government.

Third: Stay involved! Watch the news to learn about what the government is doing.
While this may be a review for some of you, it is important to know what is expected of your new home.

**Your Body**
- Use deodorant
- Brush your teeth
- Shower
- Clip your toenails
- Wash your hands
- Brush your hair

**Your Food**
- Keep cold food in the refrigerator
- Eat food before its expiration date
- Use oven to fully cook food

**Your Home**
- Wash your dishes
- Sweep the floor
- Mop the floor
- Do your laundry
Life in America: American culture can be very different from the cultures of many other countries. Below is a list of American norms that will help you adjust to your new home.

**American Norms**

A common American greeting is to shake hands.

In American culture, it is very important to be on time.

American culture emphasizes independence.

If eating at a restaurant, it is expected that you will tip the waiter or waitress.

Most importantly, America is an incredibly diverse place. You will meet many types of people here. You must keep an open mind and continue to learn about different communities.
You must wear a seatbelt while in a car.

You must have car insurance before you can drive a car.

You must be 18 years old to buy cigarettes.

You cannot drive a car after you have been drinking alcohol.

You must have a driver's license and be 16 years old to drive a car.

You must have a license to go hunting or fishing in designated areas.

You must throw your trash out in a trashcan.

You must be 21 years old to drink alcohol or gamble.

You must clean up after your pets in public.

18

You must use a crosswalk to cross streets.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Don't be a LitterBug!
Learning English: It will be difficult at first, but the only way to get better is to practice. Here are some resources to help you get started!

Church World Services will provide you with a language tutor who will help you learn English and practice your new skills.

Read books and watch TV in English. Seeing and hearing the language helps!

Meet new people. While it will be uncomfortable at first, this will be a great way to learn English with native speakers!

Ultimately, the only way to improve is to PRACTICE. Try to speak English all the time, even at home and with friends who speak your native language too!
Getting A Job: The U.S. government will fund your first 90 days in the country. After this time, it is up to you to find a source of income. This means it is very important that you begin looking for a job when you arrive. Luckily, you will not be alone. Church World Services will help your search. Here is a general outline of how the process will work.

1. Church World Services will contact you to start your search. Look for jobs online and in newspapers.

2. Begin job applications.

3. Most jobs will require you to go to the site to have an interview.

4. After the site interviews all potential candidates, you will be contacted. You will soon find a job, and begin work. You will be able to support yourself.