

**A guide to life at Duke  
brought to you by the  
2013 LLM class**



## Tips for the Duke LLM Class of 2014

Welcome future Dukies! To help make your stay more pleasurable/convenient/easy, the class of 2013 has prepared the following tips to help you with your transition to living at Duke.

### **1. Don't Panic!!!**

Everything will be new to most of you. But do not worry; if you are here it is because you are able to succeed. Pace yourself, have fun, explore and study. You will have plenty of opportunities to do all you need to do in the time you will be at Duke.

### **2. Get on Facebook** ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

Communicating with your fellow LLMs will be vital for the enjoyment of your experience here. Facebook will help you communicate, have fun and organize and share information and (within limits) pictures. A Facebook group has been created for your class. It is called "Duke Law LLM 13-14" and is found under type: Student Groups. The link to the group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114966052023356/>. If you have not already joined, we recommend that you join the group as soon as possible.

Remember that although Facebook is a great way to stay connected, it is a public forum and you should act accordingly. Also remember that you will be studying with people from all over the world and they may have a different way of interacting with you. Finally, remember that your LLM colleagues may be future work contacts and not everyone appreciates seeing drunken photos of those they are going to work with. Take these things into consideration when you post on Facebook!

### **3. Get a Cell Phone**

A cell phone is an essential part of living in Durham. There are many options available to you and these deals are constantly changing. The best thing to do is to go to a few providers and ask what their current deals are. Some popular providers are Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile. There are also several "discount" providers that you might like to check out. Finally, there were some (very few) people who did not get a cell phone. They survived, but communication was difficult.

With all of this in mind, here is some information that we had at the time of writing this guide. Many people found that pay as you go works well because it provides you with flexibility. You may not know how long you will be in the U.S. so contracts may be restrictive. One option is to go to an AT&T store and ask for a "GoPhone" sim card which could be placed in any GSM phone (any European phone for example). Keep in mind that other providers may have similar deals so you should check this out. We have heard that AT&T and T-Mobile use the GSM Sim card system.

**Contracts** through Verizon, AT&T, Virgin Mobile, etc. can also be obtained; however, the problem here is expense and commitment. They often require you to sign a two-year contract

and if you do not have a social security number many providers require that you pay a (large) deposit. If you break the contract, you might lose this deposit. If, however, you are pretty certain that you will be staying in the U.S. for some time and you decide to sign a contract you can often get a student discount – just one of the many benefits of being a member of the Duke community!

By now, almost everyone is familiar with Google Maps, so the best thing to do would be to search for your nearest stores on the Internet. For those of you arriving a bit early, the International House Orientation (August 12, 2013) will also offer a resource fair at which cell phone company representatives will participate (<http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse/international-graduate-and-professional-students>).

#### ***4. Do Not Worry (too much) About Where You Will Live, Unless You Will Not Have a Car***

There is a good selection of places to choose from around Duke and further away.

Within walking distance, the Belmont apartment complex usually gets a lot of LLMs (and in 2013, most LLM students who did not have families, and some that did, chose to live here). This is a mid-priced option that has a nice feeling of community. It is close to the Law School and has a bus stop close by for those that do not want to buy a car or ride a bike. You can also walk to the Law School from the Belmont. It is also really convenient to live close together: that way you can share household goods (many an iron has been borrowed) and most importantly, continue parties after the 2:00 am Durham shutdown (although try to keep the noise down – people are not afraid to call the police to complain about noise).

The Lofts at Lakeview are equally close to the Law School but a lot more expensive. Station Nine is also relatively close and expensive – it is generally the most popular option with Fuqua students. Cheaper accommodation can be found slightly further afield (15 min drive) in nice places such as Addington Farms (now called Century Trinity Estates). Other places include Pinnacle Ridge, Poplar West, Springfield, North Pointe Commons and American Tobacco. Not many LLMs chose these last options but you could consider them. There is also a new apartment complex just opening across from the Belmont - The Heights LaSalle.

Remember that apartment complexes within walking distance to the Law School fill up quickly. The Belmont operates on a waiting list system as do many of the other complexes so sign up fast! If you find an apartment complex near campus that is not mentioned above, please check with the International Studies office before you sign a lease.

When dealing with your landlord remember that rental practices may be different to those in your home country. Try to be relaxed but persistent with your landlord. Some of the LLMs from 2013 said that they had difficulty getting their landlord to promptly deal with issues in apartments and found the bargaining position of landlords difficult because there is a greater demand for housing than supply. These experiences have not been shared by everyone and if you ask individuals about their experiences with a particular apartment complex you may get widely divergent accounts.

## Helpful Housing Data:

**Duke Student Affairs:** 919 684 3737

<http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/hdrl/living-campus>

The Student Affairs Office has a great website that can be used for finding accommodation in Durham. They assist with finding off-campus, off-complex housing. Make full use of them!

You can also check out the Trading Post at Duke List, which is updated weekly and has a small number of housing listings in each issue. There are also listings for furniture, cars and people looking for roommates. Trading Post can be found online at: <http://dukelist.duke.edu>

**Triangle Apartment Finder 24-hour hotline:** 1 888 360 APTS

**Apartment Reviews:** [www.apartmentratings.com](http://www.apartmentratings.com)

**Apartment Guide:** [www.apartmentguide.com](http://www.apartmentguide.com)

**Move:** [www.rentnet.com](http://www.rentnet.com)

**Rent.Com:** <http://www.rent.com/>

<http://www.loftsatlakeview.com/>

<http://www.livebelmont.com/>

<http://www.stationnine.com/>

<http://www.century-apartments.com/century-trinity-estates/amenities>

<http://heightslasalle.com>

<http://pinnacleridgeapthomes.com/>

<http://www.trinitypropertiesapartments.com/>

Renter's insurance is similar to homeowner's insurance but it is cheaper and covers a smaller range of difficulties. In general, this type of insurance will cover all of the possessions inside your accommodation, including if they are stolen or damaged. We **strongly encourage** you to purchase renter's insurance which can often be combined with auto insurance to provide less expensive coverage. Information on renter's insurance is available on the International House website at <http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse/living-essentials#node-1179>.

### **5. Get a U.S. ID, Driver's License or State ID**

([www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv))

Immediately after arriving in the U.S., obtain either a North Carolina driver's license or a North Carolina ID (if you choose not to drive in the U.S.). **Keep in mind** that your SEVIS information (from your visa registration) must be active, so you may want to wait approximately 10 days after registering with Visa Services before applying for your license or ID (although this has not been everyone's experience). Both the driver's license and ID can be obtained at the DMV and will save you a lot of headaches down the road. In the U.S., driver's licenses serve as identification (they will ask for your ID every time you go to a bar), so you will not need to take your passport with you everywhere, and it may allow you to get less expensive car insurance (depending on the company). Although you are allowed to drive with your National License in North Carolina, we **strongly recommend** that you obtain your North Carolina license as soon as possible.

It can be difficult to enter bars without a North Carolina driver's license, ID or passport. Driver's licenses from home are almost never accepted. If you want a driver's license, you must go to the DMV on Miami Boulevard or on Martin Luther King Parkway; the exam has a multiple choice test and then a driving test. Take your I-20 (or DS-2019), passport and proof of residence! You should study the driver's handbook before going to the DMV for your driving test as it will be based on information in this book (<http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/license/>). When you are completing the driving portion of the test DO NOT SPEED!

## **6. Transportation**

Durham is a small city, but most people will tell you that you should get a car to get around (either that or a group of friends with a car that can move you around).

Bicycles, however, are becoming an increasingly popular option and several students purchased bikes. Others used the public transportation system which is cheap and easy to navigate (although it does not run late at night). Free Duke buses arrive every half-hour from the Belmont/Lofts to the law school, and also pass the local grocery store. TransLoc offers a smart phone app for tracking busses in real time; information is available on Duke's website at <http://duke.transloc.com/>. Information on the Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) buses can be found at <http://www.gotriangle.org/go-local/partners/durham-area-transit-authority>.

### **Buying a Car**

If you plan on buying a car you could consider buying from a previous LLM (many will be posting their cars for sale on the Facebook page). Remember though, that if you buy a car from a former LLM you will still need to register the car, obtain insurance and then get your driver's license. You could also look at [www.cars.com](http://www.cars.com), [www.carfax.com](http://www.carfax.com), and [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org), as well as Duke's own International House webpage or the Duke List noted above.

Do not buy a car before checking its VIN number on the Carfax website. Do not be shy to ask the seller for the VIN number; they will expect it and it is the only way to be certain of the car's history. Consider paying more than you initially thought; it will cost you much more to fix an unreliable car as several LLM students from 2013 found out!!

Consider obtaining an AAA card at [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com); it will be very useful if you lock your keys in the car, get a flat tire, or simply need a tow because your car decided it just didn't feel like moving you from point A to point B. It can also provide discounts at hotels when traveling during breaks.

Many previous LLMs purchased their cars in Raleigh because they found better deals than in Durham (car prices seemed to go up at the beginning of the semester). They recommend Elite Auto Sales at 919 832 7060 ([www.elite-auto-sales.com](http://www.elite-auto-sales.com)). If you are buying a car from a dealer, MAKE SURE you take it to an independent mechanic to have it checked out. You can find a decent mechanic in many places—LLMs have used Exxon-University Service Center with success and B&B Garage on Lamar Street is also good. Many current students contacted a mechanic called Frank McMillan at 919 360 4493; he is a great mechanic and gives you lots of help trying to find the best car. Students also recommend Jorge at 919 697 2641. Others had a

very good experience with Melton's Service Center near Ninth Street (around the corner from Elmo's Diner), 919 286 7633.

## **Car Insurance**

Some companies will not insure students without social security numbers. Progressive, Nationwide and State Farm Insurance are some of the companies that do. Household/renters insurance is also **strongly recommended** for your apartment. It is normally a good idea (and less expensive) to use the same company for both.

Some former LLMs found inexpensive insurance from Allstate. The representative they used was Leo Feliz at 800 787 0600, ext. 21708. Many LLMs worked with RTP Insurance (a broker for GMAC Insurance). The representative they used was Eddie Gilchrist at 919 401 6556, or at [eddie@RTPInsurance.com](mailto:eddie@RTPInsurance.com). He seemed to provide very cheap rates and assisted in obtaining insurance even before obtaining a license!

## **Car Registration**

If you purchase your car from a car dealer, they will usually process the registration on your behalf.

Car registration can seem a confusing process in North Carolina. When you buy your car you must have the previous owner sign the car's registration card, after which you will need to sign and have it notarized. This can be done at the Law School, at a bank, at the FedEx store near Chipotle and TGI Fridays on Erwin Road...many places! To register the car you ALSO need proof of insurance. (See above)

You must go to the DMV (there is one in Northgate Mall, and another near Martin Luther King Parkway. The DMV on Miami Blvd is for driver's licenses ONLY, not registrations). You must pay a one-time title and highway users fee of \$35, plus a user's tax of 3% wholesale value, up to \$150 (prices may change).

### **Local North Carolina License Plate Agencies:**

- Chapel Hill: University Mall  
201 S. Estes Drive, Suite 137  
919 929 0204
- Northgate Mall  
1058 W. Club Blvd,  
919 286 4908
- Durham: Executive Park  
1920 Highway 54, Suite 430  
919 544 6607

## **Leasing a car**

A lot of LLMs also lease cars for the year, as you can use your international driver's license instead of getting an NC one. This gets you out of the hassle of getting insurance and

registration, and you can get a newer car. If you are interested in this solution, you can go to First Choice Leasing and get in touch with Jim Lowe (919 475 3152). Rental is around \$480 a month (including insurance) and the car you get is a 2010 Hyundai Sonata. Any mechanical problems are also covered under the policy. You should get in touch with Jim Lowe. Several LLMs in the past have gone through his company.

### ***If Stopped by Police...***

**Do not get out of the car!!!** Get the car's paperwork ready (registration and proof of insurance) and your ID, do not be intoxicated and treat the police officer with respect. Try to be a safe driver and respect the speed limits. It is amazing how quick you can get into trouble if you do not follow these simple guidelines.

### ***7. Take Care of Your Health***

If you are sick, call or visit the Student Health center; the Duke insurance you are required to buy will most likely cover all your sicknesses. Once there, follow their directions and do not ignore their advice. Duke hospital is one of the best hospitals in the country.

The number for the Student Health Center is 919 681 9355 and website:

<http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/studenthealth>

Please note that if you use the Duke Urgent Care clinics dotted around Durham for emergencies (i.e. knee injury etc.), you will need to bring your insurance ID card/number with you. Also ask practitioners for cost of the prescribed treatment, since you may be surprised by large medical bills if you do not **always have your insurance details on you!**

### ***8. Explore!***

There are many very interesting places in Durham and the surrounding area to visit and you should explore as much as possible. Remember that your experience in the USA will be unique! Do not waste free time outside of schoolwork. Take road trips, eat at new restaurants, visit the vineyards, go to Jordan Lake, go see a Bulls baseball game or a Hurricanes ice hockey game, go to the many concerts and plays in Durham and in Raleigh, go to Chapel Hill, go to the Outer Banks, go to the beaches, etc. You are here to study but also to experience the U.S. Try to do something fun every weekend or whenever you can—and not just drinking. You do not want to go back to your country thinking you missed all the fun.

### ***9. Google Maps is Your Friend***

As mentioned, when looking for apartments, stores and driving directions you should try to use Google Maps as much as possible. (<http://maps.google.com/>). It's a simple way to get around the city without any issues. Durham is a relatively safe city; as with every city, however, it has its bad neighborhoods. Try not to get lost and do not panic if you do. As an alternative try MapQuest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com). Also, for those with a car, consider getting a navigation application on your phone or a separate navigation system—it is easy to get lost!

## **10. Furniture**

Keep in mind that whatever you buy when you arrive, you will end up selling when you leave, so take that into consideration when deciding how much furniture you are willing to purchase. You can also rent furniture, but be prepared to spend upwards of \$1,000 yearly to furnish a one-bedroom apartment. Some people had good luck ordering furniture from [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com). There is no local store so you need to order it online at least one month in advance (or, as some LLM students did this year, go to the Ikea store in Charlotte). North Carolina is the furniture state so local stores also have a good selection of cheap, student grade furniture that could be useful for the time spent at Duke. Futons, tables, chairs and other furniture also can be purchased at Target and Walmart. You can also get your furniture from International House, Duke List, Craigslist, E-Bay, and a store in downtown Durham called Trosa (if you don't mind getting it used), and it will probably be much cheaper. Again, as with cars, some current students contacted the LLMs on Facebook who were leaving Durham and bought their stuff. Many people sell their furniture through the International House website. This saves you a lot of money and time!

Renting furniture is also a good idea, as the nine-month period goes by quickly and there is no hassle getting rid of things once the year is over. Aarons Furniture store is the best known in the area.

## **11. Studying**

Pace yourself, take good notes (you will most likely be able to use them on most exams) and choose subjects you really like. If you are planning to look for a job in the U.S. after graduation, take into account your area of interest when choosing courses.

## **12. Choosing classes**

There is a range of great classes to choose from at Duke so choosing can be difficult. If you are determined to get a job in the U.S. after graduation, you should seek advice about which classes to take. Employers in the U.S. often care about your choices. You will be assigned an advisor who can help you with this. Many LLMs, but certainly not all, focus on corporate law. If you are going down this route *Business Associations*, *Corporate Finance* and *Mergers and Acquisitions* are highly recommended! For those who have experience in corporate work or wish to do this in addition to these courses, *Securities Regulation* is a rewarding class. Another good class is *Structured Finance*—more interesting than the name suggests! The professors who teach the class are among the best in the nation and it lays a great groundwork for all other corporate classes. There is a lot of reading, but you will learn a lot. *Intellectual Property* (IP) is another great class to take, but IP can often be a smaller market in which to seek a job—in New York at least. Duke also has incredible faculty in environmental law; take Professor Wiener's seminar on *Climate Change*, as well as Professor Salzman's class on *Environmental Law*! And last but not least, many students enjoyed the *Negotiation* class. This is a skills-based class and many LLMs found it interesting. Also, doing the negotiation journal + the 15 page negotiation paper is a good way to fulfill your Substantial Research Paper Requirement for the LLM degree. You can also use this as an opportunity to meet lots of JDs. Most importantly, take classes that interest you! There is something for everyone at Duke Law, and the always stressful choice of picking is a luxurious problem.



While registration for fall semester courses will be done during Orientation Week, Wintersession and spring semester course registration is done via Duke's online system where you register at 8AM in the morning on a specified day. Typically, the first day you can only register for 6 credits and a few days later on you can register for the rest. Therefore, have a good idea of the classes you want to take and which are most important to you. Then be at your computer from 7:57 AM clicking like there is no tomorrow to make sure you get into the class you want! Further, do not be scared away if a given class is full or already has a few people on the waiting list. People change their minds and you just never know.

### ***13. Duke Organized Activities***

**Do Campout** (even if you do not understand basketball—it is the most memorable event of them all), be prepared for International Week, go to parties, the Bar Review, galas, and cookouts. The staff at Duke really put an honest effort in making you feel at home as fast as possible, so take advantage of all the activities organized, even though you might not consider yourself one of those people that relies on the school to plan your fun activities for you.

The Law School Halloween party is an essential event—you must dress up! The P.I.L.F. Auction is also fun. Girls: bring gowns. There are two formals events, a Fall Cocktail and a Barrister's Ball in the spring—be prepared to glamour up when necessary!

P.S. Campout—get together with people to acquire a tent (or an RV, but if you go for this option be sure to arrange it quickly as RVs rent out quickly!), bring warm clothes, food, drink, flashlight, wear clothes you do not mind getting dirty, and do not bother bringing books with you to study (some people did but we do not recommend you do)! It is going to be a rather fun but intense weekend...you will see what we mean when you get here!

### ***14. Don't Be Shy***

Stop by the offices of any of the Duke staff, be it a professor or the Dean; they will make time for you (although, some like that you arrange an appointment—you will get the feel of which people at the school have a "drop-by" policy fairly quickly). Take advantage of the classes, participate, talk; you will get used to the rhythm in no time and will be able to get the most out of the amazing academic experience in which you are about to participate. Remember, your main points of contact for any problems are Jennifer, Oleg or Suzanne, who are always happy to help or just to talk.

### ***15. Be Friendly***

You are starting new friendships; try not to form groups, get to meet as many people from as many countries as possible. Go out with your friends, plan road trips, etc. You will soon be surprised at the amazing job the admissions people did at choosing your fellow classmates.

### ***16. Shopping***

Supermarkets abound! You will probably be able to find some of your local food at one of the many different supermarkets here. You should start at the cheapest (Target, Food Lion, Kroger)

and work on up to the slightly more expensive (Harris Teeter and Whole Foods) until you find what you are looking for. Get the discount card for the supermarket that you think you might end up frequenting the most; they are free and can save you some money.

It is very convenient to buy Asian groceries in Durham. Some regular supermarkets such as Food Lion, Kroger, Harris Teeter and Whole Foods sell plenty of ingredients to cook Asian food (tofu, rice, spring onions, ginger, garlic, meats, seafood, soy sauce, etc.). There are also several oriental supermarkets in Durham. **Asia Market** in Durham (Chapel Hill Blvd. and Nottingham Dr.) sells many kinds of oriental groceries from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. **Smile (Tao Tao) Oriental Market** (4201 University Dr.) specializes in Southeast Asian cooking ingredients. **Oriental Supermarket** is a Korean grocery store selling traditional Korean food. You also can drive 30 minutes to Raleigh/Cary to **Grand Asia Market** (1253 Buck Jones Rd.). This supermarket is much bigger than those in Durham.

**Guglhupf Bakery and Patisserie** (2706 Chapel Hill Boulevard, near Foster's Market) offers a great choice of healthy breads and not-so-healthy, delicious pastries. **Foster's Market** also has a small, but quality-oriented selection of bread and wine. Duke and Durham both offer Farmer's Markets where you can buy locally grown fruits and vegetables, as well as breads, cheeses and wines/beers.

If its clothes or just a regular shopping mall you are seeking, you should find what you are looking for at The Streets at Southpoint. Northgate mall is closer, but has much less variety.

### ***17. Bar Exam***

Most Duke LL.M. graduates who chose to take a bar exam sit for the New York Bar Exam. If your first law degree is not from a common law jurisdiction (e.g. Israel, U.K. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc), you will need to take 12 credits of courses in several specific areas in order to qualify to sit for the bar exam as well as meet basic length of study requirements. Please be sure to review the eligibility requirements on the New York Board of Law Examiners [website](#) for more information.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**, before you even get to Duke, make sure to fill out the online [foreign evaluation form](#), which is the first step to establish eligibility. Next, make sure you submit all of your transcripts and other supporting documents (see the website for more information) **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Technically, you have until October 1 but this is the date by which the Bar has to RECEIVE your documents, so you should plan on sending them before you even leave for Duke.

### ***18. Job Search***

Oleg Kobelev ([Kobelev@law.duke.edu](mailto:Kobelev@law.duke.edu)) is the director in charge of helping LL.M.s with their careers—feel free to talk to him and he will definitely point you in the right direction!

**Resume/CV:** Bring your resume or curriculum vitae (CV) to Duke in digital form. You should also review your CV to make sure that you can accurately translate your different academic degrees and that you have a current record of your employment history. Bring also copies of your official academic transcripts with English translations, as well as copies of your law school

diploma with a certified English translation. If you have significant legal experience, start preparing a “deal list”—a list of transactions/projects with a brief description in which you were involved. Finally, if possible, bring to Duke a sample of your legal writing from your home country. The writing sample should be law-related, analytical and not more than 15 pages. You may need such a sample of your writing as part of your interviewing in the U.S., though your legal writing course at Duke will also result in a suitable writing sample.

**Job Fairs:** Duke participates in the annual [International Student Interview Program](#) (ISIP) in New York in January, where over 120 international employers come to interview foreign-trained LL.M.s for positions both in the U.S. and abroad. Additionally, international employers may visit Duke to interview students or invite students to informal events. There are many other events and programs designed to bring employers to Duke for networking and career search. Among the highlights is the [ESQ Career Symposium program](#), which is hosted jointly by the Business Society and the Career and Professional Development Center. A full list of different career-related programs and events is available at the Career Services section of the website under [Events](#).

**International Student Reception and Dinner:** The day before the Job Fair, Duke Law hosts a reception in honor of international students to which all international employers interviewing at the Job Fair are invited. On average 50-70 international employers attend the event, providing students with a great opportunity to meet and impress these employers before the interviews the next day. The reception is followed by a formal dinner, attended by Duke Law alumni, which provides students with another excellent opportunity for networking.

**Career Programming:** Duke Law hosts a broad range of programs to help LL.M. students make the most of their career search during the year. These programs, which are tailored specifically to LL.M. students’ needs, include LL.M. Resume and Cover Letter Workshop, the LL.M. Mock Interview Program, and the LL.M. Career Panels. You can find the schedule of all CPDC programs, the vast majority of which are open to both JD and LL.M. students, by reading [Duke Law Daily](#) or by checking the [Law School Calendar](#).

**Networking:** Regardless of the job search paths LL.M. students choose, networking is usually the key to your success. As the majority of jobs are not advertised, it is helpful to have a network of contacts that can provide support, information and job leads. Start building your network now. Consider any lawyers, professors, business clients, friends and relatives whom you know who can potentially introduce you to employers in the U.S. or your home country. Try to contact them during the summer and ask if they can offer you advice or be your references. The best strategy for successful networking is not to ask someone for a job, but to ask for information or advice and to follow up with your contacts by keeping them updated with your situation and thanking them for their efforts.

## ***19. Places to Eat & Drink***

While Durham may seem somewhat quiet upon your arrival, it has a surprising variety of great restaurants serving American and international cuisine, as well as a diverse nightlife. And remember, Durham has been voted the South’s tastiest town so there is a lot to see:

<http://www.southernliving.com/travel/tastiest-town-durham-north-carolina-00417000082305/>

Below are the places we (and the classes preceding us) visited. Extra hint: Especially during the first month in Law School, try to attend Bar Reviews. These every-Thursday-in-a-different-bar Law School celebrations are a great way to socialize with LLMs and JDs. Bar Reviews are advertised via e-mail. Another extra hint: Do not go to Chapel Hill after *their team* has won a basketball game.

**Main Street:** **Alivia's** is on Main Street, Durham. It is a little bistro with great burgers, crab cakes and free Wi Fi! **Satisfactions**, or "Satties" as it is somewhat affectionately known, is a mainstay bar for Dukies (on Main Street, opposite Alivia's) which specializes in hearty pizza and beers. When the Duke-UNC basketball game is on you should go, although there will be bar reviews there too. It is known for its pizzas and "granny fries" too but it is not exactly haute cuisine! **Shooters**, has always been a hit with ALL Duke students and is pretty much the physical incarnation of the phrase "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas!" Always fun to go to for drinks, general rowdiness, and an All-American night! Did we also mention they have a mechanical bull for people to ride on??

**Brightleaf Square:** Brightleaf Square, a renovated tobacco warehouse on Main Street in Durham, is home to many nice restaurants. **Satisfaction** is a good place to have typical American food and offers an impressive variety of beers. **Tosca** in the West Village (near Brightleaf Square) serves Italian food and has an impressive choice of Italian wines at reasonable prices (especially, of course, during their every-bottle-50%-off-evenings). **Mount Fuji** is a good place for sushi, while **Chamas** has Brazilian barbeque that will knock your socks off. If you also want great brunch and see a really cool cooking/candy/food/wine store, **Parker & Otis** is the place to be (named as one of the New York Times eateries to visit in their review of Durham, NC), as well as **Revolution** (also featured on the NYT list), which is an upscale and decidedly more pricey venue for dinner but well worth it.

The newly renovated **American Tobacco Historic District** has many good restaurants as well, and is across the street from the Durham Bulls Athletic Park (and close to the Durham Performing Arts Center or DPAC) are **Tyler's Taproom** and **Tobacco Road**—lots of Belgian beers and American food!

However, the closest thing Durham has to Paris is **Rue Cler** (their mussels and steak frites are fantastic); **Pops Trattoria** has excellent Italian and international food with great service as well! Finally, **Bull City Brewery** has the best burgers in town with local meat from only grass-fed cows. Go to these three—you will not regret it.

**Ninth Street:** Another good area to eat and drink is the **9<sup>th</sup> Street** district. **Charlie's** offers beer, burgers and basketball. They show every Duke game on two big screens (and innumerable small ones). **Vin Rouge** (Hillsborough Road) is a little more upscale, a good place to have a nice dinner and some excellent wine. **Siren's Lounge** on W Markham Ave. (near 9<sup>th</sup> Street) has comfortable couches to hang out and enjoy great drinks (Martinis are their specialty), and a dance floor is used on Fridays and Saturdays. **Danes** bar is also another place to grab a great burger. **International Delights** is a great place for Middle Eastern cuisine. **Cosmic Cantina** on Perry Street is a little hard to find, but worth the search (just go somewhere near and then ask for directions, you would be hard-pressed to find someone who does not know it). It is open late and offers good and affordable Mexican food and great rooftop seating. Try the quesadillas, they are pretty decent. **Elmo's Diner** also does good American brunch and breakfast food, also good

milkshakes! There are several nice coffee places on Ninth Street too, including Francesca's and the Market Street Cafe. These also provide a nice alternative to studying in the library! Close to Ninth Street you will also find the Green Room for those looking for a real American pool hall.

**Foster's Market** is located on 15-501 Business, approximately 10 minutes from the University. It is great for brunch. They sell a variety of sandwiches, wraps and salads for moderate prices, have a nice atmosphere and is one of the best places to eat outside in Durham. <http://www.fostersmarket.com>. Try their chocolate raspberry cake and bring it to a party—everyone will love you for it.

**Guglhupf Bakery and Patisserie** (2706 Chapel Hill Blvd., near Foster's Market) offers a great choice of healthy breads and not-so-healthy delicious pastries. Great lunch, brunch and dinner, the latter featuring good live local music! It also has an outdoor patio to relax with a beer or a Riesling on a gorgeous North Carolina day.

**Scratch Bakery** is located on 111 W. Orange St. and is a great place to try different things for brunch and has amazing pastries and a more urban atmosphere. Great for when you are a little tired of the small town blues.

**Kanki** is a fun Japanese steak house, with great food and a wonderful atmosphere. It is located on Mt. Moriah Road, and is perfect for groups looking for something a little different.

**North Carolina BBQ:** For authentic North Carolinian fare, you should try to go to **Bullocks** (in front of the Kroger's at the Festival Mall off Hillsborough Street), **Allen & Sons** (Hwy 86, between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough), or **The Original Q-Shack** (2510 University Dr.) at least once during your stay to get real NC BBQ. It is not the barbecue you are accustomed to, but a concoction of shredded pork in North Carolinian BBQ sauce (not unlike vinegar). It is inexpensive, tasty, and there are always some specialties for non-pork eaters. Bullocks tends to get crowded, so get ready to line up or go early.

**Just off Campus:** Seriously, their proximity to the law school make them LLM favorites, so you will be going there soon enough! Outside the Lofts complex are **TGI Fridays**, **Mediterranean Grill**, **Chipotle**, **Enzo's**, **Dunkin Donuts** and a **Noodle Bar**. Across the street on Erwin Road there is **Sushi Love**—2-for-the-price-of-1 deals EVERY DAY makes this place a great place to go with a group, have sushi and sake. A few doors down the road is the excellent **Nosh**, a quirky casual restaurant that serves everything from burgers and pizzas, to salads etc. Just opened up is **Local Yogurt** (opposite Sushi Love) where you can get great “fro yo” flavors (cookies and cream, vanilla, natural, etc.) with an INFINITE amount of toppings (perfect for a summer's day) and the classy **Six Plates**—the perfect place to go for an excellent wine selection, great nibbles (truffle and parmesan french fries anyone?), and something romantically low key, if you are in the mood. The Nasher Art gallery also hosts a nice restaurant.

**Chapel Hill:** Near Durham is **Chapel Hill** (about 20 minutes from Durham), a typical student town (the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is there) with a multitude of bars, cafes and restaurants on **Franklin Street**. It is impossible to list all the places worth visiting in Chapel Hill, just go there and explore for yourself (twice the fun anyway). Chapel Hill is a very charming town and the majority of restaurants, bars, cafes, etc., are on or around its main road, Franklin Street. Some classics you cannot go wrong with include **Four Eleven West**, one of the

best Italian restaurants in the Triangle, and **Crook’s Corner**, serving Southern cuisine. **Martini Bar** is a good place to hang out, listen to live music and enjoy the \$1-beer-of-the-day or the €25 Bud Light in the downstairs area. **Top of the Hill** is a classic; its fabulous terrace is a good place to enjoy a meal or drinks and watch the nightlife on Franklin Street. It is also a main hangout for UNC students. Finally, the **West End Wine Bar** not only has affordable wine and nice couches, but also a basement to shoot pool and one of the best rooftop terraces in town. **Talulla’s** has great Turkish food and Latin dancing. All these places are, of course, on Franklin Street. We are sure you will get to know **La Residence** during a Bar Review; during dinner they offer wonderful French fare. **Kildare’s Irish Pub** has also seen its share of Friday night revelry and is a great place to go with a bunch of friends to dance the night away...

The biggest tip is to constantly look on the internet for events and places to visit in surrounding areas. People found concerts (many big names include North Carolina in their tours), carnivals, music festivals and the like in Durham, Chapel Hill and Charlotte. Also, get your hands on the free newspaper *The Indy* (or check their website at <http://www.indyweek.com>). It has entertainments listings and much more that was really useful for finding fun events.

## 20. Banking

Most of the LLMs ’13 banked with one of the following:

Bank of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bryan Center on West Campus</li> <li>• Law School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3200 Shannon Rd Durham, NC 27707</li> <li>• 3100 Tower Blvd Durham, NC 27705</li> <li>• 4811 Hope Valley Rd Durham, NC 27707</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free for students</li> <li>• No minimum balance</li> <li>• Free Check Card</li> <li>• No commission for using Law School’s ATM.</li> </ul>
Wells Fargo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bryan Center on West Campus</li> <li>• The East Campus Student Union</li> <li>• Duke Hospital North</li> <li>• Fuqua School of Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapel Hill Blvd Durham, NC 27707</li> <li>• 3917 University Dr Durham, NC 27707</li> <li>• 2000 West Main St Durham, NC 27705</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No monthly service fee</li> <li>• No minimum balance requirement</li> <li>• Free Check Card</li> <li>• Fuqua ATM</li> </ul>

Since Bank of America has an ATM at the Law School, it makes life easier. But you can also use the “cash back” option when you are shopping with your debit card. Wells Fargo has an ATM at the Fuqua Business School and this is very close to the Law School. If you want a credit card you will need a social security number, which can be obtained from the Social Security Administration in Durham (919 541 5443). Also, note that the banks change their fee structures so check with your banking advisor before signing up.

## 21. Regarding Children

Some of the LLMs had babies during the year. Duke has a great health system so rest assured that you will receive great care. One of the LLMs whose partner had a child provided the following information:

“Having a child in Durham is quite convenient. First of all, the University’s health insurance Liaison (Anna Kenyon) introduced us to the Clinical Coordinator for International Patient Services. He helped us make an appointment for the first check-up at the obstetrics associated with Duke.

Obstetricians took care of my wife until the delivery and shared her medical records with Duke Hospital, where my wife actually delivered the baby.

After the delivery, the staff at Duke Hospital helped us complete necessary post-delivery procedures including making an appointment for the first check-up for the baby. They suggested pediatricians close to our home and we were able to choose the one we were most comfortable with.

An interpreter was made available at every check-up. In addition, Blue Cross Blue Shield provides coverage for maternity care services for enrolled spouses who become pregnant prior to enrolling in the Plan (that is to say, pregnancy is not considered a pre-existing condition).”

For those of you coming to Duke with children and are looking for pediatric care, some students took their children to **Durham Pediatrics** (an affiliate of the Duke Health System). The **Pickens Center** for family medicine at Duke accommodates children of international students for various medical needs. Alternatively, you could go to Duke Children’s Primary Care. For more information, check ([http://www.dukehealth.org/services/childrens\\_primary\\_care/about](http://www.dukehealth.org/services/childrens_primary_care/about)). Same-day appointments are usually available at Duke Children’s Primary Care, but you need to call very early in the day. It is recommended that you check with pediatric care first for same-day appointment before going to any urgent care center.

Children of almost any age will love the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science ([www.ncmls.org](http://www.ncmls.org)), as well as the petting farm and the Magic Wings Butterfly House. For older children, the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill (on Franklin St.) provides great mental stimulation. Check their website (<http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org>) for more information. Likewise, the Children's Museum at Lakewood Mall (off Morehead St. coming from Anderson) has role playing games that will keep your kids occupied. The North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro ([www.nczoo.org](http://www.nczoo.org)) with all its enchanting animals can be reached from Durham in about 90 minutes. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences ([www.naturalsciences.org](http://www.naturalsciences.org)) and the Marbles Kids Museum (<http://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/>), both in downtown Raleigh, are worth visiting as well. Finally, the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on campus are a nice place to visit for kids and adults. They have a stunning array of different plants and birds, and the changing seasons provide an ever-changing array of colors.

If you live in Durham, check Durham County Library’s website at <http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/kids/schedule.php>. They have story times for kids and other activities almost every day. The library is also a good resource for kids’ books and DVDs (get a library card with your NC driver’s license).

Regarding preschools and day-care centers, it is advisable to take care of this issue very early, as the centers fill quickly and there may be long waiting lists before you can enroll your children. International House can be very helpful. Pablo Sanhueza’06, who has eight-year old triplets, provides the following tips:

“For those of you who have children and are looking for a nice place to live with the best education (elementary, middle and high school) the place is Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill (13 miles from Duke) belongs to Orange County and it is one of the best counties in the U.S. for public education. One of the best places to live is Southern Village ([www.southernvillageapts.com](http://www.southernvillageapts.com)), which is a small neighborhood with landscaped sidewalks (it is very weird to find sidewalks in the Triangle!!!); it is ideal for walking, running, and bicycling. The neighborhood is very safe; also there is a police station. In the mall (little central square) there are three really good restaurants including one pizza restaurant (really tasty), one cinema (four-screen), one coffee store, one bookstore and one little supermarket (on the expensive side). In Southern Village there is the Mary Scroggs Elementary School (one of the best public school in USA) as you can see in <http://www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/education/staff/default.php?sectiondetailid=108>.”

If you don't send your kid(s) to pre-school or day-care centers, consider joining the Duke playgroup: the playgroup usually meets at local parks and other places around Durham once a week. Parents get a chance to talk to each other while their children get a chance to play. Join International House's email listserv for international spouses (<http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse/join-email-listserv>) and you will receive invitations every week.

Folks who live in the South are very friendly; they celebrate all the holidays like Halloween (very nice and friendly day), Christmas and Valentine's Day. One of the best things is when the Blue Devils win basketball games, you can wear your Duke sweatshirt and you will realize that almost all the people that see you...are Tarheel fans!

## **22. Activities & Places**

Many students from our class took advantage of the great sporting opportunities at Duke. Your bursar's bill charges you a recreation fee that allows you to use the Wilson Center and the Brody Gym. The Wilson Center gym (near Cameron Indoor Stadium) is probably one of the best sports recreational facilities in the area, and we urge you to make full use of it. Golf fans came to the right place; Duke has a great course, and there are quite a few public courses in the surrounding area. For hikers and runners, the Duke forest along highway 751 (not far from the Law School) has the beautiful Al Buehler trail where you can commune with nature and pump some blood into your circulatory system. If you would like to participate in team sports, enroll in the Club Sports teams. Many of us started playing again the sports we loved but had to quit due to time restraints in our home countries.

North Carolina is an incredible place to visit. During fall and spring break, many LLMs traveled around NC and its surrounding states to visit the beautiful places the South has to offer.

Wilmington, located at the southeast coast of North Carolina, has beautiful beaches and many hotels and motels along the coast. It also has a cozy downtown with restaurants, bars and a nice waterfront. The mountains on the western side of NC are also worth a visit. You can drive the Blue Ridge Parkway (a scenic roadway), which offers awesome colorful sights, especially in fall and spring. Asheville, a nice and vibrant town, is near the Biltmore Estate, a huge French-style castle built by the Vanderbilt family and filled with exquisite art.



You can even go skiing in North Carolina. Admittedly it is not Utah or Colorado, and there is no skiing area with more than a few slopes, but it surely is fun. We recommended a town called Boone in the mountains, with a bunch of surrounding ski resorts where you have the chance to learn how to ski. The class of 2004 went to Beech Mountain (close to Boone), which offers some nice skiing and has lighted slopes open until 10 PM.

Durham is a great place for outdoor activities. Jordan and Falls Lake are both just a short drive from Durham and are great weekend stops without traveling too far. You can barbecue, swim and water ski in the lakes; no alcohol is permitted though. Bass fishing is also possible, though none of the LLMs interested in fishing were ever as successful as the Durham natives fishing around the area (be mindful that a fishing license is needed which can be easily acquired in any hobby shop). Check out these outdoor activity resources for hiking, camping and more:  
<http://ncnatural.com/TriangleRec/HikingTri.html>  
<http://www.visitnc.com>

Spring Break trips to Florida, New Orleans (and other places in the South), the West Coast, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas were popular, as were trips across the U.S.

### **23. *Extra Tips***

**Classes:** You should think carefully before choosing the classes for the fall term. Keep in mind that certain classes are only offered during one of the two semesters. Those of you interested in taking the New York State Bar Examination (or any other bar exam), should be aware that in order to do so you have to fulfill various course requirements. The bar exam rules are a little complicated, but the Law School's International Studies staff is happy to help you and they are really good at explaining this stuff. For those interested in taking the Bar Exam, the sooner you start preparing the better. Certain review companies provide materials before graduation.

**Health Insurance:** For LLMs with spouses and family traveling with them, another important consideration is health insurance. F-1 and J-1 visa holders are automatically enrolled in the Duke program. You can purchase the Duke plan for dependents and are encouraged to do so. Home country insurance coverage is permissible for dependents, but you will have to pay for all services "up front" then apply for reimbursement on your own. Doctors and hospitals can only file insurance claims with companies located within the U.S. As a family member cannot get insurance in North Carolina without a social security number, it is the best to put them on your Duke policy as soon as you arrive.

**Your country:** Do not forget to bring those small souvenirs from your home country, your country flag and a slideshow can also be nice. When you meet people from all over the world, you want them to understand where you come from and what is interesting about your country and when International Week is held at the Law School (late October) you will want to show off your costumes, etc. Remember to represent your country with a national dish at the Food Fiesta.

**Communication:** If not yet subscribed—do it now! Skype, Messenger, Googlechat, Viber and Tango etc. it is cheap (usually free), easy, you can get a webcam and see your family even when you are far away, and it is an easy way to communicate with everyone, so get on it now and get your family and friends to subscribe also before you leave.

**To conclude:** Keep an open mind—the people you meet will be very different than your friends at home but that is part of the fun. You did not come all the way to Duke to do the same things you did at home. And take your time to enjoy your days at Duke with your new and soon to be lifelong friends. Study but do not be in the library 24 hours a day! Take your time to play sports, hang out with your friends or visit places!

The LLM program at Duke will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We, the class of 2013, welcome you (albeit not physically) to your new family and intellectual home. We are sure you will enjoy the next few months!!