

NEW STUDENT RESOURCES



Department of Environmental Studies
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

BOULDER BASICS

COLORADO RESIDENCY

HOUSING

CLOTHING

FOOD

ARTS, OUTDOORS, AND HOBBIES

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

TRANSPORTATION

**CAREER SERVICES AND
STUDENT SUPPORT**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
RESOURCES**

INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Hello, soon-to-be first year! We're so excited that you have decided to join the ENVS program here in Boulder, we think that you have made the right choice. This document has been created with the assistance of many folks, including extensive input from students, faculty and staff. The aim here is to provide you with the most helpful and up-to-date information to make the most of your two years in the program. This resource is ordered with a hierarchy of basic human needs first (think food, housing, clothing, health and wellness) then provides more information on how to create a community once you have all that you need. At the end, there is a section crafted specifically for international students, by current international students, to smooth transitions and culture shocks.

In all, we know that moving to a new place and starting a master's program is an adjustment. Peruse and use this resource as you need and don't be afraid to reach out to Michelle Cadena at michelle.cadena@colorado.edu if you need further assistance.

BOULDER BASICS

CLIMATE

Boulder, Colorado is located on the edge of the "Front Range" mountains - so called because, if you travel from the east, it's the first range that you come to. The climate is relatively mild, with an average of 300 sunny days per year and low humidity. Boulder experiences four seasons: when you arrive here in August you can expect the usual summer temperatures (80F, 27C) and afternoon thunderstorms; fall brings temperatures in the 60s (15C) and fiery shades of red as deciduous trees prepare for winter; winter lasts 6 months where temperatures can get below 0F (-17C) and we see quite a bit of snowfall; just when your eyes hit max capacity of viewing brown landscapes (from the dead grass and no leaves), peeps of green begin to emerge. All at once, it's spring in Boulder and endless wildflowers dot the foothills of the Front Range. Don't be fooled, however, because it's not unusual to experience a fun May snowfall - it's just something that happens here. Last but not least, it is very dry. If you come from a place with high humidity, it can be a shock to your airways (especially for folks with asthma). When you find yourself coughing in the night, safe to say it's time to get a humidifier.

COLORADO RESIDENCY

YOU'RE PROBABLY A RESIDENT IF...

- You attended a Colorado high school for at least one year preceding the date of your graduation and you've lived in Colorado for at least 12 consecutive months before enrolling at CU Boulder.
- You (if you're 23 or older) or your parents (if you're under 23) have been domiciled in Colorado for one or more years.
- You're a member of an American Indian tribe with historical ties to Colorado.
- You're a dependent of or are yourself a qualifying member of the military (aid restrictions apply).

YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT A RESIDENT IF...

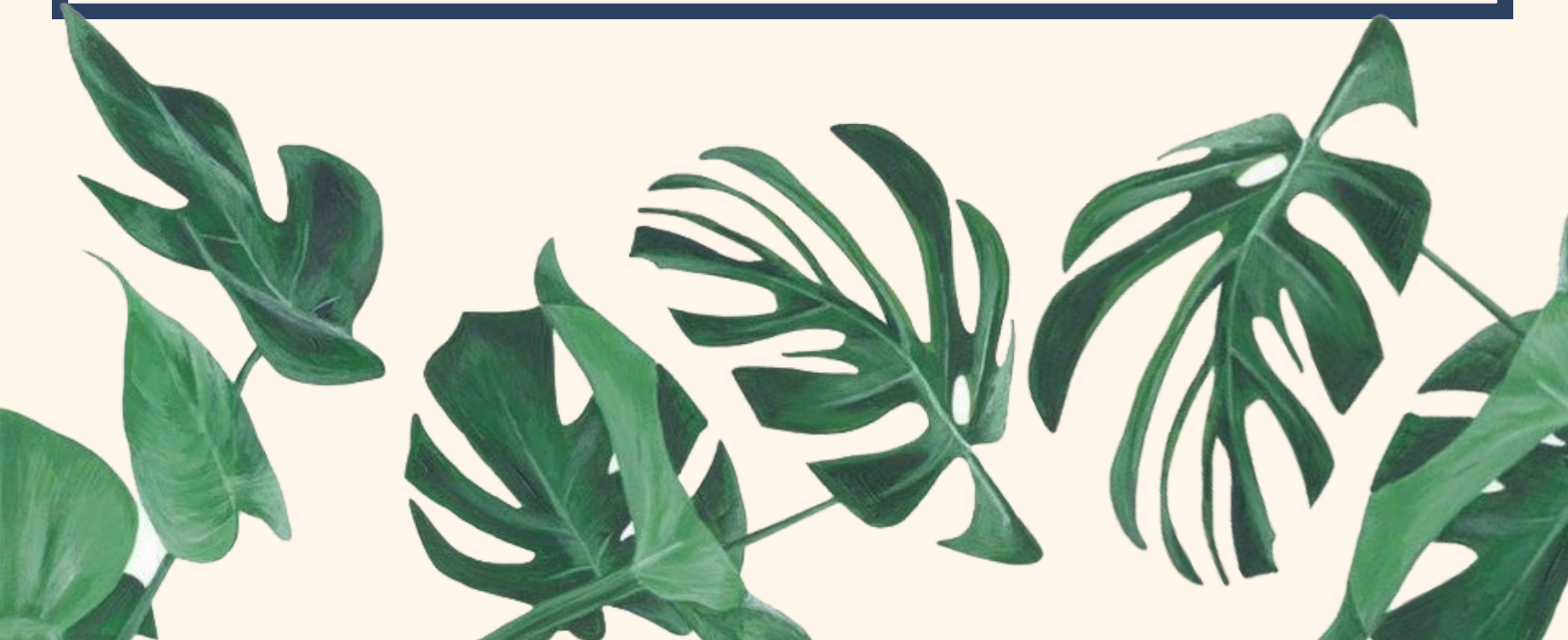
- You're under 23 and your parents haven't been domiciled in Colorado for one or more years.
- You're 23 or older and you haven't been domiciled in Colorado for one or more years.
- You're in possession of a nonimmigrant visa (F-1, F-2, H-3, M-1, M-2 or J-1).

ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY

Tuition classification is governed by state law (Title 23, Article 7, of the Colorado Revised Statutes of 1973, as amended) and by judicial decisions that apply to all public institutions of higher education in Colorado, and is subject to change at any time.

To petition for in-state residency, you must establish your permanent residence in Colorado by the domicile qualifying date for the corresponding term. The Office of the Registrar website has more information about supporting documentation for establishing residency, residency exceptions for domicile and upcoming petition deadlines for residency.

For more information on tuition costs, please visit the MENV Financial Information page. All numbers are subject to change and are determined by the University of Colorado Boulder's Office of the Bursar.



HOUSING



The MENV Program is located at the University of Colorado's East Campus in Boulder, in the university's Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Community (SEEC) Building. SEEC is accessible via roadway (Foothills Parkway and Colorado Ave.), bike/walking trails ([Boulder Creek Path](#)), and public transport ([Buff Bus Campus Routes](#)).

SEEC Address: [4001 Discovery Dr, Boulder, CO 80303](#)

ON CAMPUS HOUSING

Submit your [Graduate and Family Housing Apartment Application](#) before the deadline.

Note: Athens North Housing requires a separate application and application fee.

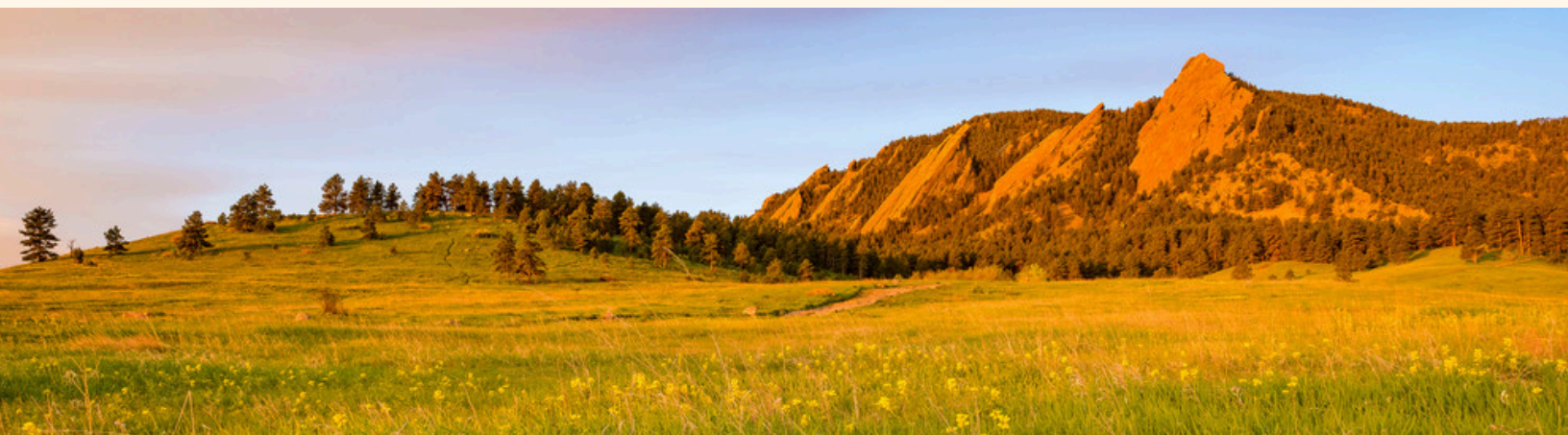
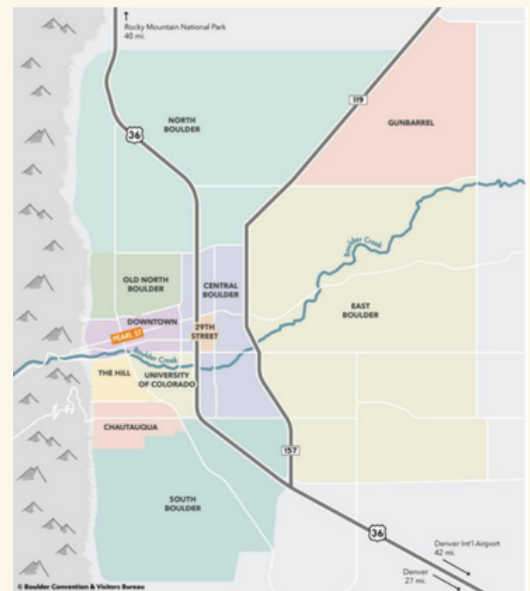
Apply for on-campus housing accommodations through [Disability Services](#).

- [Athens Court](#)
- [Athens North](#) (first-year graduate students only)
- [Marine Court Apartments](#)
- [Newton Court Apartments](#)
- [Smiley Court Apartments](#)

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

- [Ralphie's List](#) (CU off-campus housing listings)
- [Boulder Creative Housing](#)
- [Apartments.com](#)
- [Zillow.com](#)
- [Parc Mosaic](#)
- [University Heights Apartments](#)
- [Boulder Property Management](#)
- [Mountaineer Apartments](#)
- [Flatiron Views](#)
- [Apex 5510](#)
- [Coronado Apartments](#)

Note: The Hill is primarily undergraduate housing.



NEARBY AREAS TO LIVE IN

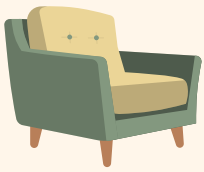
Mileage determined as if someone was driving a motor vehicle from SEEC.

- Denver (26.5 miles)
- Broomfield (12.2 miles)
- Lafayette (10.7 miles)
- Louisville (8.2 miles)
- Superior (6.9 miles)
- Gunbarrel (7.8 miles)
- Westminster (19.4 miles)
- Arvada (19.5 miles)
- Golden (20.1 miles)
- Nederland (18.8 miles)

CU AND BOULDER COUNTY HOUSING RESOURCES

The [City of Boulder Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Services Program](#) offers legal and financial services for those facing a potential eviction. We recommend reaching out directly to the [Boulder County Housing Helpline](#) to understand all of your housing options. The [Boulder County Findhelp](#) website also provides support for various needs.

FURNITURE THRIFT STORES



- Goodwill
- TRU Thrift Shop
- The Salvation Army
- Pig + Pearl
- Arc Thrift Stores



CLOTHING

PREPARING FOR WINTER

Spring mornings can be 40F (4C) and rainy, then by noon its 75F (24C) and sunny.

PEARL ST. AND TWENTY NINTH ST.

Pearl Street is filled with big-name brands capitalizing on the outdoor culture here. You can find Patagonia, Arc'teryx, The North Face, and more. Venture by car or public transit a bit further from Pearl St. to Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), and be sure to stop by the Twenty Ninth Street mall to finish your day of shopping. At this outdoor mall you can find Anthropologie, Free People, Nordstrom Rack, Eddie Bauer, lululemon, among others, and grab something to eat as well!

BUDGET-FRIENDLY CLOTHING STORES

Outdoor-Specific Thrift Stores:

- Boulder Sports Recycler
- Play it Again Sports

General Thrift Stores (still likely to have warm clothing options)

- Apocalypse
- Common Threads
- Heady Bauer
- Plato's Closet
- Rag's Consignment
- Pig and Pearl
- Goodwill
- Greenwood Wildlife Thrift Shop
- Arc Thrift Stores

FOOD

Food costs and insecurity can be incredibly debilitating. Students are able to make ends meet through a variety of means, and here we provide some different strategies for reducing costs.

GROCERY STORES

Budget Friendly: expect a week's worth of food to be around \$100

- King Soopers, Trader Joe's, Safeway

Higher-End: expect a week's worth of food to be around \$150-\$200

- Whole Foods, Sprout's, Natural Grocers
- Nude Foods (zero waste)

INTERNATIONAL OPTIONS

- H Mart
- Las 10 Americas Carniceria and Supermarket
- Great Wall
- Asian Seafood Market
- India's Bazaar for halal
- India's Grocery
- Le Frigo
- Blackbelly



FOOD PANTRIES

- Buff Pantry: CU Boulder's on-campus food pantry
- Harvest of Hope: A personal favorite
- Find more options with Boulder County Findhelp

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households purchase food, with monthly funds distributed on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. We recommend beginning this process as soon as you are accepted into the ENVIS program.

If you apply and get a notice of denial from Boulder County due to student status, don't be deterred. Students qualify if they participate in a program called Employment First (EF). This program pairs you with a case worker who does short, monthly phone call check-ins and can provide other benefits, including gas money assistance. Talk with your case worker to understand the financial assistance you can receive. Unfortunately, non-immigrants (those on student, visitor, or diplomatic visas) are not eligible for SNAP. Visit the CU Basic Needs Center to learn more and find other campus resources.

MEAL PLANS

CU Basic Needs Center: Sometimes offer free swipes for meals, so make sure to get on the email list.

Flatiron Meal Plan: The FMP is a prepaid dining and discount card for students to purchase meals and shop for groceries at over 100 of Boulder's merchants. Discounts include 25% off the featured restaurant of the week, back to school coupons, and more.

BOULDER FARMERS MARKET

Located on 13th Street between Arapahoe Ave and Canyon Blvd. The Saturday market runs April to November from 8 am to 2 pm; the Wednesday market runs May to September from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. SNAP recipients can swipe their EBT card at the information tent to receive SNAP bucks and purchase SNAP-eligible foods in the market. For every dollar withdrawn from your SNAP account at the tent, you will receive an equal amount of Double Up Bucks to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, up to \$20 per visit!

FOOD

BEST OF BOULDER

COFFEE SHOPS

- [Alpine Modern](#)
- [January Coffee](#)
- [Laughing Goat](#)
- [Ozo Coffee](#)
- [Trident](#)

BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH

- [Foolish Craig's](#)
- [Lucile's Creole Cafe](#)
- [Postino](#)
- [Süti and Co](#)
- [The Buff Restaurant](#)
- [WoodGrain Bagels](#)

LOCAL FAVORITES

- [Aloy Thai](#)
- [Boulder Pho](#)
- [Buddha Thai](#)
- [Dushanbe Tea House](#)
- [Folsom Thai](#)
- [Gemini](#)
- [Japango](#)
- [Jin Chan Zhang](#)
- [Phở Kitchen Bar and Grill](#)
- [Sherpa Kitchen](#)
- [Sherpa's Adventure Restaurant and Bar](#)
- [Sushi Zanmai](#)

CASUAL AND QUICK EATS

- [A Cup of Peace](#)
- [Cafe Mexicali](#)
- [Efrain's of Boulder](#)
- [Pica's](#)
- [Rincon Argentino](#)
- [T/aco](#)
- [Zoe Ma Ma](#)

PIZZA AND ITALIAN

- [Basta](#)
- [Barchetta](#)
- [Pizzeria Alberico](#)

FARM TO TABLE AND UPSCALE DINING

- [Black Cat](#)
- [Bovas](#)
- [Bramble and Hare](#)
- [Leaf](#)
- [Oak at Fourteenth](#)
- [River and Woods](#)
- [Salt](#)

DESSERTS AND BAKERIES

- [Boulder Baked](#)
- [Gelato Boy](#)
- [Sweet Cow](#)

AN EVENING OUT

- [Avanti](#)
- [Avery Brewing Company](#)
- [Bitter Bar](#)
- [Bohemian Biergarten](#)
- [Jungle](#)
- [License No. 1](#)
- [Mountain Sun Pub and Brewery](#)
- [Pearl Street Pub and Cellar](#)
- [Press Play](#)
- [Rayback](#)
- [Rosetta Hall](#)
- [The Spotted James](#)
- [The Sundown Saloon](#)
- [Twisted Pine](#)
- [Wild Provisions](#)



ARTS OUTDOORS HOBBIES



HIKE

- [Anne U White Trail](#)
- [Bear Peak](#)
- [Chautauqua Park](#)
- [Continental Divide Overlook](#)
- [Dakota Ridge](#)
- [Green Mountain](#)
- [Gregory Canyon](#)
- [Mt. Sanitas](#)
- [NCAR Mesa](#)
- [Royal Arch](#)
- [Sugarloaf](#)
- [Walker Ranch](#)

BIKE

- [Betasso Preserve](#)
- [Boulder Canyon Trail](#)
- [Boulder Creek Path](#)
- [Doudy Draw](#)
- [Goose Creek Path](#)
- [Hall Ranch](#)
- [Olde Stage Road](#)
- [South Boulder Creek](#)
- [Walker Ranch](#)
- [Wonderland Lake](#)

GYMS

- [Alpine Training Center](#)
- [Anytime Fitness](#)
- [Boulder Athletics](#)
- [Crossfit Sanitas](#)
- [Crunch Gym](#)
- [CU Recreation Center](#)
- [F45 Training](#)
- [Mountain's Edge Fitness](#)

YOGA

- [Avita Yoga](#)
- [Corepower Yoga](#)
- [Kaiut Yoga](#)
- [Radiance Power Yoga](#)
- [Yoga Pod](#)
- [Yoga Pearl](#)

SKI

- [Arapahoe Basin](#)
- [Copper Mountain](#)
- [Eldora](#)
- [Winter Park](#)
- [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)

CLIMB

- [Boulder Canyon](#)
- [Boulder Rock Club](#)
- [Clear Creek](#)
- [CU Climbing Gym](#)
- [Eldorado State Park](#)
- [The Flatirons](#)
- [Movement](#)
- [The Spot](#)



VENUES AND ART

- [Boulder Theater](#)
- [Fox Theatre](#)
- [Gold Hill Inn](#)
- [Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art](#)

THE BROADER BOULDER COMMUNITY

Trident Language Nights

Every Monday evening from 7 to 9, Trident hosts their language exchange night. With roundtables accommodating many different languages, this is a great opportunity for both international and domestic students to build community and strengthen language skills.

Boulder Social Events (Meetup.com)

Meetup is used for communities to local in-person and virtual events. Register for an account and see what events are out there!

The Spot Climbing Gym

If you're a climber, there is no shortage of gyms for you to choose from. Many students have expressed gratitude for [The Spot's sliding scale membership](#). Other popular gyms in the area include the CU Rec Center, Movement, and Boulder Rock Club.

Boulder Cruiser Rides (Biking)

Every Thursday during the summer, Boulder residents host Boulder Cruiser Rides. These rides gather hundreds of folks, have a different theme each week, and include dance parties. This is a Boulder must-do, and here is their Instagram handle: [@bouldercruiserride](#)

Ikon Pass (Skiing)

The Ikon pass allows you unlimited access to Boulder's closest ski resort: Eldora. Additionally, there are 3+ resorts along I-70 that passholders can access and CU students get a discount through CU Boulder Freeride. Check out the Instagram here ([@cuboulderfreeride](#)) to find more information on how to apply for the discount.



SURROUNDING AREAS

FOOD AND DINING

- [Bonfire Burrito](#)
- [City O' City](#)
- [Crosscut](#)
- [Curtis Park Deli](#)
- [Denver Central Market](#)
- [Highland Tavern](#)
- [Linger](#)
- [Mister Oso](#)
- [Niwot Market](#)
- [Pepper Asian Bistro](#)
- [Q House](#)
- [River North Art District](#)
- [Safta](#)
- [Sassafras](#)
- [Señor Bear](#)
- [Simply Bulk Market](#)
- [Sputnik](#)
- [Stanley Marketplace](#)
- [Tamale Kitchen](#)
- [Uchi](#)
- [Watercourse Food](#)



ARTS AND MUSEUMS

- [Clyfford Still Museum](#)
- [Denver Art Museum](#)
- [Denver Museum of Contemporary Art](#)
- [Denver Museum of Nature and Science](#)
- [Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art](#)
- [MEOW WOLF](#)
- [River North Art District \(RiNO\)](#)
- [Santa Fe Art District](#)



LIVE MUSIC AND VENUES

- [Bluebird Theater](#)
- [Gothic Theater](#)
- [Larimer Lounge](#)
- [Mission Ballroom](#)
- [Oriental Theater](#)
- [Red Rocks Amphitheater](#)

BARS AND NIGHTLIFE

- [American Bonded](#)
- [British Bulldog](#)
- [The Cruise Room](#)
- [Death and Co](#)
- [Mercury Cafe](#)
- [Ophelias](#)
- [Pony Bar](#)
- [Super Mega Bien](#)

OUTDOORS AND PARKS

- [Cheesman Park](#)
- [City Park](#)
- [Denver Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge](#)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

CU COUNSELING AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS)

*Students need to pay the mental health fee
Services: confidential, on-campus mental health and psychiatric services for a variety of concerns, such as academics, anxiety, body image, depression, relationships, substance use, and more

DISABILITY SERVICES

Services: testing accommodations, note-taking accommodations, flexibility with attendance and assignment deadline plans, communication/interpretation services, service animals, and more

OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Services: free and confidential info, consultation, support, advocacy and short-term counseling services to those who have experienced a traumatic, disturbing, or life-disruptive event

CU STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

CU Boulder has both a [Student Emergency Fund](#) and a [Graduate Student Emergency Aid Fund](#). These programs accept applications on a rolling basis. Funding is given on a case-by-case basis but includes events such as medical, dental, or mental health emergencies, major accidents, support shelter for students in dangerous living situations, and travel expenses due to a family emergency. The fund will not cover housing or food insecurity costs, living expenses, and other ongoing costs.

CU BOULDER ZERO WASTE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Learn more about CU Boulder's waste management guidelines. For more guidance, view the [Boulder County's Recycling Guide](#) and [City of Boulder's Compost Rules FAQ](#).

MEDICAL SERVICES AT THE WARDENBURG HEALTH CENTER

Services: primary care, sexual and reproductive health, lab services, physical therapy, shots/vaccinations, and more

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY CENTER (CUCRC)

Services: community, support, and connection for students, faculty, and staff in recovery or seeking recovery from a wide range of behaviors

OMBUDS OFFICE

Services: a good place to surface, voice, clarify, and discuss university-related issues

STUDENT OUTREACH, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT (SOAS)

Services: helps students identify issues and appropriate resources and works collaboratively with them to develop an action plan

INSURANCE

Those taking one or more graduate credit hours are required to complete the health insurance requirement process. If you do not take action to waive by the deadline, you will be automatically enrolled in the CU Gold SHIP and are responsible for the cost. There will be no refunds granted following the deadline.

IF YOU NEED INSURANCE

[CU Gold Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#)
[Health First Colorado \(Medicaid\)](#)

If you have private insurance:
[BuffCare Supplemental Coverage Program](#)

TRANSPORTATION

BIKING

BCycle

- CU students have unlimited 60 minute rides each day for all Boulder BCycle bikes. After downloading the Boulder BCycle app, click on the "Get a Pass" button and select the "CU Boulder Student and Employee" option. Then click on the blue "create account" button and use your @colorado.edu email address to register.

CU Bike Fest

- CU Bike Fest is held every August at Farrand Field on Main Campus. There is free food, games, free bike repairs, and most importantly the used bike sale. This event is made possible by CU's Bicycle Recycling and Processing Program, where the Environmental Center clears between 500-700 abandoned bikes from campus annually, and refurbishes them to sell at the Bike Fest. Find your form of transportation at the cheapest price in Boulder!

CU Bike Rentals

- Students can rent bikes from the Environmental Center for \$50 per semester, with a \$200 deposit that is refunded on the final return of the bike in good condition. It's first come, first serve, with rentals usually taking place the first week of each semester, so sign up early!

CU Bike Repair Services

- CU bike stations offer free maintenance assistance to fee-paying students, but bike registration is required. There are two locations, TLC and Folsom, with different hours. These stations offer safety checks, tire inflation, chain lubrication, flat repair, and brake/shifting adjustments.

BUFF ONECARD BENEFITS

Your Buff OneCard serves as your school key and bus pass on the Regional Transportation District (RTD) system. As a part of tuition costs, students can ride on all local, limited, express, and regional bus and light rail service in Boulder and Denver, including the SkyRide bus service to Denver International Airport (DIA). This does not include special services, such as Bustang, Access-a-Ride and BroncosRide.

COMMUNITY CYCLES

Community Cycles is a nonprofit that offers refurbished bikes for sale, provides education and workshops for bike care and repair, and aims to serve all of Boulder's residents. Community Cycle memberships offer perks like discounted bike workshops, access to their full shop of bike tools, and more.

LIME E-SCOOTERS

If you prefer scooters, rent a Lime electric scooter! Use the LimePrime monthly plan (\$5.99) to remove the unlock fee and save 25% on the per-minute ride fee. LimeAccess also provides discounted rides to eligible users, such as SNAP recipients. Rides of 30 minutes or less are free.

AUTO CARE

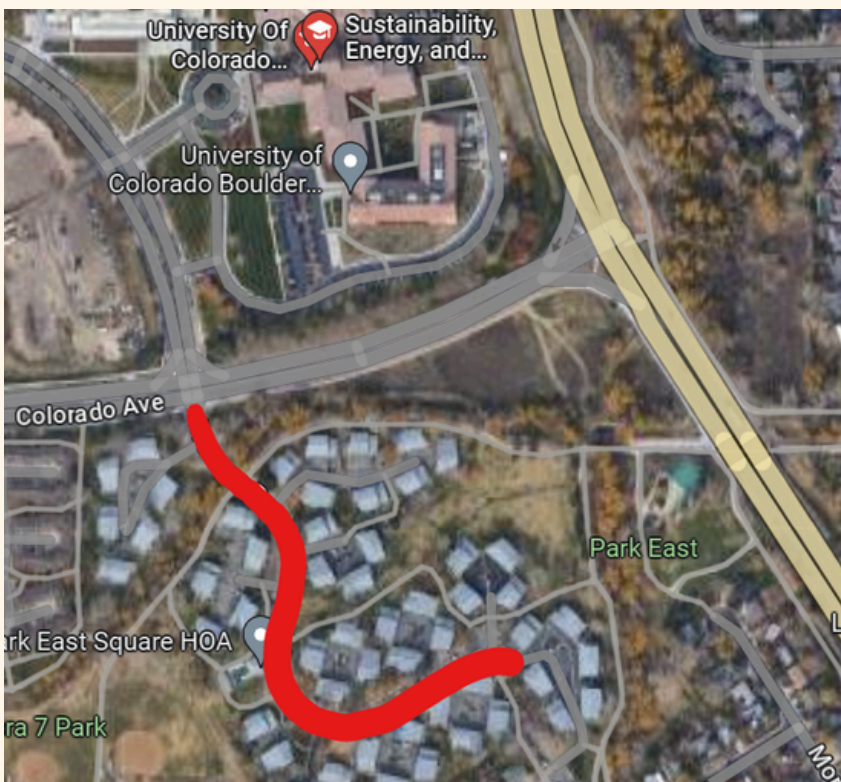
- ABC Auto Body of Boulder
- Big O Tires
- Boulder Valley Automotive
- Corwin Toyota Boulder
- Hoshi Motors



AIRPORT AND SKI BUSES

There are several ways to use your Buff OneCard to get to the Denver International Airport (DIA). If you're taking the AB1 bus, head over to the Downtown Station to improve your chances of getting a spot on the bus. Live by 28th Street? Use the AB2 route instead of the AB1 to get ahead of the crowd. You can also take the Flatiron Flyer bus to Union Station and take the A light rail line. Visit [RTD's website on airport transit options](#) for more details or use the [Transit app](#) for route planning and real-time arrival details.

You can also travel to the Ikon mountains with the [CU Ski Bus Program](#). There are a limited number of Ski Bus tickets available for each trip, so make sure to buy them early!



FREE PARKING NEAR CAMPUS

If you are unable to afford a parking pass through CU, free parking nearest to East Campus is in the neighborhood across from SEEC (highlighted in red). This is 3-hour parking that is heavily monitored, so be sure to move your car every 3 hours. This space also fills up, so don't rely on it!



CAREER SERVICES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

CAREER DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS

The [MENV Career Development Office](#) prepares its students for careers across all industries the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Through our innovative approach to career preparation, we equip our students with meaningful and practical ways to land a job in their chosen field. In a time where industry is changing rapidly, MENV provides a pathway for students to tailor their degree to the unique needs of their chosen industry. Check out the [MENV Career Development Handbook](#) to get started!

Meet our Career Advisors:

- Brian Kennedy
 - Brian Kennedy was an environmental consultant for 40 years. He retired in May of 2023. He has worked as a career advisor with the MENV program for three years.
- Mara Rose
 - Mara has spent more than 30 years serving in management, education, and consulting roles across for-profit, nonprofit, government, and higher education institutions.
- Laura George
 - Laura is MENV's Career and Professional Development Manager. She has worked in the public and non-profit sectors, with a focus on conservation, education, and program development. She provides goal-oriented advising to help students and alumni navigate career transitions with confidence.

Note: Students must be in the Masters of the Environment (MENV) program to access career services.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CAREER EVENTS!

- Alumni Engagement Day
- Speed Networking
- Careers in the Environment Fair
- Mock Interview Day

OFFERINGS

- 1-on-1 advising meetings
- Resume review
- Cover letter review
- Networking support
- Negotiation strategies
- Career service repository (with sample cover letters, resumes, interview questions and much more)
- Career data collection
- Skills gap analyses
- Alumni connections



STUDENT SUPPORT

Michelle Cadena

Assistant Director of Graduate Student Success and Community Engagement

Talk to Michelle about: Support with navigating transitioning to MENV, Boulder or Colorado as well as support with navigating student resources and referrals to other services like financial aid, housing, medical or mental health resources, amongst other resources and tools that can support your transition and success during your stay at CU and MENV and beyond graduation. Diversity, equity and inclusion issues (liaison between the Student DEI Committee and Student Council).

Brendan Park

Academic Advisor

Talk to Brendan about: coursework planning and strategy; enrollment questions; academic petitions, processes, and procedures; degree and graduation requirements; and relevant tools and resources related to academic planning.

PARENTAL BENEFITS

CU Boulder offers help and support for parents through pregnancy and parent-related academic adjustments, childcare resources, elder care, and more.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers a suite of services for graduate students including standard 50-minute one-on-one sessions with professionally trained writing consultants to assist in any stage during the writing process. Be sure to utilize this wonderful resource early on in your master's degree!

LEGAL SERVICES

Student Legal Services is a law firm dedicated exclusively to serving the legal needs of CU Boulder students. They offer criminal, civil, and administrative legal services for an initial consulting fee from \$30-\$35. Students can also sign up for free appointments to discuss housing legal advice, such as lease reviews.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)

Schedule an appointment with ISSS early on to learn about all of your options including immigration resources, financial help, housing, and much more.

UNDERSTANDING U.S. CLASSROOM CULTURE

All staff are aware of cultural differences, but it could be most beneficial for you to meet with your professors early-on to discuss classroom expectations. Ask questions and share your point of view if you feel comfortable, as many students may have not traveled outside of the U.S. and do not understand how a certain policy or sustainability initiative would not be implementable in your country!

Here are some great articles to read before starting the school year:

[What is US College Classroom Culture Like?](#)
[Classroom Culture in the United States](#)

ENGLISH RESOURCES

CU offers valuable resources and courses to support non-native English speakers in improving their language skills. **Note that these courses are not eligible to count towards the MENV degree.**

[English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Resources on Campus](#)

[English language courses for graduate students and visiting scholars](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Center For Teaching and Learning has information for faculty and staff to [support multilingual international students in their studies at CU Boulder.](#)

Make sure you check out the MENV International Students Meet Ups, which happen once a month on Wednesdays. We will be sending the dates for these on the first week of classes!

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

Transportation

Transportation when you first arrive in Boulder can be difficult, and finding access to cars is a challenge for international students. Be sure to utilize the MENV Slack channel and post about carpool needs during your first month in Boulder. Identify folks who can drive, understand and utilize the bus system, and do not be afraid to ask for support from Michelle Cadena. While MENV cannot organize a carpool unless everyone fills out a liability form, staff can help to figure out logistics for you.

Housing

Previous international students have noted how difficult it is to find a place to live without a social security number. Additionally, Boulder's housing market is slim and expensive, so finding a house while overseas and signing a lease sight unseen is nerve-wracking. Utilize Slack, where many new students post empty rooms in a house that they have found, and contact ISSS for advice on navigating this stressful aspect of getting your master's degree.

FINANCIAL GUIDANCE

Visa and Travel Abroad

For classes that have travel components outside the U.S., look into your visa considerations in terms of leaving the U.S. and coming back in the country.

Banking Considerations

A challenge that many international students have come across is banking in the U.S. Some banks require a social security number while others do not. Previous students have had success with Chase and Wells Fargo in the area, but ISSS can help you here as well.

WELCOME WEEK AND OTHER CU RESOURCES

- Attend the [CU Be Involved Fair](#) during the Fall Welcome Week.
- Join the [#international-students](#) Slack channel.
- Join the [International Festival Committee](#).
- Seek mental health services at the [Counseling and Psychiatric Services](#).
- Join the MENV and CU Boulder International Coffee Hours.

QUESTIONS?

Reach out to Michelle Cadena at Michelle.cadena@colorado.edu