THIS IS CHICAGO
“You have the right to do things in Chicago. If you want to start a business, a theater, a newspaper, you can find the space, the backing, the audience.” Bernie Sahlins, AB‘43, co-founder of The Second City

A global city. A world-class university.

The University of Chicago and its namesake city are intrinsically linked. In the 1890s, the world’s fair brought millions of international visitors to the doorstep of our brand new university. The landmark event celebrated diverse perspectives, curiosity, and innovation—values advanced by UChicago ever since.

Today Chicago is a center of global cultures, worldwide organizations, international commerce, and fine arts. Like UChicago, it’s an intellectual destination, drawing top scholars, companies, entrepreneurs, and artists who enhance the academic experience of our students. Chicago is our classroom, our gallery, and our home.

Welcome to Chicago.
Chicago is the sum of its many great parts: 77 community areas and more than 100 neighborhoods. Each block is made up of distinct personalities, local flavors, and vibrant cultures. Woven together by an extensive public transportation system, all of Chicago’s wonders are easily accessible to UChicago students.
HYDE PARK

Seven miles south of downtown Chicago, Hyde Park features renowned architecture alongside expansive parks and gardens.

UChicago’s home on the South Side combines the best aspects of a world-class city and a vibrant college town. Hyde Park is one of Chicago’s most historic neighborhoods: founded in 1853, annexed to the city in 1889, and host of the World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893. Today, Hyde Park is known for its intellectual culture, museums, and diverse community.

Where to Go:
- Bookstores: 57th Street, Powell’s, Seminary Co-op
- Court Theatre
- DuSable Museum of African American History
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House
- Harper Court shops
- Home of Barack Obama in Kenwood
- Hyde Park Art Center
- Oriental Institute Museum
- Promontory Point and Lakeshore Trail
- Rockefeller Chapel
- Smart Museum of Art

UChicago Connections
- Nearly 60 percent of UChicago faculty and graduate students live in Hyde Park.
- John D. Rockefeller, oil magnate and philanthropist, was the primary benefactor of the new University in the late 19th century. Retail entrepreneur Marshall Field, a former Hyde Parker, donated land for the campus.
- UChicago engages Hyde Park and the city through a variety of initiatives and civic and cultural partnerships.
- With four hospitals and outpatient facilities throughout the area, University of Chicago Medicine offers compassionate, state-of-the-art health care.
The South Side is home to some of Chicago’s most influential and unique neighborhoods. Shaped by a rich history of both immigration and migration—especially the Great Migration in the early 20th century—its culture reflects this diversity and shares a distinctive sense of place. Experience authentic Chicago, from the South Side Irish Parade to the city’s best soul food.

Where to Go
- Arts Incubator in Washington Park
- Beverly Arts Center
- Chinatown
- Dorchester Projects by artist Theaster Gates
- Glessner House
- Harold Washington Cultural Center
- Museum of Science and Industry
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- Pullman National Monument
- South Shore Cultural Center
- U.S. Cellular Field (home of the Chicago White Sox)

UChicago Connections
- Such renowned intellectuals, artists, and politicians as Gwendolyn Brooks, Muddy Waters, Richard Wright, and Ida B. Wells all called the South Side home.
- UChicago’s Urban Education Institute works to enhance K-12 education and college-going in inner cities. In addition to research, training, and development of programs in use nationwide, UEI operates four charter school campuses in Chicago.
- Museum Campus South—Including seven museums, four on the UChicago campus—is part of the city’s Culture Coast. Together, they have more than 2 million visitors each year.
Downtown Chicago is an international destination for entertainment and business. Marked by our signature skyline, downtown boasts four of the nation’s tallest buildings, and world-renowned museums and cultural institutions. A short train or bus ride transports students to see landmark works of art, sample the fare of celebrated chefs, and shop on the Magnificent Mile.

Where to Go
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Buddy Guy’s Legends
- Chicago Architecture Foundation
- Chicago Cultural Center
- Cloud Gate (“The Bean”) at Millennium Park
- Downtown Theatre District:
  - Cadillac Palace Theatre
  - Chicago Theatre
  - Goodman Theatre
  - Oriental Theatre
- Field Museum of Natural History
- Shedd Aquarium
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Adler Planetarium
- UChicago Connections
  - The namesake of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park is a member of the family for which UChicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine is named.
  - Nearby, the nonprofit Harris Theater shares a founding philanthropist with the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.
  - The Gleacher Center is the downtown home of the top-ranked University of Chicago Booth School of Business. It also hosts classes for UChicago’s Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies.
  - UChicago is a partner in the new public-private Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute, or Digital Lab, to be based on Chicago’s Goose Island.
Chicago’s North Side is an energetic, cultural and social hub, with miles of lakefront parks and popular public beaches. Its neighborhood streets are lined with shops, restaurants, and theatres. Easily accessible by train, bike, or bus, here you’ll find a wealth of excitement and entertainment.

Where to Go
- Boystown
- Devon Avenue’s “Little India” and Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods
- iO Theater (improv comedy)
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Live music:
  - Double Door
  - Empty Bottle
  - Green Mill
  - The Hideout
  - Metro
  - Old Town School of Folk Music
  - The Wild Hare
  - Steppenwolf Theatre
  - Wrigley Field (home of the Chicago Cubs)

UChicago Connections:
- Chicago Cubs owner Tom Ricketts, AB’88, MBA’93, first fell in love with the team while at UChicago. Other UChicago alumni in the professional sports world include NBA commissioner Adam Silver, JD’88, and MLB senior vice president Kim Ng, AB’90.
- Founded by a group of UChicago students more than 50 years ago, The Second City is a major destination for Chicago’s hallmark style of improv and sketch comedy.
- Businesses started by alumni can be found throughout the city, from Occupi Design, founded by Meghan Brown, AM’03, to Morningstar, Inc., led by chairman and CEO Joe Mansueto, AB’78, MBA’80.
Chicago is an international epicenter for the arts, as seen on the walls and stages of renowned institutions and bursting onto the streets and sidewalks of each neighborhood.

Your UChicago Card doubles as an ArtsPass—granting free admission to the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art, as well as discounted tickets to the Goodman Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, and dozens of other cultural institutions around the city. Exploring the arts and culture of Chicago starts right on campus. The new 1. LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS (HYDE PARK) is home to our MFA program and hosts hundreds of events each year.

2. CLOUD GATE (GRANT PARK)—known to locals as “The Bean”—is a popular destination for visitors and locals alike. 3. THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (STREETerville) is one of the nation’s largest modern art facilities and has displayed pieces by UChicago MFA graduates. The University’s 4. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE (HYDE PARK) hosts dozens of events throughout the year, including the popular Festival of Nations.

Visual and performing arts are everywhere in Chicago, from roving puppet theatre to monumental sculpture. 5. SMART MUSEUM OF ART (HYDE PARK), one of three UChicago museums, where students are often involved in curating exhibits. Our students also intern and teach at organizations throughout the city, including the iconic 6. ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (LOOP) and Museum Campus institutions, including the Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium. Kids of all ages will enjoy Sue the T. rex at the 7. FIELD MUSEUM (MUSEUM CAMPUS). 8. GOODMAN THEATRE (LOOP) brings innovative works to Chicago, for which it won a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Chicago is famous for blues, and outdoor music, movies, and dance are a way of life in the summer. The 9. BLUES FESTIVAL (GRANT PARK) kicks off the season with four days of free concerts.

“I love using my UChicago ArtsPass. I think it gets more usage than my credit card! There is nothing better than meeting friends downtown to check out a new exhibit at the Art Institute or just ponder a classic.” Susan C. Mallaney, MPP Student, Harris School of Public Policy
There’s always something exciting happening on the streets of Chicago. Whether it’s shopping for holiday decorations at 1. CHRISTKINDLMARKET (DALEY PLAZA), taking in your favorite band at 2. LOLLAPALOOZA (GRANT PARK), attending a grad student event at the 3. WILLIS TOWER (LOOP), partying at the 4. PRIDE PARADE (LAKEVIEW), or enjoying the 5. MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL (RIVER NORTH), every season is a chance to go out and celebrate.

Catch a show at a legendary venue like the 6. GREEN MILL (UP TOWN), visit shops along 7. WELLS STREET (OLD TOWN) or any of the other popular shopping areas. Root for the 8. WHITE SOX (BRIDGEPORT) or Cubs, Bulls, Bears, Blackhawks, Fire, or Sky, whichever you prefer. Or try one of Chicago’s two major comic cons, including 9. C2E2 (MCCORMICK PLACE), held each spring in the largest convention center in the US.

“Every weekend, my classmates and I go downtown to explore—there is never a shortage of new experiences.”
Antonio Musto, AM’14, Divinity School

Food is a crucial part of Chicago life. In summer there is plenty of outdoor dining, such as 10. THE MEDICI (HYDE PARK), or more casual fare at the 11. FOOD TRUCKS that roam the city year-round. We’re famous for our deep-dish pizza and 12. CHICAGO-STYLE HOT DOGS—hold the ketchup! But we’re also home to world-renowned restaurants like Grant Achatz’s 13. ALINEA (LINCOLN PARK), and “Top Chef” Stephanie Izard’s 14. GIRL & THE GOAT (WEST LOOP).
Chicago is a city on the move, with 26 miles of waterfront parks, bike and running paths, and public beaches. Chicagoans can be found outside in all four seasons: skating in winter, biking in spring, playing softball or cricket in summer, and running the Chicago Marathon in fall. There’s no better city to explore by foot, bike, or boat.

Chicago’s plentiful green space reflects its motto, “Urbs in Horto”—City in a Garden. Children dance through the 1. CROWNFOUNTAIN (LOOP) as the 50-foot-high faces of Chicagoans spout water. Just east of UChicago’s campus, 2. PROMONTORY POINT (HYDE PARK) is a great place for a picnic with friends and family. The serene 3. OSAKA GARDEN (JACKSON PARK) offers a restful retreat. Want more excitement? Join tailgaters at 4. SOLDIER FIELD (MUSEUM CAMPUS) for a bears game, in any weather.

The 5. LAKEFRONT TRAIL (HYDE PARK) runs for 18 miles along Chicago’s Lake Michigan waterfront, bringing together cyclists, runners, rollerbladers, skateboarders, and people-watchers.

Chicago offers activities for casual and serious athletes alike. Each fall, more than 35,000 runners participate in the 9. CHICAGO MARATHON (DOWNTOWN), while in the spring, 10. BIKE THE DRIVE (LAKEFRONT) brings out tens of thousands of riders for a car-free morning on Lake Shore Drive. Want to explore a new part of town? Look for stations throughout the city where you can rent 11. DIVVY BIKES.

“In the summer, I ride my bike up the lakefront path to participate in the free events at Grant Park. I especially like salsa nights at Summer Dance. Dancing to a live band in the park is the perfect way to spend a summer night in Chicago.”

Nidia Banuelos, PhD Candidate, Sociology
Chicago is an international hub for commerce and culture. With two major airports, extensive public transit, dozens of cultural enclaves, and world-class academic institutions, Chicago is a global destination for people and ideas. Here, you don’t have to leave the city to travel the world.

The world brings its business to Chicago. Major corporations like 1. Boeing (West Loop), United, McDonald’s, and more have their headquarters here. From consulting and social services to publishing and education, UChicago students gain experience outside the classroom in a wide range of settings. Locally based organizations include 2. Encyclopaedia Britannica (River North), the Chicago Cultural Center, Johnson Publishing, A.T. Kearney, and the Alzheimer’s Association, among many others.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the 3. Chicago Board of Trade (Loop) are also in the heart of downtown. 4. McCormick Place (Near South Side) is the largest convention center in the nation and hosts hundreds of conferences and events each year. There’s easy access to the city from around the world, thanks to our two airports, Midway and 5. O’Hare (Northwest).

Chicago is home to every kind of culture. Many neighborhoods reflect their distinct history, with restaurants, shopping, and festivals. 6. Chinatown (South Side) holds popular New Year and dragon boat events, and 7. Devon Avenue (North Side) is home to dozens of South Asian restaurants and shops.

Parades are a popular way to celebrate culture, including the 8. St. Patrick’s Day Parade (Downtown), for which the Chicago River is dyed green. 9. Polish Constitution Day Parade (Downtown), the largest outside of Poland; and the 10. Greek Independence Day Parade (West Side). Visitors come to Chicago from around the world to experience our vibrant and diverse city. One attraction is the 11. Art Institute of Chicago (Downtown), recently rated the No. 1 museum in the world.

“I can always get a taste of the international just by visiting different neighborhoods around town. As an American of Greek descent, I love that I can pop into the Valois Restaurant in Hyde Park and chat with the line cooks in Greek. They love it too!”
Robert Seidel, PhD Candidate, Molecular Engineering

20% of Chicago residents were born outside the US.
83 foreign consulates in the city.
5 most commonly spoken languages after English: Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Tagalog, Chinese.
48 million people a year visit Chicago.

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The city of Chicago is the third-largest in the US and one of the world's most important markets, as well as a hub for entrepreneurs and innovators in every field. Nonprofit and cultural organizations as well as firms throughout the city offer graduate students access to hands-on training, mentorship, and resources. Through internships, externships, field placements, and research collaborations, UChicago students prepare for their future careers in and out of the academy through meaningful experiences and engagement with the city.

“My internship at the Smart Museum was one of the pivotal experiences in helping me to see some of the practical applications of what I was learning in class. I was able to learn teaching strategies that I continue to use in my practice today. I still stay in contact with my supervisors and truly value the ongoing mentoring relationship that we’ve sustained.”

Olivia Liddell, AM’08, Middle Eastern Studies

BELOW A sample of organizations where UChicago graduate students and recent alumni have found internships, field placements, and employment.