

Tips from the Class of 2006 for the 2007 LL.M. Class

We, the LL.M. class of 2006, welcome you as members of the incoming class at Duke. Unlike other degrees, where upper-class students can help you adjust to your new life in Durham, the LL.M. graduating class can only help you vicariously through written pieces of advice. However, don't hesitate to ask the JD students or '06 LLMs from your own country. Your assigned mentors can be a valuable source of information as well. Moreover, once you arrive at Duke, you will receive the more extended booklet "De Novo". We would like to thank the classes of 2003, 2004 and 2005 for providing us with generous information about how to survive, and thrive in this new environment. It is now our turn to help your group with the information we feel could be relevant to you. Below is an updated bunch of living tips that manifest the things we do not want you to miss.

Places we lived in

Duke University has a great location and one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. You can find places to live at varying prices close to the University. The class of 2006 mostly lived in places that have been used by earlier generations of LL.M.s, and all the mentioned places are generally recommended. The list of apartment complexes below (both on and off campus) is sorted by preference of our class. These places vary in price and distance from the University, and each of you is advised to find out which complex suits your needs best. One more general advice: the first floor in the United States is the ground floor.

Some helpful housing numbers:

Duke University Housing Management

919-684-4304

rlhs.studentaffairs.duke.edu/Undergrad/intro.html

Duke Community Housing Office 919-684-6711

<http://communityhousing.duke.edu>

This is a great website listing rentals and sublets in the Durham area from Duke students and faculty members. They work great for finding off-campus, off-complex housing. Make full use of them!

You can also check out the Duke Trading Post, 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://tradingpost.dukenews.duke.edu/>

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

Apartment Guide www.apartmentguide.com

RentNet www.rentnet.com

The Belmont

1000 McQueen Drive

Durham, NC 27705

Phone: (919) 383-0801

Fax: (919) 383-1283 <http://www.aimco.com>

(Very close to the Law School)

Price: On the expensive side, but relatively reasonable with a roommate.

Location: Located very close to campus. Less than a 5-minute drive, and walk-able, it is located in a not-quite-as-charming area of town, but it is gated. However, the gates are sometimes stuck open or inconvenient for guests to get past. The complex has a pool and a small gym. A large number of LLMs have lived there in the past. The apartments are spacious, with large closets and a bathroom per bedroom. While maintenance is friendly, they do not always respond after the first (or second) call. Many students live in the Belmont, but for those not wishing to be around a large number of (noisy) undergraduates, this is not the complex to live in. If you plan to move there with your family, tell management in advance so they can put you in the right building.

Alexan Farms

240 Ivy Meadow Lane

Durham, NC 27707

Phone: (919) 401-4660

Fax: (919) 401-4771

www.alexanfarms.com

Quite popular among law students, living options range from apartments, to town homes, to cottages. The complex is only a few years old and contains a pool and laundry facilities. Located just off of 15-501 and Garrett Road, Alexan Farms is less than a 10-minute drive to school and is on the way to Chapel Hill. Prices range anywhere from a great deal to a bit pricey, depending on the size and whether or not there is a special deal going on—ask, because there are often good deals. A bunch of married LLMs live there in 2006 along with a lot of JDs. In 2006 its pools was very popular for BBQing.

Pinnacle Ridge

3611 University Drive

Durham, NC 27707

Tel. (919) 490-0531

Fax (919) 490-4920

pinnacleridgeapartments.com

pinnacleridge@camcoinc.com

Price: very affordable, probably the most affordable apartment complex....and still very nice. Other Duke Law students: about 20-30 duke people live there, including a bunch of LLMs

Nuts and Bolts: the pool was just cleaned, so it's pretty nice... new deck chairs, etc. There is a racquetball court, weight room, laundry facilities, and lots of trees, which add to the aesthetic pleasure of the complex.

What students who live there say: not noisy at all; no college kids around; only 5 minutes from school; more than enough parking space (unlike the Belmont); one of the few complexes within walking distance of a bar (Doyle's).

Negatives: not as modern an apartment complex as other places

Alexan Place at South Square

100 Alexan Drive

Durham, NC 27707

919-490-6990

alexanplaceatsouthsquare@riverstoneres.com

<http://home.nc.rr.com/alexanplace/>

Location: right off of 15-501 near South Square; about an 8 to 10-minute drive to campus.

Nuts and bolts: A former tenant: "I really liked my apartment, and it was very new and nothing ever broke." Very close to Harris Teeter and Super Target

Maintenance: The maintenance staff has been described as "wonderful."

Negatives: Buildings closer to the 15-501 and/or Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy. May be noisy because of the traffic. Be careful to choose the building which is right for you.

Poplar West

Louise Cr. & Brown Ave.
27705 Durham
Phone 919-309-9765
trinityprop.com
TrinPro@aol.com
(Very close to the Law School)

Campus Walk

2748-2752 Campus Walk
Durham, NC 27705
919.309.9765
trinprop@aol.com

The best part of Campus Walk is its location near campus. Less than a 5-minute drive, and walk-able if necessary; its proximity is an asset. The price is also great, especially for sharing. However, apartments only have one bathroom. It is located across the street from the Belmont and near the Millennium Hotel. However, Campus Walk is not known as “posh,” and some students have complained about hearing everything their neighbors do. It also is a little run down, and it is not gated. It does not have a gym or some of the other perks that go along with some of the other complexes, but it is very close to campus.

North Pointe Commons

2335 Broad Street
Durham, NC 27704
919.220.550
northpointecommons@swhprop.com

About a 10-minute drive to Duke, North Pointe Commons is located very close to Costco, a Home Depot, and strip malls with several other stores, including Kroger, Bed Bath and Beyond and Petsmart.

Station Nine

2211 Hillsborough Road
Durham, NC 27705
<http://www.stationnine.com/>

These are brand new loft-style apartments—located near Duke’s East Campus, close to 9th Street, luxurious and fun to live in, great pool and an in-house movie theater. For those of you who are carpet-haters, Station Nine has uncarpeted apartments. An advantage of this is its proximity to bars on 9th Street, as well as several popular hangouts in the Erwin Square shopping center including Parizade and Verde. The leasing office is next door to Cosmic Cantina, Durham’s finest burrito joint.

Central Campus Apartments

<http://www.communityhousing.duke.edu>
communityhousing@duke.edu

This on-campus location is not as luxurious as any of the other complexes listed here (and still priced at market rates). However, they are “the place” if it is impossible for you to get a car, you can take the bus to school and get I-houses rides to Target every Saturday. Some LLMs living there this year have ended up buying cars anyway. Perks: There is furniture in the apartments and the utilities are included. All but one of the consulted people were reluctant to recommend CC for this publication.

Additional Housing Options

Trinity Properties –

Students have had positive things to say about Trinity in the past. They have a wide range of cheap priced old housing.

This is the address of their office.

2723 Campus Walk

Durham, NC 27705

919-309-9765

Bob Schmitz – supposedly cheap rent, but if there are any problems, beware...They specialized in houses or apartments buildings.

1222 Broad Street, Suite A

Durham, NC 27705

919-416-0393

bsphousing@hotmail.com

www.bobschmitzproperties.com

LLMs have lived in the past in the following complexes:

The Evergreens

5512 Sunlight Drive

Durham NC 27707

(Very good for families)

Beech Lake

4800 University Drive

Durham, NC 27707

Tel: (919) 489-7599

Fax: (919) 489-1766

The Forest

800 White Pine Drive

Durham, NC 27705

Tel: (919) 383-8504

Fax: (919) 383-2888

Springfield

4600 University Drive

Durham, NC 27707

Tel: (919) 493-2400

Fax: (919) 489-4755

Laurel Trace

614 Snowcrest Trail

Durham, NC 27707

Tel: (919) 490-1400

Fax: (919) 493-2376

Alexander Court

400 Alexander Avenue

Durham, NC 27705

Deerfield

910 Constitution Drive

Durham, NC 27705

Tel: (919) 383-0345

Toll free: 1-800-949-1026

Places to Buy Food

Grocery Stores	Location	Comment
Durham Food Co-op	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1101 W. Chapel Hill St. Durham, NC 27701	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All-natural foods, bulk foods• Open to all, but members receive a discount• Annual Membership Student:

		\$20
Food Lion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham, NC 27707 • 3022 Fayetteville St., Durham, NC • 2930 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical grocery store • Quality varies greatly by store
Harris Teeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1720 Guess Rd Durham, North Carolina 27701 • 3823 Guess Rd Durham, North Carolina 27705 • 1817 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy Durham, North Carolina 27707 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large supermarket • Nice meats and fruit • People tend to agree that the prices reflect the quality of the items sold there
Kroger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1802 North Pointe Dr Durham, NC 27705 • 3457 Hillsborough Rd. Durham, NC 27705 • 3117 Shannon Rd Durham, NC 27707 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Supermarket • Quality varies greatly by store • Owned by Fred Meyer (for West Coasters)
A Southern Season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hwy 15-501 @ Estes Dr University Mall Chapel Hill, NC 27514 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gourmet grocery store with good selections of wine, cheese and bread
Whole Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 621 Broad Street Durham, NC 27705 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and organic foods

These supermarkets also sell their own brands (generics) which are usually good quality and cheaper than brand name products. All of them are easily accessible from Duke. Do not forget to apply for a free discount card at the customer service counters (unless you are a privacy/conspiracy fanatic who does not want his/her purchasing habits divulged). Finally, there's a **Super Target** on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, which has a huge grocery section. It has a broad selection of products for generally competitive prices. Extra-hint: If you are a big grocery shopper, get a membership on wholesale clubs: Sam's Club or Costco. Sam's also offers gas at discount for members. You virtually will save money every time you buy. You have to love big packaging too!

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, napa, 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 Cary (101 Nottingham Drive) sells many kinds of oriental groceries from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. **Smile (Tao Tao) Oriental Market** (4201 University Drive) specializes in South East Asian cooking ingredients. **Oriental Supermarket** is a Korean grocery store selling traditional Korean food. If your needs are still not met by those, you can drive 30 minutes to Raleigh to **Grand Asia Market** (1253 Buck Jones Road). This supermarket is much bigger than the ones in Durham.

For a great selection of wines and gourmet food at not so reasonable prices, try **Fowler's** at Brightleaf Square. **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.

Cars

Most of us bought our cars either from former LL.M.-students or at the car dealers G.T.I. (2501 University Drive) or Triangle Auto Brokers (3301 N Roxboro Road) with generally good results. In addition, the list of car dealers recommended by the International House was quite satisfactory. Capitol Boulevard in Raleigh is also known for their car dealers. Three cars were bought around there with no complaints. We recommend not purchasing overly-expensive cars, as selling these after ten months might prove very difficult. There might not be enough incoming students who can afford expensive cars, so you could end up loosing money.

In case you need a **rental car**, ask International House to make the reservation for you. We found that cars were more available when I-House called. Also, the rental companies tend to give I-House discount rates.

Another important issue is **car insurance**. Some companies will not insure students without social security numbers. Nationwide Insurance is one of the companies that does, and it is good to deal with if a problem arises. Household insurance would also be needed for your apartment. It is normally a good idea to use the same company to do both.

Auto Registration and Insurance

To register your vehicle, you must provide proof of ownership such as the title or current registration card, plus a notarized bill of sale for a used car, or a manufacturer's certificate of origin for a new car. You must also prove that your car is covered by liability insurance from an insurance company licensed to operate in North Carolina. The minimum amount of liability insurance required is \$150,000 for all property damage in an accident, \$25,000 for injuries to any one person in an accident, and \$50,000 for all personal injuries in an accident. All new residents of North Carolina must pay a one-time title and highway user's fee of \$35, plus a user's tax of 3% of wholesale value, up to \$150. An annual \$5.00 Triangle Transit Fee to improve public transportation will also be charged in Durham, Orange, and Wake counties. Personal checks will be accepted with 2 forms of identification. Within 10 days of registering your vehicle, you are required to have it inspected at an authorized N.C. Inspection Station.

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

Driver's Licenses

A new license costs \$20 cash. You will need to provide proof of insurance and are required to pass a vision test, a road-sign recognition test, and a written test on driving knowledge. A valid driver's license from another country usually exempts new residents from taking a road test. Getting a driver's license is a great way to carry an American ID in your pocket and not have to put your passport in danger. The North Carolina Driver's Handbook, a study guide for the written and road sign recognition tests, may be checked out free of charge from any driver's license office, and

should be looked at before taking the test. It is also available on the web at www.ncdot.org/dmv/driver_services/drivershandbook/

Finally, while you are all in a new country, certain rules of the road must be observed. Speeding is heavily enforced in North Carolina, as is drunk driving. A nice thing: you can turn to the right with a red light except when forbidden by a sign. Do not spoil your time in Durham by having a run-in with the law.

Banking

Most of the LLMs'06 have banked with one of the following:

Bank of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bryan Center on West Campus• Law School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3200 Shannon Rd Durham, NC 27707• 3100 Tower Blvd Durham, NC 27705• 4811 Hope Valley Rd Durham, NC 27707	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free for first 6 months, or free for five years if your parent banks with us or if you have a monthly direct deposit, otherwise \$3.95/month• No minimum balance• Free Check Card• No commission for using Law School's ATM.
Wachovia Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bryan Center on West Campus• The East Campus Student Union• Duke Hospital North• Fuqua School of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapel Hill Blvd Durham, NC 27707• 3917 University Dr Durham, NC 27707• 2000 West Main St Durham, NC 27705	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No monthly service fee• No minimum balance requirement• Free Check Card

Regarding Children

For those of you who have children and need special pediatric care, some students took their children to **Durham Pediatrics** (an affiliate of the Duke Health System). The class of 2004 recommended Doctors Gagliano, Yancey or Greene (Central Medical Park, 2609 N. Duke Street, near Northgate Mall). The **Pickens Center** for family medicine at Duke accommodates children of international students for various medical needs.

Children of almost any age would love the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science (www.ncmls.org), as well as the petting farm and the Magic Wings Butterfly House in the same premise. For older children, the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill (on Franklin Street) provides great mental stimulation. Check their website (www.morehead.unc.edu) for more information. Likewise, the Children's Museum at Lakewood Mall (off Morehead Street coming from Anderson) has role playing games that will keep your kids occupied. The North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro (www.nczoo.org) with all its enchanting animals can be reached from Durham in about one and half hour. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (www.naturalsciences.org) and Exploris (www.exploris.org), both in downtown Raleigh, are worth visiting as well. Finally, the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on campus is a nice place to visit for kids just as for adults. They have a stunning array of different plants and birds, and the seasons let the park appear in ever-changing colors."

For older children, the **Morehead Planetarium** (Franklin Street) in Chapel Hill provides great mental stimulation. Likewise, the **Children's Museum** at Lakewood Mall (off Morehead Street coming from Anderson) has role playing games that will keep your kids occupied. The **North Carolina Zoo** at Asheboro with all its enchanting animals can be reached from Durham in less than two hours.

Regarding preschools and day-care centers, it is advisable to take care of this issue very early, as the spots are usually occupied pretty soon and there may be long waiting lists before you can put your children in. International House can be helpful. Pablo Sanhueza LLM'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 belongs to Orange County and it is one of the best Counties in USA in public education, it is 13 miles far to Duke. One of the best places to live is Southern Village (www.southernvillageapts.com). Southern Village is a small neighborhood with landscaped sidewalks (it is very weird to find sidewalks in the Triangle!!!), it is ideal for walking, running, and bicycle. The neighborhood is very safe; also there is a police station. In the mall (little central squared) there are three really good restaurant including one Pizza's 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>.

Folks who live in the South are very friendly. They celebrate all the holidays like Halloween (very nice, good and friendly day), Christmas and Valentines Day. One of the best things is when Blue Devils win the basketball games, you can wear your "Duke-Sweater and you will realize that almost all the people see you ... there are Tarheel fans"

Extra Tips

Classes: You should think carefully before choosing the classes in 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), be aware that in order to do so you have to fulfill varying course requirements. The bar exam rules are a little complicated, but the Law School's international 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.

SSN: An important issue for your class will be social security numbers. Students with F1 visas no longer qualify for social security numbers. However, International House will provide information on how to handle this.

Health insurance: For LL.M.s with spouses and family traveling with them, another important consideration is health insurance. The coverage provided by Duke is very good, and some students had problems with their home countries insurance being recognized by American hospitals and doctors. As a family member cannot get insurance in North Carolina without a social security number, it is the best to put them on your college policy as soon as you arrive.

Experiences at Duke

The LL.M at Duke can be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. The university is undoubtedly beautiful and the environment is conducive for scholarly work. The faculty and staff members do a great job helping students to adapt to the new environment. We, the class of 2006, welcome you (albeit not physically) to your new family and intellectual home. We are sure you will enjoy the next few months!