

Transportation Information and FAQ's

How do I get the Metro Q Card with student discount?

To get your student discount card, you have to go to the Metro Ridestore(1900 Main St.), close to the Downtown Transit Center. You will need to bring three documents with you:

1. A print out of your Class Schedule showing full time class status. (12hrs for UG, 9hrs for G and can be found at my.uh.edu)
2. A receipt or document showing fees paid for semester classes.
3. Your passport

You have to add \$5 to the Q Card when you go and pick it up. After you get the card(which can ONLY be issued at the Metro Ridestore(though, to renew the card, you can do so at the UH Welcome Center). You can charge your card in many other places, such as in the UH Welcome Center on campus, on the metro buses themselves, or at the Metro transit stations.

How much does it cost to use the buses and Metrorail?

It is currently \$1.25 to use the buses and metrorail one-way in Houston, though the service is reduced by 50% if you apply online at ridemetro.org and register with a student discount(see above).

What about the shuttle bus on campus, is it free?

Yes, the shuttle service is free to use! You don't even have to use your ID to get around in it, though this might not be the case in the future, keep that in mind when you use the shuttle buses. Visit: <http://www.uh.edu/pts/aroundcougarline.htm> to see the five different routes and the direction and stops that they have.

What is the best way to find bus routes to get around Houston?

To make it easy and convenient for you, there are two ways to find your way using the bus system in Houston. The first is to use google maps(maps.google.com) to see the route you have to take. Change the icon from the car to bus on the left side. This will tell you the distance you would need to walk and what buses that can be used to get there. DO NOT TRUST THIS COMPLETELY. It is far better to do option two and go to the Houston public transportation website (www.tripplanner.ridemetro.org) and look up the schedules for the buses that you want to take for a more secure way to plan your trip without using google.

Can you get to the airport from the University of Houston?

Yes, both airports have bus routes that you can take to get there.

IAH airport(north of UH): Take bus 52(Scott and Wheeler St.) or 30(Calhoun and Wheeler st.) towards the Downtown Transit Center. From the transit center, take bus 102 towards the airport. (est. time is 2hrs)

HOU airport(south of UH): There are four different routes to get to the Hobby airport. The quickest line is bus 88 from campus to Hobby airport and you will not have to change lines(est. time is 45min)

Is there only one Metro Light Rail line?

Yes, at this current time there is only one MetroRail line. You can access it by taking bus 68 towards the West Park and Ride and getting off at the TMC Transit Center. Its last stop is UH downtown to the north and Reliant stadium to the south. Cost is \$1.25 without student discount.

What about the new Metro Rail line?

Here's the map for the four new lines that will be added sometime in 2014 or later. The SE line is what you see being worked on outside of campus to the south. Here's a map of the future MetroRail lines and what where they will connect to:

<http://www.gometrorail.org/go/doc/2491/1323787/System-Map>

When these lines are finished, you will have a very convenient time to get to downtown that does not include using buses! You can navigate the site at gometrorail.org for more information.

Is it worth to bike around the city?

Remember, Houston is really spread out and biking to get somewhere outside of campus is not necessarily recommended. Though, most(not all) metro buses have bike racks on the front to fit two bikes which could help you if you plan to do an excursion around the city.

What are some good websites for finding tickets to fly in the US?

There are several websites that can help you with this and here are just a few.

Expedia.com Orbitz.com Priceline.com Studentuniverse.com

Lowfares.com Bookingbuddy.com Tripmama.com Farecompare.com

Travelocity.com Lonelyplanet.com Onetravel.com

My favourite: skyscanner.com

What are some places that are good to travel in the US?

Many US cities look the same. As a student though, you should try and visit some of the most famous sites that we have. For example, the tourist attractions that are most famous, such as Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon, and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado for skiing or hiking receive many students every year.

As for cities, California(San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego), Florida(Miami and Orlando), New York, New Orleans, Las Vegas, and Chicago are the most known and travelled. If you go to New York, understand that you should be able to make it around just fine without a car, but in Colorado and Florida(for example), a car would be one of the only ways to get around unless you want to have a Taxi service on speed dial. Remember, this is the US, in which most cities were built for cars and not for public transportation. (exceptions are the northeast US and most of the major cities on the west coast.

What about carpooling or commuting to work or to UH campus?

There are carpooling and commute sites but you will have to do some research yourself to find a safe way to travel. Sometimes you might just have to network with people to find out who is already doing it and how they got started or if you can ride with them.

As a student at Houston, you do have options for getting together with other students. You can join the commuter club for a van or carpool. Go to: <http://www.uh.edu/pts/CommuteClub/carpool.htm> for more information.

The website for the buses has a specific area for carpooling if you want a safe way to travel.

<http://www.ridemetro.org/Services/StarVanPool.aspx> Other sites include:

Erideshare.com Trekhouston.org Carpoolworld.com Houston.olx.com

Rental Car Service on campus?

Yes, we do have it! You can rent a car for 8 dollars an hour on campus. Visit the website here:

<http://www.uh.edu/pts/CommuteClub/carshare.htm>

Remember to enroll through the Connect by Hertz service on the website page.

What about an American (Texas) Driver's License?

This information should've been provided to you at check-in. If you have more questions, please come to our office and ask to see Dale Hamilton.

What about student parking on campus?

Here's a few quick links to help you get the most asked questions.

For basic questions, visit the main page here:

<http://www.uh.edu/student-life/parking-transport/>

For a map of empty spaces to park on campus, visit:

<http://www.uh.edu/police/UHlotmap.html>

Park at Energy Research Park(ERP) at 5000 Gulf Freeway and shuttle to campus:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7IkXnYclao&feature=youtu.be>

To register for a parking permit: www.uh.edu/pts

For other FAQ's, you can find them here:

<http://www.uh.edu/pts/parkfaqs.htm>

Is there more information somewhere about driving in the US?

Yes, please go to our transportation link on the arrival info tab to see an article we have put together that mostly covers anything and everything you want to know about driving in the US and a few other things: <http://isso.uh.edu/arrivalinfo/transportation.html>