WELCOME TO GROUNDS

We believe your MBA research journey should be a deeply relational experience. At Darden, our greatest asset is our people. It’s our traditions of community and collaboration that set us apart. That’s why we’ve crafted a portfolio of opportunities for you to engage with students, faculty, and the Admissions Committee during your visit.

This guide contains all the details you will need to make the most of your time in Charlottesville - from what to wear, to where to park.

We look forward to welcoming you to Grounds!
Transportation

Airports

Charlottesville/Albemarle Airport (CHO) is located nine miles from Darden. The following carriers service the CHO Airport: American Airlines, Delta and United.

Other airports in our area:
- Richmond International Airport (RIC) is located 85 miles from Darden
- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) is located 100 miles from Darden
- Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) is located 121 miles from Darden

Train

The Amtrak train station is located less than 3 miles from Darden. The station code is CVS.

Accommodations

We encourage you to make your travel plans and accommodations reservations early! The Charlottesville region offers a wide range of lodging options, from no-frills motels to five-star resorts. View the Visit Charlottesville Hotel Guide here.

The Forum Hotel

Discover UVA Darden’s premier boutique hotel, The Forum Hotel, conveniently situated on Darden Grounds. Enjoy luxe amenities, an upscale experience + a vibrant atmosphere. Check availability and make a reservation here. Use this link to receive a 10% discount on your stay (automatically applied).
Arrival and Check-in

Parking Information

Visitors can park in the Darden School Parking Garage, which is the covered garage to the right of Saunders Hall. Payment for parking is handled through ParkMobile. You can choose to utilize their app or webpage to set up parking. The UVA Darden Garage D-10 is Zone 5516 for ParkMobile.
**VISITOR CHECK-IN**

Visitors participating in a class visit or in-person interview can check-in with the Admissions team in the main lobby of Saunders Hall. Staff will be available 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

**FINANCIAL AID**

The Financial Aid Office is located on the second floor of The Abbott Center. To ensure team availability, please contact financialaid@darden.virginia.edu in advance of your visit to make an appointment.

**ADMISSIONS**

The Admissions Office is located on the second floor of The Abbott Center. To ensure team availability, please contact darden@virginia.edu in advance of your visit to make an appointment.

**CAREER CENTER**

The Career Center is located on the second floor of The Abbott Center. To ensure team availability, please contact coaching@darden.virginia.edu in advance of your visit to make an appointment.
Academic Schedule

Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 9:25 AM  Class
9:25 AM - 10:00 AM  First Coffee
10:00 AM - 11:25 AM  Class
11:25 AM - 11:45 AM  Second Coffee
11:45 AM - 1:10 PM  Class
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  Lunch
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM  Free Time
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  Learning Teams

First Coffee

First Coffee is a tradition dating back to the school’s founding, one that epitomizes Darden’s community spirit. Every morning after the first class of the day, students, faculty, staff and visitors gather in PepsiCo Forum to socialize over coffee and tea.

Stay Awhile

Coffee and Tea

Coffee and tea are available in PepsiCo Forum through late morning. See an Admissions staff member for a reusable mug - our gift to you! Need some caffeine in the afternoon? Coffee is available for purchase at the Cafe 67 coffee bar.

Luggage Room

A Luggage Room is available for visitors in PepsiCo Forum. Please see any Darden staff member in the main entry of Saunders Hall for assistance.

Dining Options

Darden Dining offers a daily breakfast and lunch buffet in the Abbott Dining Room. Sandwiches and light bites can also be purchased in Cafe 67. The Good Sport Taproom (located at The Forum) specializes in elevated pub fare!

Workspaces and WiFi

Visitors are welcome to use Darden common spaces for both work and conversation. Information about guest access to UVA’s WiFi Network can be found here.
Maximize Your Visit

**CONNECT WITH STUDENTS**

Darden students are excited to meet with you and share more about the Darden experience from the student lens! Connect with a Student Ambassador or student leaders of our 50+ clubs and organizations in advance of your visit to schedule an in-person coffee chat with a current student.

Visitors scheduled for an in-person interview will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch with current students during their visit, coordinated by the Admissions Office.

Visitors scheduled for a class visit will be paired with a current student host.

**OBSERVE A CLASS**

Class visits are offered throughout the academic year and are a great way to get to observe the case method firsthand, and get to know Darden students, faculty and staff.

**EXPLORE CHARLOTTESVILLE**

Charlottesville has a lot to offer and we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to explore the place we are fortunate to call home during your visit!

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**How Can We Help?**

We recognize that visiting Grounds is a significant investment of your time and resources. We invite you to connect with the Admissions team at darden@virginia.edu in advance of your visit to share how we can help ensure that you get the most out of your time in Charlottesville!
Explore Charlottesville

Charlottesville is often cited as one of the best places to live in the United States, thanks to its arts scene, great wineries and breweries, proximity to outdoor recreation and all the collegiate trappings UVA has to offer — just to name a few reasons.

**GO FOR A STROLL**
- Walk the Downtown Mall
- Explore the Farmer's Market
- Tour the UVA Lawn
- Explore The Corner

**GET OUTSIDE**
- Monticello Trails
- Walnut Creek Park
- Humpback Rock Hike
- Rivanna Trail
- Skyline Trail

**SEE THE VIEW**
- Quirk Hotel Rooftop Bar
- Carter Mountain Orchard
- Pippen Hill Vineyard
- Hazy Mountain Vineyard and Brewery
- Mount Ida Tasting Room

**ENJOY LIVE MUSIC**
- The Jefferson Theater
- The Southern
- Eastwood Farm and Winery
- Albemarle Ciderworks
- Glass House Winery
The C-Ville Food Scene

Charlottesville is commonly listed among the top 25 cities in the United States for the number of restaurants per capita, at times with more restaurants per capita than even New York City! Below are a few current student favorites:

**Bites and Brunch**

- Bodos Bagels - $
- Tacos Gomez - $
- Riverside Lunch - $
- Ivy Provisions - $$
- MarieBette Bakery - $$
- Cou Cou Rachou - $$
- Farm Belle Kitchen - $$

**Cocktails and Cuisine**

- Monsoon - $$
- Southern Crescent - $$
- Tavern and Grocery - $$$
- Conmole - $$$
- Alley Light - $$$
- Tavola - $$$
- C&O - $$$

**Vineyards and Breweries**

- South Mountain Vineyard
- Castle Hill Cidery
- King Family Vineyard
- Merrie Mill Vineyard
- Pippen Hill Vineyard
- Afton Mountain Vineyard
- Chisholm Vineyard
- Hazy Mountain Vineyard and Brewery
- Pro Re Nata Brewery
- Blue Mountain Brewery