



EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

إتحاد الدارسين المصريين بأمریکا الشمالية

(WWW.ESANA.ORG)

Unit Location

- + City: Norfolk
- + State/Province: Virginia (VA)
- + Country: USA

University

1. Old Dominion University
2. Norfolk State University

Current Active Fields

1. Computer Science
2. Electrical and Computer Engineering
3. Physics
4. Bioinformatics
5. Accounting
6. Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering
7. Ocean, Earth, & Atmospheric Sciences
8. Information Systems and Technology
9. Management

Availability of Financial Aid and Grants

Old Dominion University has a variety of positions but it mainly depends on the department. The most famous positions for financial Aid are Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Research Assistants (RAs). The TA position requires that you pass speaking test and public presentation after two weeks of your arrival, if you failed to pass these tests, a grader position is given until you pass these tests in later semesters. RA position requires that you find an advisor who has a good grant and can support you from his/her own project funds. Some departments also offer a Dominion Scholarship which is given to high qualified graduate student but depending on availability. In Dominion Scholar the department can ask you to work either a TA or an RA but it is less work load than a normal TA or RA positions.

Norfolk State University can offer more money than Old Dominion University but fewer programs are offered and usually students finish their master degree there and transfer to Old Dominion University for a PhD.



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City Information

Norfolk is a mid-size town; that gives the advantage of small cities with the varieties of big ones. It is very close to Virginia Beach which is one of the most famous places for summer vacation in the East coast. The salary is usually enough for a student to have a fair life, even if they have family. Housing one bedroom costs from \$550 to \$650. A two bedroom apartment will costs around \$725. Couples of Arabic restaurants and stores are available to buy your Middle East food. On-campus Islamic center offers Sunday's Iman School to teach Arabic and Religion.

Weather conditions

The weather is really good in Norfolk; you rarely see snow for a day or two in the whole winter. Also, if it happens to snow, the university close as they are not prepared for snow conditions. From October to March, it is cold; it can reach 35°F; while from April to June it is warm and nice weather. In summer, it rains a lot; it is usually sunny and temperatures can get up to the 90°F. In general, it is a nice place to live in.

City Attractions

Norfolk is a very nice city that contains lots of places to visit and to enjoy. Parks are everywhere: **Norfolk Zoo** is in the middle of the city and very close to the university. A wonderful **Botanical Garden** is not far from the university beside Norfolk International Airport. Between Norfolk and Virginia Beach a nice place called **Mount Trash Moore**. Also, Norfolk is very close to Williamsburg (one hour driving) that is famous with its **Colonial Place. Bush Garden and Water Country**; a famous parks open from March to September. Virginia residence is allowed a season pass with the cost of one ticket. You will have lots of options in summer. Three hours and half from Washington Dc. Fours hours from Shenandoah Valley which is the most beautiful place in Virginia. Half an hour from North Carolina. Restaurants are everywhere with varieties (American, Chain, Arabic, Indian ...etc).



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City Drawbacks

As most of the places around the world, some neighborhoods are not safe; some times accidents of robbery happen around the campus but Campus Police are always trying to maintain safety and be around the university all time.

Size of the Egyptian Community

The Egyptian community seems one of the best in the states. The Islamic center in the middle of the university allows the students to meet a lot. Any new arriving student will find help easily from the community. Social gatherings, playing football and group dinners are a very common practice here. If you once needed to move from one place to another, you'll find many people helping you side by side. Similarly if you needed a ride from/to the airport, your car broke down, or any other difficulty you may face and you feel that you need help. A rough estimate for the number of students here is around 40 graduate students with their families.

Contact person

1. Samy El-Tawab (Unit President); tel@cs.odu.edu
2. Check ESANA's Old Dominion Unit at: http://esana.org/Esanas_units/Active/Active.asp