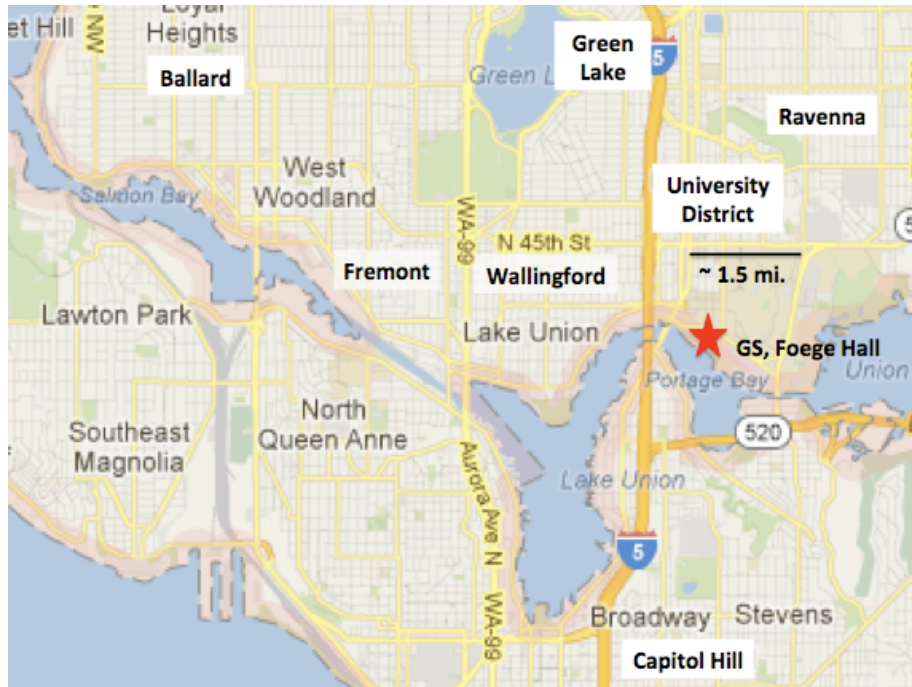


Living in Seattle – Getting to know the neighborhoods

Seattle is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own unique character. There are some that are the most popular with grad students and they are (West to East): Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, Green Lake, Capitol Hill, The U District, and Ravenna. They are just a few of many awesome options in the city.



Ballard's working waterfront provides views of a thriving maritime industry and is the home base to the North Pacific Fishing Fleet. Recent development has turned this once blue-collar enclave into a hip, urban village, but Ballard still maintains a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere. On Ballard Ave, a nationally registered historic district, there are trendy restaurants, boutiques, and an active nightlife. There's also fresh produce year-round at the excellent Ballard Sunday Farmers Market. Market Street is Ballard's modern business district and has great shops, theater, urban parks and a host of restaurants, many featuring sidewalk cafés.



Favorites: Happy Hour at “The Matador”; cinnamon bread from “The Grateful Bread”; first-run movies at the old-timey “Majestic Bay Theater”

Fremont is the self-proclaimed “Center of the Universe” and features a bohemian, offbeat lifestyle. Come to Fremont if you feel the need for more excitement in your life. One glance at the neighborhood’s calendar and you’ll see there is always a party here. The main business district has a huge variety of different eateries, a brewery, a Fair Trade chocolate factory, and access to one of the best sections of the Burke Gilman – right along the Ship Canal. With excellent restaurants, nightlife, a variety of living choices (homes, condos, townhomes, apartments) this is a great place to call home. Fremont also has a professional side - companies like Adobe Systems, Google, and Getty Images have chosen Fremont as their Seattle headquarters.



Favorites: Over 50 beer taps at “Brouwer’s” pub; the free tasting room at “Theo Chocolate”; Russian potato dumplings at “Pel’Meni Dumpling Tzar”

Wallingford has a nice mix of down-home, been-here-forever places and trendy, exciting places. The busiest area is along 45th Street, which is always bustling with activity as people visit the ever-changing lineup of restaurants, bars, and shops. Farther from the action lies the residential area with some pretty cool old homes. On the south end, Wallingford borders the water and boasts popular Gasworks Park, a great place to play Frisbee and watch the sun set over the Seattle skyline.



Favorites: “Dick’s” drive-in burgers and \$1 fries; “Chocolati” chocolate café; sorbet and gelato at “Fainting Goat” gelato; locally-made art and clothing at “Wish” boutique

Green Lake is a highly popular neighborhood because of its close proximity to downtown Seattle and the great number of things to do there. The people here love to get outside, whether it’s just to walk to the library or grab dinner, or head down to Green Lake park for a run. The most popular activities revolve around the lake itself and include walking or jogging around the 2.8-mile track, renting kayaks, or playing in one of the many sports leagues that meet here. There isn’t a huge nightlife scene here, although you could take country line dancing lessons or catch a live band on Friday nights at the pub.



Favorites: The lake; “Forza” coffee company with a view of the lake...

Capitol Hill is funky and fast-paced, with an endless number of cool blocks to explore and easy bus access. During the day, markets, boutiques, and salons are a big draw. Nightlife is hopping with clubs, bars, and music venues, and you’ll often find coffee shops and restaurants that moonlight as cocktail lounges. Individuality and fashion statements are encouraged, and there always seems to be some sort of block party or community forum to encourage residents and visitors to mix and mingle. Capitol Hill residents are diverse, and in the past few decades, the population of the LGBT community has grown quite a bit; it’s not uncommon to see rainbow flags displayed proudly.



Favorites: Craft beers at “The Elysian Brewing Co.”; swing dancing at “The Century Ballroom”; the crystal palace conservatory at “Volunteer Park”; clubbing at “Neighbors”



The **University District** is an eclectic mix of urban shopping areas, historic homes, good dining deals, and student nightlife. The “U District” has a youthful (46% of its residents are in their 20s) and relaxed feel, and “The Ave” (University Way) is a popular gathering place, with lots of indie eateries and funky shops. Much of the graduate housing provided through the UW is in the U District, and many of the undergraduates living off-campus opt for housing here, an area that is also home to the University’s Greek houses.

Favorites: Sweet and savory biscuits at “Nook” restaurant; brunch at “Portage Bay Café”; browsing at the independently-run University Bookstore

Ravenna is a quieter neighborhood than its U District neighbor, with a vibe that says “We want to be in on the fun, but we don’t want it to keep us up at night.” It has a small, useful downtown on 65th and also boasts peaceful hiking trails in Ravenna Park and the popular University Village shopping center. This outdoor mall is home to a full spectrum of useful and fun stores from Crate and Barrel to H&M, Banana Republic, Apple and Windows stores, J.Crew, and dozens more.



Favorites: “Boom Noodle” in University Village; diner-style sandwiches at “The Varsity” on 65th; settling in with a good book (or paper) at “Third Place Books”