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Georgia Tech sees rapid growth in intern housing program

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Rob Felt

The North Ave Apartments located on Georgia Tech's campus is one of the housing options for interns.

Interest in intern housing from Atlanta companies and students has grown exponentially, said John Nussear, director of conference services at Georgia Tech.

When Nussaer first began the intern lodging program, the college was happy to house 30 interns.

“Now we're at a place in 2023 [where] between 500 and 600 interns are with us for the majority of the summer,” he told Atlanta Business Chronicle.

The Georgia Tech Intern Lodging Program hosts students from companies of various sizes. The program started in 2008 after Nussear was tasked by the college to research the market interests for intern housing in the city.

Today, the school is turning students away because the demand for intern housing has become so high. Georgia Tech expanded its housing capacity, Nussear said but is still looking to acquire more for next summer. The college houses interns in the 8th Street Apartment, The North Ave apartments, Crecine Student Apartments, Maulding Hall, and Zbar Residence Hall.

The program has seen 500% revenue growth in the last decade because of the college's reputation, low program costs and the increase in companies headquartered in Atlanta.

The funds made by the program help "keep student fees at a reasonable price" and also go toward campus improvements, Nussear said.

Atlanta is home to major companies like Delta Air Lines Inc., The Coca-Cola Co., and The Home Depot Inc. All of these companies have summer internship programs that attract top talent from across the country. Fortune 500 companies pay for interns upfront, making them the most “ideal” clients, Nussear said. Interns can also register for housing individually.

Rates start at \$39.59 a night plus tax and require a two-week minimum stay. Interns are typically housed in four-bedroom apartments and have access to campus parking and dining for additional costs.

Georgia Tech faces competition from other local colleges like Georgia State University in Downtown and Emory University in Druid Hills. Interns also utilize forums on Facebook to sublease apartments and bedrooms.

The “Georgia Tech Subleases, Roommates, Housing & Apartments - Atlanta” Facebook group has almost 45,000 members. Airbnb

serves as another option for interns.

"You come onto campus with us, and you have that very similar experience living inside your residence hall," Nussear said. "You have hall directors, you have RAs and they're putting on events. They're putting on programs, and they're building community. It's another differentiating factor that we have."

Terrell Wright

Editorial Intern - *Atlanta Business Chronicle*

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