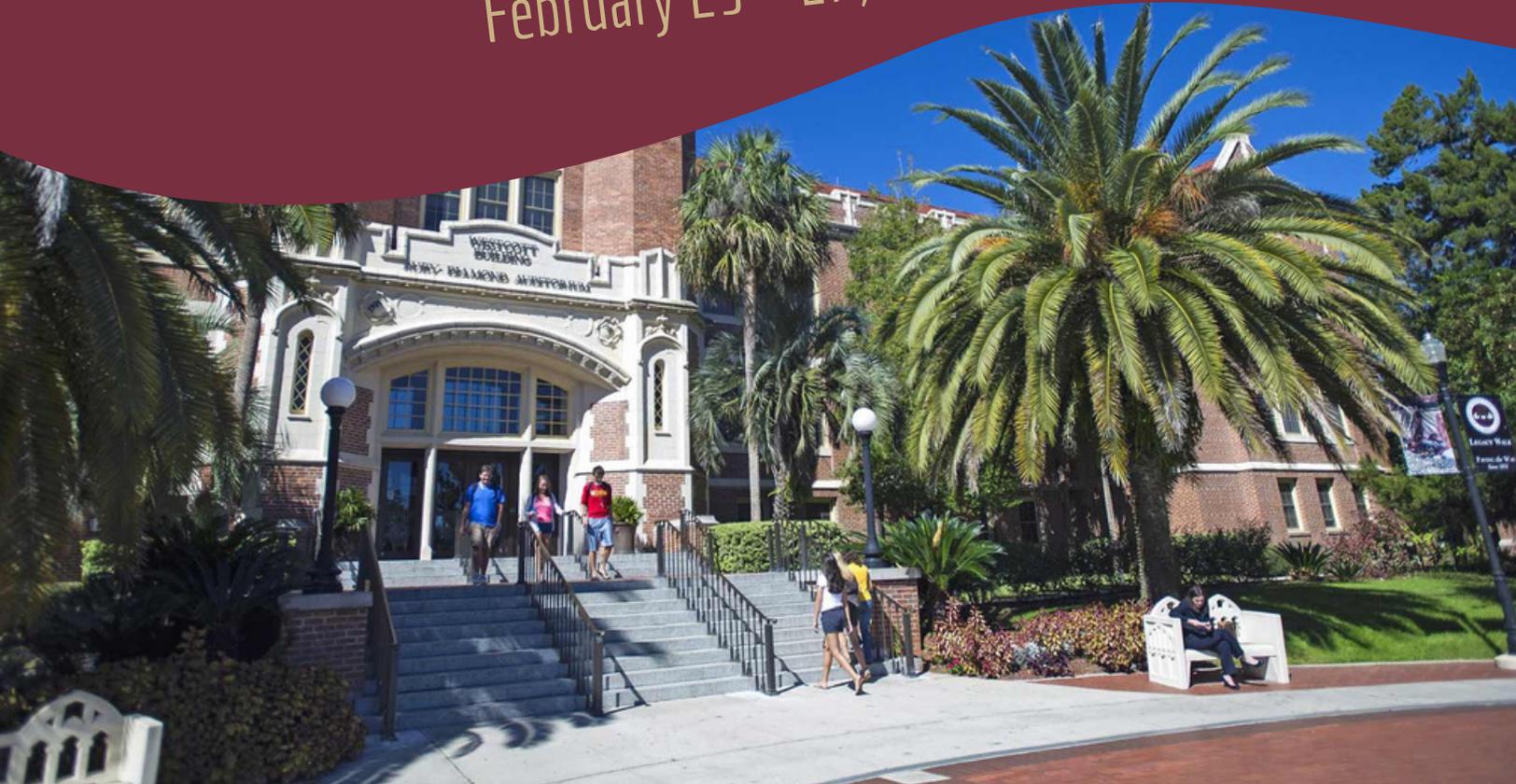




# Visiting Days Guide

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

February 25 - 27, 2021



# Table of Contents

Page(s)	Topic
3	Welcome
4	Schedule Overview
5	Navigating the Assistantship Process
6	The Buddy Program
7	Financing Grad School
8	What is HESA
9, 10, 11	Meet the Faculty
12	FSU at a Glance
13	Tallahassee Overview
14	Closing Thoughts



# Welcome to FSU!

Congratulations on your recommended admission into Florida State University's Higher Education program! We would like to take a moment and welcome you to one of the top nationally recognized programs in the Higher Education and Student Affairs professions. On behalf of the Higher Education Student Association (HESA), current students, faculty, and staff, we are thrilled to have you join the program and the LifeNet at Florida State University.

Since the Higher Education program began in 1957, we have consistently been one of the top programs in the United States. Many FSU Higher Education graduates hold positions as top administrators and faculty on college, university, and community college campuses as well as noted public policy researchers. Our program combines a solid grasp of theory and practice, and consistently produces highly qualified graduates at both the master's and doctoral level. We hope you will be challenged, supported, and have the opportunity for professional development during your time at FSU.

Your future faculty members are confident in your skills and abilities, and we are excited for your contributions in making Florida State University's Higher Education program even stronger. Visiting Days is your opportunity to learn more about the program, interview for graduate assistantship positions, and meet FSU's students, faculty and staff.

This guide will tell you a little more about the Higher Education program, FSU, and Visiting Days 2021. The Visiting Days Committee is here to help with anything you may need. Please do not hesitate to contact any committee member if you have questions or concerns. You will find that current students, faculty, and staff are eager to help you succeed in any way possible.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

**Kendra Bumpus**  
Graduate Assistant  
Higher Education  
Program

**Sabrina Moore**  
Visiting Days Intern  
Higher Education  
Program

**Asia Shaw & Casey Ford**  
Masters Visiting  
Days Coordinators

**Ciera Fluker**  
Doctoral Visiting  
Days Coordinator

# Schedule Overview

All times reflect Eastern Standard (EST) time.

## Thursday, February 25:

Program begins at 10 AM and ends at 8:30PM

Master's Events	
Time	Event
10a-10:30a	Welcome & Faculty Overview
10:30-11:15a	MS Program Overview
11:15a-12p	Faculty Time
12p-1p	Lunch BREAK
1-6pm	GA Interviews
6:30p-7:30p	MS Mock Class
7:30p	MS Dinner Social (Optional)
8:30pm	END

Doctoral Events	
Time	Event
10a-10:30a	Welcome & Faculty Overview
10:30-11:15a	Faculty Time
11:15a-12p	Doc Program Overview
12p-1p	Lunch BREAK
1-6pm	GA Interviews
6:30p-7:30p	Doc Dinner Social (Optional)
7:30p-8:30p	Doc Mock Class
8:30pm	END

## Friday, February 26:

Program begins at 10 AM and ends at 8 PM

Master's Events	
Time	Event
9:30-10a	Break Room
10a-12pm	Interviews
12p-1pm	Lunch Break
1p-6pm	Interviews
6:30-7pm	Wrap-up
8pm	Optional Social

Doctoral Events	
Time	Event
9:30-10a	Break Room
10a-12pm	Interviews
12p-1pm	Lunch Break
1p-6pm	Interviews
6:30-7pm	Wrap-up
8pm	Optional Social

## Saturday, February 27:

Program begins at 10 AM and ends at 1:30 PM

Master's Events	
Time	Event
10a-11a	MS Student Panel
11a-11:30a	Hardee Center
11:30a-1:30p	Affinity Group time

Doctoral Events	
Time	Event
10a-11a	Doc Program Panel
11a-11:30a	Hardee Center
11:30a-1:30p	Affinity Group time

Links to events and interviews will be sent via individualized schedules, which students should expect to receive about one week before Visiting Days.

# Navigating the Assistantship Process

We understand going through an in-person interview (or multiple) can be stressful and overwhelming. Different institutions may have different procedures related to assistantships, as well as the interview and selection process. We want you to feel as comfortable with Florida State's process as possible before coming to campus, and we are here to answer any questions you may have.

## PRE-VISITING DAYS: Interview Scheduling

- REGISTER for Visiting Days, selecting up to 10 assistantships in which you are interested in interviewing. Submit the assistantship application via the registration form.
- All employers will review your materials. Some may make a request with the Visiting Days Committee to interview you even if you did not preference their position; we may schedule them with you if you selected that you were open to this in your registration.
- Once employer requests are received, the Visiting Days Committee will match you with interviews. We will work to maximize the number of interviews you receive, and you will receive your individualized interview schedule around a week prior to Visiting Days.

## POST-VISITING DAYS: Candidate-Employer Matching

- After Visiting Days, you will be emailed a form to rank your employer preferences. Employers will complete a similar form.
- The Visiting Days Committee will review results from both of these forms and make matches as appropriate.
- Your employer will contact you directly with an offer if you are successfully matched with a position. If you are not initially offered a position, you will be placed on our "available students" list. You may receive requests for additional interviews and/or receive an offer after matching is complete.
- NOTE: You will **only receive one** offer from FSU, so carefully consider the one offer you receive.



# Buddy Program

As part of FSU's HESA Visiting Days experience, we aim to pair candidates with current students who can help guide you through the process. We will use your responses to the Buddy Information section of your Visiting Days Registration to pair you with a buddy who will reach out to you closer to Visiting Days. Your buddy will be available to Zoom, call, text, or FaceTime should you have questions or concerns throughout the weekend.

While we wish we could all be together on campus, we are hopeful these folks will still provide helpful context about our program and inspire confidence as you navigate the FSU graduate student experience. Keep an eye out for a text or email from your VisDays Virtual Buddy!



# Financing Grad School

## Tuition Waivers:

Florida State University is committed to your academic success. While tuition will be covered by your assistantship for 9 hours each spring and fall semester, you are still responsible for paying your student fees each semester. If you take summer courses, you may be responsible for paying tuition. Some internships and assistantships may come with a summer tuition waiver depending on the office. This is a great question to discuss with employers!

**NOTE:** Tuition waivers will also cover those coming from out-of-state, but only for the first year. When you move to Tallahassee, you will start the process of acquiring residency so that you are an in-state student during your second year. We will assist you with that process when the time comes!

## Stipend:

All assistantships include a stipend to accompany the tuition waiver. Stipends are (on average) equivalent to a 20 hour-per-week part-time job. This will help you pay for rent, groceries, etc. when you are living in Tallahassee. Most graduate assistants on a 0.50 FTE academic year appointment will receive a minimum stipend of \$15,000, or prorated to that value in accordance with 23.1 (B) with a minimum of \$19.23 per hour. More information about the employment agreement can be found at the GAU website: <http://fsugau.org/> However, some departments pay may vary. It is perfectly acceptable to clarify the pay rate for the position for which you're interested.

## Health Insurance Subsidy:

For the 2019-2020 academic year, the University will pay a portion of the student health insurance premium for individual coverage of those employees on at least a 0.25 FTE appointment for the fall and spring semesters who are not enrolled in any other state or University health insurance program and who elect coverage under the Student Health Insurance Plan.

## Housing Accommodations:

Some graduate assistantship positions include on-campus living requirements. In those cases, housing accommodations are another expense could potentially be covered through your assistantship depending on the position you are offered. For most other positions, the cost is not covered. However, the cost of many rental properties in Tallahassee are affordable. Many HESA students choose to live together and there are numerous rental options and complexes in and around town. Students who accept assistantship positions and commit to coming to FSU will receive a Housing Guide, compiled by current students, to help you navigate the apartment search process.

## Scholarships & Grants:

<http://gradschool.fsu.edu/funding-awards/graduate-school-fellowships-and-grants>

<https://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/scholarships-and-aid>

## Conference Funding

As an FSU graduate student you will be able to apply for conferences and professional development funding through the Congress of Graduate Students and the College of Education.

# What is HESA?

The Higher Education Student Association (HESA) serves as the collective voice of all students associated with the Higher Education program at FSU, functioning as the liaison between students, faculty, and university constituents. Current students hold positions on the board including HESA Master's and Doctoral chairs, Social Coordinator, Visiting Days Coordinators, Communications Chair, and more. HESA supports the academic study and professional development of its members, as well as enhances and supplements the overall graduate student experience. We hope that you will get involved on the board and at HESA sponsored events!

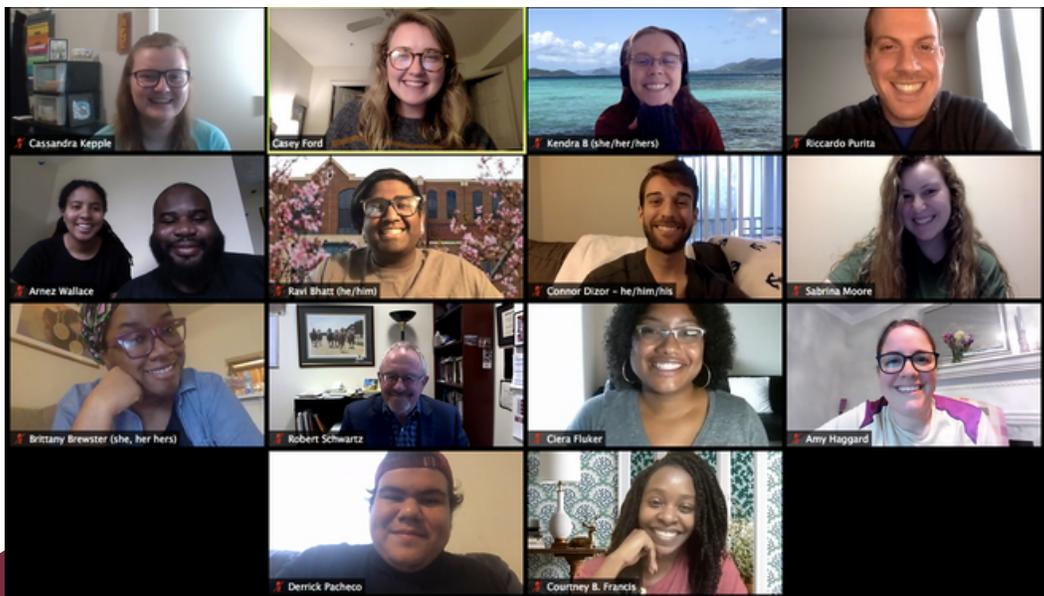
## Professional Development

HESA offers regular professional development opportunities on a range of topics. Previous sessions have included networking, resume building, applying for internships & more!

## Social Events

In addition to professional development, HESA provides you multiple opportunities to strengthen your relationships with everyone in the cohorts! In the midst of the pandemic, we have enjoyed virtual gatherings from trivia tournaments to game night and more.

Connect with Us! [fsuhesa.org](https://fsuhesa.org)



If you are interested in learning more about our faculty, please click on their photos to review their biographies and CVs.

# Meet the Faculty



**Dr. Cameron Beatty**

**Dr. Cameron Beatty** is an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department. Dr. Beatty teaches courses in the undergraduate leadership studies certificate as well as conducts research with the Leadership and Learning Research Center. Dr. Beatty's research foci includes exploring the intersections of gender and race in leadership education, leadership development of students of color on historically white college campuses, and global leadership education for undergraduate students. His recent publications center on topics that include: supporting undergraduate Black womyn through Sister Circles, gains in leadership capacity for high achieving Black men leaders, and supporting undergraduate men in leadership education through liberatory pedagogy. He is a scholar passionate about deconstructing race, systemic racism, and hegemonic masculinity in postsecondary education environments.



**Dr. Brad Cox**

**Dr. Brad Cox** is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Program Coordinator of the Higher Education Program at Florida State University, where he is also a Senior Research Associate with the Center for Postsecondary Success. Dr. Cox is also the Founder and Executive Director of the College Autism Network, a national non-profit dedicated to using evidence-based advocacy to improve experiences & outcomes for college students with autism. Previously, he served as the Coordinator of Research and Public Information at the University of South Carolina's National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Dr. Cox's research on college student success has earned over \$550,000 in grant funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the NASPA Foundation, the TG Public Benefit Program, and the Spencer Foundation. Dr. Cox teaches courses on student development theory & college student populations.



**Dr. Kathy Guthrie**

**Dr. Kathy L. Guthrie** is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and the Director of the Leadership Learning Research Center (LLRC). In addition to teaching in the Higher Education program, Dr. Guthrie also coordinates the undergraduate certificate in Leadership Studies, which is a partnership between the College of Education and the Center for Leadership and Social Change. Her research focuses on the learning outcomes and environment of leadership and civic education, online teaching and learning, and professional development for Student Affairs Professionals. Dr. Guthrie is an editorial board member of the *Journal of Leadership Education* and *Journal of College and Character*. Currently, Dr. Guthrie is the associate editor of the *New Directions in Student Leadership* series and editor of the *Contemporary Perspectives in Leadership Learning* book series.

# Meet the Faculty

If you are interested in learning more about our faculty, please click on their photos to review their biographies and CVs.



**Dr. Lara  
Perez-Felkner**

**Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner** is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Sociology. She is also an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Sociology and the Center for Higher Education Research, Teaching, and Innovation (CHERTI) at FSU, an Alumni Fellow with Pathways to Adulthood, and a Research Affiliate of the Joint Centers for Education Research and Population Research Center at NORC at the University of Chicago. Most recently, she became a Senior Research Associate of FSU's Center for Postsecondary Success. Her research uses developmental and sociological perspectives to examine how young people's social contexts influence their college and career outcomes. She focuses on the mechanisms that shape entry into and persistence in institutions and fields in which they have traditionally been underrepresented.



**Dr. Robert Schwartz**

**Dr. Robert Schwartz** teaches courses in Higher Education and Student Affairs. He joined the Florida State faculty in 1998. Dr. Schwartz completed his doctoral work at Indiana University in 1990, earning a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with minors in American Studies and Women's Studies. From 1974-1986, he was a student affairs practitioner at the University of North Dakota where he served as Assistant Dean of Students, Greek Adviser, Acting Director of Career Planning and Placement and worked with student activities, student discipline, student retention, new student orientation, crisis response, student advocacy, special student populations including Black, Native American, Women's Programs, Disabled Student Programs, and a wide range of other duties as assigned. His research interests include issues of women and minorities in higher education, the history of higher education, and research on student concerns. He currently serves as the department chair for Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, our home department.



**Dr. Shouping Hu**

**Dr. Shouping Hu** is a Professor in Higher Education, the Louis W. and Elizabeth N. Bender Endowed Professor, and the founding Director of the Center for Postsecondary Success (CPS) at Florida State University. Dr. Hu's research interests examine issues related to college access and success, student engagement and learning, and higher education policy. Dr. Hu has published more than 60 journal articles and book chapters and is the author of five books. He has received funding support from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the Gates Foundation, the Regional Educational Laboratory-Southeast (REL-SE), NPEC/ AIR, and other sources. Dr. Hu teaches courses in Higher Education Finance, International Perspectives in Higher Education, Student Success in College, and Research on College Students. He also taught courses such as Public Policy in Higher Education, Prospectus Development, State Education Policy, among others.



**Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones**

**Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones** currently serves as an Associate Professor of Higher Education. Her research examines the sociocultural influences on socialization during graduate education and the professional experiences of underrepresented populations, particularly Black women, in academia. Her previous work as an administrator and program evaluator also influence her other research interests in culturally responsive assessment and evaluation. She is also a founder and past president of Sisters of the Academy Institute, an international organization that promotes collaborative scholarship and networking among Black women in the academy. She collaborated with fellow scholars to write *Pathways to Higher Education for African American Women* (Stylus Publishing) and *Cultivating Leader Identity and Capacity in Students from Diverse Backgrounds* (Jossey-Bass).



**Dr. Christine Mokher**

**Dr. Christine G. Mokher** is an Associate Professor of Higher Education in Florida State University's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, where she is also a Senior Research Associate with the Center for Postsecondary Success (CPS). Her research examines state and local policies focused on college- and career-readiness and success, with a particular emphasis on student transitions from secondary to postsecondary education. The majority of her research studies use mixed methods, and she is a *What Works Clearinghouse*-Certified Reviewer in Group Design. Dr. Mokher is currently serving as the Principal Investigator for a five-year, \$4.6 million grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to evaluate Florida's College and Career Readiness Initiative. Dr. Mokher holds a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University and a master's in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard University.

# FSU at a Glance

One of the nation's elite research universities, Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of the liberal arts and critical thinking. FSU's welcoming campus is located on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, in a community that fosters free inquiry and embraces diversity, along with championship athletics, and a prime location in the heart of the state capital. Our core values include transformative daring, inspired excellence, dynamic inclusiveness, engaged community, & responsible stewardship.

## Fast Facts:

- FSU was founded in 1851 and is the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida.
- There are 41,900 enrolled students from every Florida county and 129 countries.
- There is a 93% retention rate for freshmen and a 80% graduation rate by sixth year.
- FSU offers 301 degree programs, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral, specialist, & professional programs.
- For a period of time in the early 1900s, Florida State University was a women's only college.
- Florida State loves its athletic programs, and for good reason! We've beaten our rivals at the University of Florida in football the past seven out of eight years. Our other sports programs are just as exciting (check out women's soccer, women's softball, beach volleyball, and more).
- The Flying High Circus is one of two collegiate circuses in the nation. Florida State is the only university with its own big top circus tent!



## Traditions:

- Swing by a Market Wednesday.
- Visit the Sod Cemetery by the football stadium.
- See the spear lit on the Unconquered statue before home football games.
- Jump into Westcott Fountain on your birthday.

# Tallahassee Overview

Florida State University is located in heart of Florida's capital, Tallahassee. This beautiful city offers an endless amount of things to see and do. There are a variety of day and evening entertainment options including everything such as art and cultural events, local eateries, fun festivals, concerts, athletic events, and more. We are also within driving distance of big southern cities like Atlanta, New Orleans, Orlando, and Savannah. If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.visittallahassee.com](http://www.visittallahassee.com)



## Things to Do & See:

- Wakulla Springs
- Cascades Park
- Dorothy B. Owen Park
- Alfred B. Maclay Gardens
- Football games
- Downtown Get Down
- Tallahassee Festivals
- Lake Ella
- Free movies at FSU's cinema
- Mission San Luis de Apalachee

## Travel To See:

- Beaches like St. George's Island, Alligator Point, and Destin Beach
- Disney World (with a Florida resident discount!)
- Universal Studios (with a Florida resident discount!)
- National Memorial For Peace And Justice on Thursday in Montgomery, Alabama

## Local Food Venues

- 4 Rivers Barbecue
- Gaines Street Pies
- Gordo's Cuban Cuisine
- Hobbit American Grill
- The Flying Bear
- Maple Street Biscuit Co.
- Merv's
- Midtown Caboose
- Momo's Pizza
- Mr. Roboto's
- Uptown Cafe

# Closing Thoughts

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet a variety of people during your time with us; these could be your future cohort-mates, coworkers, and professionals. At the time same time, take time to do what you need to do to be most successful during Visiting Days. Whether it is taking time alone to process or making connections with your fellow candidates, do what you need for you. Everyone has different strategies for success and we support your self-care.

The graduate school application and interview process can be stressful, scary, and overwhelming. Other applicants might look like they have it all together and cause you to doubt yourself or your experiences. Trust us, we've been there and remember that feeling - everyone is a little stressed. We're all in this together.

Since we are completely virtual this year, we want to help you ensure that no one feels alone. We will have a Main Room, where we invite students to ask questions, process the experience, or just feel like they can hang out and get to know one another. Also, if you cannot make a social - that's ok. Just be sure to let your buddy know.

Remember, the power of your story does not decrease based on the presence of others' stories. Embrace your experiences. Find your niche. Explore offices and positions you never thought could be a fit. Ask questions. Enjoy yourself and take care of yourself, too. Most importantly: Have fun!

Let us know what we can do to make your Visiting Days experience more comfortable.  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

