

THE  
COMPLETE  
MUSLIM'S  
GUIDE TO

9<sup>th</sup> EDITION

# chicago

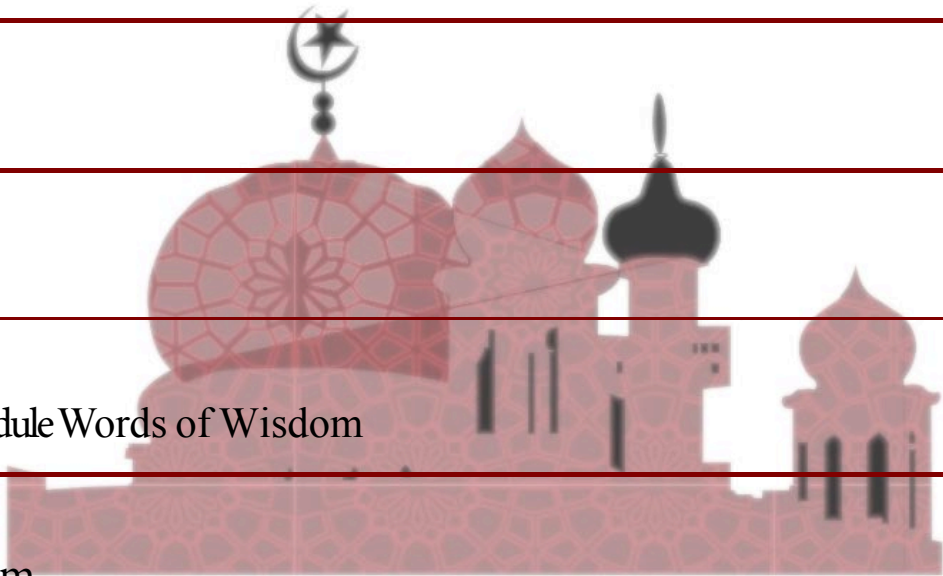


*UChicago Muslim Students Association*

2019-2020, The University of Chicago Muslim Students Association

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# Introduction

*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah,

Congratulations and welcome to the University of Chicago! We are so lucky to have you! Over the past few years, you have each worked endlessly to get here – take the time to celebrate your accomplishments and hard work. As you move forward into your next chapter of life here at UChicago, know that you will face both many challenges and successes, experience new thoughts, creativity, and perspectives all around you, meet new people that transform into lifelong friendships, and you will soon find yourself creating a home here on campus.

As your Outreach Chair for the Muslim Students Association, I would like to remind you that there will always be a community to support you and lift you up as you take these next steps into your future. During both O-Week and beyond, the MSA is here all year to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have at any time in hopes of making your transition smoother. Trust me, you will make good friends in your dorms, classes and campus organizations, but the friendships that you will make with the brothers and sisters in the MSA will be gems that you carry with you well beyond college.

With that, I would like to present to you the ninth edition of *The Complete Muslim's Guide to UChicago!* In this guide, you will find a wide variety of resources such as where to pray on campus, where to find halal food, words of wisdom to help you throughout your four years, and more! We have also prepared a full lineup of O-Week activities where you can meet other first-years and upperclassmen who may become friends and mentors for you throughout your time here. Lastly, please reach out to any of us if you need anything at all. We really are so happy to have you here and can't wait to meet you all!

All the best,

Mahy El-Shikh  
MSA Outreach Chair  
Biological Sciences, 2020



# Letter from the Muslim Advisor

As Salaamu Alaikum,

Congratulations and welcome to the University of Chicago! As you begin your journey here, I want to take a moment to introduce myself and welcome you to our campus. My name is Seher Siddiqee and I, like you, am joining the UChicago community this year as the Assistant Director of Spiritual Life and Advisor for Muslim Affairs. Change and transition can be overwhelming at times, especially when this may be the first time you are away from home and you will encounter many new experiences and people.

The great news is there are many people and resources on campus to support you and help you with the transition, such as myself and the MSA. I am here to meet with you to chat about life, answer any questions you have about faith, find the best campus resources, and most importantly, do all of this over coffee (or your beverage of choice). The MSA is here to be your family away from home and guide you along the way. With many opportunities for different kinds of programming, from spiritual and religious gatherings to social gatherings, you will forge many wonderful friendships.

The following guidebook is a quick reference of tips, tricks, and events from the MSA. In the coming days and weeks, you will have the chance to meet other first year students, upper classmen, and staff, all of whom are here to be a part of your community.

I am excited to meet you and learn the ropes of UChicago with you in the coming year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or stop by and say hello!

May Allah bless your path forward with success!

Seher Siddiqee, M.A.

Assistant Director of Spiritual Life & Advisor for Muslim Affairs Office:

Spiritual Life Office 034 (Lower level of Ida Noyes Hall)

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# A Word from the President

Assalamu Alaikum,

*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family into the beautiful MSA family at the University of Chicago.

Your first weeks at the University of Chicago should be a time for celebration and reflection. This is a time to celebrate your past accomplishments that got you here, but to also reflect on the fact that none of it would be possible without the mercy and blessings of our Lord.

College is a pivotal time of your life. These short four years will play a large role in dictating your career path and future professional aspirations. However, these are just a small portion of the way college shapes you as a person. Being your first time away from home (for most), these short four years will likely determine your lifestyle, personal values, and relationship with spirituality as an adult.

For this reason, I'd like to extend a simple challenge to you all: schedule your other obligations around your Deen, don't schedule your Deen around your other obligations. College is often a busy time with academic, professional, and extracurricular obligations and deadlines. However, much like you'd work diligently to schedule a meeting or a class, work to make time for prayer. Don't skip Jumu'ah because you have a class from 1 pm to 2 pm; rather, schedule your classes around this Fard. Take advantage of the multiple Jumu'ah timings to make it work. Don't skip prayers because you have work, schedule your shifts around your prayers. Take advantage of the prayer rooms in the library and other campus buildings. If you need help finding any of these places, don't wait a second to ask me or anybody else in the MSA family! We're more than happy to help.

Lastly, I'd like to emphasize that when I call our MSA a family, I truly mean it. Our MSA acts much less as an organization and much more as a community. We are a support system, an educational resource (MashaAllah we've got the best of the best in every field), and just a place to drink tea and chat. The best time to meet Muslims is at our weekly events: Qur'an Club, "family dinners," Friday halaqas, and daily prayers in HPUC. We send out information about all of our weekly events via email, so if you'd like to be notified, please email/text me to get on the mailing list.

Once again, welcome to the University of Chicago and welcome to our MSA family. I look forward to meeting you all personally InshaAllah.

With peace,

Zeeshan Khan  
Muslim Students Association President  
University of Chicago | Class of 2021



# The MSA Shura



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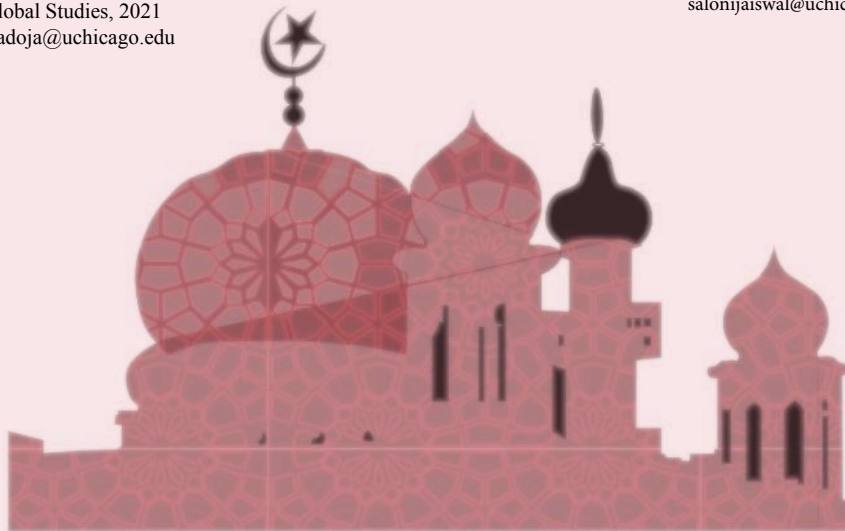
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*The MSA Shura functions as the executive board of the UChicago Muslim Students Association. Depending on the position, each Shura member goes through either a nomination/election process or an application/selection process in order to receive designation as one of the official leaders of the organization. In addition to the general duties of helping make decisions for the MSA and representing the organization on an official basis both inside and outside the UChicago community, each Shura member has a set of position-specific responsibilities that must be carried out throughout the year. If you'd like to know more about their roles and what you can do to get involved, please feel free to contact any of the Shura members.*

# Key Locations

## Muslim Prayer Room in Ida Noyes Hall

### 1212 East 59th Street

*The Muslim Prayer Room is our musallah, located in the basement of Ida Noyes Hall. The door can be unlocked with your ID. To gain access and register your ID, please contact Jigna Shah at [jigna@uchicago.edu](mailto:jigna@uchicago.edu). The musallah is room 032 on the bottom floor of Ida Noyes Hall, next to the Spiritual Life Office*

## Spiritual Life Office in Ida Noyes Hall

### 1212 East 59th Street

*The Spiritual Life Office (affectively known as slo) is located on the lower level of Ida Noyes. They provide support to members of all religious communities, so you're welcome to drop by and meet the religious advisors there. The office of the Muslim advisor is located here as well.*

## Muslim Prayer Room in Regenstein Library

### 1100 East 57th Street

*This year we are excited to announce our newest prayer room in the Regenstein Library for students and other University-affiliated users. The Prayer Room is located in the northwest corner of B-Level. The door can be unlocked with your ID. To gain access and register your ID, please contact Jigna Shah at [jigna@uchicago.edu](mailto:jigna@uchicago.edu).*

## Bond Chapel (For Jumu'ah)

### 1050 East 59th Street

*Bond Chapel is where Friday prayers are typically held. It is located immediately next to Swift Hall and across from Cobb Hall. It faces the quads near the corner of 59th Street and Ellis Avenue.*

## Center for Care and Discovery (CCD) Chapel

### 5700 S. Maryland Avenue

*If you're in or near the University of Chicago Medical Center, you can pray in the newly constructed CCD in the chapel located on the 7th floor Sky Lobby. If you need any assistance on where to find it or how to open the unapparent doors of the chapel, ask the main desk on that floor. The*

*CCD is located on the corner of 57th St. and Maryland Ave. just west of the main campus.*

*Masjid Al-Faatir  
1200 E 47th St  
Chicago, Illinois 60653  
(773) 548-3624 | [www.masjidal-faatir.com](http://www.masjidal-faatir.com)*

*Masjid Al-Ihsan  
East 39th St. and South Calumet Chicago, IL 60653  
(773) 617-9363*



# MSA O-Week Schedule

We've planned out an action-packed schedule for O-Week 2019. It is designed to allow first years and their families to participate in and attend all mandatory events and as many other official O-Week events as possible (i.e. Opening Convocation). We encourage everyone to attend those other events while also coming to ours, as we feel that it is important for students to involve themselves with campus life and gain a sense of belonging to the greater University community. Additionally, students are encouraged to spend time in their respective houses, getting to know the people with whom they will be living with for the upcoming year and possibly more. Throughout the week, there will almost certainly be times when some MSA members, both old and new, will want to get together and hang out (play basketball, watch movies, etc.) on an unofficial basis, and arrangements for such events will emerge spontaneously according to individual preferences and convenience. These activities are a long-standing tradition of O-Week, and they're integral to building a sense of community among MSA members. We look forward to what will hopefully prove to be an incredible O-Week.

## **Saturday, September 21**

1:00 – 4:00 pm **Family Resource Fair**

**Location: Bartlett Quad**

*Come visit the MSA table at the Family Resource fair! Come ask questions, hang out, or get free swag!*

## **Wednesday, September 25**

7:00pm **Undergraduate Student Mixer at the Spiritual Life Office**

**Location: Ida Noyes Hall: 1212 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637**

*Come meet the MSA shura and fellow undergraduate students! Both incoming and continuing students are welcome. Enjoy light refreshments while mingling with peers!*

## **Thursday, September 26**

8:00 pm **Graduate Student Mixer at the Hyde Park Union Church (HPUC)**

**Location: 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637**

*Meet fellow graduate students in the MSA! Both incoming and continuing students are welcome. Light refreshments will be served!*



# MSA O-Week Schedule, Continued

## Friday, September 27

1:30 pm **Jumma Prayer & Sirat Welcome Lunch**

**Location: Hyde Park Union Church at 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637**

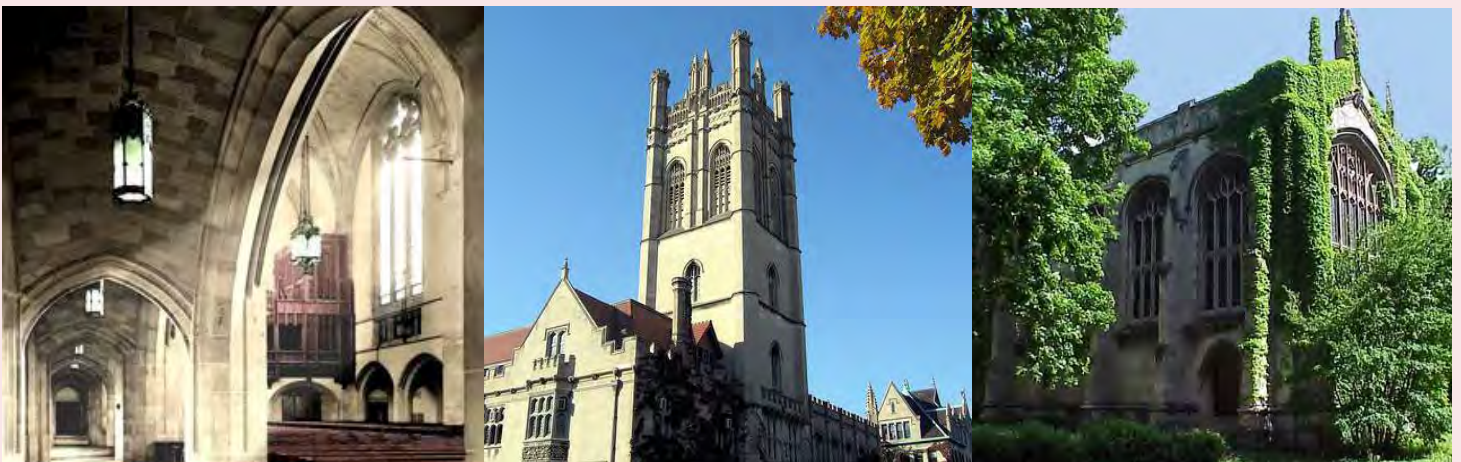
*“O you who believe! When the call for prayer is made on the day of Jumu’ah, then hurry to the remembrance of Allah...” (Qur’an 62:9). Join UChicago’s Muslim community at HPUC for Friday prayer and stay for a delicious lunch sponsored by Sirat Chicago*

## Sunday, September 29

12:00pm **Brunch at the Original House of Pancakes (OHOP)**

**Location: 1358 E 47th St, Chicago, IL 60653**

*Join the Muslim Student Association for a fun brunch where you can eat pancakes, drink coffee, and meet other Muslims on campus! You can meet us there or meet in front of Reynolds Club at 11:30 am to go as a group. Changes and updates can be found on [facebook.com/ucmsa](https://facebook.com/ucmsa).*



# MSA O-Week Schedule, Continued

## Monday, September 30

7:00pm **Maghrib and S'mores at the Point (meet at Reynolds Club at 6:30 pm to walk)**  
Promontory Point, 55th and the Lake

*Halal Marshmallows? Chocolate? A beautiful view of Lake Michigan? Check! Join us as at the Point as we continue our yearly tradition of starting and ending the school year with s'mores. Almost all remaining students will have moved in by now, so you'll be able to meet even more of your fellow MSA members. You can meet us there or meet in front of Reynolds Club at 6:15 PM to go as a group. Changes and updates can be found on [facebook.com/ucmsa](https://facebook.com/ucmsa).*

***Be sure to keep an eye out for future MSA events, including the 27<sup>th</sup> annual MSA banquet in the fall and the first general body meeting of the year!***



# Words of Wisdom

## Academics

I probably should start off the advice section with something reassuring but I'll get straight to it lol. This place is not easy. You will likely experience failures here that you've never had to before. It may be the first time in your life that you don't feel smart enough. You are smart enough. There will be times when you are working too hard to sleep or eat. Take care of yourself. And in the midst of your busy life here, never forget that you are in this with other people, and you are all just trying to figure things out. Be kind to everyone (and trust me, it's not easy with some people at this school. Be kind anyway.)

*Afreen Ahmed (Economics, 2019)*

Take easy courses your first quarter because you'd want to spend a lot of time getting to know people and adjusting to college in general. Fall quarter is generally a very fun time so make the most of it! Make sure to join RSOs because they provide a great means to meet new people and explore your extracurricular interests. Ultimately, college is what you make of it, so make sure to have fun along the way!

*Talha Yousaf (Economics, 2018)*

Don't overdo it with your classes! It's your first quarter, so take it easy and cut yourself some slack while you get used to the U of C.

*Aliya Moreira (Biology and Psychology, 2017)*

Take a quarter to potentially acclimate yourself, and don't get caught up in taking harder classes for the heck of it. Take some time to make sure you can handle it and also make sure you enjoy the intro classes!

*Jawad Arshad (Economics & Biological Sciences, 2015)*

Never be afraid to take full advantage of your various resources: office hours, TAs, Harper tutors, study groups, and so on. If you feel out of your depth, don't panic! Remember that you're in a new environment and you're going to need some time to adapt - and basically everyone you meet on campus can help you out with that.

*Omar Mujahid (Economics, 2017)*

Do not be afraid to take rigorous yet interesting classes that upperclassmen may discourage you from taking otherwise. Furthermore, note that much of your grade will depend on the type of professor teaching the course and perhaps even the time thereof. While grade should not necessarily be your primary concern, it should be in the back of your mind when deciding what professors to classes with. I have noticed that taking classes late in the morning and early/mid afternoon allowed for me to be stay alert in my classes and permitted critical thinking to a high efficacy. On that note, take advantage of your Core classes and absorb yourself into your readings because you will not truly enjoy them until you do so!

*Saad Khan (Biological Sciences, 2016)*

Take Core classes that you're genuinely interested in taking! Taking classes on topics that you're interested in and passionate about really pays off and will make your academic journey at UChicago worthwhile.

*Saloni Jaiswal (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, 2020)*

Don't try to plan out every second the next four years in advance, you'll just stress yourself out! Just go with the flow, and see where UChicago takes you!

*Areha Khalid (Pre-Medical Student, 2022)*

# Words of Wisdom, Continued

## Academics, Continued

Never be embarrassed to ask any questions you may have. And always help people just like how people have helped you.

*Nora Ibrahim (Biological Sciences, 2019)*

If you're a premed, then here's some cliché advice for you: I'm not going to sugarcoat the premed track and tell you it's easy. It's hard, but definitely doable with a lot of hard work. While you might think you have to take only science classes, I would suggest also taking classes in other disciplines that are enjoyable and anyone can tell you there are plenty. It makes the the quarter a lot better.

Also, always go to review sessions. If your TA's review sessions aren't that great, then find a friend whose TA's are better and tag along.

*Fatima Sattar (Biological Sciences, 2019)*

If you're looking for a good study spot on campus, never fear! UChicago has a lot of comfortable study spaces for students. Harper Memorial Library has a cafe with really nice donuts and comfortable sofas (Warning: These sofas may be conducive to sleep...). The hospital's Center for Care and Discovery has a Sky Lobby with a 24/7 food court. The Reg is nice too -- if you're ever looking for a friend to study with, hit me up on the 4th floor! I'll probably entertain you with some bad jokes at the cost of your GPA.

*Saloni Jaiswal (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, 2020)*

It is easy to get consumed by the academic workload and forget all the great opportunities available on and off campus. Join RSOs. Meet new people. Go to the gym. Check out downtown Chicago. Time really flies in college. Make the most of it and enjoy the little things!

*Omar Afify (Biological Sciences & Chemistry, 2018)*

Your academic experience will be greatly determined by the professors and TAs you have. I'm not necessarily saying you should choose your classes just based on professors or TAs.....actually, that is what I am saying.

*Ahmad Allaw (Biological Sciences, 2018)*

## Religion

During my past 3 years at UChicago, I've learned more about Islam than my previous 19 years of existence combined. The classes I took on the subject were intellectually stimulating and very often did not align well with my initial beliefs. My advice is that a little knowledge can shake your faith but a deep understanding will strengthen it, so learn to the max!

*Ijaaz Jackaria (Philosophy 2019)*

Have a very strong foundation in the MSA before the workload begins to be intense. You're going to need this foundation to be able to return back to Allah (SWT) and Islam when times get rough.

*Mahmoud Yousef (Computer Science, 2020)*

In a place like UChicago, self-care is so so important! Make sure you're taking care of your physical, mental, and spiritual health. Join a fitness class, make good friends, come to MSA events, and also take time to check in with yourself. Chicago has some amazing religious classes and resources if you're interested. And if you need advice, we have plenty of experience trying to keep our lives together (albeit not always successfully) so don't hesitate to reach out.

*Afreen Ahmed (Economics, 2019)*

# Words of Wisdom, Continued

## Food and Fitness

Do not go to Taco Bell's drive-thru at 1 AM with your buddy and order the Mexican Pizza. The next day will be filled with regrets. Source: Experience.

*Salman I.*

Sometimes -- let's be real, almost always -- you'll find yourself caught up doing your homework at the Reg or stuck in RSO meetings. Sometimes -- but almost always -- you'll sleep in and wake up 20 minutes before class and not eat a warm, delicious breakfast. Even if you have all of these academic and extracurricular commitments, remember that eating food is a commitment too! Take the time to eat a good, solid meal three times a day at your dining hall of choice. Looking for a friend to sit with? I'll be in Bartlett.

*Saloni Jaiswal (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, 2020)*

Some people apparently sometimes forget to eat. GASP! Don't do that. You won't be able to function well without some brain food. Give your brain a break and enjoy some food with your friends!

*Aseal T.*

You will likely be spending a lot of time in the dining hall (three meals a day almost every day). However, before long, you'll notice that you aren't there for the food. It is - and I state this as an objective fact - disappointingly disappointing. However, that doesn't mean you can't find good food. The food trucks on campus are a good change of pace. Stop by Hutchison Commons every now and then. Go to restaurants with friends. And, as a final piece of advice, GrubHub, the premiere online food delivery service, ain't too shabby.

*Ahmad Allaw (Biological Sciences, 2018)*

Besides being generally helpful for your health, a morning run by the lake (or whenever and wherever you prefer) can be great for releasing some stress.

*Omar M.*

## City of Chicago

Chicago is a vibrant city and has so many beautiful neighborhood that are just a train ride away. Make use of your U-Pass -- don't spend your weekends cooped up in the Reg, go to a coffee shop in Lincoln Park, buy some fruits from Little Village, thrift shop in Wicker Park, volunteer to do some gardening in Englewood... Bike by the lake and take your readings with you. Don't stay in Chicago for four years and leave as a stranger. *Nur Banu Simsek (Philosophy, 2019)*

I think there are some students who feel that just because they're studying here, they don't really need to claim the city as their home. Let's be real: you're going to be living here for the next four years. Four years! (InshaAllah. That's like, the entire lifespan of a hamster. So take advantage of it - explore the city, learn about the issues, get to know the people and the neighborhoods and not just Hyde Park, or the Loop). It'll be fun, I promise.

*Hafsa Razi (Public Policy, 2018)*

Your U-Pass costs you \$90 a quarter. Use it. And don't lose it. That costs another \$50.

*Saloni Jaiswal (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, 2020)*



# Words of Wisdom, Continued

## Everything Else

The world can be a harsh place; but, it can also be a beautiful one. Life is all about choices and their consequences. My advice is to lead the life you want to, so that no choice deters you from your ultimate goals.  
*Hany El-Adle (Biological Sciences, 2017)*

Do what you love, and you won't regret it.  
*Aseal T.*

Game nights and halaqa are a great, low stress way to meet new people. It doesn't matter what your knowledge base is and how practicing you are. We usually hang out and get shakes after, and it's a good way to take a break from academic stresses!  
*Aamir Hussain (Pritzker School of Medicine, 2018)*

UChicago lives within a hub and it's culture often times does not translate outside the confines of Hyde Park. Very quickly you will come to realize that the UChicago culture loves debate. Though there are times when debate is useful and needed, do not think it always necessary to approach all conversations with such a mindset. Active listening--listening to truly understand, rather than listening to simply reply--is an important skill to have. So, enjoy your time here, but remember that the way things operate at this University, is not how things operate everywhere else.  
*Hafsah Mohammed (Social Service Administration (MA), 2018)*

Ask for help!! People are usually gracious enough to help you when you ask for anything--academics, career, spirituality, social life, etc. I think we're really privileged here when it comes to the resources and people that are accessible to us, and it took me several years to realize I could have improved almost everything I was struggling with if I'd just asked for the support earlier. Reach out to your professors, career advancement, the Muslim affairs advisor, counselors, MSA upperclassmen and alumni...the list is endless.  
*Afreen Ahmed (Economics, 2019)*

If you feel like you're not doing college right because your house culture, or any house culture, isn't really your vibe, don't worry. You'll find your people here. It might be in the beginning of O-Week or much later, but you will find them! And luckily for you, you get your very own, personal set of wonderful people right from the start (hint: us!).  
*Fatima Omar (Classical Studies, 2017)*

Drop by the Spiritual Life Office! I work there and we love having visitors! We have kinetic sand, board games, tea and coffee and and more often than not, snacks and food (and shelves full of books for you to explore and borrow). It's a great place to relax, do homework, take a nap, or just chat with friends. Prayer room is right across from us, so don't leave without saying hi (:  
*Nur Banu Simsek (Philosophy, 2019)*

The winter is not a joke, so it's very important to get a tough jacket (I like Alpha Industries) with a hood.  
*Basil (International Relations, MA)*

# All Things Food

Everyone loves food, right? Right. Good thing you're in Chicago, then, because you'll always have plenty of options to suit your tastes and budget. In addition to eating in the University's dining system (which all have daily Halal stations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner), you can travel around to Chicago's wonderful restaurants. Some of our resident food experts reviewed several establishments for you. Restaurants with halal meat are marked with an asterisk (\*).

***Al-Bawadi Mediterranean Grill\****: One of the most popular Arab restaurants in the Chicagoland area, Al-Bawadi is located in the southwest suburb of Bridgeview and was featured on ABC for its "home cooking that's gained a supremely loyal following on the Southwest Side."

Recommendations: Kebabs, shawarma, hummus.

Pros: Food; décor; service.

Cons: Far, location is inaccessible by public transportation; Prices are a bit higher than normal

***Anmol\****: Famous for its BBQ and grilled items, Anmol offers a unique assortment of Pakistani delicacies. It is located further west on Devon and is isolated from the main Desi neighborhood.

Recommendations: Chicken 65, karhai gosht, chicken chargha, BBQ platters.

Pros: Food is prepared fresh (if eating inside); butter naan (possibly the best naan on Devon).

Cons: Doesn't offer too many curry dishes (catered more to a BBQ/grill audience).

***Biryani's\****: A restaurant on Devon, this place specializes in serving biryani; so much so that they don't serve anything else. It serves what may be some of the best biryani in all of Chicago.

Recommendations: Chicken biryani (freshly served and hot).

Pros: Very courteous staff, fast service.

Cons: Small space; it doesn't serve anything but biryani.

***Café 53\****: Café 53 is more or less a regular café, serving coffee, tea, sandwiches, and gelato. Students who go here say it's an excellent study location. Plus they have delicious halal sandwiches.

Recommendations: Turkey sandwich, roast beef sandwich, coffee.

Pros: Nice atmosphere for reading and doing work for a few hours; close to campus; delivers

Cons:

***Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen\****: Located in Kimbark Plaza on 53rd and Woodlawn, Cedars is the most popular Middle Eastern restaurant in Hyde Park.

Recommendations: Lamb chops, spicy chicken wings, shawarma.

Pros: Décor, kind staff, variety of Middle Eastern food.

Cons: High prices; limited halal options (look for the "H" label).

# All Things Food, Continued

**Goree Cuisine\***: *Goree Cuisine is a Senegalese restaurant on East 47<sup>th</sup> and Woodlawn near Masjid Fatir. The food is extremely delicious and the portions are large and filling. It's a nice break from the Italian and Thai food you usually find near campus.*

Recommendations: Yassa Chicken, Dibi Chicken, Plantains.

Pros: Great food; Close to Campus

Cons:

**Ghareeb Nawaz\***: *Staying true to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Ghareeb Nawaz is truly a benefactor of the poor. With its drastically low prices and late hours, this establishment is frequented by bachelors, cab drivers, students, and families alike. Dollar for dollar, you wouldn't get a better deal anywhere on Devon.*

Recommendations: Any chili chicken dish (paratha, biryani, roll), biryani, gyro paratha.

Pros: Tasty; low priced food (5 bucks will get you a full meal and leftovers).

Cons: Oily/greasy food; middle-school lunchroom type setting and atmosphere.

**Italian Express\***: *If the MSA upperclassmen have done their jobs correctly, you will have heard all about Italian Express soon after your arrival on campus, and a trip will have been planned. Italian offers "feel-good" food from variety of cuisines, but MSA members go there for the pizza.*

Recommended: Spicy gyro and pepperoni pizza, spicy gyro sandwich with mozzarella.

Pros: Open late; delicious food; relaxed environment.

Cons: Not particularly healthy; discourteous staff.

**Maravillas**: *Maravillas is the most popular place to go in Hyde Park for Mexican food. Although the food isn't the best you've ever had, it's a good change from all the Thai and Italian you get in Hyde Park. It's located on Lake Park, between 55th and 56th Street.*

Recommendations: Burritos, chimichangas, fajitas.

Pros: Decent food; fast service; kind staff; late hours.

Cons: Prices are just OK.

**Max's Takeout\***: *Max's is located Downtown on Adams and Wabash, just a couple of blocks from the Art Institute, and it offers possibly the best halal burger selection in the city. Their patty isn't the very best (places like Coast Burger and UB Dogs have better halal beef patties), but Max's is where you can get the biggest variety of halal "American" sandwiches. Even their French fries are excellent. Definitely check this place out.*

Recommendations: Spicy gyro cheeseburger, breaded chicken sandwich, jumbo chili cheese dog. Pros: Delicious food; friendly staff; easily accessible by the #6 bus; price is pretty good.

Cons: Not on campus.

**The Nile\***: *The Nile is another Middle Eastern option, located on the corner of 55th and Woodlawn. The service is fast, but the options are rather limited if you're sticking to halal options.*

Recommendations: Shish taouk, lamb chops.

Pros: Food is tasty; service is fast.

Cons: Expensive; limited halal selection (ask your server.)

# All Things Food, Continued

**Original Pancake House:** “OHOP” is one of the best breakfast places in Chicago. It has been an MSA ritual of sorts for the upperclassmen to take the freshmen to OHOP at least once a year. It’s conveniently located in Hyde Park, at the corner of 47th and Lake Park.

Recommendations: Apple pancakes, Santa Fe omelet, Dutch Baby with strawberries.

Pros: Fantastic food.

Cons: Long waits; high prices; crowded atmosphere.

**Yassa\*:** Yassa is a well known Senegalese restaurant in Bronzeville. The food is extremely delicious and the portions are large and filling.

Recommendations: Yassa Chicken, Dibi Chicken, Plantains.

Pros: Clean restaurant,; caters to a diverse audience

Cons: a little pricey

**Tahoora\*:** You’ll find many stores throughout Devon that offer Desi sweets and snacks, but the quality and taste of Tahoora is unparalleled. Its popularity is not limited to Chicago; people throughout the nation visit Tahoora when they happen to be in Chicago. They are not only restricted to sweets/mithai, however. They also offer a host of snacks, including what may be the best samosas in Chicago.

Recommendations: Gulab jamun, barfi, samosa (both veggie and meat), kulfi, falooda, khari puffs, chai. Pros: Every sweet will cater to your sweet tooth; very hygienic; large prayer room in the basement.

Cons: There is almost always a line in which to wait.

**Usmania\*:** Also known as U.S.-Mania (usually by non-Desis), this establishment relies on the popularity of its name to attract customers. Usmania is definitely one of the most popular restaurants on Devon, although it has no relation to the famous restaurant in Karachi, Pakistan.

Recommendations: Mutton biryani, frontier chicken (the curry as well as the rice). Pros: High seating capacity; one of the cleaner restaurants on Devon.

Cons: Unprofessional staff; high-priced items.

**Valley of Jordan\*:** This is more a grocery store than a restaurant, although they do make sandwiches. Valley of Jordan is the only place in Hyde Park to buy halal meat.

Recommendations: Freshly packed chicken breast, roast beef lunch meat, chicken shawarma sandwich. Pros: Close to campus; extremely nice owner; fresh halal meat.

Cons: Prices.

# MSA Traditions

## **Ramadan**

*During Ramadan, MSA tries to maintain the family atmosphere with at least one iftar per week. People from the University community and beyond are welcome to attend.*

## **O-Week**

*This should be pretty self-explanatory, right? The MSA hosts a series of events to help welcome the incoming first years to the University.*

## **Eid Prayers**

*The MSA hosts Eid prayers on campus for students and other members of the UChicago Muslim community. These are generally very well attended.*

## **Community Service & Engagement Dinner**

*This event involves a dinner featuring guest speakers, and its proceeds go to a different worthy cause each year. It sometimes takes the form of a Fast-A-Thon, in which university students are invited to fast for a complete day.*

## **Eid Banquet / Fall Banquet**

*This event was the Eid Banquet back when Eid Al-Adha took place in the Winter, and when the date moved back far enough, we just called it the Winter Banquet. We brought it back last year as the Fall banquet. More details to come soon.*

## **Islam Awareness Week (IAW)**

*During Spring Quarter, the MSA hosts the Islam Awareness Week. Various symposia, movie screenings, social gatherings, and lectures are presented by the MSA, often in conjunction with other RSOs.*

## **Study Breaks**

*We usually put on a study break at the end of every quarter right before reading period. You can expect fun appetizers or snacks and a great social atmosphere too. Over the past year, we've had a Belgian Waffle Study Break, Salty Sweet n' Sour Study Break, and others.*

## **General Body Meetings (GBM)**

*The MSA holds quarterly general body meetings to give MSA members an opportunity to meet each other in a social gathering. GBMs are also a way for the MSA Shura to inform the general body of upcoming MSA events, as well as of opportunities for general body members to become involved.*

## **Annual Farewell Dinner**

*The Farewell Dinner takes place during the last couple of weeks of Spring Quarter. The dinner is held to bring all MSA members together one last time before the end of the school year, as well as to say goodbye to the MSA seniors who will be leaving us to enter the real world.*



# Stay in the Loop

There are various ways to be informed at all times about MSA activities so that you're always in the know when it comes to events and other types of announcements. We've provided information about some of these means below.

## Email

MSA currently has three listhosts, which allow wholesale messages to be sent to subscribers. We encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the purpose of each listhost so that you can use them most effectively should you ever need to send a message to be widely distributed. To subscribe to a list, go to [lists.uchicago.edu](http://lists.uchicago.edu), sign in with your CNET ID, search for the lists you're looking for, and click "Subscribe." In the case that the above process does not work, please email the appropriate administrator of each listhost (identified below) that you wish to be added to.

MSA Forum ([msaforum@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:msaforum@lists.uchicago.edu))

This list is intended for official MSA announcements, event announcements, general discussion, and messages for the MSA general body. Here you can send messages about an interesting article you found online, alert people to a conference coming, announce a sublet, or whatever else you think is appropriate to send to the large number of people (students, staff, and alumni) who subscribe to MSA Forum. All messages are first approved by list moderators. Please email Kaothar Oladoja ([koladoja@uchicago.edu](mailto:koladoja@uchicago.edu)) to be added.

MSA Shura ([msashura@uchicago.edu](mailto:msashura@uchicago.edu))

MSA Shura is a listhost that's open only to members of the Shura, but if you're a general body member, you can still email it in order to send messages to the MSA board.

Graduate MSA ([gmsa@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:gmsa@lists.uchicago.edu))

The gmsa is a listhost dedicated for graduate students in the MSA. It, as the name implies, provides information for graduate student events, outings, socials, and more. Please email Ali Smith ([alidaoudsmith@uchicago.edu](mailto:alidaoudsmith@uchicago.edu)) to be added.

## Social Media

Facebook:

Our official page is: [msa.uchicago.edu](http://msa.uchicago.edu)  
if you search for "UChicago MSA" on Facebook you can find our official group on Facebook

Instagram:

We're excited to announce our \*NEW\* Instagram page. Follow us on the gram @UChicagoMSA

## Word of Mouth (aka the best way)

Attend Jumu'ah, make friends, and talk to people...these are the best ways to get to know who's who and what's what in the MSA, and they also happen to be the most rewarding.

