

Transcript from the February 12, 2008 UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School Kenan Connection
(Family Life at Kenan-Flagler) Chat

Lopez_KFBS09: Hello, my name is Sophia. I am a first year student who helped organize today's chat. In addition to being a full-time MBA student, I am also the mother of four great kids. Would the other Kenan-Flagler participants please introduce themselves as well?

Jeremy_KFBS08: Hello all. I am a second year student and president of our Families Club. My wife and I have 2 kids, 2 and 6. 6 y.o. is in Kindergarten.

KCMWhite: Hi, I'm Mandy White and the President of Kenan Connection. Kenan Connection is the partner's club.

Julie W.: Good afternoon and thanks everyone for joining us today, this is Julie Wiley, Assistant Director of Admissions and coordinator of Kenan-Flagler's chats.

Enrique_kfbs09: Hi everyone. I am a first year. I have a wife, a daughter and I'm expecting a son in April. Glad to be here and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kelly S.: I am Kelly Stowe Boggs, a Durham resident, my husband Eric is a first year student. I am also the current Business Manager for the Kenan Connection.

Julie W.: We are ready to take any questions you may have!

Meghan G.: I am the Associate Director of the MBA Program. My job share partner and I have held this job for the past 4 years. I also worked in the Admissions office for 4 years. In addition, my husband attended the K-F MBA Program and we have two great children. Meghan Gosk

Alex_Klaims_KFBS09: Hi, I'm Alex and I'm in the class of '09. I live in Baity Hill, right nearby school, with my wife and two small kids.

Denise_KFBS09: Hi, I'm Denise. I live in Cary with my two small kids.

Priyal: hello any one there..

Kelly S.: Hello, Priyal.

Shweta: Hello, whats the procedure for getting on campus housing? approx cost??

Alex_Klaims_KFBS09: Shweta – I live in Baity Hill, which is right nearby the business school (5 minute walk). I have a two-bedroom, two bathroom place which costs \$855 per month. I signed up for an apartment when I came here for prospective students weekend in April.

Shweta: thanks Alex, do u think looking for a house in august would be late in getting a accomodation nearby school?

Priyal: i want to join unc for the fall semester 2008

Rod J.: Hello everyone..

Haren V.: hello everyone thanks for this (and other) chats you are organising

Elynn: Hello, for an international student, how much more should us prepare financially for 2 years at Kenan-Flagler?

Enrique_kfbs09: Elynn - international students can expect to pay out of state tuition. As for cost of living, you can find certain information in the unc web site.

Elynn: Thanks Enrique!

Priyal: can u guide me with the procedure and all.. i m from india.. i dont have friends and anyone out there..

Ryan: There was an earlier question about on campus housing and pets...are dogs allowed?

KCMWhite: No animals are allowed on campus housing.

Danielle V.: No dogs allowed, okay, what about housing around campus? Prices, availability?

Dawn: What areas do KFBS students with school aged children live?

Denise_KFBS09: Dawn, there are a few parents in Cary which is just East of Chapel Hill but most seem to live close by campus. What ages are your children?

Dawn: They are 8 and 10

Lopez_KFBS09: Dawn, KFBS students with kids live in the on campus housing, in planned communities nearby like Southern Village, and also in various apartments and houses off campus nearby. There are a lot of good options and the school district is one of the top in the country.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Dawn, Chapel Hill and neighboring Carrboro have a lot of residential communities with a lot of families. The entire CH public school district is excellent, so I encourage you to stay in the district if possible if kids are in school.

Lopez_KFBS09: Dawn, I have a ten year old as well. We live in Southern Village and he walks to the elementary school which is located right in the neighborhood. Meadowmont also has an elementary school in their subdivision. My friends in Baity Hill have 7 and 10 year olds, who take the bus to school. All the local elementary schools are great.

Priyal: kelly S can u pl help me

Priyal: can any one help me..

Priyal: any indian out there..

Kelly S.: Yes. I will try. I believe when you are accepted you should also get a packet on information from KF. It should contain housing information.

Julie W.: Priyal, can you please clarify your question?

Kelly S.: Priyal. I have a friend from India that could contact you directly, if you feel that would help.

Priyal: i m about to complete my graduation in may.. and want m planning to apply to UNC for the graduate program..

Julie W.: Priyal, there are no Indians on the Kenan-Flagler end today answering questions. However, upon your arrival at Kenan-Flagler you would have the ability to meet other Indian students right away and through the international club,

Priyal: i want to apply for the fall 2008 semester..

Priyal: so can i apply for the same???

Julie W.: Priyal, the subject of today's chat is family life at Kenan-Flagler. Do you have a specific question on family life at Kenan-Flagler?

Priyal : no not really.. sorry then..

Priyal: bye

Priyal: thanx for the help..

Julie W.: Priyal, here is the link to our application deadlines: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/....>

Priyal: thank you so much..

Priyal: can i be in touch with u..

Julie W.: Priyal, you can contact me through mba_info@unc.edu.

Priyal: neways buh bye..

Priyal: takecare.. see ya.. thanx a lot once again for the help..

Wade O.: Are there any unique challenges you did not expect when you brought your spouses?

Enrique_kfbs09: Wade - the main challenge I faced is time management. You have to find time to study, network, participate in extra-curricular activities and spend time with your wife / children. It's tough.

Wade O.: Thanks Enrique

Ben G.: Hello. I was curious if married couples tend to live in a particular apartment complex?

Meghan G.: Ben G, Married couples live in a number of different apartment complexes, including Alta Springs, Southern Village, and in on-campus housing (Baity Hill). MKG

Ben G.: Meghan G. Thank you for your response. Of those options, are any within walking distance to KFBS?

Meghan G.: Ben, Yes, Baity Hill is directly behind the McColl Building. Southern Village and Alta Springs are less than two miles away from campus.

KCMWhite: The majority of students, married and single, live in Alta Springs Apartments. Baity Hill, on campus living, take families as first priority. There really is no set area families live in. The all do what makes the most sense for them.

Elynn: also, what kinds of activities does Kenan Connection usually have for Spouse?

Kelly S.: Elynn. KC has activities ranging from dinner club, to family club, to social club, to book club. A few weeks ago we even took a cooking class.

Elynn: Thanks Kelly, that's very interesting.

Kelly S.: As a spouse, the Kenan Connection will be invaluable for your spouse to connect, meet people and establish a sense of normalcy

Guillermo: Does the school facilitate campus employment for spouses?

Cassidy L.: did any of you move to Chapel Hill with a significant other who was not going back to school? if so, how was it for him/her to find work, meet people etc...?

Rod J.: Is it common to live in off campus apts. or in on campus housing?

Kelly S.: Rod - it is common to do both. It just depends on your needs.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rod J- a pretty even mix live off vs. on campus (Baity Hill). I live 15 min off campus, but would live in Baity if I did it again, b/c of convenience and cost.

Rod J.: Jeremy what's the cost?

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rod - \$855/mo including utilities. I live in a townhouse in Carrboro and pay \$1350.

Rose: Hi - my husband will be working (we assume somewhere in the triangle) while I attend school. Is it possible to get by with one car, or will two be necessary?

Alex_Klaims_KFBS09: Rose – I think that if you live in Baity Hill, it's much easier to get by with only one car. If you live off campus, it's more of a juggling act with car pools. It can be done, but it's more difficult.

Rose: Thanks Alex. How difficult is student parking?

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rose - parking is a little tough, but the school helps us organize student carpools in order to use the deck here at the b-school. Also, CH has a great, free bus system.

Rose: Thanks Jeremy. In terms of the CH bus system, I noticed that it picks up at a lot of the apartment complexes, but what about the nearby residential areas, like Carrboro? Are the buses considered safe?

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rose - I take the bus from Carrboro every day and they are very safe. The routes also go to other outlying areas of CH.

Ryan T.: I'm curious how the time commitment the student has to course work has impacted those of you who are spouses/partners

Enrique_kfbs09: any unanswered questions out there?

Elynn: International Spouse are not allowed to work in US. If they want to apply Kenan-Flagler next year, will it hurt the application that they don't work for a year or 2?

Dawn: How difficult is it to get on campus housing at Baity Hill or Mason Farms?

Enrique_kfbs09: Dawn - You have to act early. It is not difficult, but it does fill up fast. I recommend contacting Baity Hill as soon as you decide on coming to UNC.

Dawn: Thanks Enrique. I'll keep that in mind.

Guillermo: What do spouses/partners tend to do during the summer internship period?

Kelly S.: Guillermo - I am hoping to go with my husband for his summer internship. However, many spouses stay in Chapel Hill and say they had much fun. One thing is for sure. Someone else will go through what she is going through.

KCM White: Guillermo - anyone can apply to the university, but there are not anyone positions held solely for spouses. There are a few temp jobs with Kenan Flagler that usually employ spouses.

Attached is the link to the UNC Employment Applications: University Employment (UNC Chapel Hill & Duke): UNC Chapel Hill University Employment Opportunities: <http://hr.unc.edu/jobseekers/>

Duke University Employment Opportunities: <http://www.hr.duke.edu/jobs/main.html>

Meghan G.: Guillermo, I have to say that partners seem to do different things during the Analytical Skills Workshop. Some arrive after the session, some come early to look for work, and others come early to simply spend time getting to know the area. It really varies . . .MKG

Guillermo: Kelly, KCMWhite, Meghan, thanks very much for your answers.

Cassidy L.: did any of you move to Chapel Hill with a significant other who was not going back to school? if so, how was it for him/her to find work, meet people etc...?

KCMWhite: Cassidy, I am a partner who is not going back to school. Kenan Connection is an excellent group for partners to join. We have several clubs such as social club, dinner club, etc so you meet others. Also, many people make friends through their jobs.

Danielle V.: good question Cassidy L.

Rod J.: When do you suggest to start searching for housing?

Dawn: Hi Sophia! How difficult is to manage your childrens' activities and your school activities?

Ben G.: Does anyone know if there is a bit of a revolving door for K-8 teachers? My wife is a teacher and it seems replacing someone in the Kenan Connection would be the smoothest transition to getting a job.

Lopez_KFBS09: Ben, I know two spouses who came to campus without teaching positions lined up, and both were able to find jobs in a short time period. They came for ASW II and were working by start of the school year.

Rod J.: Is there any agencies or alliances that you can refer?

Julie W.: Rod, do you mean job agencies?

Rod J.: Are there any agencies or alliances in the Chapel Hill area that work specifically with UNC students to assist with locating housing?

Julie W.: Rod J., upon admission we do send an Admitted Students Binder with real estate agent information.

Julie W.: Rod J., we also give additional information out during Admitted Students Weekend, which will be April 3-5 this year.

Meghan G.: Rod J. There is quite a bit of information concerning housing in the Admitted Student Binder. It includes a large matrix that includes the most popular places for MBAs to live and the contact information for each of these housing options. In addition, there is contact information for University Housing if you would prefer to live on campus. MKG

Rod J.: Julie, during that time is it common for admitted students to group together and obtain housing?

Meghan G.: Rod J. Yes, students do begin discussing housing during Experience Weekend and some spend time traveling around to the various housing complexes. In addition, there will be a number of representatives from the housing complexes and real estate agents attending the fair during Experience Weekend. MKG

jose &.: My husband Jose is starting in August and I would like to know what kind of opportunities the Partner's Club may have in helping me find work in the area. I currently live in NYC and work for an art gallery.

Julie W.: Jose &, you may want to check classifieds through the Chapel Hill News for local jobs - we have some local art galleries and museums.

Lopez_KFBS09: Jose - there are also jobs posted to the announcement boards over the summer for spouses. There are some art galleries nearby in Chapel Hill and Durham as well.

Kelly S.: Jose - UNC is a great place to work. The Kenan Connection can help put you in touch with places around the area. I currently work for UNC. If you are interesting in working for campus, you should visit their website at <http://www.hr.unc.edu>

Kelly S.: Jose - in what field are you interested?

KCMWhite:

Following are many links for employment. Please browse to see what best fits your needs: **JOB RESOURCES**

Section I: Recommended Triangle Area Job Links

Newspapers

Durham Herald Sun: See employment section at <http://www.heraldsun.com/>

Raleigh News & Observer Newspaper Job Listings: <http://www.trianglejobs.com/>

University Employment (UNC Chapel Hill & Duke)

UNC Chapel Hill University Employment Opportunities: <http://hr.unc.edu/jobseekers/>

Duke University Employment Opportunities: <http://www.hr.duke.edu/jobs/main.html>

Local Schools/Teaching Opportunities

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools: <http://www.chccs.k12.nc.us>

NC School Report Cards and School Ratings: <http://www.ncreportcards.org>

Haren V.: thanks kcm

jose &.: Thanks for the responses RE: jobs - also, any unexpected obstacles for couples to go through such a drastic change in lifestyle? This is Caroline speaking, Jose's wife..

Enrique_kfbs09: Jose & - Most of the obstacles are expected. You can expect to have a change in lifestyle because you are not perceiving income, unless your spouse works. Also, as a student, finding time to spend with my family, study, network, etc... can be challenging.

jose &.: thanks!

Shweta : wats the procedure for getting on-campus housing? is it difficult for singles to obtain the same.

Alex_Klaits_KFBS09: Shweta – this year at Baity Hill there are a number of single students, but I think they're looking to phase this out because of the large interest among students with families. Singles almost all live off-campus now.

Shweta: ok. Thanks Alex.

Darpan B.: I am interested in buying a house. Are there KFBS students in this chat who bought a house? If so, when did you begin looking and how long did it take you complete the transaction?

Haren V.: good question darpan

Kelly S.: My husband and I own a home.

Denise_KFBS09: Darpan, I own a house and would be happy to help with the details.

Julie W.: Darpan, I do know two second years who bought houses. I can put them in touch with you to give you advice. A local agent I would highly recommend is Cindy Gudeman with Tony Hall & Associates here in Chapel Hill.

Kelly S.: My husband and I were already residents when we purchased our house. However, there are many homes for sale in this area that are ready to sell.

Kelly S.: It took a couple of months to be finalized. If you would like suggestion on good areas for homes I will be glad to help.

Haren V.: kelly, i was wondering about that

Hubbycat: thanks, kelly s.

Lopez_KFBS09: Darpan - You can look for a house over the spring or summer. You basically need to plan for about a 45 day period after your offer is accepted (you can put a contract on the house whenever you find something you like) to allow for the closing process.

Darpan B.: Thanks Julie. That would be great. Also, thanks Denise. Should I contact you after the chat? I can reach out to the admissions office for your contact info. Thanks also to Lopez_KFBS09.

Julie W.: Darpan, I will have the students contact you directly since I have your email :)

Denise_KFBS09: Darpan, please do contact me. The real estate process in NC is a bit different so it might help to be aware of its quirks

Enrique_kfbs09: Are there any questions that have not been answered?

Ryan R.: Related to Guillermo's question earlier regarding summer internships, is the on-campus housing rented on a 12 month period or is it only rented during the school year? In other words, if I lived on campus but had an internship out of state, would I need to keep the on-campus housing for the summer?

Guillermo: good question, Ryan.

Ryan R.: Thanks, Guillermo!

Alex_Klraits_KFBS09: Ryan – Most of the people who leave for summer internships who live on campus easily find a way to sublet their places for the summer. There are a lot of incoming students who are doing ASW and want to find a place to live for a couple of months. These arrangements usually get made online.

Ryan R.: Thanks Alex!

Rose: Are there any men in the Partner's Club? I'm a little worried about my husband fitting in :)

next M.: I see the officers at Kenan Connection are all women... are most of their activities for women? My girlfriend is going to do her MBA and I plan to work during this time, but I don't see many "male" significant others and activities for us...

KCMWhite: Rose, there are men in Kenan Connection, but they rarely show up to the events. The new board is discussing setting up events just for men this year to make them feel more welcome and included.

KCMWhite: Next M - The new board is currently working on setting up events for men to include them more and get them to join in.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rose - Families Club events typically draw the whole family, kids and parents.

Dawn : What type of events does Kenan Connection have for children and how often do the events take place?

Denise_KFBS09: Dawn, usually there are family events every month and often the Kenan Connection sponsors child friendly activities at social events.

Enrique_kfbs09: Dawn - Kenan Connection organizes events throughout the year. Many of them are for children, like Halloween.

jose &.: Thanks Enrique for the response

Dawn: Thanks Enrique and Denise

Haren V.: also how far can we go from campus (considering the traffic etc) if my wife is working in NC, but in another city

Kelly S.: Haren. It may be less confusing if we email. You may email me at kelly.boggs@gmail.com.

Haren V.: thanks kelly, i will do so

Julie W.: Haren, where will she be working?

Meghan G.: Haren, I commuted to Raleigh while my husband was a student at K-F. I tried to leave a bit later than most commuters and simply stayed at work a little longer. Most days it took between 35-40 minutes to go to Raleigh. MKG

KCMWhite: Haren V - When choosing an employer, note the following estimated commutes from the Chapel Hill area!

East and South (still area code 919) West (area code 336)

- Raleigh (outside beltline): 40 min
- Raleigh (inside beltline): 45 min
- Durham - 10-30 minutes
- Morrisville - ~15 minutes
- Cary - 20-35 minutes
- RTP: 20-30 mins
- Carrboro - 10 minutes, along 15-501
- Pittsboro - 25-35 minutes, south • Hillsborough - 10-15 minutes
- Burlington - 30-40 minutes
- Greensboro - 1 hr - 1.25 hrs
- Winston-Salem - 1.5 hours+

Note: These are approximate times from the intersection of 15-501 and I-40 (exit 270), and may vary.

Haren V.: thats great info kcm

Denise_KFBS09: Haren, I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the area compared to Boston. The pace is slower and things are more spread out, but after living in NYC, Boston, SF and Atlanta I really enjoy this area.

Rod J.: How is traffic in the area during rush hour?

Kelly S.: Rod - it depends on which direction you are traveling.

Denise_KFBS09 : Traffic is worst when the men's basketball team is at home

Julie W.: Rod J., there is traffic on 1-40 from Raleigh in the mornings, however, like any traffic patterns, the worst of it is during certain rush hour time periods.

Kelly S.: If you are traveling into Raleigh from Chapel Hill in the mornings, it can be congested; however, it is nothing like what you would see in a major city.

Lopez_KFBS09: Rod - it depends where you are going. I was going back and forth between Chapel Hill and Durham in rush hour and it really added only about 5 or 10 minutes most to the trip.

Rod J.: Is there a subway system?

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod - no there is no subway system. There are buses though, and they work great.

Kelly S.: No, there is not a subway. However, Chapel Hill does have a free bus system.

Rod J.: Kelly, thanks. I am a New Yorker....

Julie W.: Rod, the traffic is bad but it is not like NY!

Kelly S.: Welcome to the south Rod.

jose &.: Rod, we are from NY too - are you starting in August?

Rod J.: No Jose, I am preparing for 09.

jose &.: Any international female spouses moving to UNC? Caroline.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Dawn - my wife leads the Family Activity Group within the Kenan Connection. She organizes playgroups about once per month.

Meghna: Hi, I am Haren Vani(applicant)'s wife and we are moving from Boston. I was curious how big a shift it is at UNC from a bigger city like Boston, especially the lifestyle etc.

Danielle V.: good question Meghna

Meghan G.: Meghna, We moved to NC from Boston. I did not feel as though it was a major transition, except for dealing with the better weather:) Do you have any specific concerns?

Meghna: Thanks for the response. I was curious in terms of activities (things to do in and around UNC). I will be working there while Haren studies so would like to have options available for weekends..volunteer work, clubs etc.

KCMWhite: Meghna - Kenan Connection also has a Volunteer Club you can join.

Kelly S.: Meghna. One great source of entertainment on campus is Caroline Performing Arts. Students may get tickets for \$10. <http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org>. There is also a great nearby minor league baseball team, great shopping movie theaters also nearby

Julie W.: Meghna, I can think of several venues for you. If you like to get outside and be active, there is a large running community here in terms of running groups, walking trails, etc. Additionally, once you get here and get settled in, you can see in the smaller local paper (which is free) called the Chapel Hill News where volunteer opportunities are listed on a weekly basis. Additionally, there are many other options based upon your interests such as cultural opportunities, etc.

KCMWhite: Meghna - there are also many museums. Also, Raleigh and Durham are extremely close by.

Kelly S.: Meghna - the NC mountains and beaches are only a couple hours drive away as well.

Meghna: Thanks Julie, Kelly, Meghan--better weather sounds like a welcome change. I will check out your recommendations as well

Haren V.: seems like megghna will have all the fun, while i have to study,...haha

Kelly S.: Partners get the better half of the agreement, for sure! :-)

Kelly S.: Does anyone have any other questions, or questions that have not been answered?

Nathaniel J.: What resources are available through Kenan Connection to help a relocating spouse find employment?

KCMWhite: Nathaniel J. - We have a Career Support Club.

KCMWhite: Nathaniel J - The Career Club, which name has changed to Kenan Connection, plans on getting together a few times at the beginning of the school year to help any partners that would like it.

Nathaniel J.: Thanks KCM.

Hung-Hsin H.: Hi, the brochure said that Chapel Hill is 20mins away from the airport. Is there any public transportation available from the airport to the campus ??

Hung-Hsin H.: Such as bus stop or subway ??

Enrique_kfbs09: Hung-Hsin - I heard there is a bus from the airport, but I'm not sure. However, you can take a taxi, or coordinate with other students and share a ride.

Kelly S.: Hung-Hsin. There is not a good public transportation system to the airport. T

Hung-Hsin H.: Thank you, Kelly and Enrique

Julie W.: For those transitioning from larger cities, I think you all (y'all) will be pleasantly surprised at the ease of getting around within Chapel Hill and the pleasant lifestyle here.

Rod J.: Julie, Can you elaborate briefly. Thanks

Julie W.: Rod J, having lived near NYC and in Baltimore, I found this area to have many positives including recreations, cultural, etc. all easy to get to and affordable. Also, the people who live here are very friendly. It makes for an all around great place to be.

Rod J.: Thanks Julie..

Lopez_KFBS09: Rod - Regarding the ease of getting around, there are many students who don't have cars - they get around on bike or on the free buses, and then walk to where ever else they need to go.

Rose: Does anyone know of any good/reputable financial services recruiters or executive placement firms in the area?

Denise_KFBS09: Rose, there are a number of local financial firms. What specific area are you looking for?

Rose: Denise - my husband is a VP of Finance, now in insurance but would consider other fields

Meghan G.: Rose, I have friends who own an Executive Placement firm for part-time executives. It is called **Balancing Professionals** and it is out of Cary/Raleigh NC. Good luck! MKG

Denise_KFBS09: Rose, I would have him start with Kenan Connection and get on the alumni database.

Rose: Thanks Denise & Meghan!

jose &.: If my husband starts the ASW in June, how long before do we need to arrive in NC in order to find housing and get settled?

Enrique_kfbs09: jose - I did ASW which started in June. I secured housing in March during the experience weekend and moved in towards the end of May. I live on campus.

jose &.: for off campus housing would the same timeline be reasonable?

Enrique_kfbs09: Jose - I think the timing would be similar. You want to find housing, then move here. It is a bit more complicated if you move here and then find housing.

jose &.: agreed - thanks Enrique

Enrique_kfbs09: Jose - look at the admitted student binder. it has section on housing, relocation and the chapel hill area. it is a good resource.

Wade O.: How flexible is Kenan Flagler with respect to family issues or emergencies?

Denise_KFBS09: I am a single parent and the school has been EXCELLENT in terms of emergencies and child care situations for me. Everyone has been extremely supportive going as far as arranging for babysitting for me during exams in Mod 1.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Wade - In my experience, the school is very flexible to family issues, such as missing class for spouses medical appts., etc. Also, a classmate had a child last year and she was able to take a leave of absence with no problem.

Wade O.: Glad to hear that. Thanks.

Hung-Hsin H.: Is supermarket far away from the campus ?

Hung-Hsin H.: What are the options for students to cook by themselves ?

Kelly S.: Hung-Hsin. There is a supermarket close to campus and it is located on a bus line.

Hung-Hsin H.: Thanks Kelly

Kelly S. : Hung-Hsin: There are many apartment choices near campus, on bus lines that have fully equiped kitchens.

Rothschild: Do we need a car (for the everyday grocery shopping and moving around) or it is more of a "nice to have"?

Lopez_KFBS09: Rothschild - Many students who cook at home do their shopping without a car.

Meghan G.: Rothschild, Most of our MBA friends did not own a car during school. We would often go to the grocery store on the weekend as a large group. I do not think having a car is a necessity. MKG

Danielle V.: Does anyone have an average cost of renting a 2/2 apartment-off campus living?

Lopez_KFBS09: Danielle - If you check chapelhillrent.com you can get a good feel for the range of prices. It depends what you are looking for. Some complexes give good discounts at signup for Kenan-Flagler students.

Danielle V.: Thanks Lopez_KFBS09

Shweta: what are options for temporary stay for 2-3 weeks or so before one finds a house?

Lopez_KFBS09: Shweta - There are some week to week places, some are advertised on chapelhillrent.com. You can also get good deals on a homestay type hotel room (with a kitchenette) on priceline - a fellow student did that for ASW I.

Shweta: Thank you Lopez.

jose &.: Is there a large international community in NC?

Jeremy_KFBS08: jose - There is a very large int'l community in the CH/Triangle area, but not so much in NC. The public schools are very flexible with ESL kids as well, and have a great foreign language program (spanish and mandarin) starting in Kindergarten.

Dawn: Denise - How difficult has it been to manage the rigors of motherhood and an MBA program?

Denise_KFBS09: Dawn, I am maintaining my sanity so far. I just have to be well scheduled at all times. I enjoy the program so much that it helps me overlook how busy I am. Most importantly, everyone at KFBS has really been wonderful and my kids enjoy coming to campus with me

Dawn : Thanks Denise. Good to know you are surviving. Best wishes!

Lopez_KFBS09: Dawn - just to voice my opinion, it is definitely manageable to balance MBA work with a family. There are five moms with kids among the first years, and we are all holding up well :)

Denise_KFBS09: I completely agree with Sophia. You will be busy but not overwhelmed unless you chose to over extend yourself with too many clubs and case competitions.

Dawn: Lopez...very encouraging news. Thanks for voicing your opinion

Haren V.: participation in how many clubs would you typically recommended denise?

Lopez_KFBS09: Dawn - Denise and I have been very active in clubs and case competitions so that definitely is manageable too.

jose &.: any MBA spouses got pregnant during the 2 years, Caroline?

Enrique_kfbs09: jose - my wife and I are expecting in april.

KCMWhite: Jose - there a numerous spouses who are currently pregnant. Kenan Connection just held a baby shower with six moms to be there. We have another planned in April with at least three more.

Kelly S.: Jose - many spouses do become pregnant during their time at KF.

jose &.: ok, congrats, BTW...how does the person studying manage the rigors of a new baby and pregnancy?

Enrique_kfbs09: jose - I am the person studying and it is definitely a challenge to find the time to spend time with my wife and daughter. But it is definitely doable.

Enrique_kfbs09: jose - good luck!

Hung-Hsin H.: Do international students need insurance?? If yes, how to apply for one, and what kind??

Rod J.: In the Chapel Hill area, is the typical lease month to month or annual?

Julie W.: Rod, I am hearing that most agents like to get an annual lease. I think Meadowmont apartments due month to month.

Julie W.: do rather than "due"!

Rod J.: What the climate like in the winter?

Kelly S.: It's currently 51 degrees and sunny. Rod

Denise_KFBS09: Rod, it is actually fairly pleasant. Some days it gets cold (40s) but we rarely get snow. If we do everything shuts down!

Rod J. : Denise, It was 11 this morning....

Julie W.: Rod, average temps are probably 40-50 degrees. Some aberrations of course! Some great temps even in January and Feb. Early spring. I saw daffodils today. It rarely snows.

Kelly S.: We have very mild winters. Occasional snow, but for the most part it is a very mild winter yet we do have 4 different seasons.

Rod J. : Kelly S. It was 11 this morning

Kelly S.: Rod. That is too cold, for me! You should get to CH before you freeze!

Denise_KFBS09: Rod, where are you? It sounds like CH is a better bet!

Rod J.: Denise, I am in Queens.

Denise_KFBS09: Rod, you will LOVE Chapel Hill.

Ryan R.: I apologize if this question was already asked, I've been having technical difficulties. Do many spouses commute to Raleigh, or do most find work in or near Chapel Hill?

Denise_KFBS09: Ryan, there are some spouses who commute to Raleigh. It is not too far from campus

Meghan G.: Ryan, A number of partners find work in Chapel Hill, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh and Cary

Meghan G.: Ryan, Sorry

Ryan R.: No problem, I appreciate the help!

Meghan G.: Ryan, I commuted to Raleigh when my husband was a student here. We lived in Carrboro and the commuty

Nathaniel J.: How large is Kenan Connection (# of members)? Are there ever small group get-togethers for developing closer friendships?

Kelly S.: Nathaniel. I have found many friends by attending smaller meetings such as dinner club, book club, etc.

KCMWhite: Nathaniel J, We have over 100 members; however, we have several small group events. Our Dinner Club usually has five to ten per group. Also, we have book, volunteer, family, social clubs. I may be leaving some out. Anyway, you have ample chances to get meet as many or few people as you like.

Meghna: Meghan-I was impressed with the positives of UNC, although I was wondering what is it that you miss about Boston/big city while you are there. I'm trying to understand what is the flip side to living in NC, especially since coming from Boston I already know weather and cost of living are big bummers here. Any pet peeves on that side?

Meghan G.: Meghna, Honestly, I miss Dunkin Donuts and of course, my family more than anything else. I truly love living here. We now have been in NC for the past 10+ years and I can not imagine leaving. I hope this helps . . . MKG

Denise_KFBS09: But there are more Dunkin Donuts here now

Meghna: Thanks Meghan for the insights.

Julie W.: Also, as an informational comment, for those of you who will be coming with children, Chapel Hill has a strong public school system and many preschool options.

Nathaniel J.: Kelly, have you found "couple friends" outside of Kenan Connection?

Kelly S.: Nathaniel. Yes, I do have "couple friends" outside of KC. I found them mainly through work, volunteer and church activities.

Nathaniel J.: Kelly, how did you approach finding a church home?

KCMWhite: Nathaniel - I posted a request for suggestions on the Kenan Connection website and many people responded.

KCMWhite: Nathaniel, I also have many Couple Friends and I've met all of mine through Kenan Connection or the MBA students.

Meghan G.: Nathaniel J, My family tried a few different churches when we arrived. It did not take us very long to find our home church. There are a lot of wonderful churches in the area. MKG

Kelly S.: I was a student at UNC for undergrad, so I was lucky. However, there are many churches here (benefit of being in the Bible belt). I would be glad to suggest churches to you based on what you would like in a church home. If you would like to email me, my email is kelly.boggs@gmail.com.

Nathaniel J.: Thanks, guys. One of our big concerns is building close couple friends while I'm earning my MBA. Sounds like Kenan Connection is a great place to start!

Denise_KFBS09: Nathaniel, in general you will find everyone down here very friendly. The school is a great resource but I found many new friends through my neighborhood as soon as I moved in

Rod J.: Repeat question: Does Chapel Hill have a subway system?

Denise_KFBS09: No subway. Free buses though

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod - Chapel Hill does not have a subway system. However, the public transportation system is very good.

Ed C.: I had to step out of the room for a few minutes. Is there a way to get a transcription of this session? I copied & pasted what I could but that wasn't everything I was looking for.

Rod J.: Yes ED.

Julie W.: Ed C., here is the link to the chat transcript. It will be posted in about one week: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/....>

Ed C.: Julie, thank you.

Rod J.: Ed, <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/...>

Julie W.: Thanks Rod!

Ryan R.: Thanks to everyone from KFBS for setting up this chat, it has been very helpful to hear what others with spouses are concerned about and get a better feel of what the school will be like.

jose &.: Thanks Enrique and everyone else. you all have been very helpful..look forward to meeting in person this spring!

Dawn: Lopez and Denise... Do either of you plan to study abroad? If so, how do you plan on managing family/children?

Denise_KFBS09: Dawn, I worked in international business before so I am not planning to study abroad. I may try one of the shorter international trips next spring (Global Immersion Electives) but I am already in my internship so I choose not to go that route.

Lopez_KFBS09: Dawn - I am doing a practicum where I will be going to Ecuador for spring break for the project, and then to Brazil in May with the Global Business Project. There are also GIEs, short courses abroad, and exchange programs. I think regarding managing family/children, that would probably change for each student depending on their situation.

Rose: Thank you all for your help!

Shweta: the off-campus housing are mainly independent apts or one stays with landlords?

Jeremy_KFBS08: Shweta - most of the apartment complexes have central management/ownership, but a lot of townhouses and rental houses are independently owned and rented.

Enrique_kfbs09: Does anyone have any more questions or questions that have not been answered?

Haren V.: i do not know if i will get another opportunity to find an audience like this before classes begin, so i want to say that i am thinking of buying a house, converting it into three units and owning them among three of us students, so if anyone is interested mail me at harenvani@gmail.com and i will keep u posted on how its going. btw i am an architect (and haven't been accepted yet)

Meghan G.: Haren, There is a Yahoo Group for Admitted Students. This a great way to connect with newly admitted students and to ask current students questions about their MBA experiences. The link to this Yahoo Group comes with the Admissions Package. MKG

Haren V.: thanks meghan, hope to have that good news soon too

Rod J.: What's the required security deposit?

Rod J.: Generally speaking, what is the required security deposit in the area?

Ed C.: One month's rent or first/last months rent.

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod - I think it's one month's rent.

Denise_KFBS09: I think it depends but usually it is about 1 months rent

Denise_KFBS09: Maybe more if you have pets

Hung-Hsin H.: Hi Enrique, I would like to know the necessity of having insurance for an international student

Enrique_kfbs09: Hung-Hsin - Insurance is highly recommended. I bought my insurance locally, but some international students choose to retain their coverage from their home countries.

Julie W. Hung-Hsin, if you own a car you would need to get car insurance. If you ren an apartment, you should consider renter's insurance to protect your belongings from fire/water damage. I believe we provide local insurance office's phone numbers upon admission in the Admitted Students Binder. There are several local State Farm agents offices.

Hung-Hsin H.: Thanks, Enrique and Julie

Dawn: Thanks everyone. This session was very informative. I hope to see you in person at admitted student weekend!

Haren V.: very true dawn, i think UNC has really been very proactive

Denise_KFBS09: Good luck, Dawn and I look forward to meeting you in April

Lopez_KFBS09 : Good luck Dawn - I look forward to talking to you again in April.

Rod J.: Does UNC provide any Medical Insurance for students?

Denise_KFBS09: There is a medical insurance program but it is not great I hear

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod J. - UNC works with Blue Cross Blue Shield, and as students, we do have a discount.

Kelly S.: UNC does give you an option to purchase your own insurance.

Kelly S.: My husband had better luck getting his own plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield

KCMWhite: I've heard the same as about BCBS.

Haren V.: can you pls give a link of where this chat will be saved for alter, i was constantly getting bumped off

Haren V.: alter = later

Julie W.: Haren, here is the link: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/...>

Haren V.: thanks julie saved it

Rod J.: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/...>

Haren V.: thats great

Ed C. : As a grad student, do student athletic tickets include spouses?

Denise_KFBS09: I think you need a UNC ID to get in on student tickets.

Ed C. : Do spouses get UNC ID's?

Enrique_kfbs09: Ed - yes they do.

Kelly S.: Yes, you do need a student ID to get in with student IDs.

Enrique_kfbs09: Ed - this allows them to use certain campus facilities, like gyms.

Jeremy_KFBS08 : Ed - The student tickets do not work for spouses, but they can usually get into football games easily. For basketball, they offer discounted spouses tickets during a very small window at the beginning of the season.

Denise_KFBS09: Unfortunately, kids do not get in on student tickets for basketball

Lopez_KFBS09: Getting back to an earlier question, with the UNC ID you can get two \$10 tickets to performing arts events on campus (YoYo Ma, Stomp, Cirque Eloise, etc). It is a great deal to see world class performances.

Ed C.: Thanks to everyone regarding the ID question, that helps a lot.

Julie W.: We have about 10 minutes left in the chat. This is a great chance to ask questions on family life at Kenan-Flagler, if there is anything else you would like to know!

Rod J.: How far is Chapel Hill from Raleigh?

Denise_KFBS09: 20 minutes or so

Julie W.: Rod, depending on traffic it can take more like 40 minutes. Denise, you must drive fast!

Kelly S.: Rod - about 20 mins.

KCMWhite:

East and South (still area code 919) West (area code 336)

- Raleigh (outside beltline): 40 min
- Raleigh (inside beltline): 45 min
- Durham - 10-30 minutes
- Morrisville - ~15 minutes
- Cary - 20-35 minutes
- RTP: 20-30 mins
- Carrboro - 10 minutes, along 15-501
- Pittsboro - 25-35 minutes, south • Hillsborough - 10-15 minutes
- Burlington - 30-40 minutes
- Greensboro - 1 hr - 1.25 hrs
- Winston-Salem - 1.5 hours+

Note: These are approximate times from the intersection of 15-501 and I-40 (exit 270), and may vary.

Joshua S.: Can I share my dorm with an undergrad?

Joshua S.: cuz my cousin goes to the music school of unc

Kelly S.: Joshua - I have no idea if you may share your dorm with an undergrad. You can contact UNC Housing for more information. <http://housing.unc.edu/>

Alex_Klairs_KFBS09: Joshua – we don't know the answer to your question. None of us have heard about business school students living in dorms. But you can look at the campus housing website at <http://housing.unc.edu> or call them at 962-5406.

Joshua S.: thanks Alex

Nathaniel J.: Do spouses get in on student tickets?

Denise_KFBS09: Maybe to football. Basketball is difficult

Lopez_KFBS09: Ed - Spouses can pay a small fee to get IDs to use the gym facilities and take free classes like yoga, pilates, aerobics, etc.

Lopez_KFBS09: Ed - there is also a great UNC Ballroom Dancing Club with free classes Monday nights. They host dances - last Saturday they had a Valentine's Day dance in the Student Union.

Shweta: Thanks everyone.

Haren V.: what is the farthest that someone you know is staying from the campus?

Haren V.: do students live in salem for example?

Rod J.: And do they use public transportation?

Julie W.: Haren, Winston-Salem might be too far. That is about 1 1/2 hours.

Denise_KFBS09: There are a couple of people who come in from North Raleigh every day which I guess can be a drive (but I speed)

Jeremy_KFBS08: Haren - I know someone about 45 min away outside of Raleigh. This is definitely not ideal.

Denise_KFBS09 I do not think public transit is a good bet from that far

Kelly S.: Agreed, Denise. I live in Durham, about 15 mins from campus, and I would not want to live any further away than that.

Jeremy_KFBS08 Rod - no, he drives from Raleigh. Outside of CH, you pretty much need to drive.

Haren V.: thanks, Julie, Jeremy

Darpan B.: Denise - do those people coming from Raleigh car pool or do they have individual passes?

Denise_KFBS09: You can get a hardship pass if you are that far away. I have to carpool my kids in the morning so I do not carpool. But I do know people who do from that far.

Lopez_KFBS09: Darpan - Some people actually don't ask for hardship passes because they like traveling in with a carpool.

Darpan B.: Thanks.

Rod J.: How late does the library stay open til?

Denise_KFBS09: The business school building is open I think all night (latest I stayed was about 2 am)

Kelly S.: Rod, the main library on campus, Davis Library, is located on the main UNC campus. It is a good hike from KF; however, it does say open 24 hours most days.

Jeremy_KFBS08: Rod - As an MBA student, you don't really have a need for the library. Most of your work is online or in business cases. For study space, the business school has plenty of rooms available through the night (except some holidays).

Lopez_KFBS09: Rod - I do walk over to the main libraries and the main gym - it takes about 10 minutes. It's a pleasant walk.

Lopez_KFBS09: Rod - I go to the undergraduate library's media resource center to rent free DVDs - they have a great selection.

Rod J.: Do any of you live on campus?

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod - I do.

Alex_Klaits_KFBS09 Rod – Yes, I live in Baity Hill which is a five minute walk from the business school.

Julie W.: To Rod and other students, off campus housing is very convenient. For example, many students live in apartment complexes or neighborhoods that are within a 10 minute drive.

Rod J.: In light of Jeremy and Julie's response, Enrique why did you choose on campus housing?

Enrique_kfbs09: Rod - I chose on campus because of the convenience. This way, I walk to school and my wife uses the car when she needs it. Plus, there are a lot of families here, so my daughter has other children to play with.

Denise_KFBS09: As someone who lives a bit far away, I would recommend finding a place close to campus if you can. I get sick of being in the car

KCMWhite: Rod - Keep in mind you can only have one car on Baity Hill and no pets. If that's not a problem then Baity Hill is a great location. Haren V.: thanks

Rod J.: Denise, how far out are you?

Denise_KFBS09: I am about 15 miles away but have a couple of stops each morning to drop off my kids. I am in Cary which is great for families but otherwise quite dull

Julie W.: Since we are nearing the end of the chat, if anyone has a question that did not get answered today, please direct it to the following email address, and someone from Kenan-Flagler will respond: mba_info@unc.edu.

Haren V.: Julie, do you consciously make any attempt to admit a certain percentage of married students or is it incidental? and what percentage is it roughly?

Julie W.: Haren, it is purely incidental who gets admitted because we don't always have that information. I have heard through other chats that approx. 20% of our students are married, but I don't know if that is accurate.

Lopez_KFBS09: Thank you for all joining us today at the chat. I hope we were able to provide a valuable perspective on family life here at Kenan-Flagler.

Julie W.: Thank you for joining us today! We hope to see you in Chapel Hill soon!

Rod J. : Thanks everyone..

Haren V.: thank you everyone, it was wonderful.

Lopez_KFBS09: Thanks and goodbye.

Denise_KFBS09: Hope to see y'all soon!

Ed C.: Chapel Hill is a special place & I look forward to returning soon.

Rod J.: When is the next chat?

Shweta: Looking forward to meet all of you. Thanks again.

Hung-Hsin H.: Thank you all ~~~