

Dear future colleague,

Congratulations on your acceptance at Emory! We hope that you'll come and look forward to studying with you. There are a few things that we think you should know when making your decision—none of which are mentioned in your official acceptance letter:

- **The Pay Gap:** You will have to make it through your first two months in Atlanta without any pay from Emory. **Although orientation and classes start in mid-August, you will receive your first paycheck the last business day in September.** In addition to moving expenses, two months of rent, the cost of textbooks, and any other living expenses, **Emory requires you make your first student fees payment when you arrive in August.**
- **Atlanta's living wage is \$24,930,** but many graduate students only make \$24,000/year, and that's before the \$1,118/year we pay back to Emory for student fees. The neighborhood around Emory is expensive and public transportation in Atlanta is notoriously insufficient. As a result, many graduate students are forced to drive to campus where **a yearly parking pass at Emory costs \$672.**
- **Many departments place restrictions on holding a second job.** Your department may limit the number of hours you can work, what type of employment you can hold, or they may bar you from working altogether. **International students should know that there is not enough on-campus employment** (permitted by your visa) to meet demand.
- **You will be responsible for a significant portion of your medical expenses.** Our health plan includes a **\$150 deductible** and **10% co-pay** (full details [here](#)). Some dental work will require you to pay an even higher percentage. There is **no vision coverage.**
- Because we have no contract **all of this can be changed unilaterally by the administration without warning. Entire departments or graduate programs have been eliminated,** pursuant to decisions made behind closed doors by administrators. In the past five years, our vision, dental, and dependent coverage was taken away from us. It was only after years of efforts by graduate students that we got our dental and dependent coverage back.

That being said, Emory can be a wonderful place to study. It is unfortunate that the administration does not do more to support its graduate students, but you will find similar problems at many other institutions. We don't want to deter you from coming—we just want you to have the information you need to make an informed decision.

Sincerely,

EmoryUnite!

Emory's Graduate Student Union

<http://emorygradunion.org>