Florien Rusu, a Ph.D. student majoring in computer science at UF. He is from Romania and has been in the U.S. for more than 3 years.
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Florien: "Studying in the U.S.! Oh, that's great experience, at least how you look (at it) before you come here. But when you get here, you see that the things are not exactly how you expected initially. Eh, for example, you expect everything to be great (and) amazing. But it was not like that because there were a lot of things you have to do for your study. The classes were really nice and the professors are much better than I expected to be. The work I had to do at beginning was very interesting. Actually, for my first semester here, I took a lot of classes, 3 courses. I have to do a lot of work. I spare my entire time working, I will say.

Again, when you come here, you don't have lots of friends. So, you should make friend. Usually, you do that with your classmates, I will say, because those are the people you meet often. Then you want to make friends with people from the same country as you are. There are lots of associations at UF for all a lot of nationality. And that's good. That's the good way to find people speaking the same language as you.

My experience (living pressure) was eased by my advisor (with the help) searching for an apartment where to live, driving me around to buy necessary stuffs. I got lots of help from him. So, it was easier.

The life in Gainesville is a lot different from the place where I came. Here, you cannot see lots of people walking in the street. Everyone uses car. There was a shock initially. Because wherever I wanted to go, there have to be a car. (But) majority of people (international students) don't have cars at the beginning. So you have to use buses. Waiting as the bus schedule, (but) the bus is not coming. That's difficult.

What else, the food, eh, that's interesting. I did not cook before I stay here. I had to get used to American food. Eating out, eh, yah, interesting! But you get used to all these things. So I would say, I would say, that at the beginning, you have a shock. But you can adapt yourself. And in time you will learn more and more. You gonna finally like it. That's my opinion. "