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## 100 best places to live and launch

### 47. Gainesville

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**Population:** 95,392  
**Pros:** Major research university, bucolic setting  
**Con:** Distant airports

With its 50,000 students, the highly rated University of Florida is Gainesville's big gator. The university spins off knowledge-based small business of all types. Some cluster around the three major medical centers, while others aggregate around the [Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator](#), which has launched 36 biotech companies in the past 12 years.



COURTESY: GAINESVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

• Talk back: What do you think of Gainesville?

Despite all this intellectual firepower, Gainesville remains a rather sleepy and out-of-the-way burg. It's a great place to live if you love the outdoors and don't mind driving 90 minutes to Jacksonville - or two hours to Tampa for a flight. -*Peter Galuszka*

**Interactive map: Gainesville**  
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NEXT: 48. Corvallis, Ore.



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