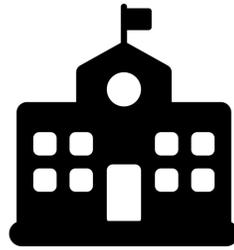


INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS (ISCA)
PRESENT:



HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS (ISCA)

The ISCA's are international students (just like you!) who are committed to helping you make the most of your time here at GW! We serve as peer mentors to newly admitted students and are here to answer any questions you have about GW, living in D.C., and many more. You can ask us anything! We also provide advising (on career and general issues) and host events (professional, cultural, and social) specifically for all international students.

As international students ourselves, we recognize the challenges of figuring out your housing situation in a new country from thousands of miles away and created this handout to make this process easier for all incoming international students. This handout contains information from the ISCA's' in-depth research and personal living experiences in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

We are so glad you decided to join us at GW and cannot wait to meet you soon!

Signed,
The International Student Community Ambassadors (ISCA)
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GW HOUSING

As a sector of the GW Center for Student Engagement, GW Housing supports the academic experience of residential students by providing safe, scholarly-oriented communities. It also manages all aspects of the university's three-year residency requirement and summer housing program and offers a residential environment where students have opportunities to grow and develop into leaders, value civility and respect, and thrive as members of the GW community.

NOTE:

- GW requires all **freshmen, sophomores, and juniors** to live on-campus but **seniors** can have the opportunity to either continue living on-campus or live off-campus by enrolling in the lottery system.
- There is only one on-campus housing option for **graduate students**. However, there are multiple off-campus housing options for graduate students to explore (see Page 5).

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Undergraduate Housing

FOGGY BOTTOM CAMPUS		
1959 E Street	2109 F Street	District House
Fulbright Hall	Guthridge Hall	FSK Hall
International House	JBKO Hall	Lafayette Hal
Madison Hall	Mark Shenkman Hall	Mitchell Hall
Munson House	Philip Amsterdam Hall	Potomac House
South Hall	The Dakota	Thurston Hall
MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS		
Clark Hall	Cole Hall	Hensley Hall
Merriweather Hall	Philip Amsterdam Hall	Somers Hall
West Hall		

Graduate Housing

- The Aston

*For additional on-campus housing details (floor plans, housing rates, location, etc.), visit <https://living.gwu.edu/residence-halls>.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Apartment Searching

When looking for a new home in the District of Columbia (D.C.)-metropolitan area, there are several factors that you should consider in your decision-making process:

- **Price:** As a general rule, the farther away from the city, the less expensive the cost of housing will be. There are also trade-offs when deciding whether to live closer or further away from a metro stop, because proximity to a metro stop may impact the cost of housing.
- **Area:** Consider the neighborhood you're evaluating based on your lifestyle and the kind of community in which you want to live. Do you want to live near outdoor spaces, shopping centers, or around city nightlife?
- **Safety:** Check the area you are looking to rent during the day and night to ensure you are aware of the neighborhoods' levels of safety. Give preference to apartments that offer Controlled entry access to its residents.
- **Utilities & Facilities:** Check for amenities offered by the apartments to its residents that are included in the rent, like 24 hour fitness facility, laundry services/ shared laundry rooms/ in- unit washer dryer, energy efficient kitchen appliances, in-unit dishwasher, individual room-controlled thermostats, closet space, storage space etc.
- **Commute Time:** Consider the cost, time, and convenience of whether or not you need to use public transportation to get to work and campus.
- **Parking:** If you own a car, consider the cost of parking the car in a garage, daily or the challenge of finding street parking in a city. Oftentimes you will need to pay extra per month for a parking spot in your apartment building or residential area.

Getting Around the District

Living in an urban setting affords those living in and around the District with several ways to travel across the city and into southern Maryland and Northern Virginia. One of the primary methods of public transportation is the **Metrorail**, which consists of five different colored lines (**Red, Blue, Orange, Green, and Yellow**) serving distinct areas of the D.C.-metropolitan area. In case you have to commute from Virginia or Maryland to campus for over 18 trips per week, the monthly pass is a very economical solution to your travel needs. Remember that if you apply for a [monthly pass](#) any day between the 1st and 15th of the month, it is valid for that month, else, it will be valid for the following month. In addition to Metrorail, [Metrobus](#) is another method of transportation across the District. Bus stops are located throughout the district and routes and schedules can be found on their website. Finally, another means of public transportation is the [D.C. Circulator](#) which operates routes that provide access to Georgetown, Woodley Park-Adams Morgan, and Navy Yard.

In addition to public transportation, many GW students choose to bring their own bicycles or invest in a [Capital Bikeshare membership](#), which allows students to rent bikes and pick them up from stations located throughout the D.C. area. You can even opt for **Electric scooters** like Spin, Lyft, Lime, Bird etc which is a very fun way to commute in D.C.

If you don't own a car, two primary modes of **urban car rentals** exist through memberships with [Car2Go](#) or [Zipcar](#), both of which typically offer student discount rates. A member can reserve and rent a car by the hour for travel locally within the D.C. area instead of using public transportation.

Getting to Know the District & Surrounding Areas

The District consists of many neighborhoods that range in history, culture, and modernization across the city. A rule of thumb when traveling the District is to remember that the numbered streets go from north to south, lettered streets go east to west and diagonal streets are states. The District is divided up into four quadrants: Southwest, Southeast, Northwest, and Northeast.

- **Southwest D.C.**

Otherwise known as the Capitol Waterfront, this area of D.C. includes residential areas as well as many federal office buildings. Some better-known attractions of this area are the National Mall grounds, Maine Avenue Fish Market, and Hains Point. Metro Blue and Orange lines primarily serve Southwest D.C.

- **Southeast D.C.**

Southeast D.C., which has a mixed population of politicians, professionals, and students, is popularly known as "Capitol Hill." Other prominent features of this quadrant are RFK Stadium, Nationals Stadium Ballpark, and Eastern Market. The Metro Green, Orange, and Blue lines primarily serve the Southeast area.

- **Northeast D.C.**

This area is home to many students due to the proximity of Catholic University, Howard University, and Gallaudet University. Generally, housing options are less expensive and the area is very accessible by public transit. Better known features of Northeast D.C. include Union Station and the rapidly developing area known as "NoMa" (or North of Massachusetts Avenue), which includes residential, commercial, and retail spaces. The Metro Red line primarily serves Northeast D.C.

- **Northwest D.C.**

The George Washington University and the Foggy Bottom-area are located in this quadrant. Other places to explore in this quadrant include Georgetown, Dupont Circle, the U Street corridor, and Woodley Park and Adams Morgan neighborhoods. As the largest quadrant, all Metro lines serve various parts of the Northwest quadrant except notably Georgetown, which is primarily accessible via the Circulator or Metrobus.

Other areas of note to become familiar with, are popular locations to live in Northern Virginia or Southern Maryland due to the less expensive cost of housing outside of the District.

- **Northern Arlington, Virginia**

Accessible via the Metro Orange Line, Northern Arlington has a number of neighborhoods that attract students and young professionals. Some of the popular neighbourhoods include, but are not limited to, Court House, Clarendon, and Ballston. Housing ranges widely from high-rises to more residential properties. Being in a less urban setting allows for immediate access to grocery, home improvement, and other retail store chains.

- **Southern Arlington, Virginia**

Accessible via the Metro Blue Line, Southern Arlington also has a number of student favorite neighborhoods such as Crystal City or Pentagon City. Housing tends to be of the high-rise and apartment type, although many residential properties do exist. Features of this area include the Pentagon, Pentagon City Shopping Center, and the Crystal City Shops. There is also a great deal of chain retail outlets in the immediate area as well as for grocery, home improvement, and other lifestyle needs.

- **Alexandria, Virginia**

Alexandria is home to D.C. transplants as well as established D.C. families. A better known area in Alexandria is Old Town, a restored colonial area with shops and restaurants. However, Alexandria does provide a wide range of housing options as well as a wide range of cost of housing depending on the location. Alexandria is accessible by both the Metro Blue and Yellow lines, making it easy to commute in and out of the District via public transportation.

- **Silver Spring, Maryland**

Silver Spring serves as the primary urban area in Montgomery County and its revitalization has ushered in a diverse mix of people. It contains many reasonably priced apartments. In recent years the Downtown area has been revitalized with an eclectic mix of entertainment, restaurants, and shopping centers. Silver Spring is located on the Red Line of the Metrorail.

- **Bethesda, Maryland**

Just north of the District, Bethesda is home to the National Institute of Health, National Naval Medical Center, and the headquarters of both Marriott International and the Lockheed Martin Corporation. Bethesda is best known for its large number of restaurants. There are many apartment buildings and condominiums in downtown Bethesda. This lively urban community is located near two metro stops on the Red line (Bethesda and Medical Center).

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING OPTIONS IN D.C.

APARTMENTS	DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS	PRICE RANGE
Circle Arms	8 minute walk	Varies
Columbia Plaza Apartments (no guarantors required)	10 minute walk	\$1,600 - \$4,000
Elise Apartments	7 minute walk	\$1,725 - \$5,200
Empire Apartments	5 minute walk	\$1,460 - \$1,640
Jefferson House Condominiums	7 minute walk	\$1,700 - \$2,000
Potomac Park	5 minute walk	\$1,475 - \$2,600
Residences on the Avenue	4 minute walk	\$2,700 - \$7,000
The Bond Apartments	10 minute walk	\$1,800 - \$3,000
The Flats at Dupont Circle Apartments	11 minute walk	\$2,135 - \$4,015
The President Condominiums	2 minute walk	\$1,200 - \$1,450
The Savoy	7 minute walk	\$1,675 - 4,500
The Statesman	5 minute walk	\$1,535 - \$2,213
The York	6 minute walk	\$1,600 - \$2,300
The 925 Apartments	9 minute walk	Starting from \$1,774
Varsity on K (no guarantors required)	8 minute walk	\$2,350 - \$6,000
West End Apartments	13 minute walk	\$1,900 - \$4,000
2400 M Apartments	11 minute walk	\$2,300 - \$5,600
2400 Penn Avenue Apartments	8 minute walk	\$1,880 - \$1,975

HOUSING OPTIONS OUTSIDE D.C.

VIRGINIA	MARYLAND
Approximately 20 minutes to Foggy Bottom via Metrorail	Approximately 30 minutes to Foggy Bottom via Metrorail
Capstay - Washington DC Intern Housing & Student Housing	Portico at Silver Spring Metro
Crystal House	Heritage at Silver Spring Apartments
Crystal Place Apartments	Solaire Silver Spring
Crystal Plaza	The Point at Silver Spring
Crystal Towers	Silver Spring Towers
Potomac Towers	The Veridian Apartments
River House	Rock Creek Springs
River Place South	Eleven55 Ripley
The Buchanan	Fenwick Apartments
1800 Oak Apartments	1200 East West

Additional Off-Campus Housing Tips!

- **Only rent from a licensed landlord** as D.C. law requires that property owners obtain a Basic Business License (BBL) from the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (D.C.RA) in order to legally rent their property.
- **Read your lease and understand what your responsibilities are when you sign it.** A written lease protects both you and your landlord by clarifying the rights and obligations of each party. A tenant's lack of awareness of the obligations agreed to in the lease does not release the tenant from those obligations. Any changes or additions to the lease should be agreed to by both parties. These changes should appear in the lease before it is signed, and should be initialed by both you and the landlord. A rider or addendum may be attached to the lease and should be signed and dated by both parties.
- Some landlords do require a cosigner **for those under the age of 21 or for tenants who have never rented before**. So, you should be prepared with the cosigner's information if you think this will apply to your situation.
- To avoid surprises, obtain written copies of all your agreements and make sure you understand your obligations. It is a best practice to **keep a copy of your lease** in a safe place with a copy of the signatures of both you and your landlord in the event an issue or concern later arises.
- The DC Housing Regulations state that apartments and their furnishings must be "in a clean, safe and sanitary condition." It is important, therefore, that you **ask a prospective landlord permission to inspect an apartment before you sign a lease, pay rent, or make a security deposit**.

***For additional off-campus housing resources, visit**
<https://offcampus.students.gwu.edu/begin-your-search>.

Good luck!

WELCOME TO GW
