



HOUSING OPTIONS

FOR

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



International Student
Community Ambassadors

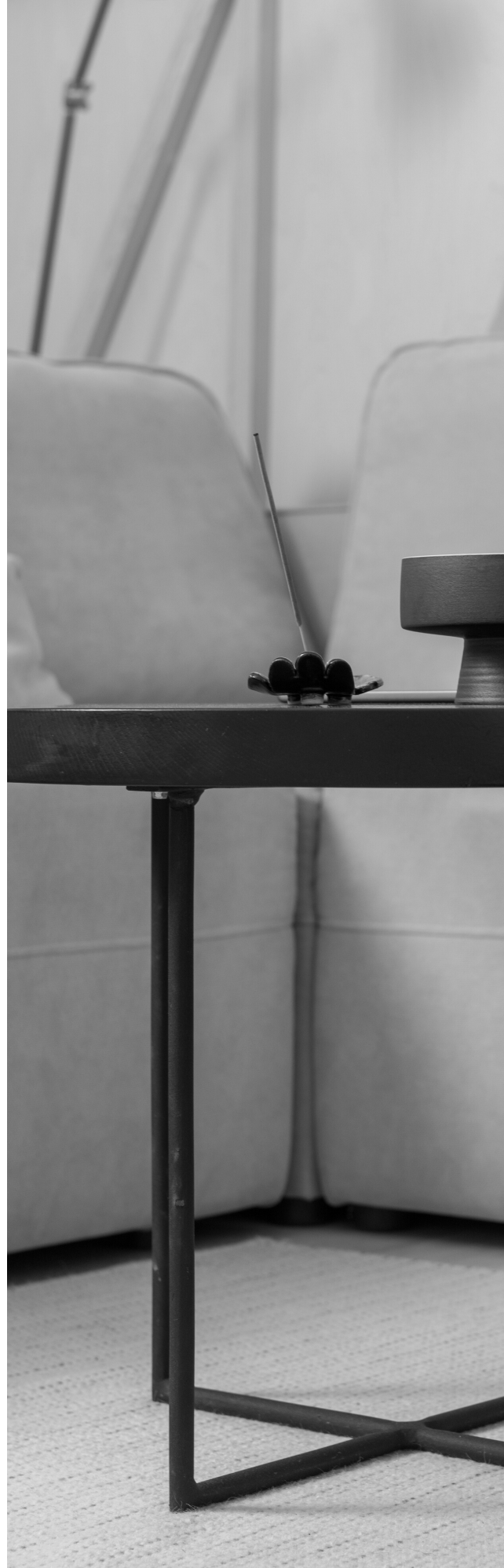


International
Services Office

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International Student
Community Ambassadors



Welcome.

The ISCAs 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 ISCAs' in-depth research and personal living experiences in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

**meet
the
ISCAs.**

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

Signed,
International Student Community Ambassadors
(ISCA)



GW Housing

For: Undergraduate Students

The Campus Living & Residential Education (CLRE) team is dedicated to supporting students' learning through fostering vibrant residential communities. Through the services the CLRE provides, including on-campus housing facilities, residential programs, and student leadership opportunities, the CLRE seeks to create opportunities to engage in meaningful connections, continue self-discovery, and become responsible leaders in local and global communities.

GW requires all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to live on-campus but seniors have the opportunity to either continue living on-campus or live off-campus by enrolling in the lottery system.

GW is not currently able to offer housing to graduate, law, medical, and professional students. However, there are multiple off-campus housing options for graduate students to explore (see next section)

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



Off-Campus

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 neighborhood's 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 a 24-hour fitness facility, laundry services/ shared laundry rooms/in-unit washer dryers, energy efficient kitchen appliances, in-unit dishwashers, 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

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 serving distinct areas of the D.C.-metropolitan area. U•Pass® is a partnership between The George Washington University and Metro that enables enrolled, full-time GW students at any level to obtain a U•Pass® card for unlimited trips on Metrorail and Metrobus during the academic year. For more information visit <https://business-services.gwu.edu/upass>.

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 services like Zipcar, some 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.

Know the District.

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.

Northern Arlington, Virginia

Accessible via the Metro Orange Line, Northern Arlington has a number of neighborhoods that attract students and young professionals. 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. There are also a great deal of chain retail outlets in the immediate area as well as 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. 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. Silver Spring is located on the Red Line of the Metrorail.

Bethesda, Maryland

Bethesda is home to the National Institute of Health, the National Naval Medical Center, and the headquarters of both Marriott International and the Lockheed Martin Corporation. There are many apartment buildings and condominiums in downtown Bethesda.

A Few Options.

WITHIN D.C.

- [Circle Arms](#)
- [Columbia Plaza Apartments](#)
- [Elise Apartments](#)
- [Empire Apartments](#)
- [Jefferson House Condominiums](#)
- [Potomac Park](#)
- [Residences on the Avenue](#)
- [The Bond Apartments](#)
- [The Flats at Dupont Circle Apartments](#)
- [The President Condominiums](#)
- [The Savoy](#)
- [The Statesman](#)
- [The York](#)
- [The 925 Apartments](#)
- [Varsity on K](#)
- [West End Apartments](#)
- [2400 M Apartments](#)
- [2400 Penn Avenue Apartments](#)



WITHIN VIRGINIA

- [Crystal House](#)
- [Crystal Place Apartments](#)
- [Crystal Plaza](#)
- [Crystal Towers](#)
- [Potomac Towers](#)
- [River House](#)
- [River Place South](#)
- [The Buchanan](#)
- [1800 Oak Apartments](#)

WITHIN MARYLAND

- [Portico at Silver Spring Metro](#)
- [Heritage at Silver Spring Apartments](#)
- [Solaire Silver Spring](#)
- [The Point at Silver Spring](#)
- [Silver Spring Towers](#)
- [The Veridian Apartments](#)
- [Rock Creek Springs](#)
- [Eleven55 Ripley](#)
- [Fenwick Apartments](#)
- [1200 East West](#)

Please note that these are third party services and we cannot guarantee their quality and/or availability. These are apartment buildings that past international students have recommended. Please contact the properties directly with any questions or concerns.



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 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 offcampus.students.gwu.edu

CONTACTS.



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