

GW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' WELCOME GUIDE

COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

WHERE DO I FIND OUT WHICH BOOKS I NEED?

Check your class syllabus! Your professors will usually give you a list of which books are required and which are optional. They will also tell you whether you need a specific edition of the textbook.

RENT OR BUY?

It depends! Do you need the book for longer than one semester or do you need it for a couple of months? If it is **only for a semester** and you are interested in saving money, choose to **rent** your textbooks. If you need it for a **year or longer**, you might want to consider **buying** your own copy of the book.

CHECK YOUR LIBRARY FIRST!

Before running to the GW bookstore or Amazon to buy or rent your textbooks, **check the Gelman Library**. They may not have every book you need but they will have some of them and **you can check them out for free!** However, don't forget to return them by the due date.

DOWNLOAD OCCUPY THE BOOKSTORE

Occupy the Bookstore is a **free Google-Chrome add on** that makes your online books search so much easier! Add the extension to your browser, go to University Bookstore, and look up the books you need. Click on the link for each specific book and you'll get a **comprehensive list of different places to buy the book from, sorted by price!**

AMAZON PRIME STUDENT

All GW students are eligible for a free Amazon Prime account (Amazon.com), which gives you access to all college textbooks!

CHEGG.COM

Chegg is a very popular online source for the sale and rental of textbooks. The prices are unbeatable and you can either buy new or used textbooks.

TIP: Share your books with your friends!

BANKING OPTIONS

Bank	Location	Benefits
Discover (Cashback Checking)	discovercard.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No monthly, minimum balance, or incoming wire fees. Earn 1% cash back on up to \$3,000 purchases each month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to over 60,000 no-fee ATMs in the U.S.
Chase (Total Checking)	chase.com 1401 New York Ave, NW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$12 monthly fee but can be avoided by receiving \$500 in direct deposits each month. Enjoy up to \$200 when you open a new account. Features paperless statements, text banking, and fraud monitoring.
Citibank (Basic Checking)	citibank.com 2221 I Street, NW, Suite 400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum checking deposit and no overdraft or ATM fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10-\$30 monthly fee. Interest can be earned on your checking account balance.
Bank of America (Core Checking)	bankofamerica.com 2001 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, FRNT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$12 monthly fee can be waived for college students under age 24. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are protected by \$0 liability guarantee.

Caution! Please contact individual banks for more information. For information on International Payment options, please visit studentaccounts.gwu.edu/international-payments.

SELECT SERVICES AND CONTACTS

International Services Office (ISO)	Immigration, adjustment, and advocacy support for all international students	internationalservices.gwu.edu • 202-994-4477 iso@gwu.edu
GW Career Services	Career and professional development support and resources	careerservices.gwu.edu • 202-994-6495 gwcareercenter@gwu.edu
Title IX	Prohibits gender-based discrimination in all aspects of education	knowyourix.org OR visit haven.gwu.edu/gw-policies-title-ix • 202-994-7222
GW Campus Advisories	Health, emergency, alerts and warnings	campusadvisories.gwu.edu
GW Police	EMeRG, victim services, lost and found, Operation ID, Honor Guard, Threat Assessment Team	safety.gwu.edu/safety-tips • 202-994-6110
Alert DC	Web notifications, emergency alerts, flood, and injury warnings	@GWAAlert
GW4RIDE	Free and safe transportation throughout the Foggy Bottom campus	transportation.gwu.edu/4ride
Pro Bono Legal Advice	Free law service	probono@law.gwu.edu
EMeRG	On-campus medical service	Call 202-994-5300 to book an appointment. Available 24/7
Academic Commons	One-stop shop for academic services and support across campus	academiccommons.gwu.edu
Self-Defense Classes	Free for GW students	safety.gwu.edu/training
Lost and Found	Collection of lost and found items	Rome Hall 101 (801 22nd Street, NW) 202-994-6948 • lostandfound@gwu.edu
GW PAL	Free app as a mobile silent alarm that can alert the GW Police Department if you are in trouble and send them your exact location	Visit the App Store online or Google Play to download.

GETTING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID

STEP 1: APPLICATION FORM*

- Complete application online and bring it to DMV (DC, VA)
- Submit a SAVE Verification Request online (MD)

STEP 2: COMPILE YOUR SOURCES OF PROOF

(Please use the online document guide to help you determine the documents accepted as sources of proof.)

A. Proof of Identity

- Unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired U.S. visa
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Unexpired I-94

B. Proof of Social Security

- Original Social Security card bearing applicant's name, Social Security number, and signature
- OR if you have not been issued one, a letter of ineligibility for a Social Security number will be required from Social Security Administration (SSA)

C. Proof of Residency (at least 2 items)

DC (within the last 60 days)

- Bank/credit card statement
- Unexpired rental lease
- Utility bill (water, gas, electric, or cable) with name and address
- Telephone bill with name and current address

MD

- Insurance card or policy
- Residential rental contract
- Checking, savings, or financial account statement
- Credit card statement
- Utility, telephone, or cable/satellite TV bill

VA (within the last 60 days)

- Monthly bank or credit card statement
- Utility bill issued to the applicant (cell phone bills are NOT accepted)
- Deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, or residential rental/lease agreement
- Postmarked mail displaying the applicant's name and address

D. Proof of Ability to Drive

(Check with the DMV or MVA to see if you can convert your foreign driver's license without taking the driver's tests.)

- **DC Applicants:** Valid out-of-country driver's license. You must take and pass the DC DMV knowledge and vision tests. A certified translation is required for an out-of-country driver's license not written in English (*International licenses are not acceptable*).
- **MD Applicants:** If you have an out-of-country license, it will be required to be accompanied by an international driver's license or translated into English by an approved MVA translator.

















STEP 3: GO TO THE DMV OR MVA TO TAKE YOUR TESTS AND APPLY

- Go to DMV or MVA to take the tests needed for your driver's license.
- Don't forget to check the accepted payment methods before you go!

*Before applying, please always refer to the websites: DC: dmv.dc.gov, Maryland: mva.maryland.gov, Virginia: dmv.virginia.gov. You can also call or go to the DMV/MVA to confirm your eligibility and required documents.



PHONE PLANS & SERVICES

Phone Service / Coverage	Location	Price / Month	Plan	International Service
Verizon   	1736 L Street, NW	\$75 - \$95	Unlimited Talk and Text and Data	Free calls/texts to Mexico and Canada
Sprint    	1208 18th Street, NW	\$20 - \$55	Unlimited Talk and Text and 10GB Data	
T-Mobile    	1850 K Street, NW	\$41 - \$75	Unlimited Talk and Text and 5GB Data	International calls = 20c/min
AT&T   	1050 Connecticut Ave, NW	\$30 - \$55	Unlimited Talk and Text and 1GB Data	
CT Excel  	Internet	\$30 - \$50	Unlimited Talk and Text and 3GB Data	Free calls/texts to Asia, Canada, and Mexico

 Family plans available without SSN

 Student discount available

 Coverage

SAFETY TIPS

WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- DROP to the ground.
- Take COVER by getting under a study desk or table.
- HOLD ON to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HEAR A FIRE ALARM

- The Fire Alarm System is designed to provide early warning.
- NEVER ignore the alarm.
- Evacuate the building through the safest and closest exit.
- NEVER use an elevator to exit.
- Once outside, never reenter the building until you are told to do so.

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

All members of the university community, as well as visitors, are prohibited from possessing firearms, explosives, or weapons on the university premises without the explicit advance authorization of the university, regardless of whether a federal or state license has been issued.

CONNECT WITH THE ISCA's!

We are international students JUST LIKE YOU and we provide advising on ALL issues (including career and acculturation) to GW international students!

DROP-IN ADVISING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11am - 1pm
Marvin Center, 5th Floor





CAREER LAB HOURS

Monday - Friday
4pm - 5pm
Marvin Center, 5th Floor
Resource Room

WEEKEND ADVISING HOURS

Saturdays
2pm - 5pm
Gelman Library Room 218A

CONNECT

 gwisca@email.gwu.edu
 / GWUISCA
 @gw_isca
 @GW_ISCA

GROCERIES AND ESSENTIALS

SUPERMARKETS

Aldi - DC/MD/VA
Giant Food - DC/MD/VA
Glen's Garden Market - DC
Harris Teeter - DC/MD/VA
IKEA - MD/VA
Roots Market - MD
Walmart - DC/MD/VA

CVS*

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
2550 Virginia Ave., NW
2125 E Street, NW
4859 MacArthur Blvd., NW
1990 K Street, NW
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Euro Foods International - VA
Glen's Garden Market - DC
Good Fortune Market - VA
Great Wall - VA
H Mart - MD/VA
Jumbo Food - MD
La Union Grocery - VA
Lotte Mart - MD/VA
Panam International* - DC

7-11* Mitchell Hall/514 19th Street, NW
FoBoGro* 2140 F Street, NW
GNC Live Well* 1754 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Grow Garden* Across from Amsterdam Hall
GW Delicatessen* 2133 G Street, NW
Foggy Bottom Freshfarm Market*
I Street Mall, NW
Trader Joe's* 1101 25th Street, NW
Safeway* 4865 Arthur Blvd., NW
1885 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Whole Foods* 2200 I Street, NW

*Close to Foggy Bottom and GWorld Card accepted



MAP OF DC AND GW



AFFORDABLE RESTAURANTS

ASIAN

- Asia 54 \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Chalin's Restaurant \$\$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Donburi \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- I-Thai Restaurant & Sushi Bar \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Kaz Sushi Bistro \$\$\$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Laoban Dumplings \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Mai Thai \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Miss Saigon Restaurant \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- One Fish, Two Fish \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Penn Grill \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Pho 75 (Cash Only) \$ 🍴 🚶
- Poppa Box \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Rakuya \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Shanghai Lounge \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Sichuan Express (International Food Court) \$ 🍴 🚶
- Signature Bibimbap (International Food Court) \$ 🍴 🚶
- Teashi (Shenkman Hall) \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Toryumon Japanese House \$\$ 🍴 🚶

SOUTH ASIAN

- Bindaas \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Flavors of India \$\$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- (15% off with Student ID)
- Rasoi Indian Kitchen \$\$ 🍴 🚶 GW

AFRICAN

- Nando's PERI-PERI \$\$ 🍴 🚶

ETHIOPIAN

- Das Ethiopian \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Keren Restaurant \$\$ 🍴 🚶 🚗

EUROPEAN

- Bistrot du Coin \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Crepe-N-Cream \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Flavio Restaurant \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- il Canale \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Jaleo \$\$\$ 🍴 🚶 🚗
- Point Chaud Café & Crêpes \$ 🍴 🚶 GW
- Supra \$\$ 🍴 🚶

MEDITERRANEAN

- CAVA \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Roti Modern Mediterranean \$ 🍴 🚶 GW

MEXICAN

- Baja Fresh \$ 🍴 🚶
- Julia's Empanadas \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Mission \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Zen Taco \$ 🍴 🚶

MIDDLE EASTERN

- George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak \$ 🍴 🚶
- Moby Dick House of Kabob \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Muncheez \$\$ 🍴 🚶
- Yafa Grille \$ 🍴 🚶

Food at your fingertips: Yelp, Ritual, Eat24, Uber Eats, Grubhub

🚶 - Walk 🚗 - Bus 🚇 - Metro 🚗 - Car/Cab
GW: Please always refer to the website dining.gwu.edu or call the restaurants directly to confirm that the GWorld Card is accepted.





TRANSPORTATION

CAB SERVICES

- Uber
- Lyft
- Via

METRO AND BUS

- WMATA
- Transit
- Moovit

CAR RENTAL SERVICES

- Zipcar
- Enterprise Car Share
- Car2go

GW SERVICES

- 4Ride (free rides around campus)
- Shuttle (to Ashburn and Mount Vernon campuses)

Things to know about the Metro Card:

- You can visit any metro station and get a new card from the vending machine.
- The metro card can be recharged at the stations or online.
- The metro card can be used on the bus services as well as the DC Circulator.

5 FUN THINGS TO DO IN DC

- Enjoy **FREE** concerts at the Kennedy Center at **6pm** every evening.
- Tour the White House.
- There are over 10 Smithsonian museums (including the National Zoo) in DC and admission is **FREE**.
- Spend a day in Georgetown and enjoy great food, movies, boat rides, bowling, and much more.
- Attend events hosted by different GW student organizations. Enjoy **FREE** food, get to know new people, and learn about different cultures.

