

Housing tips for students interning in Washington, D.C.

In choosing where to live in Washington, D.C., interns should consider cost, access to public transportation, and safety.

- Cost of living is very high in Washington, D.C.; however, housing costs typically decrease the farther you are from the downtown area, though in that case, it is important to consider added Metro fees you will be paying by living further away. It may end up worth it and less expensive in the long run to live closer to the city. Also, don't forget about Washington, D.C.'s 14.5% tax on short-term housing, which is not included in the prices listed below unless otherwise noted.
- Cars are discouraged given limited and expensive city parking, so most interns make use of the city's extensive Metro system.
- The city is arranged in quadrants – NE, SE, SW and NW – with the Capitol building at the center of the quadrants. Generally, safety may be a concern when considering housing in northeast D.C. beyond Florida Avenue and southeast D.C. beyond 11th street. When looking into housing in any area, though, be sure to look for security in and near the building.



Popular neighborhoods in and around D.C.

Adams Morgan: Adams Morgan is a diverse urban area with many ethnic restaurants and markets. Moderately priced apartments are common but subject to high demand. Adams Morgan is located on the Red Metro Line at the “Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan” and “Dupont Circle” stations.

Alexandria: Alexandria is located 30-50 minutes outside of downtown D.C. and is home to many students, young adults, and families. The area includes a restored colonial district and a variety of restaurants, bars, and shops. Alexandria is about 30-50 minutes outside of D.C. on the Yellow Line at “Braddock Street” and “King Street” stations.

Arlington: This area offers relatively low-priced housing options that include townhouses, high-rise apartments, and duplexes and is a popular area for undergraduate and graduate students. Arlington is near a variety of restaurants and shops, including Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Arlington is located on the Blue, Yellow and Orange lines and is serviced by numerous Metro stops, and residents can expect a 20-45 minute commute to downtown D.C.

Bethesda: Neighborhoods in Bethesda are at the Maryland border and are located 25-45 minutes on the Red Line from downtown D.C. Rental rates are relatively high, and housing opportunities are limited, but there may be options such as renting a room in a group house or renting a basement apartment in a private home.

Capitol Hill: This area is at the epicenter of activity and encompasses the U.S. Capitol Building as well as other federal and governmental offices. Rental rates on Capitol Hill vary widely. While affordable and safe housing is available, it is rented out quickly. Capitol Hill is served by the Blue and Orange Metro lines at the “Capitol South” and “Eastern Market” stations.

Cleveland Park: Cleveland Park is a residential area in northwestern Washington, D.C. known for its late-19th century homes and a commercial area along Connecticut Avenue, which features the Art Deco-style Uptown Theater. The Cleveland Park Metro stop on Connecticut Avenue is about a 15-minute ride on the Red Line to the center of D.C.

Dupont Circle: Dupont Circle, south of Adams Morgan along Connecticut Avenue, offers a variety of housing opportunities that include high rises, apartment buildings, and rooms in private homes. The area is known for its lively urban and cultural life. The Red Line and Metro buses run directly through the area.

NoMa: Named for its location North of Massachusetts Avenue, NoMa is a rapidly developing area just blocks north of the Capitol and is home to Union Station and NPR. There are many community events offered regularly in NoMa, like free summer concerts and an outdoor film festival, and the neighborhood is a few stops from the city center on the Metro's Red Line from the NoMa-Gallaudet University Station.

Logan Circle: Located in northern D.C., Logan Circle encompasses two historic districts and is the city's last all-residential circle. Many late-19th century rowhouses have been converted to condos, and the neighborhood is known as one of the most LGBTQ*-friendly neighborhoods in D.C.

Takoma Park: This diverse, artsy Maryland town is just north of D.C. and is located on the Red Line. There tend to be many group housing options in the area, making it a popular spot for young people.

Year-round housing options

Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH)

307 Massachusetts Avenue NE

Phone: (202) 548-2720

Website: internsdc.com/

Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH) offers two basic living arrangements: apartments that house 2-6 interns and offer single or shared bedrooms, and townhomes that offer shared or private rooms and shared common spaces. Housing is offered according to a semester system. Fees for the full semester range from \$4,000-\$7,800 and are dependent on the semester of study and the type of housing selected. Total housing fees for the semester are due prior to check-in and include a fully furnished living space, utilities, cable television, wireless internet, free laundry, monthly cleaning, and 24-hour emergency staffing. Visit their website for a full list of what the fees cover. All WISH locations are Metro accessible. Applications can be found on the WISH website.

The Washington Intern Housing Network (WIHN)

600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

Box 15721

Phone: (202) 579-9446

Website: thewihn.com

The Washington Intern Housing Network offers properties in various locations around D.C. to accommodate interns. The majority of housing offered by WIHN is in row houses, but condominiums are also available. Rates for the entirety of fall term—from August 25 to December 14, 2013—run from \$4,480 for a quad-bedroom condominium to \$6,240 for a single or studio row house, and there are various options offered in-between. All options are fully furnished and include utilities, high speed internet, cable, monthly cleaning of common areas, and applicable taxes.

International Student House

1825 R Street, NW

Phone: (202) 232-4007

Website: ishdc.org/

****Must be 21 years of age or older**

Established in 1936, International Student House is located near Dupont Circle and offers housing opportunities for both international and American students. It provides furnished, dormitory-style housing with educational, cultural, and recreational activities for residents. Monthly costs range from \$1,158 to \$1,634 and include a furnished room (most of which are shared), internet, utilities, use of laundry facilities, and breakfast and dinner. You must be at least 21 years of age to live at the International Student House, and though students are given housing preference, full-time interns are also encouraged to apply. Specific pricing and application information is located on the International Student House website.

Thompson-Markward Hall

Young Woman's Christian Home

235 Second Street NE

Phone: (202) 546-3255

Website: tmhdc.org

****Must be a woman 18 to 34 years of age**

One of the most popular housing options for young women interning in D.C., Thompson-Markward Hall was chartered by Congress as the Young Woman's Christian Home in 1887 and offers partially subsidized housing accommodations to women between the ages of 18 and 34. The hall offers single and double dormitory rooms with shared baths and is located across the street from the Senate Hart Building and within walking distance of other Congressional offices, government agencies, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian museums. Monthly cost is \$935 per person and includes fully furnished, air-conditioned rooms, 24-hour front desk service, utilities, wireless internet, Monday through Saturday breakfast and dinner and Sunday brunch, and use of common areas like a library, recreation room, and sun deck. Room reservations are accepted for a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of two years and require a \$185 nonrefundable reservation fee to be paid once the applicant is offered a room. For the safety of all residents, the home prohibits the use and storage of drugs and alcohol on the premises, and male guests are not allowed above or below the lobby level.

Trinity Washington University

125 Michigan Avenue, NE

Phone: (202) 884-9000

Website: www.trinitydc.edu/special-events/single-rooms/

****Additional options available for summer term only**

Trinity Washington University offers single and double partial suites with phone and internet jacks, two single beds, and a private bathroom to non-Trinity students year-round for \$75 per night or \$350 per week. The cost includes any linen cleaning fees. There are also large partial suites—with phone and internet jacks, two rooms, three single beds, and a private bathroom—available year-round for \$100 per night or \$400 per week. From June 1 through July 27, single and double residence hall rooms with phone and internet jacks that utilize communal bathrooms are available at \$60 per night or \$250 per week with an additional \$10 linen cost. For anyone staying beyond five days, a deposit equal to a week's rent plus a refundable \$150 must be submitted ahead of time to secure the accommodation.

Summer-only housing options

American University

Anderson Hall, 1st Floor
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Phone: (202) 885-3370

Website: american.edu/ocl/housing/crs/summerinternhousing.cfm

American University offers limited residence hall space from May 12 to August 10, 2013. Weekly rates vary on the type of room, and there are five options: a single room that uses a hallway bathroom at \$348/week, a single room in a shared apartment at \$355/week, a double room that uses a hallway bathroom at \$288/week, a double room that uses a semi-private bathroom at \$295/week, and a triple room that uses a hallway bathroom at \$248/week. A two-week minimum stay is required, and interns who stay over 12 weeks will receive 10 percent off their total balance. Housing is Metro accessible and during rush hour, city buses run to downtown every five minutes. Meal plans are available at an extra cost.

George Washington University

Summer & Conference Housing
Administrative Offices
Philip Administration Hall
2350 H Street NW

Phone: (202) 994-6883

Website: summerhousing.gwu.edu/

George Washington University is located in the heart of downtown D.C. in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood, which is in close proximity to the Kennedy Center and World Bank. Long-term housing (21 nights and over) is available between May 26 and August 10, 2013. Room rates range from \$210 to \$434 per person per week and depend on the number of nights stayed and the living arrangement selected. A \$150 nonrefundable administration fee is added to cover other services. Housing is near the Foggy Bottom Metro stop on the Red Line. George Washington University's Housing Resource Center may also be able to assist in finding housing within Greek townhouses that are owned and operated by the university.

Georgetown University

Summer and Conference Housing
100 Harbin Hall

Phone: (202) 687-3001

Website: housing.georgetown.edu/summer/

Georgetown University is located in one of D.C.'s most popular centers for shopping, restaurants, and nightlife. Interns that are not Georgetown University students can live in a double-occupancy room in a townhouse that accommodates 4-5 people at \$2,520 for the term that begins May 25, 2013 and ends August 3, 2013. Housing is not near a Metro stop, but city buses can shuttle interns to and from the nearest Metro station (Foggy Bottom on the Red Line).

The Catholic University of America

620 Michigan Avenue NE
Phone: (202) 319-5000

Website: conferences.cua.edu/summer/

The Catholic University of America is located in northeastern D.C. three miles from the U.S. Capitol Building. Rooms are available from May 19 to August 3, 2013, and rates vary from \$224 per week for a double-occupancy room in traditional-style accommodations to \$329 per week for a single-occupancy room in apartment-style accommodations. Laundry, cable, mail, and 24-hour emergency staff assistance is included. Dining plans can be purchased separately. It is recommended to research the area well before deciding to live in the area, as safety may be an issue.

Gallaudet University

800 Florida Avenue NE
Phone: (202) 651-5255

Website: gallaudet.edu/ResLife/Housing/Visitor_Housing.html

Located in northeastern D.C. about two miles from the U.S. Capitol Building, Gallaudet University offers dorm-style visitor housing to non-Gallaudet students. Two to four people stay in each room, and each room comes furnished with twin-sized beds, desks, chairs, closets, dressers, and night stands. Rooms cost \$210 per week per person.

Howard University

Office of Resident Life
2401 Fourth Street, NW
Phone: (202) 806-6131

Website: howard.edu/residencelife/summerconference/

Housing is available at Howard University from June 1 to August 1; weekly rates for interns total \$245 per week, a fee that includes lodging, linen services, and the use of a micro-fridge. It is recommended to research the area well before deciding to live here, as safety may be an issue. On-campus dining options are available at an additional cost.

Getting around town

Public transportation

The Metrorail is one of the best options for transportation in and around D.C., with five lines that run from just outside D.C.'s city limits to the city center. Different stations have different features, with many incorporating bike racks and lockers and bike- and car-sharing. Metro rates vary depending on the time of day, with peak hours (week-days opening to 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and weekends midnight to closing), and depending on how far you travel. SmarTrip cards cost \$5 and are rechargeable and highly encouraged; use of a paper farecard will result in a \$1 surcharge per trip. The plastic SmarTrip cards also offer discounts when you purchase for an extended amount of days. Extensive bus routes cover the city as well, and fares are less expensive if you pay with a SmarTrip card. If you decide to pay with cash instead, make sure to plan ahead so you have exact change. There are also weekly passes available that allow for unlimited bus travel over a 7-day period. Check out wmata.com for specific information on rail maps, bus routes, and corresponding fares for each.



Biking

Biking is another popular way to get around Washington, D.C., with ridership increasing 80% from 2007 to 2010. Capital Bikeshare is a membership program that provides over 1,800 bikes that can be checked out for a maximum of 24 hours at a time. Membership costs vary from \$7 for 24-hours, \$25 for a month, and \$75 for a full year, plus usage fees that depend on the amount of time the bike is used. The first 30 minutes are always free, and after that, those with monthly and yearly memberships pay lower hourly usage fees. Visit CapitalBikeshare.com for more information.



There are also many bike rental shops around D.C. for those who wish to have a bike for an extended amount of time. Search for [“bike rentals” on Yelp](#) to locate some business options.

Additional resources

Websites and D.C.-area newspapers may also offer additional housing information and opportunities. When using third-party housing sites like some of the ones listed below, be sure to select “short term” and “fully furnished” in the search options.

About.com: Washington, DC
dc.about.com

DC Registry
dcregistry.com

Craigslist: Washington, DC
washingtondc.craigslist.org

The Washington Post
washingtonpost.com/rentals/index

The Washington City Paper
classifieds.washingtoncitypaper.com/washington/index.html/classifieds.html

Move.com
move.com/apartments/main.aspx

RentWave.com
rentwave.com

Sublet.com
sublet.com

ApartmentGuide.com
apartmentguide.com/apartments/District-of-Columbia/Washington/

ApartmentList.com
apartmentlist.com
*Does not have an option to search short-term housing; check with managers at specific buildings to see if there are short-term units available

Housing information was compiled with help from the offices of Senator Ron Wyden and former senator Gordon Smith and Congressman Greg Walden. Neighborhood and transportation information were compiled with help from the following websites: Washington.org, WMata.com, CapitalBikeshare.com, and Bicycling.com. Additional information was provided by the National Capital Area Chapter of the OSU Alumni Association and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin's website “Constituent Services: Intern Guide to Finding Housing in D.C.”