

The OCA Summer Internship Program

Housing Guide



Capitol Hill

Georgetown

Foggy Bottom

Thomas Circle

Adams Morgan

Dupont Circle

Arlington

Columbia Heights

U Street

Takoma Park

Rosslyn

Tenleytown



Bethesda

Mt. Pleasant

Alexandria

Logan Circle

Silver Spring



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I. Introduction

We understand that finding affordable, safe, and well-located housing in a major city combined with a lack of familiarity can be tiresome and discouraging. However we hope this information below will be helpful in your search for housing. Finding housing is a time consuming process and should be started as soon as possible.

II. Neighborhoods

To help you become more familiar with the D.C. area here is a small summary of the neighborhood in the area. There are many housing options throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Remember that there are pros and cons to wherever you decide to live. Generally housing further away from the city center is less expensive, however you must take into account the cost of transportation and travel time. If you own a car, parking is generally about \$10 a day and difficult to find in the city. Metro fares depend on how far you are going; check the transit website for more information <http://www.wmata.com>.

a. Northwest (NW): This is the largest area of the District with diverse neighborhoods that vary. Most of these neighborhoods are both Metrobus and Metrorail accessible.

- **Adams Morgan:** This is an urban area near Dupont Circle and Kalorama, centered around Columbia Roads & 18th St., NW. Adams Morgan has a diverse population, both ethnic & economic - students, young families, diplomatic officials, recent immigrants & longtime residents of the District. The neighborhood is very culturally diverse with many international restaurants & markets, including the Latin Market on Sunday, plus many inexpensive shops & free festivals. Adams Morgan is also referred to as Washington Heights, Dupont Circle North or Mount Pleasant. Housing options and prices vary enormously. Adams Morgan is an easy walk from the Woodley Park stop on Metrorail's Red Line or the U Street-Cardozo stop on the Green Line.
- **Cleveland Park:** Cleveland Park is a well-to-do historic neighborhood of single-family houses and large apartment buildings. While housing is relatively expensive, there are some large apartment buildings on Connecticut Avenue where summer sublets may be possible. The Cleveland Park Metro stop is conveniently located in an attractive area of small stores, restaurants, and a classic movie theater.
- **Dupont Circle:** The Circle is actually the entire area around the intersection of Connecticut and Massachusetts Avenues, surrounded by Foggy Bottom to the south, and Adams Morgan to the north. Dupont Circle is a busy office and luxury shopping area, as well as an urban cultural center. The streets and avenues that radiate from Dupont Circle offer many types of accommodations at various prices, from older high-rises to smaller apartment buildings to basement apartments or private rooms in a home. The neighborhood is conveniently served by Metrorail's Dupont Circle stop on the Red Line.

- **Foggy Bottom:** Foggy Bottom is George Washington University's campus and surrounding neighborhood. Housing is expensive and limited. Advantages to living in this area include a close proximity to the GW campus, The White House, The Kennedy Center, Watergate Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue, museums, government agencies, and national associations. Housing options include high-rise apartments and townhouses. Dupont Circle West and the West End may also be considered part of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. Metrorail's Orange and Blue Lines stop at Foggy Bottom.
- **Georgetown:** Home to one of the city's most popular shopping and nightlife Meccas, Georgetown offers some of DC's highest real estate rates. Many apartments do not rent to students, but instead to government and diplomatic officials. However, townhouses are available to several students willing to share the cost. Also, families occasionally rent rooms or basement apartments out in their private homes. Georgetown is not immediately near a metro rail stop, but there are regularly running city buses. This area, because of its proximity to Georgetown University, has a large student population.
- **Glover Park:** This quiet neighborhood, sometimes referred to as Upper Georgetown is located near the National Cathedral around Wisconsin Avenue. There are plenty of group housing situations in this area, as well as smaller apartments with rent at reasonable rates. Glover Park is not located near a metro rail stop, but there is metro bus transportation nearby. This area tends to be particularly popular with graduate students.
- **Cleveland Park/Woodley Park** - Located conveniently on the Red Line just 15-30 minutes from downtown DC, these are elegant neighborhoods situated near attractions such as the National Zoo, and many shops, restaurants, and bars. They have a variety of housing options, including apartments, group housing, and apartments in private homes.
- **Spring Valley** - This affluent area is also known as Tenleytown, Tenley Circle, or Ward Circle and is home to many American University students. It is located conveniently on the Red Line approximately 20-40 minutes from downtown DC, and is near many stores and restaurants.

b. Neighborhoods: Maryland

- **Bethesda, Maryland:** The downtown of Bethesda is rapidly being developed and has a very urban feeling. The Bethesda stop on Metro's Red Line is centrally located on Wisconsin Avenue. There are many large, new apartment buildings, some of which are rental, but in general the rents in Bethesda will be higher than other neighborhoods in DC and Maryland. There are many restaurants in Bethesda, of all types and price ranges.
- **Silver Spring, Maryland:** Located on the other end of the horseshoe loop of the Red Line on Metro from Bethesda, but not far geographically, Silver Spring is less developed and less upscale than its neighbors in Montgomery County: Chevy Chase and Bethesda. Several large apartment buildings are convenient to

the shopping district on Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue. Metro's Silver Spring stop is central to, and above it all here, where the subway is actually elevated.

- **Takoma Park, Maryland:** Takoma Park is also on the Red Line of Metro, but farther to the east, across the border from the Northeast quadrant of DC. The Takoma Park Metro stop is near a small, low key central shopping area. Takoma Park, also known as the Peoples' Republic of Takoma, prides itself on its liberal reputation as an environmentally conscious, politically liberal neighborhood of comfortable older single-family homes.

c. Neighborhoods: Virginia

- **Alexandria, Virginia:** Alexandria, an attractive historic city, offers a wide price range in housing and a wide variety in types of housing, although many landlords may not advertise in newspapers. Many visitors, young adults, and historic, established families live in Alexandria. The main thoroughfare from DC to Alexandria, Shirley Highway (Memorial and 14th St. Bridges) is very crowded during rush hour. A key attraction of Alexandria is Old Town, a restored colonial area with a wide array of shops, restaurants, and other attractions. The Yellow and Blue Lines on Metrorail make three stops in the Alexandria area.
- **North Arlington, Virginia:** Arlington is an inner suburb of Washington, immediately across the Potomac in Northern Virginia. There are many types of relatively inexpensive housing in North Arlington including townhouses, garden apartments, large high-rises, luxury apartments, duplexes, and individual homes. Rents are typically lower in Virginia than in DC. North Arlington is served by several stops on Metrorail's Orange Line.
- **South Arlington, Virginia:** There are many moderately priced accommodations in South Arlington. As in North Arlington, there are varied types of housing. Crystal City is a section of high-rises off of US Route 1 overlooking the Potomac River and accessible by Metrorail on the Blue Line. A new development of apartment complexes has been built at Pentagon City, adjacent to the Fashion Centre shopping mall and also accessible on the Blue Line.

III. University On-Campus Summer Housing

The following universities offer short-term housing for visiting interns during the summer months. Spaces are limited, so it is advisable to write or call as soon as possible for an application for the upcoming summer.

- **The American University**
Office of Summer Housing and Conferences
Rockwood Building
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20016
Telephone:(202) 885-3370 or (202) 885-1154
Fax:(202)885-1154
E-mail: housing@american.edu
Web site: www.american.edu/other.depts/summer/services/housing.html
Prices range from \$235 to \$410 per week

- **Catholic University of America**
Housing and Residential Services
Cardinal Station
106 Bonaventure Hall
Washington, D.C. 20064
Telephone: (202) 319-5277 or (202) 319-5615
Fax: (202) 319-6725
E-mail: cua-summers@cua.edu
Web site: www.cua.edu
Prices range from \$30 to \$35 per night
- **The George Washington University**
Summer Housing Services
2020 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Box 327
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone:(202) 994-9193
Fax:(202) 994-0353
E-mail: sumhouse@gwu.edu
About \$1890-\$2520 per month
- **Georgetown University**
Conference Camp; Guest Services
103 Harbin Hall Road
Box 571117
Washington, D.C. 20057-1117
Telephone:(202) 687-4560
Fax:(202) 687-4590
E-mail: summerhousing@georgetown.edu
Website: www.georgetown.edu/housing/summer
- **Georgetown Law- Office of Residential Life**
Telephone:(202) 662-9290
Website: www.law.georgetown.edu/reslife/summer/app_directions.html
E-mail: housing@law.georgetown.edu
6/3/06-8/5/06, Apartments \$1,890.00/person (double)- \$2,520.00/person (single)
plus 14.5% DC Sales and Occupancy Tax

- **Howard University**
Office of Residential Life
24014th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20059
Telephone:(202)806-5661
E-mail: Residencelife@howard.edu
- **Gallaudet University**
Summer Programs
Kendall Green
800 Florida Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-3695
Telephone:(202) 651-6090
Fax:(202) 651-6095
- **University of Maryland, College Park**
Resident Life Assignments
Annapolis Hall
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone:(301) 314-7883 or (301) 314-9750
Website: www.resnet.umd.edu

University Off-Campus Housing Referrals

Student housing offices at universities listed below are good sources of information for off-campus accommodations. You can pick their posted listings for housing, but you need to go there in person; no mail or telephone inquiries are accepted.

- **Georgetown University Off-Campus Housing Office**
Harbin Hall, 1st Floor
37th & O Streets NW
Washington, D.C.
Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm
Telephone:(202) 687-8467

Georgetown University Law Center Off-Campus Housing Listings Website:
www.law.georgetown.edu/reslife/offcampus

IV. Non-University Housing Options

- **Institute for Experiential Learning**
In Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
Telephone: 1-800-IEL-0770 or (202) 833-8580
This non-profit organization rents apartments, not used for their own program, to other interns at a rate of \$26 per night. The apartments are dorm/suite shared with four students living in each apartment. All students are either undergraduate or graduate students affiliated with IEL or other intern programs. The apartments

are fully furnished and a shuttle to the Metro is provided, which is also a ten-minute walk away. The complex is close to shopping, restaurants, and Historic Old Town.

- **Washington Intern Foundation (WIF) Housing**

Telephone:(202) 548-5298

E-mail: jbarton@interns.org

Housing is found at a number of close-in Capitol Hill locations. Two basic living arrangements exist: Apartments can accommodate two, three, or four interns and often have shared bedrooms (two interns in one bedroom); Town homes or row houses offer shared or private rooms and shared common spaces. Costs range from \$650 to \$900 per month (per individual) based on living arrangement.

- **The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars**

In Northern Virginia

Telephone: 1-800-486-8921 or (202) 336-7600

E-mail: housing@twc.edu

This non-profit organization rents to students not in their own program to other interns at a rate of \$225 per week. These bed spaces are leased on a space-available basis. The apartments are usually two-bedroom, two-bath, four-person apartments in luxury high rise buildings. Each apartment is fully furnished with local telephone and basic cable TV service provided. Resident assistants and full-time student services professionals are on call 24/7. Each building is a short distance to the Metro.

- **The International Student House**

Telephone:(202) 387-6445

Web site: www.ishdc.org

The International Student House provides permanent dormitory housing for international students and some domestic students as well. They are often booked so be sure to call early.

- **Thompson-Markwood Hall**

Three blocks from the Union Station Metro

2352nd Street NE

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: (202) 546-3255

For women only; all residents must be age 18-34. Thompson-Markwood Hall offers dormitory rooms with shared baths. The cost is \$800 per month which includes 13 meals per week.

- **Bed and Breakfast League, LTD**

PO Box 9490

Washington, D.C. 20016-9490

Telephone:(202) 363-7767

Web site: www.bedandbreakfast.com

Reservation service representing 60 houses throughout the DC area; Price Depends on area available or available housing.

V. Renting 101

a. Here are some suggestions of questions that you should ask when renting:

- On average, how much are the utilities per month?
- Which utilities, such as gas, water, and electricity are included in the rent?
- Are there laundry facilities available, if not are there any near by?
- How much money is required to move in; security deposit, first/last month's rent?
- Is the apartment furnished?
- Is it in close proximity to restaurants, grocery stores, shopping areas, metro, etc.?
- Proximity to public transportation
- Safety of the neighborhood

Additional Advice:

- Many apartments are unfurnished, it is important to keep this in mind when renting an apartment.
- Another housing option in the Washington, D.C. area is shared housing. Usually 4-6 people sharing a large house, splitting rent and utilities. Shared housing typically offers temporary leases, are often pre-furnished, occupied by people in their twenties, are cheaper, and offer a way to meet some people knowledgeable of the area. Housing to share listings can be found in local papers, (Washington City Paper/Washington Post), craigslist.org, and through university off-campus housing referrals.
 - If your college/university has an alumni chapter in the Washington metropolitan area, the office on your campus can provide you with its address or telephone number. The local chapter can be a good source of housing information.
 - Bulletin Boards in local cafes are also good resources but require you to do some legwork.
 - Sometimes landlords do not advertise vacancies in newspapers but post signs on their properties. The best way to find these rentals is to walk or drive through neighborhoods in which you would like to live.
 - Some Realtors are contracted with landlord to rent housing, either in apartments or condominiums. Consult the ads under the real estate heading in the Yellow Pages of a telephone directory to ascertain which Realtors handle rentals.
 - Some of Washington's neighborhoods must be approached with caution. Neighborhoods in Washington can change dramatically from block to block.

Consider both the block where you plan to live and the blocks that you will have to walk through to get there.

b. Money Issues

- **The Security Deposit**

If you are considering renting housing, you'll need to factor in the cost of a security deposit. A security deposit usually equals one month's rent, which you give to your landlord in addition to your first month's rent. Your security deposit is held to pay for any damages which might occur during your occupancy, to pay for cleaning/repairs when you move out (if you don't leave your apartment in satisfactory condition), or to hold if you don't pay your rent. Mainly, the security deposit is an initial expense to consider when renting, one you should get returned provided you fulfill the requirements in your lease when vacating.

- **Average Rent**

The following are monthly rentals of unfurnished apartments that gives you an approximate idea of what you can expect to pay. However, rents vary greatly within the metropolitan DC area.

	DC	MD/VA
Efficiency	\$650 and up	\$550 and up
1 Bedroom	\$750 and up	\$650 and up
2 Bedroom	\$900 and up	\$800 and up
3 Bedroom	\$1500 and up	\$1,200 and up

- **Allow Time for Reference Checks**

Many landlords require reference checks (employer, past rentals, credit rating, and the like) prior to your move-in, so allow time for this. Once a lease is signed, it usually means at least a week before you can move in.

c. Furnishings

One solution for furniture is to rent a furnished apartment or find space in a group house. In addition, Washington has an abundance of lower-priced furniture stores and you may want to investigate leasing furniture rather than buying. The following are a few of the agencies within the metropolitan area. Consult the yellow pages for other listings.

- General Furniture Leasing
1129 20th St., NW, 20036

(202) 296-6555

Leases are available for a period of 3, 6, 9 months or longer. A deposit for the first month's rental fee is required. Locations also in Alexandria and Rockville. Special discounts are available to students. Furniture Renters of America, 2101 L St., NW, 20037, 202/293-9400 or 800/950-5354

This agency rents all types of furniture with flexible leases and rent-to-own options. They also supply house wares and linens, and offer a maid service for separate fees. Another alternative to buying new or leasing furniture is buying secondhand pieces. Be sure to check bulletin boards at area universities for end-of-semester furniture sales or consult newspapers for ads on garage sales, estate closings.

VI. Other Sources

The following web sites, hostels, and books are helpful sources where you can further conduct your search.

- **Craigslist**
This website has a wealth of information and leads that maybe hard to find otherwise. Good furniture deals can be found here as well.
- **Washington City Paper Classifieds**
Washington's hip city paper that offers an invaluable wealth of apartments for rent, highly recommended.
Web site: www.washingtoncitypaper.com
- **Washington Intern Student Housing**
Web site: www.internsdc.com
- **Washington Post/ Apartments.com Listings**
Web site: www.washingtonpost.com
- **Apartment Search**
Dupont Circle
1645 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (800) 260-3733 or (202) 737-7386
- **Sublet Information**
Web site: <http://www.thesublet.com>
- **HomeStay**
Web site: <http://www.homestaydc.com>

- **DC Pages**
Web site: http://dcpages.ari.net/Real_Estate/Rental
- **Rent.Net**
Web site: www.rent.net/cgi-bin/chome/RentNet/scripts/home.jsp
- **Roll Call Classifieds**
Web site: www.rollcall.com/classifieds/
- **DC Registry Search**
Washington rentals and provides good information on moving to the area Web site: www.dcregistry.com
- **Roommate Assistant**
Web site: www.roommate-assistant.com
- **The Apartment Connection**
Web site: <http://tac.reslyn.com/fstop.html>

a. Hostels

If you are unable to secure accommodation before you arrive or want to spend some time searching in the city, there are several hostels that offer affordable short-term accommodation (some even offer long-term too). Hostels usually offer dormitory style rooms and private rooms with shared bathrooms and showers. Usually frequented by young travelers, hostels can be a fun and enjoyable place to stay while you look for an apartment.

- **India House Too**
Near Takoma Metro
300 Carroll St NW
Washington, D.C. 20012
Telephone: (202) 291-1195
\$16 per night, \$36 private
- **American Guest House**
Arlington, Virginia
Telephone: (703) 768-0335
E-mail: info@americanguesthouse.com
\$35 per night
- **Washington International AYH Hostel**
1009 11 Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: (202) 737-2333

\$28 per night

- **Columbia Guest House**
Telephone:(202) 265-4006
E-mail: CGHROB@erols.com
\$14-\$19 per night.

b. Books

Recommended to help you become more acquainted with the city once you are here. These offer great information on shopping, dining, entertainment, and loads of other helpful information.

- *Let's Go Washington City Guide*
- *Lonely Planet Washington, D.C.*
- *Fodor's Washington, D.C.*
- *Frommer's Irreverent Guide to Washington, D.C.*

c. Web sites

There are also countless Web sites that offer great introductory information on Washington. Some of these include:

- www.washingtoncitypaper.com
- www.washington.org
- www.digitalcity.com/washington/