

Do not let the housing process intimidate you—even if you’re choosing a place sight-unseen and without a big budget. There are plenty of resources at your disposal and you should take time to explore them.

Step One: Determine how much money you are willing to budget for an apartment. Housing is relatively expensive in D.C. compared to many other areas throughout the country.

Step Two: Ask as many questions as possible. In particular, ask what “hidden” costs are involved—whether you are required to pay a security deposit, or if you will be charged a cleaning fee upon move-out. Ask about the apartment’s amenities—air conditioning, washer/dryer, dishwasher, parking, etc. Also, ask what stores, Metro stops, and bus stops are within walking distance.

Pro-Tip: If you are a member of a specific faith or denomination, you may want to see what churches are located in the area you wish to live and start there. Some churches send housing requests or open rooms around every few weeks or so (depending on what’s available).

Pro-Tip: You might also want to try finding a family to live with, even if you must commute in from the suburbs. City living can become very expensive.

What Neighborhood Should I Live In?

Washington is a large cosmopolitan city, and a relatively safe neighborhood can become unsafe within a few city blocks. Keep in mind that classified ads tend to exaggerate about the geographical location of some of their listings. For example, Capitol Hill includes both upscale streets within a short distance of the Capitol as well as higher-crime neighborhoods, namely in a section landlords and rental agencies refer to as “Capitol Hill Extended” or “Capitol Hill East”. Make sure you find the exact address and then check its proximity to the Capitol building. The closer you are to the Capitol, the more secure you will be.

Washington, D.C.:

Adams Morgan: The heart of Washington’s trendy bar and restaurant scene. A favored hangout spot for young people. There are many group housing opportunities. It is also close to public transportation. However, Adams Morgan borders several high-crime neighborhoods. May be crowded and noisy during both the day and the night. Extremely limited street parking.

Capitol Hill/Eastern Market/H Street Corridor: This area is within walking distance of the Kirby Center and is close to the mall, the center for most of D.C.'s sightseeing attractions. Rental opportunities are mostly in the average intern's spending range. The closer you are to the Capitol, the more police presence there will be. While a lot of young professionals live on Capitol Hill, there are not many college students.

Columbia Heights/Petworth: Up and coming neighborhood that has changed significantly over the past decade. Amenities include a Target, Best Buy, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and many restaurants. The area is metro accessible, and more affordable than other areas of the city. However, the neighborhood is still in transition, and not as safe as other areas in the city.

Dupont Circle/Downtown: There is an abundance of Metro stops that make this area easily accessible to anywhere in the greater metro area. Though reasonable priced housing is rare, there are group houses which allow many young people to live here for a good price. Housing in Dupont Circle is a mix between old townhouses and high-rise apartment buildings. Because of the business and nightlife activity, this neighborhood has the look and feel of New York City.

Foggy Bottom/GWU: Part of what gives Foggy Bottom its character are the institutions that surround it. Some of the world's largest diplomatic institutions—the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and U.S. State Department—are located in Foggy Bottom, as are The Kennedy Center and The George Washington University. Foggy Bottom has a very low crime rate, and it generally quiet on weekends.

Georgetown: Georgetown is the home of Georgetown University and is teeming with young people and convenient to a robust shopping and nightlife atmosphere. There are often plenty of townhouses with English basements available for rent. Or, consider looking into the on-campus housing at Georgetown University. Please note: Georgetown is expensive, not geographically convenient the Kirby Center, and not metro accessible.

Virginia Suburbs

Arlington, Virginia: The housing is more affordable compared to similar neighborhoods in the District, and the houses are quite a bit larger. Parking is rarely a problem, and there are many housing buildings such as The Virginian and Oakwood Apartments that cater to university students. Served by Orange, Blue, Silver, and Yellow subway lines and bus service.

Alexandria, Virginia: Much like Arlington, Alexandria offers shared housing options that have up to four rooms per house. There are always people looking to fill a room for the summer in this area. Although it is further from the District, it can be refreshing to go home to the suburbs after work. Served by Yellow and Blue lines and buses.

Maryland Suburbs

Bethesda, Maryland: Bethesda is the mecca of restaurants and has some of the most beautiful houses in the area. Some people may rent rooms of their houses to interns and there are always a variety of apartments that have temporary housing. . Bethesda housing involves at least a 30-minute commute to the Kirby Center and Capitol Hill, each way.

College Park, Maryland: Home of the University of Maryland. This is a great college town, full of young people. Since it is a college town, much of the off-campus housing and even some of the Greek houses offer rooms for rent during the summer.

Silver Spring, Maryland: Many graduate students and young professionals live in Silver Spring, and will rent out their apartments and condos during the summer. Although the commute is roughly 30 minutes, Silver Spring is one of the more affordable places to live in the D.C. metro area and offers many amenities (grocery stores, farmers markets) to its residents.

Washington Area Intern Housing

Thompson-Markward Hall Young Women's Christian Home [Women Only]

235 Second St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002

P: (202) 546-3255 W: <http://www.tmhdc.org/>

Thompson-Markward Hall is a residence for women ages 18-34. Located on Capitol Hill, the Hall is convenient to bus and Metro lines and Union Station. Accommodations feature furnished single or double air-conditioned rooms with telephones and limited weekly maid service. Two multi-unit baths are located on each floor. Rent includes breakfast and dinner Monday through Saturday and Sunday brunch. Reservations are accepted for a minimum of two weeks.

WISH (Washington-Intern Student Housing)

307 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002

T: 202.548.2720 W: <http://internsdc.com/>

WISH has been housing interns, students and teachers in Washington, DC for over 20 years. Students stay at one of many Capitol Hill housing locations that make it easy to walk to the National Mall, the Congress, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and of course, the museums and art monuments. All WISH locations are Metro accessible.

***Please email summerdc@hillsdale.edu if you are interested in WISH; we may be able to secure you a discounted or group rate for you.*

The Washington Intern Housing Network

Box 15721, Washington, DC 20003

P: (202)579-9446 W: <http://thewihn.com/>

A network of over 16 properties concentrated in the Eastern Market area of Capitol Hill. The properties offer a variety of housing options to suit one's needs and taste. New D.C. interns are welcomed every academic semester.

Washington, D.C. Area College Campus Housing

American University	http://www.american.edu/ocl/housing/ucgs/index.cfm
Catholic University of America	http://conferences.cua.edu/summer/
George Washington University	http://summerhousing.gwu.edu/
George Mason University	https://housing.gmu.edu/summer/interns.cfm
Georgetown University	http://housing.georgetown.edu/summer/
Marymount University	http://www.marymount.edu/summer/housing

Washington, D.C. Area Church Networks

McLean Bible Church	http://www.mcleanbible.org
**Google McLean Bible Church housing forum	
Capitol Hill Baptist Church	http://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/
Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church	http://www.capitolhillpreschurch.org/
DC Area Catholics Looking For Roommates	https://www.facebook.com/groups/181898255197312/
Grace DC	http://www.gracedc.net/classifieds/housing-available/
National Community Church	http://theaterchurch.com/

Washington, D.C. Area Housing Websites

The Apartment Connection	www.theapartmentconnection.com
Apartment Search	www.apartmentsearch.com
The Apartment Shoppers Guide	www.apartmentguide.com
Craigslist (DC, N. VA)	http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/hhh/
ForRent.com	www.forrent.com
Move	www.move.com/apartments/main.aspx
ProRent Washington, D.C.	www.apartments-in-washington-dc.net
UrbanApartments	www.urbanapartments.com

Capitol Hill/Metro D.C. Management Companies

John C. Formant	http://www.johncformant.com/
Nest DC	http://nest-dc.com/
Nomadic Real Estate	http://www.nomadicrealestate.com
Ross Companies	http://ross-companies.com/find-an-apartment/
WC Smith	http://www.wcsmith.com/
Yarmouth Management	http://yarmouthmanagement.com/

Renting Tips from Kirby Center Staff

“You can only compare housing costs accurately if you consider the extra costs of a place’s location and amenities. If you commute to Capitol Hill five days a week for work, a \$700/mo. room in Falls Church with a small kitchenette and no laundry facilities will cost you the same as a \$950 apartment on Capitol Hill with a kitchen, assuming you walk to work and use the kitchen enough to eat out roughly four fewer times per week than you would have if you couldn’t cook.”

—**Aaron Sandford, Graphic Designer and Media Coordinator**

“If you are coming to D.C. with a good friend, consider living in a studio. My college roommate and I did just that one summer. We didn’t even have beds—we slept on inflatable mattresses. Looking back, it was kind of a crazy thing to do, but it was really affordable, and ultimately a lot of fun.”

—**Sophia Carr, Student Programs Coordinator**

“Remember opportunity cost. Your time may not be worth a lot in dollars at this point in your life, but the Wall Street Journal says it takes a 40% pay raise to cancel an hour-long commute. You might find it’s worth a couple extra bucks in rent per day to avoid a long and hectic rush-hour train ride. Virginia or Maryland still might turn out to be the smart choice: just make sure your calculations are comprehensive so you know what you’re comparing.”

—**Aaron Sandford, Graphic Designer and Media Coordinator**