

CofC in DC: Housing

Housing is usually the most expensive item for a Washington intern and it pays to apply early. Intern housing options vary widely with regard to price—from \$450 to more than \$3,000 per month—and some of the lower priced options are in the best locations and offer the nicest amenities and best locations.

American University

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington, D.C., 20016-8142

Tenleytown/AU Metro Stop

Dormitory housing and meal plans for summer interns in the lovely Spring Valley neighborhood of upper Northwest D.C. Free shuttle to the Metro, shopping, restaurants.

Catholic University of America

Housing and Residential Services

Saint Bonaventure Hall

Washington, D.C., 20064

Brookland/CUA Metro Stop

Located on the Red Line just two stops north of Union Station (closest stop to the Senate side of Capitol Hill). Wide variety of dormitory housing (be warned: not all rooms are air conditioned).

Gallaudet University

1101 14th Street NW, Suite 500

Washington, D.C. 20005-5601

Free shuttle to/from Union Station Metro Stop

Gallaudet University is the world leader in liberal education and career development for deaf and hard of hearing students. It offers dormitory housing for interns in a variety of room configurations and occupancies.

George Washington University

2121 I Street NW, Rice Hall, Suite 402

Washington, D.C., 20052

(202) 994-6688

Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro Stop

Offers dormitory housing as well as [housing with fraternities and sororities](#) for summer interns in the distinguished Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Northwest D.C. On campus a la carte dining options. Walking distance to the Metro, monuments, shopping, restaurants, Georgetown.

Howard University

2401 4th Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20059

Shaw/Howard University Metro Stop

Founded in 1867, Howard University is a Historically Black College with a rich and distinguished academic history. Howard offers dormitory housing for interns working in the DC area.

The International Student House

1825 R Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20009

Dupont Circle Metro Stop

Dormitory style housing includes breakfast and dinner. Also includes educational, cultural and recreational activities for its residents. Residents represent a variety of political, religious, and cultural backgrounds and are carefully screened for security purposes.

Trinity College

125 Michigan Avenue, NE

Washington, D.C. 20017

Brookland/CUA Metro Stop

Trinity is a fully-accredited liberal arts university located on a wooded campus in northeast Washington, offering programs for men and women of all faiths and ages. It is affiliated with the Catholic Church. Trinity offers a variety of dormitory housing in various styles that can be rented as a single or a double.

Thompson Markwood Hall – Women Only

235 Second Street, NE

Washington DC, 20002

Union Station or Capitol South Metro Stops

Chartered by Congress as the Young Women's Christian Home in 1887, Thompson-Markwood Hall is a residence hall for women located on Capitol Hill, across the street from the Hart Senate Office Building. It offers single, air-conditioned rooms with telephones and limited weekly maid service, with two multi-unit bathrooms located on each floor. Laundry facilities, a TV lounge, living room, library, and garden are also available to residents. There are rules, however: the home prohibits alcohol and drugs on the premise, as well as male guests above the lobby level. Rental rates are low and include utilities, internet access, local telephone with voicemail, plus breakfast and dinner Monday through Saturday and Sunday brunch. This is a highly recommended housing option for women and books up quickly.

Washington Intern Housing Network

This company owns a network of condos and townhomes near Capitol Hill, from the Eastern Market area to the Convention Center neighborhood. Condos include a pool, business center, movie theater, secure access. Room configurations range from singles to quads with kitchens and common areas.

Washington Intern Student Housing

307 Massachusetts Avenue NE (office address)

Washington, DC 20002

Union Station or Capitol South Metro Stops, depending on building location

WISH offers town homes and apartments with shared and single living quarters around the U.S. Capitol. They don't publish the addresses online, but the buildings are located between Massachusetts Avenue NE on the Senate side and Pennsylvania Avenue SE on the House side, 2nd Street and Eastern Market.

CofC in DC: Getting Around

Don't even think about bringing a car to D.C. Traffic is awful. Parking is rare and even if you *can* find it, it's incredibly expensive—up to \$35 per day in some places in the city. No worries, there are numerous ways to get around D.C. that are affordable, safe, and reliable:

Metro. The [Metro](#) system is D.C.'s public subway and bus system. It works beautifully and will provide safe and affordable transportation to just about anywhere an intern would want or need to go. The first thing a D.C. intern needs is a [SmarTrip Card](#), which will save you \$1.00 on every trip you take. It's good for the subway or buses. You can add funds to it as needed and you can register it so if it's lost or stolen, you can report it to Metro for replacement. Then use the handy [Trip Planner](#) to plan your route, find out the fare, and how long it will take at the time of day you'll be traveling. **Caution:** check schedules for Metro. Trains and buses are more prevalent during weekdays and rush hours; Metro does not run all night, so for late nights out, you'll want an alternative game plan.

D.C. Circulator Bus. In addition to the Metro subway and buses, the District offers a D.C. Circulator bus system. At just \$1.00 per trip, the Circulator bus is a bargain for short trips around the city and reaches a lot of places that Metro doesn't, such as Georgetown. The buses accept SmarTrip cards or cash (\$1.00) and a mobile app is available for planning your trip.

Capital Bikeshare. D.C. is a bike-crazy town, with bike lanes throughout the city, bike paths through many parks, and a public bike share system with over 200 locations around the city and Arlington and Alexandria. Anyone can join and memberships are available from one-day to one-year. The first 30 minutes of any ride is free. Or, bring your own bike. The Metro and D.C. Circulator systems allow bikes as well. [Bike Washington](#) and [About.com](#) offer plenty of info on biking in D.C.

Uber. Uber is extremely handy and reliable in D.C., particularly for late nights after the Metro has closed and taxis are nowhere in sight. The cost will be lower or comparable to a taxi, but the ride will be 100 percent more pleasant and convenient. **Sign up using the [CofC Alumni code](#) and get \$20 off your first ride, plus Uber will give the Alumni Association \$2 for scholarships.**

Hailo, the D.C. Taxi App. Taxis are plentiful in Washington, and they finally have meters instead of that vector map no one understood (including the drivers). There is usually a cab stand at larger hotels and taxi drivers also troll through major streets looking for fares. Download the Hailo app to your smartphone to hail a cab from anywhere in the city.

Zipcar and **Car2Go** are great options if you need to rent a car short-term. Zipcar has various sized cars stationed all over the city, so you can rent the size car you need for errands or short trips. Car2Go offers tiny Smart cars, which are easy to maneuver and park in D.C.

CofC in DC: What do interns wear?

That depends on the culture of your office, but don't show up like you're going clubbing until you figure that out. D.C. is still pretty buttoned-down with regard to office attire, and that goes for interns as well. For interviews or on the first day, err on the business side. Many D.C. offices have adopted a more relaxed "business casual" and/or "Friday casual" policy. However, if no one tells you about the office attire policy, please ask your supervisor before you rock that tank top and get sent home to change. Besides, interns love to go out after work, so dress to impress!

What NOT to wear

It never hurts to over-dress for your first day; someone will tell you if you can dress down. Here's what *NOT* to wear to a D.C. office on your first day:

- Flip flops
- Jeans (it doesn't matter how much they cost)
- Leggings/jeggings
- Strapless, halter, or low-cut dresses/tops
- Shorts/skorts
- Athletic/tennis shoes (except for commuting to and from the office)
- Sleeveless t-shirts (or any t-shirt, for that matter), or
- Anything tight/revealing

Men's office attire

Gentlemen, invest in an iron or find a nearby dry cleaners—[Zips](#) is located at the Van Ness Metro stop and charges \$1.99 per item. Your Washington wardrobe should include a navy blazer, tie, dress shirts, golf shirts, khakis, belt (tuck in your shirt), loafers, bucks, or boat shoes.

Women's office attire

Sundresses are fine with a cardigan. This city eats cute shoes for breakfast, so if you must wear your Louboutins, please invest in a pair of flat "commuting" shoes to wear to and from work. Your Washington wardrobe should include a little black dress (or two), dress/skirts (mid-thigh or longer), cardigans, shirts, blouses, slacks (not leggings), khakis, and closed-toe flats (trust us).