WASHINGTON, D.C. is an exciting place to pursue an MBA inside and outside the classroom. Finding a place to live that is comfortable and convenient is important, and we’re lucky that D.C. and the surrounding metropolitan area has a lot to offer. This guide is meant to answer frequently asked questions and to provide a starting point from which to begin your transition to D.C. life!

Basics

- **Target your lease start date for no later than August 1, 2016.** YOU WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO FIGURE OUT HOUSING DURING MBA INSTITUTE. Please have your housing and utilities (including cable/ internet. etc.) sorted prior to the start of Institute, Monday, August 8, 2016. You should start looking in May or June for a July or August start date to your rental agreement.

- **Housing options:** Many MBA students live in shared accommodation, while others rent studio or 1-bedroom apartments. It is not uncommon for students to move after their first year to live with friends made in the program or to be in a more desirable location, so you may want to keep this in mind when considering the terms of your lease (6 mos, 1yr, 2 yrs) and ask about subletting. Your summer internship might not be in the DC metro area.

- **Campus accessibility:** The GW School of Business is < 5-minute walk from the Foggy Bottom Metro Station, which is on the Blue and Orange lines. The metro does not run as frequently outside of rush hours compared to busier cities, so take that into consideration when choosing a neighborhood (i.e. whether you will have to switch train lines). There are also many bus routes with stops in Foggy Bottom.

- **Lease agreements:** Landlords and Management Companies will typically require prospective tenants to complete a rental application, which sometimes has a fee. They may ask for a recent credit report, references and salary information. You may be required to have someone cosign the lease with you if you are unable to meet the credit/salary requirements. Once approved, you should be prepared to pay a deposit of one month's rent and the first month's rent upfront, and in some cases, a move-in fee. Some may require a money order or cashier's check as payment.

- **Utilities:** May or may not be included in rent and can include gas, electric, cable, internet, water, etc. Popular cable/internet companies: Comcast, Verizon, Cox and RCN.

- **Pets:** If you plan on bringing a pet to DC, be sure to include that in your search from the very beginning. Many buildings do not allow pets or they allow small pets only (<25 lbs) or cats only.

- **Banks:** Near campus: Bank of America, PNC, Citibank, Wells Fargo. You should check if your bank has locations in DC as most do.

- **Parking:** On campus is possible, but limited and expensive. A link to GW Parking Services is provided at the end of this guide.
Where to live?

- **Foggy Bottom/West End**: This is the neighborhood surrounding GW. Many MBA students live here or close to here because it is convenient for late nights, early mornings, group meetings, etc. Landlords in this area do not always advertise online, so we've provided a list of buildings that you may want to inquire into about vacancy. Typically you will get less space/amenities for what you pay, but you may save $100-200 in metro/bus fares.

- **Popular DC neighborhoods**: Dupont Circle, Logan Circle, Georgetown, Adams Morgan, Penn Quarter, Chinatown, U Street Corridor, Columbia Heights, Mt. Pleasant, NoMa, Glover Park, Eastern Market, Capitol Hill, Shaw.

- **Arlington, Virginia**: Since Foggy Bottom is the first stop in D.C. coming from Virginia, many students live in Arlington and are closer to campus than some of their 'Washingtonian' classmates. Apartment complexes in Arlington are typically bigger, newer and have more amenities. Popular neighborhoods: Courthouse, Clarendon, Ballston, Rosslyn.

How to find housing

- Current students recommend viewing apartments in-person before committing to living somewhere. While it's not possible for everyone, it may be helpful to come to D.C. for a few days over the summer or before Institute to view places you've seen online. If you don't have someone to stay with, you can find inexpensive short-term accommodation on sites like Airbnb, rather than staying in a hotel. Some hotels also offer a GW discount.

- **The GW Off-Campus Housing Service**: The university's Off-Campus Housing Service website has apartment listings, a roommate finder, an international student community, message boards, and a "Guide to Living Off-Campus" that has descriptions of individual neighborhoods, transportation information, and much more.

- **Online search**: Many students use online search sites such as Craigslist and PadMapper to find apartments, rooms for rent, and even furniture. As you would expect, it's best to use common sense when using resources like these. Beware if prices seem too good to be true - they usually are!

- **Direct inquiries**: Some landlords and management companies don't advertise online, so you may want to call or visit the building to inquire about vacancies. This is common in the Foggy Bottom / West End area, so we've included a selection of buildings later in the guide.
Transportation

**Around DC:**
- **Metrorail & Metrobus:** The DC Metrorail system operates in the metropolitan Washington area, including Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland, 7 days a week, until midnight Sun-Thurs and until 3am Fri & Sat. Prices depend on the journey and time of day. There is an extensive Metrobus system that supplements the Metro rail, as well as an additional bus system, Circulator, that offers bus fares for $1.00. You should purchase a SmarTrip card as soon as you arrive, which offers lower fares on Metro rail & Metro bus and can be purchased online, at a metro station, at CVS and select convenience stores.
- **Bikes:** DC is a popular city for biking, with many bike trails that run through public parks and along the Potomac River. There is a bikeshare program called Capital Bikeshare with many convenient locations in the DC/MONA area.
- **Car share:** Zipcar (GW Discount), Car2Go and Enterprise Carshare offer low-cost car rentals by the hour with multiple pick-up/drop-off locations in the DC/MONA area.
- **Taxis** are now required by law to accept credit cards in addition to cash. Popular taxi alternatives include mobile apps such as Uber, Hailo and Lyft which allow you to request a driver and pay entirely through your smartphone.

**In/ Out of DC:**
- **Reagan National Airport (DCA)** - closest to DC, metro accessible (Blue line); $25+ taxi to DC
- **Dulles International Airport (IAD)** - accessible by Metrobus (SA) with stops in L’Enfant Plaza and Rosslyn, VA; or Washington Flyer Coach via West Falls Church Metro Station, VA (Orange Line); $70+ taxi to DC
- **Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI):** accessible by Metro bus (B30) to Metrorail (Greenbelt Metro Station, Green line); MARC or Amtrak train from Union Station; $85+ taxi to DC
- **Union Station:** accessible by Metrorail (Red line); trains (Amtrak, MARC, VRE) and buses depart from here to other cities including Philadelphia and New York.
- **Buses to New York, Philadelphia and more:** MegaBus, Greyhound, Peterpan, Bolt Bus, Vamoose, DC2NY; buses depart from various locations in DC/MONA.

Useful Links

**Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs:** http://www.gwoffcampus.com/registration
**Guide to Living Off-Campus:** https://offcampus.students.gwu.edu/sites/offcampus.students.gwu.edu/files/downloads/GLOC.pdf
**Metro Rail and Bus:** http://www.wmata.com
**DC Circulator:** $1 alternative bus operator (http://www.dccirculator.com/)
**Capital Bikeshare:** http://capitalbikeshare.com/
**Housing search sites:** Craigslist (https://washingtondc.craigslist.org/), Exposed Brick DC (http://exposedbrickdc.com/), Pad mapper (http://www.padmapper.com/), Apartment List (http://www.apartmentlist.com/dd/washington)
**AirBnb:** https://www.airbnb.com/
**Carshares:** Zipcar (http://www.zipcar.com/), Car2Go (http://washingtondc.car2go.com/), Enterprise Carshare (http://www.enterprisecarshare.com/)
**WANDERU:** This is a search engine that looks at all train and bus routes between many US destinations. (http://www.wanderu.com/)
**GW Parking and Transportation Services:** http://transportation.gwu.edu.
Apartments and Condominiums in Foggy Bottom / West End

Claridge House Cooperative
950 25th Street NW
tel: (202) 337-2240
http://claridgehousecooperative.com/

President Condominium
2141 Eye Street NW
tel: (202) 331-7800

The Elise Apartments
825 New Hampshire Ave NW
tel: (202) 333-7711

Circle Arms
2416 K Street NW
tel: (202) 296-0090

Hamilton House
1255 New Hampshire Ave NW
tel: (202) 452-6068
http://keenermanagement.com/hamilton-house/

Winston House Apartments
2140 L Street NW
tel: (202) 785-2200
http://www.winstonhouseapartments.com/index.php

The 925 Apartments
925 25th Street NW
tel: (202) 342-7800
http://www.the925apts.com/

Jefferson House 922
24th Street NW
tel: (202) 337-3900

Carriage House
2201 L Street NW
tel: (202) 223-6701
http://www.dccondoboutique.com/carriage-house.php

The Savoy
1101 New Hampshire Ave NW
tel: (202) 296-1645

2400 Penn
2400 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
tel: (202) 333-2400
http://www.2400penn.com/

York Apartments
532 20th Street NW
tel: (202) 337-5252
http://www.bmcproperties.com/residential/york

Potomac Park
510 21st Street NW
tel: (888) 240-7165
http://www.bmcproperties.com/residential/potomac-park

Letterman House
2030 F Street NW
tel: (202) 296-5141
www.lettermanhouse.com

Empire Apartments
2000 F Street NW
tel: (202) 470-1704
http://www.borgermanagementinc.com/empire-apartments

Monroe House
522 21st Street NW
tel: (202) 887-0697

The Statesman
2020 F Street NW
tel: (202) 331-8827

Columbia Plaza
2400 Virginia Ave NW
tel: (202) 293-1236
columbiaplaza.net/