



## GWSB Pre-Arrival Newsletter Week 1: Housing, ISAB, and Orientations

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# Global & Experiential Education



## G&EE Pre-Arrival Newsletter One: Housing, ISAB, and Orientations

Hello! Congratulations on your admission and acceptance to the George Washington University School of Business (GWSB)! My name is [Elisa Boyea](#) and I am the Program Manager for International Student Services in the [Office of Global & Experiential Education \(G&EE\)](#) at the School of Business. Housing, ISAB, and Orientations

My team and I have communicated via email with each of you to ensure the issuance and receipt of your I-20 or DS-2019. I am eager to meet you face-to-face and learn about your personal, academic, and professional goals. I also look forward to helping you make the most out of your time at GW!



Here at G&EE, we aim to provide you with visa processing assistance, orientation and social programming, and general support. As a result, you will receive newsletters from our office starting now up to orientation. These newsletters will cover:

**Newsletter One (Today!):** Housing, GWSB International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) & Orientation

**Newsletter Two (July 1):** Immigration, Arrival & Public Transportation

**Newsletter Three (July 8):** Campus Life & Health

**Newsletter Four (July 15):** Finances

**Newsletter Five (July 22):** Campus Life and Resources

As always if you have questions or concerns, please direct them to me at [sbglobal@gwu.edu](mailto:sbglobal@gwu.edu).

Best,

Elisa Boyea

Program Manager, International Student Services

GWSB Global & Experiential Education

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## Housing

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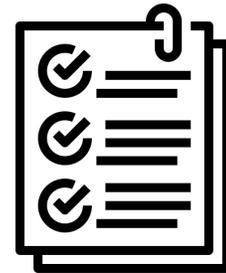
Due to the limited housing available on-campus, GW does not offer on-campus housing for graduate students. However, our team has collected a number of resources over the years that are designed to help you, as an international student, secure housing in Washington, D.C.!

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### First Steps

Graduate students have a number of different options for housing. As a first step, we encourage you to take a look at the following websites and documents:

- [GW Off-Campus Housing Website](#) - Includes housing resources, open rentals, and a "Find a Roommate" feature.
- [GW Off-Campus Student Affairs \(ocsa@gwu.edu\)](#) - The GW Off-Campus Student Affairs team provides resources to help students identify off-campus housing options, including:
  - [Off-Campus Living Guide](#)
  - [Finding a Home Resource List](#)
  - [Frequently Asked Questions for International Graduate Students](#)
- [Housing Options for International Students](#) - Written by GW's International Student Community Ambassadors (ISCAs), this guide provides helpful insights on common housing selections, made by the international student community.



At this point, we also suggest thinking about your "must have" list. What features and amenities are you unable to live without? What's nice to have, but not a requirement? This will help you decide which apartments to visit once you arrive in Washington, D.C. For example:

- How many **bedrooms** do you need to have? How many **bathrooms**?
- Does it matter if **pets** are allowed?
- Do you want private **outdoor space**, like a private balcony?
- Is it necessary for the apartment complex to have a **fitness center**? A **pool**?

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### Neighborhoods

You've got the tools, now it's time to decide where you want to live!

First, we recommend learning about your new city and virtually exploring the many different neighborhoods in and around Washington, D.C. A broad overview of D.C. neighborhoods can be found [here](#), and below you will find information about some of the most popular neighborhoods in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. The information includes average commute time to GW's Foggy Bottom campus, and average rent prices.

- [Foggy Bottom](#)
- [Dupont Circle](#)
- [Georgetown](#)
- [Capitol Hill / Eastern Market](#)
- [Adams Morgan](#)
- [Cleveland Park / Woodley Park](#)
- [Arlington, Virginia](#)
- [Alexandria, Virginia](#)
- [Silver Spring, Maryland](#)
- [Bethesda, Maryland](#)




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## Making Decisions

Personal preferences are generally the deciding factors in choosing a home:

- Is **cost** a key issue? The further away from the city, the less expensive the housing.
- Does the neighborhood match your **lifestyle** and the type of community you want to live in?
- Does the neighborhood feel **safe** to you? The safety of Washington, D.C. neighborhoods can vary, as can people's comfort levels. You may want to check-out <https://crimecards.dc.gov/> for additional information regarding certain areas.
- Will you be using **public transportation**? Living in the city requires less travel time.
- Do you own a **car**? Parking outside of the city tends to be less expensive.

We *strongly* encourage you to visit any apartment you're interested in - photos can be deceiving, so make sure to check it out in-person! You can use the [Apartment Search Checklist](#) when visiting a house or apartment to be sure you find an apartment that meets your wants and needs.

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## Legal Concerns?

If you have questions about tenant rights, legal issues, or signing a lease, you can always contact the [GW Off-Campus Student Affairs](#) office for assistance.

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## International Student Advisory Board

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Sometimes, talking to someone who has been in your shoes and knows exactly how you're feeling is the best way to ease your concerns!

The [GWSB International Student Advisory Board \(ISAB\)](#) is comprised of one international student representing each of GWSB's graduate programs that have significant international student communities. One of ISAB's main goals is to help incoming international students as they prepare to come to the U.S. and adjust to life in D.C. and at GWSB.

Our ISAB members would love to hear from you! All our current ISAB members' contact information can be found on the ISAB website: [International Student Advisory Board \(ISAB\)](#). Don't feel shy about contacting any of our members, even if they don't belong to your program - they're all here to help you!




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## Upcoming Events

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### Fall 2025 Pre-Arrival Q&A Session

Join the George Washington University School of Business's Global & Experiential Education (G&EE) team and International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) for the **Fall 2025 GWSB Pre-Arrival Q&A Session!**

During this optional session you'll have the chance to ask questions, get advice on GW's processes and procedures, and connect with current GWSB international students to get their perspectives about life at GW. The Fall 2025 Pre-Arrival Q&A will start with a brief presentation, but the majority of the session will be dedicated to an open Q&A with Elisa and members of the [GWSB International Student Advisory Board \(ISAB\)](#)!

**Friday, July 11, 2025, 9:00-10:00am Eastern Time**

*Fall 2025 Pre-Arrival Q&A Session*

Hosted by GWSB Global & Experiential Education (G&EE)

**Location:** Zoom - Link will be sent in the registration confirmation email

[Register Here!](#)

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## Orientations

Note that the below-listed **mandatory orientations** will be held in the month of August and will provide pertinent information for international students relating to immigration and the academic culture at GWSB. These sessions are **required** of ALL GWSB international graduate students studying on an F-1 or J-1 visa:



**Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm**

*ISO New F-1 International Graduate Student Orientation*

Hosted by the International Services Office (ISO)

**Location:** Lisner Auditorium (730 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20052)

[Register Here!](#)

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**Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 1:30-4:00pm**

*Fall 2025 GWSB International Student Orientation*

Hosted by GWSB Global & Experiential Education (G&EE)

**Location:** Fungler Hall (2201 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20052), Room 103

[Register Here!](#)

For questions, please email G&EE at [sbglobal@gwu.edu](mailto:sbglobal@gwu.edu)

**See You There!**

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**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ORIENTATIONS**

Please contact your [academic department](#) for dates and times of program-specific orientation sessions

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