

# GW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' WELCOME GUIDE



**Welcome to GW! This Welcome Guide will help you familiarize yourself with GW, the Foggy Bottom Campus, and Washington, D.C. area. Raise High!**



## NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Get your **GWID** (log on to [go.gwu.edu/myGWid](https://go.gwu.edu/myGWid) for more information)
- ☐ Register for **Classes** ([banweb.gwu.edu](https://banweb.gwu.edu))
- ☐ Get your **U.S. Phone Number**
- ☐ Open a **Bank Account**
- ☐ Complete your **eCheck-in** on **ISOGateWay** ([go.gwu.edu/GWISO](https://go.gwu.edu/GWISO))
- ☐ Update your **Contact Information** (Address and Phone Number) on **GWeb**
- ☐ Attend the **New International Student Orientation**
- ☐ Check out the **ISO Events & Programming** ([go.gwu.edu/gwisoevents](https://go.gwu.edu/gwisoevents)) to learn important first year tips that will help you get settled into GW
- ☐ Get connected and join a **Student Organization** ([gwu.campuslabs.com/engage](https://gwu.campuslabs.com/engage))
- ☐ Get your U•Pass ([business-services.gwu.edu/upass](https://business-services.gwu.edu/upass))
- ☐ Don't stress! You are in for a treat!

**WELCOME TO GW**

## SAFETY TIPS

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

CALL **911** or GWPD/EMERG (**202-994-6111**)  
D.C. FIRE SERVICES NON-EMERGENCY LINE (**202-673-3320**)

### Stay Informed

- [go.gwu.edu/covid19](https://go.gwu.edu/covid19)
- Campus Advisories ([campusadvisories.gwu.edu](https://campusadvisories.gwu.edu))
- GW Guardian App ([safety.gwu.edu/gw-guardian-app](https://safety.gwu.edu/gw-guardian-app))
- GW Alert ([safety.gwu.edu](https://safety.gwu.edu))
- Alert DC ([hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc](https://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc))
- GW Information Line (**202-994-5050**)

### Crisis Hotlines

- GW CHC Suicide Help (**202-994-5300** and press option 2)
- GW Sexual Assault Response & Consultation Team (**202-994-7222**)

- Sign up for SMS alerts
- Visit website for alerts

Take self-defense classes offered by the GW Police Department for free!

## PHONE PLANS AND SERVICES

Phone Services	Price/Month	Plan	International/Additional Services
<b>Verizon</b>	\$75 - \$95	Unlimited Talk, Text, and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10 off/month on Unlimited plans for students</li> <li>Free calls/texts to Mexico and Canada</li> <li>Free Disney+, Discovery+, Apple Arcade, Google Play Pass, and Apple Music for 6 months</li> </ul>
<b>Mint Mobile</b>	\$15 - \$30	Unlimited Talk, Text, and 5G-Unlimited Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepaid</li> <li>Free unlimited calls to Mexico and Canada</li> </ul>
<b>T-Mobile</b>	\$60 - \$85	Unlimited Talk, Text, and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2G data in Mexico &amp; Canada</li> <li>Free roaming in 210+ countries</li> </ul>
<b>AT&amp;T</b>	\$70 - \$80	Unlimited Talk, Text, and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlimited talk, text, &amp; data in Mexico &amp; Canada</li> </ul>

Note: Prices may vary based on your specific plan. Please contact individual service providers for more information.

Family plans available without SSN Student discount available Coverage



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## FOOD: GLOBAL CUISINE

### Asian

Himalayan Heritage (\$\$) 🚗  
Jinya Ramen (\$\$) 🚗  
One Fish Two Fish (\$\$) 🚗  
Sichuan Pavilion (\$\$) 🚗

### European

Alta Strada (\$\$) 🚗  
Ambar (\$\$) 🚗  
Bistrot du Coin (\$\$) 🚗  
Boqueria (\$\$) 🚗  
Il Canale (\$\$) 🚗

### African

Bukom Café (\$) 🚗  
Chercher Ethiopian Restaurant (\$\$) 🚗  
Das Ethiopian (\$\$) 🚗  
Keren Café and Restaurant (\$) 🚗

### Middle-Eastern

Amsterdam Falafel Shop (\$) 🚗  
Falafel Inc. (\$) 🚗  
Fava Pot (\$\$) 🚗

George's King of Falafel (\$) 🚗  
Lebanese Taverna (\$\$) 🚗  
Roti (\$) 🚗 GW

### American

Busboys and Poets (\$\$) 🚗  
Duke's Grocery (\$\$) 🚗 GW  
Founding Farmers (\$\$) 🚗  
TED's Bulletin (\$\$) 🚗

### All Vegetarian/Vegan

Chaia (\$) 🚗  
Equinox Restaurant (\$\$\$) 🚗  
Toki Underground (\$\$) 🚗  
Vegz (\$\$) 🚗

### Latin American

El Tamarindo (\$\$) 🚗  
Los Hermanos (\$\$) 🚗  
Mi Cuba Café (\$) 🚗

### Various Cuisines

Immigrant Food (\$) 🚗  
Western Market (\$-\$) 🚗

## FOOD: AFFORDABLE OPTIONS

A. Litteri (\$\$) 🚗  
Bullfrog Bagels (\$) 🚗  
CopyCat Co. (\$\$) 🚗  
KoChix Chicken (\$) 🚗  
Panera Bread (\$) 🚗 GW  
Poppa Box (\$) 🚗 GW  
The Pretzel Bakery (\$) 🚗  
&Pizza (\$) 🚗 GW

### All Vegetarian/Vegan

Beefsteak (\$\$) 🚗  
Elife Restaurant (\$\$) 🚗  
Fruitive (\$\$) 🚗  
HipCityVeg (\$\$) 🚗  
Shouk (\$\$) 🚗  
Sticky Fingers Diner (\$\$) 🚗

\* Call and check in with restaurants regarding dining options, allergy information, pricing, or contactless delivery

### Meal Delivery Services

DoorDash  
GrubHub  
Uber Eats

### Meal Deals and Discounts

For more details, visit  
[go.gwu.edu/mealdeals](https://go.gwu.edu/mealdeals)

For a full list of GW Dining Partners who accept GWorld, visit:  
[dining.gwu.edu/where-eat](https://dining.gwu.edu/where-eat)

🚗 Less than 2 miles from GW  
🚗 More than 2 miles from GW  
GW GWorld accepted

## BANKING OPTIONS

Bank	Benefits	Credit Card Options
<b>Bank of America (Core Checking)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$12 monthly fee can be waived for college students under age 24.</li> <li>Students are protected by \$0 liability guarantee.</li> </ul>	Discover Bank
<b>Citibank (Basic Banking)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No minimum checking deposit and no overdraft or ATM fees.</li> <li>\$10 - \$30 monthly fee.</li> <li>Monthly fee can be waived if balance is above \$1500.</li> </ul>	Capital One
<b>PNC Bank (Virtual Wallet Student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No monthly service charge (up to 6 years).</li> <li>One incoming domestic or international wire transfer per statement period at no charge.</li> </ul>	Bank of America
<b>Truist (One Checking)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No monthly fee for students under age 25.</li> <li>Can transfer money using Zelle.</li> </ul>	Petal (no annual fee)
		Deserve EDU (no SSN required)
		Please contact individual banks for more information.

For information on international payment options, please visit [go.gwu.edu/gwuintlpayments](https://go.gwu.edu/gwuintlpayments).



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## COLLEGE TEXTBOOK RESOURCES

### Step 1:

Check your **class syllabus** on GW Blackboard

### Step 2:

You can choose to **rent** or **buy** books

### Step 3:

Check out these useful resources:

- Gelman Library, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, Jacob Burns Law Library and Eckles Library (Mount Vernon Campus)
- Amazon Prime Student
- GW Campus Store
- Chegg.com
- Abebooks.com
- GetTextbooks.com

## FUN THINGS TO DO IN D.C.

- **Smithsonian Museums and Galleries.** Check [go.gwu.edu/smuseums](https://go.gwu.edu/smuseums) for opening dates & plans.
- **Spend the day exploring Georgetown!** We recommend a 20 minute walk while you admire the scenic waterfront, the beautiful architecture, and the mesmerizing cobbled pathways of Georgetown.
- **Need a relaxing escape from the city?** Great Falls, Rock Creek Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, National Harbor
- **Explore the different memorials in the course of your daily walk or run!** Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- **Take a bus tour of the city and stop at different tourist attractions.** Check [bigbustours.com/en/washington-dc/washington-dc-bus-tours/](https://bigbustours.com/en/washington-dc/washington-dc-bus-tours/).

## SELECT SERVICES

Office	Services	Website
International Services Office (ISO)	Immigration, adjustment, and advocacy support for all international students	<a href="https://internationalservices.gwu.edu">internationalservices.gwu.edu</a>
Career Services	Career and professional development support and resources	<a href="https://careerservices.gwu.edu">careerservices.gwu.edu</a>
Multicultural Student Services Center	Hosts international events, cross-cultural communication, and community building for all ethnicities and backgrounds	<a href="https://mssc.gwu.edu">mssc.gwu.edu</a>
Colonial Health Center	Primary health care services, vaccinations, counseling, mental health support, and student health insurance.	<a href="https://healthcenter.gwu.edu">healthcenter.gwu.edu</a>
Disability Support Services	Assistance and support to students with disabilities	<a href="https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu">disabilitysupport.gwu.edu</a>
Title IX- Haven	Resources related to sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence and stalking	<a href="https://haven.gwu.edu">haven.gwu.edu</a>
Student Services Hub	Offices of Student Financial Assistance, Student Accounts and Registrar	<a href="https://studentserviceshub.gwu.edu">studentserviceshub.gwu.edu</a>
Tax Department	Resource for tax issues	<a href="https://taxdepartment.gwu.edu">taxdepartment.gwu.edu</a>
IT Support Center	In-person technology assistance	<a href="https://it.gwu.edu">it.gwu.edu</a>
Academic Commons	One-stop shop for academic services and support across campus	<a href="https://academiccommons.gwu.edu">academiccommons.gwu.edu</a>
University Writing Center	Free tutoring and support to help you become a better writer	<a href="https://writingcenter.gwu.edu">writingcenter.gwu.edu</a>
Language Center	Facilitates and promotes foreign language studies	<a href="https://languagecenter.columbian.gwu.edu">languagecenter.columbian.gwu.edu</a>
Lost and Found	2145 G Street, NW	<a href="https://facilities.gwu.edu/lost-found">facilities.gwu.edu/lost-found</a>
Campus Recreation	Campus recreation center	<a href="https://campusrecreation.gwu.edu">campusrecreation.gwu.edu</a>
GW Police Department	Provides residential hall security and patrol services to the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses and oversees security at the VSTC campus	<a href="https://safety.gwu.edu/police">safety.gwu.edu/police</a>



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## HOME ESSENTIALS

Amazon (\$) 🚚  
Bed, Bath & Beyond (\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
Best Buy (\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
CVS Pharmacy (\$) 🚗 🚚 GW 🚚  
Ikea (\$) 🚗 🚚  
Target (\$\$) 🚚  
Walmart Supercenter (\$) 🚗 🚚  
TJ Maxx (\$) 🚗 🚚

🚗 Less than 2 miles from GW  
🚗 More than 2 miles from GW  
GW GWorld accepted  
🚚 Online Shopping Available

## CLOTHING

### Downtown D.C. (City Center)

Macy's (\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
Nordstrom Rack (\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
Zara (\$\$) 🚗 🚚

### Georgetown

Banana Republic (\$\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
H&M (\$) 🚗 🚚  
Loft (\$\$) 🚗 🚚  
The North Face (\$\$\$) 🚗  
TJ-Maxx (\$) 🚗 🚚

### Malls

Fashion Centre at Pentagon City (\$\$) 🚗  
Mall in Columbia (\$\$) 🚗  
Potomac Mills (\$\$) 🚗  
Tysons Corner Center (\$\$) 🚗

### Outlet Malls

Arundel Mills (\$\$) 🚗  
Clarksburg Premium Outlet (\$\$) 🚗  
Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets (\$\$) 🚗  
Tanger Outlets National Harbor (\$\$) 🚗

## GROCERY

ALDI (\$) 🚗  
Giant Food (\$\$) 🚗  
Safeway (\$\$) 🚗  
Trader Joe's (\$\$) 🚗  
Wegmans (\$\$) 🚗  
Whole Foods (\$\$\$) 🚗 🚚 GW  
7-Eleven (\$) 🚗 🚚 GW

### International Market

Euro Foods International (\$\$) 🚗  
Good Fortune Supermarket (\$\$) 🚗  
H Mart (\$\$) 🚗  
India A1 Grocery (\$) 🚗  
Lotte Plaza Market (\$) 🚗  
Megamart (\$) 🚗  
Patel Brothers (\$\$) 🚗

### Time is of the essence

Plan your trip to the grocery store:

- Make a shopping list to speed up the shopping process
- Visit the store website and make a note of the items you wish to purchase and their location at the store

### Online Shopping

Instacart 🚚

## WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU?

### Immigration Workshops:

Learn about important topics such as work authorization processes and filing taxes as an international student.

### Career Support:

Join the ISCA's to level up your networking, job search skills, and interview skills as an international student!

### Social and Cultural Events:

Explore diverse cultures and socialize with international students from all over the world. **Hint:** join us for delicious treats!

### Connect with the ISO!

🌐 [internationalservices.gwu.edu](https://internationalservices.gwu.edu)  
📘 /isoGW  
📷 @gwuiso  
🐦 @GW\_ISO

To learn more about ISO events and to register, visit [go.gwu.edu/gwisoevents](https://go.gwu.edu/gwisoevents).

## CONNECT WITH THE ISCA's

The International Student Community Ambassadors (ISCAs) are international students (just like you!) who are committed to helping you make the most of your time here at GW! We serve as peer mentors to newly admitted students and are here to answer any questions you have about GW, living in D.C., and many more. You can ask us anything! We also provide advising (on career and general issues) and host events (professional, cultural, and social) specifically designed for all international students.

### Meet with an ISCA

Want to review your résumé or practice for an interview? Interested in learning about how to get involved at GW? Just need someone to talk to about anything? Schedule an appointment to meet with an ISCA on **Handshake!** We are here to help you! **You can also send in urgent concerns or queries via email and an ISCA will get back to you as soon as possible.**

### Connect with US!

✉ [gwisca@gwu.edu](mailto:gwisca@gwu.edu)  
📘 /GWUISCA

📷 @gw\_isca  
🐦 @GW\_ISCA

To schedule an appointment with the ISCA's, visit [go.gwu.edu/iscaadvising](https://go.gwu.edu/iscaadvising).



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## MAP OF D.C. AND GW

Dupont Circle

Georgetown

ISCAs are here

Georgetown Waterfront

The White House

National Mall

## FOGGY BOTTOM

- THE VERN EXPRESS STOPS
- RESIDENCE HALLS
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- HOTELS
- PARKING



# TRANSPORTATION

## Cab Services

Uber  
Lyft  
Via

## Metro and Bus

WMATA  
Transit  
Moovit  
DC Circulator

## Other Options

Capital Bikeshare (\$25 annual membership for students)  
\*Electric Scooter (Lime, Bird, Lyft, Spin)

## Car Rental Services

\*Zipcar  
\*Free2Move  
\*U-Haul (trucks for moving)

## GW Services

Safe Ride (free rides around campus from 8pm - 4am. For more information, visit [transportation.gwu.edu/safe-ride](https://transportation.gwu.edu/safe-ride))

\*Driver's license required

For more details about how to get your license, look out for handouts at The HUB sessions, hosted by the ISCA's.



 Metro is accessible.

  
Map is not to scale



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All information is accurate as of July 2023, please  
check individual websites for up-to-date information.

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