The mention of companies, products and services in this guide is done as a service to students. Inclusion in this guide does not constitute, and shall not be construed or reported as an endorsement or approval by Johns Hopkins University of the business practices of any company, product or service; or a warranty or representation by JHU as to the quality, safety or other features. JHU expressly disclaims any and all responsibility for any problems that may arise with regard to usage of these companies, products or services, and all students are encouraged to exercise their own good judgment when evaluating them.
The SAIS campus is located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. This state-of-the-art facility—located minutes from the United States Capitol, White House, Treasury Department, Department of Justice, Department of Energy, and National Mall—boasts 420,000 square feet of space.

The building is also conveniently located in walking distance to three Metro stations as well as Amtrak and the MARC train services at Union Station.
The following directions can be used if you are driving to SAIS from a point of origin outside Washington, D.C.

### From the North
Follow I–95 South to the Washington Capitol Beltway I–495 West. Take Exit 43–44 and keep right onto Exit 43. Continue onto George Washington Memorial Parkway. Merge onto I–395N and keep right to stay onto I–395N. Take Exit 9 towards C St NW, keep right and merge onto C street NW. Turn right onto Louisiana Ave NW and then right again onto Constitution Ave. Continue onto Pennsylvania Ave NW. The SAIS building will be on your right.

### From the South
Follow I–95 North, which turns into I–395 North. Keep right to stay onto I–395N. Take Exit 9 towards C St NW, keep right and merge onto C street NW. Turn right onto Louisiana Ave NW and then right again onto Constitution Ave. Continue onto Pennsylvania Ave NW. The SAIS building will be on your right.

### From the West
Follow I–66 East to Washington. Take the US–50 E Exit. Continue onto Constitution Ave, then turn right onto Pennsylvania Ave NW. The SAIS building will be on your right.

### From the East
Follow Route 50 West. Take New York Avenue NE to Pennsylvania Ave NW. Turn left onto North Capitol St NW. Turn right onto Louisiana Ave NW and then another right to get onto Constitution Ave NW; continue onto Pennsylvania Ave NW. The SAIS building will be on your right.
AIR TRAVEL

Reagan National Airport

is in Virginia, about 3 miles (5 km) to the southwest of downtown Washington, D.C. If you are not too loaded down with luggage, the most convenient and economical way of traveling into the city is by Metro, Washington, D.C.’s subway system. Take the Blue line train from Reagan National Airport station and get off at the Federal Triangle station. If you would rather not take the Metro, taxis are plentiful and will get you into the city for approximately $15–20. Alternatively, you may take a SuperShuttle van to just about anywhere in D.C. for about $14.

Dulles International Airport

is in Virginia, about 20 miles (33 km) west of Washington, D.C. The most economical way of traveling into the city is by Metro. Take the Silver line train from the Dulles International Airport station towards Largo and get off at the Federal Triangle station, which is about a 14-minute walk from SAIS. Taking a taxi from Dulles can be very expensive, with fares as high as about $75. You may also utilize the SuperShuttle van for about $30, any additional guest pays only $10.

Baltimore–Washington Airport

is in Maryland, about 23 miles (38 km) north of the city. There is no Metro service to the BWI Airport, and taxi fares are about $70. SuperShuttle service is available to travel to downtown D.C. for about $37 and $12 per additional passenger. Additionally, MARC commuter trains run between the BWI Rail Station and the Union Station Metro stop on the Blue line. Upon taking a free shuttle bus from the terminal to the BWI Rail Station, you can travel to Union Station by MARC commuter rail for $8. Alternatively, the BWI Express bus (B30) loops daily from the BWI Airport to the Greenbelt Metro station on the Green line. The schedule can be accessed here and the Express Fare is $6. You must have exact change.
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Train
Amtrak and MARC commuter trains stop at Union Station, which is located approximately one mile from SAIS at 50 Massachusetts Avenue NE. A taxi ride to SAIS costs about $12-14. Alternatively, you can board the Red line of the Metro on the lower level of the terminal and proceed five stops toward Shady Grove. Exit the Metro at the Judiciary Square stop.

Bus
In addition to the commercial bus station at 1005 1st Street NE, additional buses depart from the upper level of Union Station to cities like New York and Philadelphia. See the Train section for directions to SAIS. Additional inexpensive buses to various East Coast cities operate from points across D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

Metro
The Metro is Washington, D.C.’s subway Rail system. The Metrorail consists of six color-coded lines that provide transport throughout the District of Columbia and into Virginia and Maryland. The lines are connected to each other, and some destinations require a line change. Maps are available at each station, online at www.wmata.com and on the next page. Metro’s Trip Planner feature allows you to map and price your subway and bus options for travel between any two destinations in the D.C. metro area.

At every station, you will find a map showing the neighborhood near the station, a fare chart showing costs to and from any station during peak and off-peak times, and fare card machines to purchase temporary declining-balance tickets or short-term passes, and to reload your SmarTrip Card.

A one-way subway trip costs between $1.75 and $5.90, depending on your travel distance and time of travel. There is also a $1 surcharge per trip if a paper farecard is used. The Metro opens at 5 a.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. on weekends. It closes at midnight Sunday through Thursday, and at 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The time of last departure is posted at each station. The DC Metro Transit app for smart phones provides real-time updates on schedules, disruptions and more.
**Metro Bus**

Metrobus stops have tall red, white and blue signs. The list of stops and departure times is sometimes listed on the sign and some stops have displays with the next bus arrival times. To be safe, try to obtain a schedule for each bus that you plan to ride. The Metrobus system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but service intervals vary by time of day and by day of the week. Consult [Metrobus schedules](#) for more information or call 202.637.7000. You can use the "Next Bus" phone feature or smart phone app to check when the bus will arrive.

Bus fare is $2 with a SmarTrip card or cash. For Express routes (non-Airport), fares are $4.25 with SmarTrip or cash. Free bus-to-bus transfers and discounted rail-to-bus or bus-to-rail transfers within a two-hour period are available using SmarTrip.

**SmarTrip Card**

A SmarTrip Card is a convenient and cost-effective way of using Metro rail and bus. It cuts down on travel time and allows you to store money on a sturdier plastic card. The card is rechargeable and embedded with a computer chip that keeps track of the value of the card. You can tap the SmarTrip box on Metro and Metrobus to pay your fare. If you register your card and later lose it, you can get your balance back. You can purchase a SmarTrip Card online by credit card, at the Metro Center subway stop, at most CVS stores in D.C., or other outlets found [here](#). SmarTrip cards cost a minimum of $10 ($2 for the card and $8 pre-loaded value). Through the U-Pass program, full-time students receive unlimited riding privileges on Metrobus and Metrorail at a substantially discounted price. At approximately $1 per day, Metro's U-Pass offers an affordable transportation option for students to travel throughout the region for classes, internships, jobs and other activities.

**Taxi**

Taxis operate everywhere and anywhere in Washington, D.C. Taxis begin charging $3.25 per person and meters will run $0.27 per each additional 1/8 mile. There are also extra charges for additional travelers and other factors. Tips should be about 10-15% of the total fare. Before you get in a taxi, check for a license and photo ID for your taxi driver and ask for an estimated fare. Uber and Lyft are alternative popular options to DC taxis.

**SAIS Shuttle**

SAIS offers a van service that brings students to nearby surrounding Metro stops after hours.
PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION

Foot
A great advantage of attending graduate school in Washington, D.C. is that it is easy to get around on foot. It takes about 30 minutes to one hour to walk to SAIS from several neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill, Logan Circle, Penn Quarter/ChinaTown, Thomas Circle, and U Street/Shaw (see the Neighborhoods section below for more information). Many students find walking to school preferable to taking public transportation.

Bicycle
Many students have bicycles, which are convenient modes of transportation anywhere in the city. There are bike racks outside the SAIS buildings. It is suggested that cyclists wear protective helmets and use a U-Lock mechanism to secure their bikes. Secure the frame of your bike to a solid object. If you have a releasable wheel or bicycle seat, it also should be secured. However, individuals should be aware that no matter how sophisticated your lock, your bike will not be immune to theft. Students are encouraged to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). Call 1.800.848.BIKE for details.

Although Washington is a bike-friendly city, traffic accidents involving bicycles happen frequently and can result in serious injuries. In addition to wearing a helmet, you can minimize your risk of injury by taking steps like utilizing bike lanes, using proper hand signals, equipping bikes with reflectors, headlights, taillights, horns and mirrors, riding with the flow of traffic, and always staying alert.

You can take your bike on Metro, except on weekdays from 7-10 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. You can bring your bike on Metrobus anytime as long as there is space on the rack in front of the bus. No additional fees apply.

Bike-sharing programs allow you to rent a bike from one of many stations around town and return it to that or any other station. For example, through Capital Bikeshare, you can sign up for a year-long membership ($85), for 30 days ($28) or daily ($8 initially). Up-to-the-minute status updates on bike availability may be available online or through smart phones.
Car

Owning a car in the Washington, D.C. area can be a daunting experience, and many students prefer to use public transportation. Parking in D.C. is extremely limited, and the police are conscientious about ticketing cars that are parked illegally. Parking is expensive in lots and garages, and free street parking is hard to find on weekdays.

If you bring a car, be sure to research the registration and operating requirements, which can be found on the DC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website. Be aware that students living in Washington temporarily are not subject to the same registration rules as permanent residents. Most residential neighborhoods within the district require parking permits, which can be obtained from the DMV. Temporary residents of Washington D.C. who are also full-time students can obtain reciprocity parking permits, which allow those with out-of-state license plates and registrations to park in residential areas for one year. This pass costs $338 and is renewable.

All non-U.S. citizens, as well as those who have lived in the District of Columbia more than 60 days, must obtain a U.S. driver’s license to drive in the district. A driver’s license will allow you to operate an automobile, as well as purchase and consume alcohol in public establishments throughout the U.S. as well as at SAIS.
Securing affordable rental prices should be balanced with concerns for safety. Neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. can change dramatically from block to block, and the safety of a particular area may vary at different times of the day. When conducting your housing search, consider both the block where you plan to live and the blocks that you will have to walk through to get there. Consult local police precincts for more information about D.C. neighborhoods. Crime reports are also available online. See the National Crime Prevention Council website for more information on urban crime.
NEIGHBORHOODS

The basic layout of the District of Columbia is a quadrant system. It is centered around the Capitol Building (see picture above) which makes it easy to orient yourself. There are four quadrants – NW, NE, SE and SW. The letter streets (C, D, E, etc.) run east to west, starting at the Capitol. The number streets (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) run north to south, increasing as you move away from the Capitol. Avenues named after states (Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Connecticut, etc.) run diagonally.

Additionally, it is helpful to know how D.C. streets are organized following the end of the alphabet. The first letter of subsequent street names follow an alphabetical order, with each alphabet set repeating with an additional syllable. For example, Buchanan Street is between Allison and Crittenden Streets. Buchanan has three syllables, so it is three alphabet sets away from the Capitol. Also, having an address gives you an idea of the location because the street number indicates the cross streets. For example, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue is between 5th and 6th Streets. Also, 514 9th Street is between E and F Streets because E is the fifth letter of the alphabet and F is the sixth. Note that D.C. does not have a J Street, so do not include J in your numerical count.

The following neighborhood descriptions are meant to serve as guidelines to orient you. SAIS does not investigate, endorse or guarantee any of these neighborhoods or the housing opportunities within them.

ADAMS MORGAN

Centered on 18th Street and Columbia road, Adams Morgan is bordered by Connecticut Avenue to the southwest, Rock Creek Park to the west, Harvard Street to the north, 16th Street to the east, and Florida Avenue to the south. As close to one of New York City’s colorful ethnic neighborhoods as Washington has to offer. Boasts an astounding array of resident nationalities and a high concentration and variety of restaurants and food stores. Prices range between about $1200-1600 for a studio, $1600-2600 for a one-bedroom and $2600-3100 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan. Metrobus: 42, 43, L2, S1, S2, S4, S9, DC Circulator.
Walk from SAIS: 50 - 60 minutes

CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill composes the area east of the Capitol bounded by 14th Street in the west, H Street to the north, and the Southeast Freeway to the south. Like a small town somewhat cut off from the rest of D.C., it lacks the nightlife and commercial vitality of Northwest but
CLEVELAND PARK
Dominated by large, expensive homes and neighborhood hangouts. There are a number of apartment complexes in the area, and it is possible to find accommodations at a reasonable price. There are several good bars and restaurants in the area. Prices range between about $1300–1700 for a studio, $1500–2200 for a one-bedroom and $2100–3100 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Cleveland Park. Walk: 60–90 minutes.

CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
Geographically centered around the Washington National Cathedral near the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues NW, this quiet and safe area has an abundance of expensive housing. Prices range between $1400–1600 for a studio, $1500–$2100 for a one-bedroom and $2800–3100 for a two-bedroom.

Metrobus: N2, N3, 37. Walk: 60–90 minutes.

CLEVELAND PARK
Dominated by large, expensive homes and neighborhood hangouts. There are a number of apartment complexes in the area, and it is possible to find accommodations at a reasonable price. There are several good bars and restaurants in the area. Prices range between about $1300–1700 for a studio, $1500–2200 for a one-bedroom and $2500–3200 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Cleveland Park. Walk: 60–90 minutes.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
Columbia Heights is bounded by 16th Street in the west, Spring Road in the north, Sherman Avenue in the east, and Florida Avenue to the south. Over the past eight years a revitalization plan has dramatically changed the area, though there is still transition. Many major retailers as well as restaurants opened and today, including DC USA a shopping complex with Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Marshalls and other stores. It is one of Washington’s most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods, with a mixture of high-priced condominiums and townhouses and public and middle-income housing. Prices range between $1100–1500 for a studio, $1000–2500 for a one-bedroom and $1500–2600 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Columbia Heights Station. Metrobus: S1, S2, S4, S9. Walk: 40–50 minutes.
**DUPONT CIRCLE**
An expensive neighborhood where SAIS is located. With luck and hard work, reasonably-priced housing is available. Its shops, houses and apartment buildings reflect the “artsy” and upwardly-mobile nature of its inhabitants. Prices range between $1400–2400 for a studio, $2000–2900 for a one-bedroom and $2400–3600 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Dupont Circle. Walk: 30–40 minutes

**FOGGY BOTTOM**
Home of the State Department, Kennedy Center, Watergate Hotel and George Washington University. Although there are plenty of apartment buildings and townhouses, this location is known as being one of the most expensive residential areas. Prices range between $1600–2100 for a studio, $2100–3400 for a one-bedroom and $3000–3600 for a two-bedroom.


**GEORGETOWN**
One of the highest per-capita-income neighborhoods in the nation. Politicians, diplomats and top-level executives, as well as students, populate Georgetown. The neighborhood boasts fabulous shopping and nightlife concentrated along M Street and Wisconsin Ave. Prices range between $1200–1800 for a studio, $1400–2700 for a one-bedroom and $2100–3600 for a two-bedroom.

Metrobus: G2, D2. Also try the Circulator’s Rosslyn–Georgetown–Dupont route.
Walk: 50–60 minutes.

**GLOVER PARK**


**LOGAN CIRCLE**
A historic residential district, bounded by S Street and Massachusetts Avenue to the north and south and 9th and 16th Streets at the east and west, Logan Circle has developed significantly since 2000 with a number of restaurants, cafes, jazz clubs, theaters, and the Whole Foods grocery store. Prices range between $1300–1900 for a studio, $2200–2900 for a one-bedroom and $2900–3700 for a two-bedroom.

THOMAS CIRCLE/CONVENTION CENTER
This area is in walking distance to many nice neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Dupont and U Street. It does not have much nightlife to offer but several big apartment buildings. Prices range between $1300–1800 for a studio, $1900–2500 for a one-bedroom and $2900–3200 for a two-bedroom.

Metro: Mt. Vernon Square, McPherson Square, Metro Center. Walk: 20–30 minutes.

PENN QUARTER/CHINATOWN
This neighborhood just north of Pennsylvania Avenue downtown has been revitalized with museums, restaurants, upscale hotels and theaters. Prices range between $1900–2200 for a studio, $2500–2700 for a one-bedroom and $3000–4900 for a two-bedroom.


U STREET/SHEL
The greater Shaw neighborhood and the U Street corridor in particular is a notable place in African American history. Located around the U Street corridor, which is the commercial hub of the Shaw area, extending westward to 16th Street NW. The U Street Corridor has developed significantly in recent years with a number of bars, restaurants, and music venues including the 9:30 club. Other areas of Shaw have begun to develop as well, but not to the same extent. Prices range between $1100–1600 for a studio, $1600–3000 for a one-bedroom and $1800–3500 for a two-bedroom. Prices are significantly higher along the U Street Corridor than in the greater Shaw neighborhood.

Metro: U Street–Cardozo; Shaw; Mt. Vernon Sq. 7th St–Convention Center Station. Metrobus: G2, S1, S2, S4, S9. Walk: 30–40 minutes.
WOODLEY PARK

Residential neighborhoods dominated by large apartment buildings, condominiums and many row houses with single family homes on the side streets. Very close to the nightlife of Adams Morgan, boasts many fine restaurants on Connecticut Avenue and is a must for zoo lovers and those who want easy access to Rock Creek Park. Prices range between $1450-1900 for a studio, $1900-2600 for a one-bedroom and $2700-3300 for a two-bedroom.

HOW TO FIND HOUSING

It is recommended that you have your living situation arranged at least one month prior to your arrival in Washington, D.C., if possible. To find a place to live, you may need to visit several apartments, put in an application and wait for a credit check, make a deposit and sign a lease. Please note that international students with F1 or J1 visas may enter the U.S. in student status no earlier than 30 days prior to the first day of classes. Be wary of offers that sound too good to be true – many property managers may be trying to take advantage of you, particularly if you are not in Washington or not familiar with the housing market here.

Temporary Housing

The ideal situation while looking for a permanent residence is to stay with friends or relatives living in the area. For those of you who are not this fortunate, there are convenient alternatives, such as renting temporary furnished housing. One option is Attache Corporate Housing, which offers studio condos up to five-bedroom townhouses. Rates are based on a 30-day stay; call 800.916.4903 for details or email reservations@stayattache.com, and be sure to mention you are a student at Johns Hopkins SAIS. Another company is Just Like Home, which offers a comprehensive array of housing in the Washington DC metro. Temporary housing is in high demand in the D.C. area. Be aware that some individuals may be offering fraudulent living situations through various online sources, particularly if you are out of the D.C. area or the U.S. and you are asked to give out personal information and enter into agreements quickly.

Other students choose to stay in hotels. Note that all hotels must charge 14.95% D.C. tax in addition to the nightly rates. Rates will vary depending on date and season of arrival, length of stay, and booking source. Be sure to ask about any special deals they may have. Here are some hotels near SAIS:

- **Hotel Washington**
  - Address: 515 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
  - Phone Number: 202.661.2400

- **The Eldon Luxury Suites**
  - Address: 933 L street NW, Washington, DC20001
  - Phone Number: 202.805.8237

- **Grand Hyatt Washington**
  - Address: 1000 H Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001
  - Phone Number: 202.582.1234
Permanent Housing

Washington, D.C. is an expensive place to live. Washington and its suburbs have a high turnover rate, which gives rise to inflated housing prices and a competitive market. Apartments in the Dupont Circle area are highly sought after by professionals and SAIS students alike. Bargains are few and far between.

When choosing a place to live, it is wise to consider how accessible the location is by foot or by public transportation, and nearby crime statistics. Many SAIS students live within walking or biking distance of SAIS, if they can afford it. See the Neighborhoods section above for more information.

Some students, particularly those with families, choose to live outside the District in areas such as Arlington, Rosslyn, Falls Church, Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Silver Spring. If you choose to live away from the hustle and bustle of downtown D.C., it is best to make sure that your location is easily accessible by public transportation. To find out how public transportation-friendly a potential residence is, use the Metro website’s Trip Planner feature to find available bus and subway routes, as well as expected travel times and fare prices. The related travel costs of living outside the District may well outweigh the cheaper rental prices of housing.

Above all, be careful as you go through your housing search. There will be people who do not have your best interests at heart, and who will try to offer you fraudulent living situations that are not what they might appear. Even internet search results for reviews of living situations may not tell you the full story as a company or private landlord may have changed their names following a negative incident(s).

Housing Website

SAIS has contracted with Off Campus Partners to provide a housing website to serve the SAIS community. This Housing site (www.housing.sais-jhu.edu) offers the following:

- Fully-searchable, user-friendly housing listings of D.C.-area properties.
- A roommates feature that allows you to post your profile and search for potential roommates based on social habits, cleanliness, gender and much more. If you already have a place to live, you can post the property detailsto show your place to potential roommates.
- Message Boards for students to post on topics like Pre-Term or Summer sublets and Tips for International Students.
Rental Advice

Apartments come in three basic sizes: efficiency/studio, one bedroom and two bedrooms. In the Dupont Circle area, for example, you can expect to pay at a minimum $1400 per month for an efficiency, over $2000 for a one-bedroom, and over $2400 for a two-bedroom. These figures do not necessarily include the cost of utilities such as gas, electricity, water and telephone. Cable, internet and phone packages are often available and a lower cost than contracting separately for each of these services. Sharing a group house with several other people can bring costs down, depending on the location and condition of the house. In general, it is recommended that your housing costs do not exceed 30 to 40 percent of your income or monthly loan budget.

According to SAIS survey data, students tend to live in the NW quadrant of DC, most often in the Dupont Circle, Logan Circle, Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights neighborhoods. The data below shows a breakdown in the types of living situations and average costs based on a 26% student response rate. These figures do not reflect location, whether bedrooms are shared, and any additional costs for expenses like utilities, cable and internet, and furniture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio</th>
<th>1-bedroom</th>
<th>2-bedroom</th>
<th>3-bedroom</th>
<th>4-bedroom</th>
<th>5-bedroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of respondents</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Approximate Total Monthly Rent</td>
<td>$1,415</td>
<td>$1,868</td>
<td>$2,397</td>
<td>$2,894</td>
<td>$3,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Approximate Individual Share of Rent</td>
<td>$1,362</td>
<td>$1,209</td>
<td>$1,085</td>
<td>$1,132</td>
<td>$1,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, Washington’s market is highly competitive and moves very fast. Read and understand your lease. If necessary, have someone translate the lease for you before signing. Tenants’ lack of awareness of the obligations they agree to in their leases can create problems before, during and after the time of residence. To avoid surprises, obtain written copies of all your agreements and refer to them when questions arise. Most leases are for one year, which can be inconvenient for students who wish to spend the summer between their first and second years at SAIS out of the country. If your lease allows, you might investigate subletting your apartment during this period and posting the listing on the SAIS Housing site (www.housing.sais-jhu.edu).

If at all possible, it is highly recommended that you visit your apartment prior to signing a contract or making payment, or having someone you trust visit on your behalf. Sometimes what looks great online is not the same in person. Also, some individuals may be offering fraudulent living situations, particularly if you are out of the D.C. area or the U.S. and you are asked to give out personal information and entering into agreements quickly.

While in D.C., another strategy is to walk into nearby apartment buildings and request information on current vacancies. Many buildings maintain listings which are not available elsewhere. Signs are often posted outside buildings if there are vacancies. Non-U.S. citizens may encounter obstacles when signing a lease because they might not have a credit history or social security number in the U.S., for example. SAIS makes every effort to vouch for its students to landlords and building managers. Please contact the Office of Student Life for more information.

The following information might be required when applying for a lease:
- your previous address and phone number
- previous landlord’s address and phone number
- address and phone number of SAIS (555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202.663.5600)
- previous employer’s address and phone number
- your income for the past two years
- bank account and credit card information
- driver’s license information
- checkbook or cash to pay a possible application fee (typically around $70)

The following questions are important to ask of your landlord or realtor before signing a lease:
- Is the apartment furnished, and if so, is there an extra deposit? If not, is there a furniture rental option through the agency? (Note: Most housing in D.C. is unfurnished. See the Shopping - Home Furnishings section below for some furnishing store options)
- Which utilities are included in the rent?
- On average, how much are the utilities per month?
• Are there laundry facilities available?
• How much is the security deposit?
• Is air conditioning available, and if so, how much does it cost on average?
• Is it permissible to sublet the apartment to another renter?
• Is residential or visitor parking available, and if so, what is the extra cost?
• Is public transportation nearby?
• Is grocery shopping available nearby?
• Is the neighborhood safe?

To help protect you against theft or damage from a fire or flood, or if someone injures
themselves in your apartment, it is recommended that you purchase renter’s insurance. Most policies cost less than $200 a year. Call around to get various quotes and decide what works best for your living situation.
Weather
The weather in Washington, D.C. varies considerably by season and can be unpredictable on any given day. The summer months (June, July, August) tend to be very hot and humid, with average temperatures ranging from 65 to 88 degrees Fahrenheit (18 to 31 Celsius). During the fall/autumn (September, October, November), average temperatures range from 40 to 79 Fahrenheit (4 to 26 Celsius). It can get quite cold in the winter (December, January, February), with average temperatures of 27 to 47 Fahrenheit (−2 to 8 Celsius). Snowfall will be heavy or light, depending on the year, but count on it snowing at some point. We recommend a sturdy pair of waterproof boots and a heavy jacket, which can be purchased in D.C. In the spring (March, April, May), average temperatures range from 37 to 75 Fahrenheit (3 to 7 Celsius). The spring is lovely in D.C. with blooming flowers and the famous Cherry Blossom Festival. But allergies in the area can be severe year-round.

Healthcare
The University’s health insurance plan offered by SAIS is obligatory for students, unless you can show proof of comparable U.S.-based coverage. Details about SAIS policies and this plan, including locating medical providers and pharmacies, fees and co-insurance, can be found online on myJH portal.
Over-the-counter medications (like aspirin) can be purchased at any drugstore or pharmacy in the U.S. CVS stores have the most locations in D.C. General questions or concerns about health insurance and waivers, mental and physical health, and disabilities can be directed to the Director of Student Life, saisstudentaffairs@jhu.edu or 202.663.5707.
If you need emergency treatment, please be aware that area hospitals include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The George Washington University</td>
<td>900 23rd St. NW</td>
<td>202.715.4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown University Hospital Center</td>
<td>3800 Reservoir Rd. NW</td>
<td>202.444.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Howard University Hospital</td>
<td>2041 Georgia Ave NW</td>
<td>202.865.6100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**METROPOLITAN TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- **Emergency:** Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance 911
- D.C. Citywide Call Center (non-emergency) 311
- Metropolitan Police Department (2nd District) 202.715.7300
- Alcoholics Anonymous 202.966.9115
- D.C. Department of Public Works 202.673.6833
- D.C. Emergency Management Agency 202.727.6161
- D.C. Water and Sewer Authority 202.787.2000
- PEPCO Energy 202.833.7500
- Planned Parenthood 202.973.4800
- Poison Control (emergency) 800.222.1222
- Rape Crisis Center 202.232.0789
- Social Services Referral 202.463.6211
- Suicide Prevention (National Hopeline Network) 800.784.2433
- Washington Gas 800.752.7520
Banking, Personal Finances and Taxes

There are many banks in Washington, D.C. Rates associated with bank accounts may be initially deceiving. For example, although a bank may require a minimum savings balance of $100, you may be fined a monthly service charge if you keep a balance of less than $500. These service charges can be exorbitant, so always ask about them before opening an account. Also be sure to ask whether you can open a student account at these institutions. You may need to request a verification of enrollment from the SAIS Registrar’s Office.

Banks’ policies regarding the use of automated teller machines (ATM) vary. Most banks allow you to use their branches’ ATMs at no cost, as long as you have an account with them. However, using an ATM machine at another bank may incur a fee of at least $1 per transaction.

The following is a sample list of financial institutions with branches near the SAIS campus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank of America</th>
<th>1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 202.624.5090</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central National Bank</td>
<td>633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 888.262.5456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Capital Bank</td>
<td>316 Pennsylvania Ave SE, 202.546.8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase Bank</td>
<td>850 O St. NW, 571.373.5677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNC Bank</td>
<td>1050 Connecticut Ave NW, 202.835.5561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells Fargo</td>
<td>1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202.478.5289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Johns Hopkins University has partnered with HigherOne to process electronic refunds to students receiving more than the cost of tuition in federal loans and fellowships. HigherOne will email every new student requesting an address validation. If correct, HigherOne will mail you a plastic debit card in a bright green envelope. Do not shred your card if there is any chance you may be eligible for a future refund. This card will need to be activated to receive a refund from SAIS, once the funds become available.
HigherOne offers you three refund methods: using a HigherOne checking account, transferring money to your own U.S. bank account, or having a check mailed to you. The OneAccount from HigherOne is an FDIC-insured checking account with no minimum balance requirement and no monthly fees.

Johns Hopkins University has engaged Western Union Business Solutions to facilitate the receipt of student fees from international students. This payment option allows students to pay the university their student account balance in the currency of your choice and provides a simple and secure method for initiating payments electronically. We encourage all international students to choose this cost effective and efficient method of payment. However, international students are strongly encouraged to bring enough currency or American Express Travelers’ Checks to last throughout their initial stay in the U.S. If you plan on sending funds to SAIS via international wire transfer, you can do so via Western Union at the domestic wire transfer rate, rather than having to pay for the international wire. Note that non-U.S. citizens will need to show valid forms of identification in order to cash checks at U.S. banks. You may need to have an American bank account in order to cash checks that you receive for any type of payment or refund. If you wish to transfer money to the United States, you may need to purchase a U.S. dollar draft from a bank in your country that has a corresponding relationship with a U.S. bank in New York. Request that the dollar draft be payable to you, and deposit the draft into the bank account that you establish once you arrive in the U.S.

Debit and credit cards are also widely used in the U.S. and are necessary for many things, such as making reservations for hotels and rental cars and getting discounted airfares over the Internet. Banks may provide debit cards to international students, but may not be able to issue credit cards because of a lack of credit and debt history in the U.S. International students may be able to use credit cards and ATM cards from their home countries (particularly MasterCard or Visa) in the U.S., but fees are likely to be applied for each transaction.

All students should be aware that the deadline for filling federal and state tax returns is April 15. Tax forms are available online as well as at United States Postal Offices and public libraries. Helpful information can also be found through the Johns Hopkins University Tax Office at 443.997.8688 or tax@jhu.edu.
International Student Information

All non-U.S. citizens who are admitted to SAIS and submit matriculation materials will receive instructions on applying for student visas from the Office of International Services at Washington, D.C. (OIS). Once international students arrive at the SAIS campus, OIS becomes your main resource for information regarding maintenance of legal status and employment options in the U.S. OIS can also provide instructions for applying for a U.S. Social Security Number, obtaining a driver’s license and filing federal and state tax returns. Please contact OIS via email at sais-iss@jhu.edu or phone at 202.663.5672 for more information.

All international students who receive U.S. income during their study at SAIS may be subject to paying federal and state taxes. Sources of U.S. income include on-campus employment, scholarships, fellowships, graduate assistantships, practical or academic training, and any compensation received for labor. Income also includes that portion of a scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship that is applied directly to housing and meal expenses. The portion applied directly to tuition, fees and books is not considered income. However, funds provided to students by check or cash are fully taxable regardless of how the student intends to use them.

In the U.S., federal income taxes are prepaid by the employer based on the estimate of liability provided by the employee on the Form W-4. Since the withholding is only an estimate, employees are given a yearly opportunity to reconcile the amount taken out with how much was owed on a “Tax Return” form. The Tax Office has purchased a license for GLACIER federal tax preparation software for all international students.

Miscellaneous Note: Electrical sockets are different in the U.S. than in most other countries. We recommend you purchase a transmitter prior to your arrival in D.C. Sockets in the U.S. are 120 volts, whereas European sockets are 220. Converters cost approximately $20.

Telephone Service

Rather than having a telephone line installed in your apartment (“landline”) and arranging for long distance coverage, it may be more convenient and cost-efficient to use a mobile phone (“cell”) for local and long distance calls. Student discounts through Johns Hopkins University may be available for AT&T as well as Verizon wireless service. Find more details here.
Some international cell phones will work in the U.S. but will require setting changes and/or new SIM cards. Alternatively, some providers offer free phones when you purchase a plan. You will need a social security number to contract with a cellphone company.

To set up a landline, you will need to call a customer service representative of a local service provider. The customer service representative will ask for your preference in regards to a long distance service provider and will coordinate with the company of your choice on your behalf. Be prepared to spend about thirty minutes on the phone and to provide the following information to the representative: current address; previous address and phone number; current or previous employer; desired date of activation for telephone service; number of lines needed (telephone; internet connection, fax line); long distance service you intend to use; options such as calling waiting or answering service that you may or may not want. Expect service fees for installation, deposits and additional phone jacks.

From landlines, most telephone calls placed within the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and Maryland metropolitan area are considered local and accrue no additional charges. Dial the area code first. Local area codes include 202 (DC), 703 (Northern Virginia) and 301 (Maryland). Phone numbers with 1.800, 1.888 and 1.877 prefixes are toll free and paid for by the receiving party. Long-distance calls require dialing “1” before the remaining ten digits of the phone number. To place an international call, dial 011+ country code + city code + phone number. If you do not know the country code of the country you are calling, dial “0” and the operator will assist you.

**Shopping**

**Textbooks**

SAIS does not have its own bookstore. Required texts for courses will be listed online through MBS Direct. All required readings are also placed on reserve in the SAIS Library. Most professors post required readings electronically through the Library’s Electronic Reserves on Blackboard. New or used texts may also be purchased online through sites like Amazon, Book Finder, Barnes and Noble, or perhaps in person at local bookstores such as:

- Second Story Books 2000 P St. NW, 202.659.8884
- Bridge Street Books 2814 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 202.965.5200
Groceries

Johns Hopkins Student Well-Being has compiled a list of grocery stores in the D.C. area and some shopping tips for you. Check out the blog and the map here.

Home Furnishings and Accessories

- **Target**: 1515 New York Ave NE
- **IKEA**: 10100 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD
- **Mattress Firm**: 1301 U St. NW
- **True Value Hardware**: 1623 17th St. NW
- **Macy’s**: 1201 G St. NW
- **Bed Bath and Beyond**: 3100 14th St. NW

For those without a car, as one example, Zipcar offers a convenient way to rent cars by the hour (gas and insurance are included). You will need to apply with your driver’s license number, which can take some time, so be sure to sign up in advance. For more information, visit their site. For larger purchases, moves, or trips coordinated with groups of students, you may want to consider renting something like a **U-Haul** truck.
SAIS has partnerships with some local gyms which offer memberships at discounted rates for SAIS students. We encourage you to visit those facilities to best determine which most effectively suits your needs.

In addition to participating in SAIS Activity Clubs for sports like soccer, you have the opportunity to join a variety of informal sports leagues that are organized and managed by Washington, D.C. community members. Many teams use the public area between the National Mall and the Lincoln Memorial for evening and weekend practices and games. The following websites are provided as an introduction to local team sports:

- ZogSports
- DC Fray
- DPR Adult Sports
- The World Adult Kickball Association

The following parks and trails accommodate running, bicycling and hiking. See also the Recreational Bicycling Guide to the D.C. area.

- Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Park
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Rock Creek Park
- Capital Crescent Trail

## Movie Theaters

Here are some of the theatres closest to SAIS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theater Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMC LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14</td>
<td>3111 K St. NW</td>
<td>202.342.6033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDMARK E STREET CINEMAS</td>
<td>555 11th St. NW</td>
<td>202.783.9494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA DC</td>
<td>630 Rhode Island Ave NE</td>
<td>202.558.4341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGAL GALLERY PLACE &amp; 4DX</td>
<td>701 Seventh St NW</td>
<td>844.462.7342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGAL BALLSTON QUARTER</td>
<td>671 N Glebe Rd</td>
<td>844.462.7342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDMARK ATLANTIC CINEMA</td>
<td>807 V St NW</td>
<td>202.534.1965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Numerous opportunities exist for students to form meaningful connections with each other, and enjoy personal and professional development experiences outside the classroom. As one pathway, the SAIS Student Government Association (SGA) is the official umbrella organization for all student groups and student-based initiatives at SAIS. SGA officers are elected by the student body to manage student advocacy, help coordinate and communicate academic, cultural, social and career-related activities, and serve as liaisons between the student body and the administration and faculty. Your participation is essential for an active and responsive student government.

To become a member of any SGA Committee or to get involved, email saisssga@jhu.edu or sais.sga@gmail.com. All students are encouraged to present ideas and concerns.

There is an exciting variety of SAIS Career Clubs, Activity and Regional Clubs, and student publications. SGA also organizes several hallmark school-wide events during the year, such as the International Dinner, Cherry Blossom Ball, SAIS Got Talent, and weekly Friday happy hours.

- **SAIS Career Clubs**: These clubs work with the Career Services Office and focus on particular fields, including Consulting, and Finance.
- **SAIS Activity Clubs**: These clubs work with the Office of Student Life and include the SAIS Corps volunteer service club, China Club and Soccer Club.
- **SAIS Publications**: Student publications include the [SAIS Observer newspaper] and [SAIS Review journal of international affairs].
Internet Access: There are two wireless networks available to SAIS students: "JHGuestrnet" for basic internet access and "Hopkins" for secured access to administrative applications. Assistance connecting laptops to the networks is provided at the beginning of the semester.

JHEDAccount: Each student is assigned a JHED account and should monitor their email for notification and instructions in May. This login ID (LID) is required to access various applications and resources within the Johns Hopkins organization, including the Library, Blackboard, and the Student Information System (SIS).

Email: A Johns Hopkins University email address is provided by SAIS free of charge and is the primary way faculty and staff communicates with students. You may access your mailbox from any location with Internet access. If you choose to use an email account other than your JHU account, be certain to either forward the JHU account to your primary account or continue to check the JHU account frequently. To set up your Outlook Live (OL) mailbox, login to http://my.jhu.edu.

Johns Hopkins Student ID card (J-Card): This card will get you access to all SAIS buildings, allow you to check out materials from the Library and make copies, for example. Please upload your J-Card picture so you can pick up your J-Card upon arrival for Pre-Term or Orientation.

Contact saishelp@jhu.edu or 202.663.5666 if you have any questions or problems with the services above. Additional information can be found on the SAIS Insider Portal.

Student Lounges: There are lounges in the SAIS building where students can relax and study, they serve as social spaces. Vending machines are also available.

SAIS Library: A professional and friendly staff will be glad to assist you with general questions about SAIS or JHU libraries, and detailed research and reference queries. All incoming students are encouraged to attend a Library tour conducted by library staff when you arrive at SAIS. A schedule will be provided during Pre-Term and Orientation. For more information on hours, services and resources, visit www.sais-jhu.edu/library.
Mail

SAIS mailroom provides outgoing mail shipping services for students that need to send mail or packages domestically or internationally.

Students must use their own address for incoming mail provided by United States Postal Service (USPS), FedEx (Federal Express), UPS (United Parcel Service) and DHL (Dalsey, Hillblom and Lynn).

If you need a temporary address while you are still looking for a place of residence in Washington, D.C. you may rent a mailbox from USPS and UPS. Once you have your permanent address, then you can use your own address.

Academic Calendar

Visit the online Academic Calendar (www.sais.jhu.edu/academics/academic-calendars/academic-calendar-washington-dc) for registration deadlines, class start and end dates, exam dates, school breaks and other information. Note that the calendar is subject to change.

Academic Policies and Information

Many important policies, behavioral standards, deadlines, regulations and procedures for SAIS students are compiled in the Academic Procedures Manual, also known as “The Red Book” which is available in the my.jhu.edu student portal. Of particular importance is the Honor Code, which covers all activities in which a student presents information as his/her own, whether this information be in written papers, examinations, oral presentations, or materials submitted to potential employers or other educational institutions. It requires that students be truthful and exercise integrity and honesty in their dealings with others, both inside SAIS and in the larger community.