



Smithsonian Institution

Office of Fellowships



Housing for Interns, Fellows, and Visiting Scholars
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We hope this general information about the greater Washington, DC region and its neighborhoods will be helpful as you plan your relocation. It has tips about renting and getting around the area, and suggestions for housing options and resources.

The following information has been compiled by the Office of Fellowships to assist Smithsonian interns, fellows, and visiting scholars in locating housing in the greater Washington, D.C. area. This material is provided as a service and does not constitute an endorsement by the Smithsonian Institution. The prices quoted below are always subject to change and we advise you to call the location directly to verify that the information contained in this housing list.

WASHINGTON, DC

A wide variety of housing options are available throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Personal preference is generally the deciding factor in choosing a place to live. No matter what you decide, there are tradeoffs. If cost is a key issue, remember that generally the farther away from the center of the city, the less expensive the housing. If you rely on public transportation, keep in mind that living in the city requires less travel time. If you own a car, you should know that parking is generally difficult in the city, as street parking is scarce and garages often cost \$10 per day or more. Listed below are brief descriptions of some neighborhoods in and around metropolitan Washington, DC.

Northwest (N.W.): The largest area of the District, it is composed of several contrasting neighborhoods, including older areas and those being modernized and renovated. Most neighborhoods within Northwest, DC are served by both Metrobuses and the Metrorail system. As neighborhoods do vary within the city, visitors are well advised to visit the prospective home. Commuting time varies throughout this area, but generally ranges from 10-40 minutes. The following are individual descriptions of neighborhoods in NW DC:

Adams Morgan: This is an urban area near Dupont Circle and Kalorama, centered around Columbia Roads & 18th St., NW. Adams Morgan has a diverse population - students, young families, diplomatic officials, recent immigrants & longtime residents of the District. The neighborhood is very culturally diverse with many international restaurants & markets, including the Latin Market on Sunday, plus many shops & free festivals. Adams Morgan is also referred to as Washington Heights, Dupont Circle North or Mount Pleasant. Housing options vary enormously. Adams Morgan is an easy walk from the Woodley Park stop on Metrorail's Red Line or the U Street-Cardozo stop on the Green Line.

Cleveland Park: Cleveland Park is a historic neighborhood of single-family houses and large apartment buildings. The Cleveland Park Metro stop is conveniently located in an attractive area of small stores, restaurants, and a classic movie theater.

Dupont Circle: The Circle is actually the entire area around the intersection of Connecticut and Massachusetts Avenues, surrounded by Foggy Bottom to the south, and Adams Morgan to the north. Dupont Circle is a busy office and shopping area, as well as an urban cultural

center. The streets and avenues that radiate from Dupont Circle offer many types of accommodations, from older high-rises to smaller apartment buildings to basement apartments or private rooms in a home. The neighborhood is conveniently served by Metrorail's Dupont Circle stop on the Red Line.

Foggy Bottom: Foggy Bottom is George Washington University's campus and surrounding neighborhood. Housing is limited. Advantages to living in this area include a close proximity to the GW campus, The White House, The Kennedy Center, Watergate Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue, museums, government agencies, and national associations. Housing options include high-rise apartments and townhouses. Dupont Circle West and the West End may also be considered part of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. Metrorail's Orange and Blue Lines stop at Foggy Bottom.

Friendship Heights: The area located around upper Wisconsin Avenue, this neighborhood is located on the DC/Maryland border. This area contains high-rises, boutiques, restaurants, and two large shopping malls. Friendship Heights surrounds Wisconsin Avenue, with regular bus service and a Metrorail station on the Red Line.

Georgetown: The Georgetown shopping area caters to tourists, students and young adults. Occasionally townhouses are available to rent by several visitors who share the cost. Families sometimes rent individual rooms, or basement apartments in their private homes. This area can be reached by any bus on Pennsylvania Avenue, but is not directly served by Metrorail.

Glover Park: This neighborhood is a quiet, secluded area located just above Georgetown within walking distance of American University and the National Cathedral. The population of Glover Park consists of students, young professionals and families. Group houses abound in this area, along with smaller garden apartments. There are many restaurants and shops, and metrobus transportation is available. Glover Park may also be referred to as Cathedral, Observatory, and Upper Georgetown. It is served by the Wisconsin Avenue bus, but is a good walk from the nearest Metrorail station, at Cleveland Park.

Logan Circle: The area around this Circle, north of downtown and east of Dupont Circle, consists mainly of Victorian mansions, many of which are currently being renovated and revitalized. Due to its proximity to downtown DC, this area has a mixture of accommodations.

Woodley Park: Woodley Park is a comfortable neighborhood of town houses and large apartment buildings. It is north of Dupont Circle, south of Cleveland Park, and west of Adams-Morgan. Metrorail's Red Line station at Woodley Park is in the middle of a small but attractive shopping area.

Northeast (N.E.): This is the area around Catholic and Gallaudet Universities and Union Station, a large shopping and dining complex housing the Amtrak train terminal. Metrobuses travel regularly through all major arteries within Northeast, and the Green and Red Lines of Metrorail service neighborhoods of this area.

Southeast (S.E.): The neighborhood most famous in this area is "Capitol Hill", location of the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress and many other major government offices. Southeast is a very historic area, consisting of important federal buildings and residences representing diverse architectural styles. Public transportation via metro buses and the Metrorail system are available on a frequent basis with Orange/Blue Line stations at Capitol South and Eastern Market.

Southwest (S.W.): This is the downtown area near the Smithsonian museums on the Mall and Washington's waterfront. Public transportation exists in the way of metro buses and the Metrorail system with a Green Line stop at Waterfront, Blue/Orange Line stops at Smithsonian, and Blue/Orange/Yellow/Green Line stops at L' Enfant Plaza.

MARYLAND

Bethesda, Maryland: The downtown of Bethesda is rapidly being developed and has a very urban feeling. The Bethesda stop on Metro's Red Line is centrally located on Wisconsin Avenue. There are many large, new apartment buildings, some of which are rental. There are many restaurants in Bethesda, of all types and price ranges.

Silver Spring, Maryland: Located on the other end of the horseshoe loop of the Red Line on Metro from Bethesda, but not far geographically, is Silver Spring. Several large apartment buildings are convenient to the shopping district on Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue. Metro's Silver Spring stop is central to, and above it all here, where the subway is actually elevated.

Takoma Park, Maryland: Takoma Park is also on the Red Line of Metro, but farther to the east, across the border from the Northeast quadrant of DC. The Takoma Park Metro stop is near a small, low key central shopping area.

VIRGINIA

Alexandria, Virginia: Alexandria, an attractive historic city, offers a wide price range in housing and a wide variety in types of housing, although many landlords may not advertise in newspapers. The main thoroughfare from DC to Alexandria, Shirley Highway (Memorial and 14th St. Bridges) is very crowded during rush hour. Old Town Alexandria has a wide array of shops, restaurants, and other attractions. The Yellow and Blue Lines on Metrorail make three stops in the Alexandria area.

North Arlington, Virginia: Arlington is an inner suburb of Washington, immediately across the Potomac in Northern Virginia. There are many types of housing in North Arlington including townhouses, garden apartments, large high-rises, luxury apartments, duplexes, and individual homes. North Arlington is served by several stops on Metrorail's Orange Line.

South Arlington, Virginia: As in North Arlington, there are varied types of housing. Crystal City is a section of high-rises off of US Route 1 overlooking the Potomac River and accessible by Metrorail on both the Blue and Yellow Lines. A new development of apartment complexes has been built at Pentagon City, adjacent to the Fashion Centre shopping mall and also accessible on both the Blue and Yellow Lines.

ABOUT RENTING

The Security Deposit

If you are considering renting housing, you'll need to factor in the cost of a security deposit. A security deposit usually equals one month's rent, which you give to your landlord in addition to your first month's rent. Your security deposit is held to pay for any damages which might occur during your occupancy, to pay for cleaning/repairs when you move out (if you don't leave your apartment in satisfactory condition), or to hold if you don't pay your rent. Mainly, the security deposit is an initial expense to consider when renting, one you should get returned provided you fulfill the requirements in your lease when vacating.

Average Rent

The following are monthly rentals of unfurnished apartments that gives you an approximate idea of what you can expect to pay. However, rents vary greatly within the metropolitan DC area.

	<u>Washington, DC</u>	<u>Maryland/ Virginia</u>
Efficiency	\$700-950	\$700-950
1 Bedroom	\$700-1,500	\$650-1,500
2 Bedroom	\$900-1,800	\$900-1,800
3 Bedroom	\$1,200-2,000	\$1,000-2,000

Allow Time for Reference Checks

Many landlords require reference checks (employer, past rentals, credit rating, and the like) prior to your move-in, so allow time for this. Once a lease is signed, it usually means at least a week before you can move in.

FURNISHINGS

One solution for furniture is to rent a furnished apartment or find space in a group house. In addition, Washington has an abundance of lower-priced furniture stores and you may want to investigate leasing furniture rather than buying. The following are a few of the agencies within the metropolitan area. Consult the yellow pages for other listings.

General Furniture Leasing, 1129 20th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, 202/296-6555

Leases are available for a period of 3, 6, 9 months or longer. A deposit for the first month's rental fee is required. Locations are also available in Alexandria and Rockville. Special discounts are available to students.

CORT Furniture Rental, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202/223-9241

Another alternative to buying new or leasing furniture is buying secondhand pieces. Be sure to check bulletin boards at area universities for end-of-semester furniture sales or consult newspapers for ads on garage sales, estate closings, and the like. Also check the phone book for the location of Goodwill Stores, Salvation Army Thrift Stores, AMVETS, and used or refurbished furniture outlets.

GETTING AROUND

Public Transportation

Depending on where you live, you can ride Metrorail or Metrobus to get around the DC area. Metrorail is a modern, safe, and comfortable subway/commuter rail system. Metrobuses are also convenient and relatively reliable. For all Metro information, call 202/637-7000 from 6 am- 11:30 pm or look at the Metro website: www.wmata.com.

Metrobus stops are marked by red, white and blue signs. Look for the route number and/or letter above the windshield of the bus. It will show you where the bus is going. Printed routes of metrobuses may be obtained on board the bus or at neighboring metrorail stations.

There are five lines in the Metrorail system: Red, Orange, Blue, Green and Yellow. Every Metrorail station is marked by a tall bronze or black column with a large "M" at the top. The majority of Metrorail stations have elevators for riders with disabilities, in addition to the usual escalators. Inside each station is a color-coded map to help you plan your trip. It will also tell you the amount of the fare and approximately how much time your trip will take. Fares are based on when and how far you travel; the minimum one-way fare is \$1.35, and fares can be as much as \$3.90 for longer distances during rush hour. A fare-card must be purchased to ride the trains and is used to enter and exit each station. Be sure to obtain a transfer when changing from Metrorail to a Metrobus. There are two fare periods for both Metrorail and Metrobus: rush hour and non-rush hour. It costs more to ride either the Metrorail or bus during rush hours. Rush hour times are 5:30am to 9:30am and 3:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday through Friday. Metro hours of operation are currently 5:30 am to midnight Monday through Thursday, 5:30am to 3:00am Friday, 7:00am to 3:00am Saturday, and 7:00am to midnight Sunday.

Parking

Parking is limited in many areas. If a parking space/lot is not provided with an apartment, ask about the availability of off-street parking and parking regulations in the neighborhood. It is generally the policy of the District of Columbia government not to issue parking permits to vehicles with out-of-state licence plates. Unfortunately, DC does not recognize a fellowship as equivalent to student status for the purposes of applying for temporary tags.

YOUR HOUSING SEARCH

The following are some points you may wish to consider as you begin your search for temporary housing in the Washington, DC area:

How long do you want to stay in DC? What is the length of your appointment? Six weeks? Three months? A year?

Do you plan to live with others or on your own? How are you going to find a roommate?

How much personal space do you need? Could you share a room? Do you want a dorm room, apartment, or house?

How much can you pay for housing? Will your stipend cover all your costs? Will you use savings? Do you need access to public transportation? Will you have a car? How will you deal with parking? Can you walk everywhere you will need to go? Do you want on-site laundry? Can you get to grocery stores, dry cleaners, movies, etc. easily?

ON CAMPUS SUMMER HOUSING

The following local universities offer low cost, short term housing for visitors during the summer months. Spaces are limited, so it is advisable to write or call as soon as possible for an application for the upcoming summer.

The American University (www.american.edu/ocl/housing)

Office of Housing & Dining Services

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20016

Phone: 202/885-3370

Catholic University of America (housing.cua.edu)

Office of Housing and Residential Services

106 St. Bonaventure Hall

620 Michigan Avenue, N.E.

Washington, DC 20064

Phone: 202/319-5615

George Washington University (gwired.gwu.edu/cllc/summer)

Summer and Conference Housing

New Hall, Suite 106

2350 H Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20052

Phone: 202/994-CLLC

Howard University (www.howard.edu/howardlife/residence)

Office of Residence Life

2401 4th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20059

Phone: 202/806-6131

Trinity College (www.trinitydc.edu)

Conference Services

125 Michigan Avenue, N.E.

Washington, DC 20017

202/884-9516

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING REFERRALS

The housing offices at the universities listed below are good sources of information for off campus accommodations. You can check their listings for housing and can obtain copies of the [Apartment Shoppers' Guide](#) and maps of the city. Please apply in person; no mail or telephone inquiries are accepted.

The American University

Office of Housing & Dining Services
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: 202/885-3370

George Washington University

Summer and Conference Housing
New Hall, Suite 106
2350 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: 202/994-CLLC

HOSTELS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Institute for Experiential Learning (www.ielnet.org)

Phone: 800/IEL-0770

(Old Town Alexandria, VA)

This non-profit organization rents apartments, not used for their own program, to other interns at a discounted rate on a space available basis. Rooms include telephones, TV, and A/C. There are on-site work out facilities, a pool, store and dry cleaners. The building is secured 24 hours. The complex is convenient to shopping, restaurants, Historic Old Town and metro access.

International Student House (www.ishdc.org)

1825 R Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 202/232-4007

(Near Dupont Circle)

A limited number of accommodations are available with a minimum stay of 1 month. An application may be obtained by telephone or by mail. The House receives discounted tickets for concerts and programs in the area and schedules weekend trips around the DC area as far away as New York City.

Thompson Markward Hall

235 2nd Street, N.E.

Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 202/546-3255

(Near Union Station Metro)

For Women Only. All residents must be age 18 to 34.

Washington Intern Student Housing (www.internsdc.com)

305 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.

Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202/548-2720
Fax: 202/548-2435
(Capitol Hill Area)

Hostelling International USA

1009 11th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202/783-4943
(Downtown DC)

Provides safe, clean and affordable dormitory style housing for traveling young people year round. Located in downtown DC, the Hostel is close to the Metro, just five minutes from the White House and ten blocks from the Mall. Verification from the intern's host organization and a membership to the International Hostel Association is required. Please call well in advance for reservations.

APARTMENT BUILDINGS

Oakwood Apartments

1550 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22205
Phone: 703/258-3000

Furnished apartments for lease, with a minimum stay of 30 days.

Presidential Greens

3904 Executive Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305
Phone: 703/836-4400

Unfurnished apartments rented for seven month stays or longer and are on bus lines.

Highlands House West Apartments

4450 South Park Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Phone: 301/654-8000

Unfurnished or furnished apartments require a 3 month lease, and are located 2 blocks from Friendship Heights Metro Station.

The Virginian Suites

1500 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703/522-9600 or 800/275-2866
Fax: 703/525-4462

reservations@virginiansuites.com

Fully furnished apartments are within walking distance of Rosslyn Metro, and include free cable TV as well as access to a pool and fitness facilities. Parking is complimentary. Complimentary breakfast daily. On site coin laundry and same day valet service. Free shuttle to Rosslyn Metro during rush hours.

Potomac Suites Rosslyn

1730 Arlington Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: 703/528-2900 or 877/275-2877

Fax: 703/528-9010

info@potomacsuites.com

One bedroom, two bedroom and studio suites with fully equipped kitchens. On site exercise room and Jacuzzi. Complimentary parking and continental breakfast on weekdays. Daily and monthly rates available. Complimentary shuttle service to Metro during rush hours.

APARTMENT SEARCH SERVICES

Apartment Search/Relocation Central (www.apartmentsearch.com)

291 Van Dorn Street

Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: 800/420--3733

Can help you find an apartment free of charge from their database. Call the office on their toll free line for more information. It is best to visit directly, but if you are arranging accommodations from out of town you must have access to a fax machine.

The other services listed below may charge a flat fee for using the service, or your rent may include a charge every month which is paid to the search service. This is an expensive option which can be avoided by doing legwork and research on your own.

Apartment Locator, 7629 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD, 301/656-3733

Southern Management Corporation, 800/999-RENT

SHORT TERM HOUSING

The following information has been compiled to assist in locating short term housing (1-4 weeks). The listing does not imply endorsement by the Smithsonian Institution and is provided as a service.

Prices listed are current as of July 2004 and are nightly rates unless stated otherwise. Please call to verify all room rates as they are always subject to change.

Adams Inn (Near Woodley Park Metro) (www.adamsinn.com)

1744 Lanier Place, N.W.

Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 800/578-6807

Single/shared bath: \$75.00 + tax (\$10.00 each additional guest) with Continental breakfast

Single/private bath: \$85.00 + tax (\$10.00 each additional guest) with Continental breakfast

Weekly rates start at \$420.00 to \$490.00 + tax (and do not include breakfast).

Allen Lee Hotel (Near Foggy Bottom Metro) (www.allenleehotel.com)

2224 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202/331-1224; 800/462-0186
Single/shared bath: \$45.00
Single/private bath: \$58.00
Double/shared bath: \$62.00 one double bed or two single beds
Double/private bath: \$74.00 one double bed or two single beds
Prices do not include tax.

The Bed and Breakfast League, LTD.

Reservation service representing 60 houses throughout the DC area
Price depends on area or available housing
PO Box 9490
Washington, DC 20016-9490
Phone: 202/363-7767
All houses are within walking distance from the Metrorail

International Guest House (Near metro bus line S2 and S4. Both involve about
1441 Kennedy Street, N.W. 2 hour bus ride to the Smithsonian)
Washington, DC 20011
Phone: 202/726-5808
\$30.00 per person per night
Rooms are shared. Building is locked at 11pm. Includes evening tea and continental breakfast.
US and Canadian citizens: maximum 1 week stay. International citizens: maximum 2 weeks stay.

International Student Center

2451 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202/667-7681
Price: \$22.00
Free transportation from Greyhound Bus and Amtrak.

Kalorama Guest House

1854 Mintwood Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202/667-6369
Rates: \$50.00 to \$115.00 + tax
Higher prices are for peak months (April - November)

The Brickskeller Inn (2 blocks from Dupont Circle Metro)

1523 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202/293-1885

Tabard Inn (Dupont Circle) (www.tabardinn.com)
1739 N Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202/785-1277
Single: prices range from \$94.00 to \$190.00 + tax

Motel 6 (5 blocks to Takoma Park Metro)
6711 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20012
Phone: 202/722-1600

Simkins Bed & Breakfast & Hostel (Dupont Circle)
1601 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202/387-1328

The "2005" Columbia Guest House (Dupont Circle)
2005 Columbia Road N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202/332-9641

The Windsor Inn (Near Dupont Circle Metro)
1842 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202/667-0300
Single: prices range from \$79.00 to \$119.00 + tax
Double: prices range from \$79.00 to \$139.00 + tax

The Windsor Park Hotel (4 blocks to the Woodley Park Metro)
2116 Kalorama Road, N.W. (www.windsorparkhotel.com)
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202/483-7700

THE INTERNET

The following websites may assist you in your housing search:

www.rental.com
www.apartmentguide.com
www.washingtoncitypaper.com
www.washingtonpost.com

www.forrent.com
www.apartments.com
www.rentnet.com

THE NEWSPAPERS

The Washington Post, The Washington Times, and The City Paper all list available housing within their classified sections, and many newspapers are available on the Internet. The City Paper is a free weekly news and entertainment paper that has an extensive classified housing section. Most neighborhoods and communities publish their own local newspaper, such as The Uptowner and The Northwest Current. These kinds of newspapers are generally free and are often found in smaller racks of stores within each neighborhood.

You can place your own "housing wanted" ad in a campus paper, or subscribe to a paper and respond to the Summer Sublet ads. The papers will be mailed to you, so you will be receiving them several days/weeks after publication. Some university papers to contact:

The American University Eagle is published on Mondays. You must send a check and indicate the number of weeks you want the ad to run when you send the advertisement (202/885-1400).

The Georgetown Hoya comes out twice a week, Tuesday and Friday, until May 25th (202/687-3947).

The George Washington University Hatchet comes out twice a week, Monday and Thursday (202/994-7079).

What do Classified Abbreviations Mean?

Term	/	Meaning	Term	/	Meaning
ac or a/c		air conditioning	inclg		including
apt		apartment	kit		kitchen
avail		available	lge		large
b/k		block	loc		location
bkyd		backyard	lr		living room
bldg		building	lux		luxury
br		bedroom	lvls		levels
bsmt		basement	mo		month
CAC		central air conditioning	mod		modern
CATV		cable	occpy		occupancy
conv		convenient	pkg		parking
cpt		carpeted	prof		professional
dec		decorated	pvt		private
dr		dining room	ref		references
dw		dishwasher	shr		share housing
efficiency		studio/one room	TH		townhouse
flr		floor	+ util		plus utilities (you pay for electricity, gas, phone in addition to rent)
g/d		garbage disposal	wbfp		wood burning fireplace
hse		house	w/d		washer dryer
H/w		hardwood floors			
immedimmediate					
inc		includes			

Neighborhood Abbreviations

When reading through the classified section of a newspaper, you may find some of the locations difficult to understand. The following is a list of abbreviations used for some of the neighborhoods in the metropolitan Washington, DC area:

District of Columbia

Adms Mrgn - Adams Morgan
AU - American University
Cap Hill - Capitol Hill
CIvd Pk - Cleveland Park
Conn Ave - Connecticut Avenue
Dup Cir - Dupont Circle
Dwntrn - Downtown
Fog Bot - Foggy Bottom
Frndshp Hgts - Friendship Heights
G'town - Georgetown
Mt Plsnt - Mount Pleasant
NE - Northeast
NW - Northwest
SE - Southeast
SW - Southwest
Wdly Pk - Woodley Park

Maryland

AAFB - Andrews Air Force Base

Beth – Bethesda
CH CH - Chevy Chase
Coll Pk - College Park
Gaith - Gaithersburg
Germ - Germantown
Hyatts - Hyattsville
Rockv - Rockville
Sil Spg - Silver Spring

Virginia

Alex - Alexandria
Arl - Arlington
Arl N - Arlington North
Arl S - Arlington South
Ball or Blstn - Ballston
Falls Ch - Falls Church
FFX - Fairfax
Ross or Rssltn - Rosslyn
Spgfld - Springfield

Grassroots Search Efforts

Sometimes finding the right housing can be a matter of luck: seeing the right poster, being in the right place, driving down the right street. Home seekers should constantly stay alert as they travel through those neighborhoods in which they would like to live. Many people merely post flyers on lampposts, phone booths, or put "For Rent" signs in home windows. Less formal methods that sometimes have great results include checking community bulletin boards. Some spots which can be helpful are listed below:

- * Giant and Safeway supermarkets
- * Chesapeake Bagel Bakeries (818 18th Street, N.W. and 3839 Minnesota Avenue, N.E.)
- * KramerBooks and Afterwards (1517 Connecticut Avenue, NW, near Dupont Circle)
- * Bulletin boards at the State Department
- * University of Maryland Student Union
- * Public libraries often maintain bulletin boards for public use

ADDITIONAL TIPS

*Another housing option is the Group House, usually 4-6 people sharing a large house and splitting the rent and utilities. Leases are most often month-to-month. Rent tends to be lower than in an apartment. Primarily occupied by people in their twenties located near university campuses. "Housing to Share" listings can be found in local papers (The Washington Post and The City Paper) and through University Off-campus housing referrals (see above). Be sure to check the certificate of occupancy if more than six unrelated persons are renting rooms in a group house or an entire house.

*Be aware that apartment renting is a business transaction. Personal presentation is very important, so dressing more formally is more likely to produce a favorable response in rental agents.

*If your college/university has an alumni chapter in the Washington metropolitan area, the office on your campus can provide you with its address or telephone number. The local chapter can be a good source of housing information.

*Often landlords do not advertise vacancies in newspapers but post signs on their properties. The best way to find these rentals is to walk or drive through neighborhoods in which you would like to live.

*Many Realtors are contracted with landlords to rent housing. Consult the ads under the real estate heading in the Yellow Pages of a telephone directory to ascertain which Realtors handle rentals.

*Verbal rental agreements are binding and legally enforceable, but it is safer to have a written agreement in order to avoid misunderstanding of terms and conditions. Be sure to retain a copy signed by the landlord's agent in order to protect yourself in the event of a dispute. Most landlords will have lease or rental forms. DC rental agreements or leases made by persons under 18 must be signed by a parent or guardian. Rental agreements or leases made by persons under 18 can be and generally are binding in Maryland and Virginia, but landlords may require a parent's or other co-signature.

*When investigating prospective housing options, look for security in and near the building (i.e., locked doors, access of laundry room to outsiders, well lit hallways and laundry rooms, grilled windows on ground floors (essential for basement apartments) and well lit streets near the building).

In addition to the suggestions above, the Office of Fellowships maintains a folder of current short and long term housing listings. Fellows, interns and visiting scholars may look at the listings on a walk-in basis. Please feel free to contact the Office of Fellowships at 202/275-0655 or housing@si.edu if you have any questions.