New Student Programs
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016-8168

Welcome Week is a long-standing tradition for new students to ease the transition to your new home. We devote two and a half days to introduce you to the nation’s capital, show you how to navigate by Metrorail, and help you get to know this exciting international city.

Our diverse, hands-on Welcome Week programs—Freshman Service Experience, Discover DC, Explore DC—let you sample different sides of Washington from an insider’s perspective. Jumpstart your experience as an engaged resident of the District, and get ready to explore with new friends.

ARE YOU A TRANSFER STUDENT? Welcome Week is for you, too. See “Transfer Students” box for details.
FRESHMAN SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Freshman Service Experience (FSE) is the cornerstone of Welcome Week. Each year 600 students come together to perform community service in small groups with local nonprofits and explore issues of social justice. Since 1990 more than 10,000 students have contributed over 200,000 hours of service. Select a project that is compatible with your passion, whether it’s hunger and homelessness, public health, art for social change, or another issue. And in the evening, join other student volunteers for dinner, speakers, and social events.

202-885-7378
american.edu/volunteer

EXPLORE DC

A topical introduction to Washington, this program lets you view the nation’s capital from an angle of your choosing—maybe business, sustainability, or media communications, to name just a few options. Guided by AU faculty or staff, you’ll explore with a group of fellow students who share your passion. Experience Washington as we see it; an extension of campus with endless opportunities for learning.

202-885-3303
american.edu/welcomeweek

DISCOVER DC

For 12 years, Discover DC has been connecting new AU students with the city you’ll call home. You might not visit every monument or tourist attraction—but you will get an insider’s overview of the city’s neighborhoods and cultures and hidden corners. With current students as your guides, you’ll discover what it’s like to live in the dynamic District of Columbia.

202-885-3303
american.edu/welcomeweek

DATES

All programs start Tuesday, August 19; events begin in the afternoon and continue through Thursday evening.

CHECK-IN: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mary Graydon Center (first floor)

FEE

The fee for Welcome Week is $115, which covers dinner on Tuesday, breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday, and admission to evening events. It also includes supplies and materials, local transportation (including a SmarTrip card for some programs), staff costs, and a T-shirt.

Your meal plan begins Sunday, August 17; groups will meet for dinner in the dining hall on Wednesday and Thursday. Please plan to bring about $15 per day to cover lunch and personal expenses.

Note: Fee waivers based on financial need may be available on request; email nspwaivers@american.edu (include your name and student ID number).

REGISTER

Log on to the portal at myau.american.edu with your user ID and password. Click on the following sequence of links: Life@AU, New Students, New First-Year Student Checklist, Register for Eagle Summit and Welcome Week Programs.

The site will be available beginning Monday, June 9; space fills up quickly so register early.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

If you plan to attend a two-day orientation in June or July, you may participate in any Welcome Week program. Attending the one-day orientation on August 20? Join the Transfer Service Experience or Discover DC on August 21. Register for your Welcome Week activity when you sign up for orientation.

For information on receiving the accreditation and state licensing of American University, please call 800-927-3665 or email summers@american.edu.

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