

Transportation and Communication **For Your Consideration in Washington, DC**

Before arriving in DC, gather all your friends' email addresses, instant messaging screen names, and phone numbers. (Note: An instant messaging account will prove to be vital for communicating with friends and relatives back home to eliminate the cost of long distance phone calls.)

You should read through all material in this packet to address any questions that may need you to "take care of" something before you head to DC. You should also begin to familiarize yourself with a map of Washington, DC area and the metro rail system. A map of the system can be found at www.wmata.com. All information pertaining to the Metro system of DC can be found on this website. You will be in charge of purchasing your own metro passes and a list of locales where to purchase them can be found on this site as well as cost of the various passes available to commuters.

If you plan to take a trip home or have family/friends visit, sign up to have airfare promotions sent directly to your email from all the major airlines. They can be customized to show all the places you want to visit and what internet-specific prices you can get on airfare. You can also look into other methods of transport via the bus or train as well. Several inexpensive bus lines run from DC to NYC throughout the week and weekend. A membership to Student Advantage will also afford you discounts on travel via both train, AMTRAK, and bus, GREYHOUND. You may also need to find a place to stay for visiting friends or family. You can find amazing deals on Hotwire.com, but they come with certain restrictions. American University also has an account with a company named ZIPCAR which provides automobile rental per use. A ZIPCAR is stationed at the Tenley Campus. A membership fee and a major credit card are needed to secure the ability to rent a ZIPCAR. A random Google search can also prove helpful in finding travel, car rental, and hotel deals. Some helpful URLs are: www.sidestep.com, www.southwest.com, www.aa.com, www.united.com, www.delta.com, www.usairways.com, www.continental.com, www.kayak.com, www.studentadvantage.com, www.hotwire.com, and www.zipcar.com.

You are responsible for arranging and paying for ground transportation to and from the AU Tenley campus and the airport. Directions to the campus from Ronald Reagan National Airport are provided in this packet. Make sure you have sufficient money to cover a taxi (about \$25+ - not including tip) or Super Shuttle (BLUE VAN) expense (\$11+ - not including tip). Prices do vary due to "peak" traffic hours. WINS RAs will meet you at the airport to help direct you in securing transport to the Tenley campus. Students who drive to campus (Note: not all students are allowed to drive to campus) are responsible for making their own plans as well know what they need to complete to have their cars on campus (see transportation information form).

We suggest bringing \$300, at a minimum, to cover personal expenses while you are waiting for your stipend paperwork to be finalized and implemented. We need to point out that everything is very expensive in Washington, especially food, drinks and clothing. You must be conservative in how you spend your money during the first few weeks. If you expect to go out, you should include some extra money in your budget. A Chevy Chase banking account will be opened for you while you are in DC and your stipend will be directly deposited into this account on a biweekly basis. An unexpected stipend deposit snafu may occur, so it wise to have an emergency funds safety net to carry you through while it is being resolved. You may also want to supplement your summer budget with additional funds for weekend vacations and activities