



Washington DC Budgeting Guide

Washington is waiting for you! The William & Mary Washington Center proudly hosts roughly 275 students per year pursuing rigorous academic and professional opportunities in the heart of our nation's capital. With all of the opportunities available to students in the city, it may be important to consider budgetary adjustments along the way. The Washington Center has put together this handy guide and sample budget plan for students to use when preparing for their Study in DC experience.

Suggested Budgeting Steps:

Pick a Timeframe for Your Budget

- How long will you be studying in DC? Whether it's for a few days or a full semester, it is important to consider the length of your DC experience.

List All of Your Income

- In your budget, include all of your income sources, which may include internship wages, allowances, financial aid, and more.

List All of Your Expenses

- In your budget, be sure to include all of your expenses for when you will be living in DC. This may include shopping, transportation, groceries, tourism, and more. If you are unsure of what your typical expenses look like, you can keep a sample budget while in Williamsburg to get a sense of your spending habits, or reference your bank statements to see how you tend to allocate funds.

Plan for Emergencies

- Although we hope for the best while we are traveling, it is always safe to plan to have a contingency fund for unexpected expenses.

Make Sure Your Budget Balances

- When you tally them up, your income should outweigh your expenses.

Revisit and Adjust as Necessary

- Sometimes budgets change, or prices fluctuate. Revisit long-term budgets every so often to stay on track and make any needed adjustments. If you plan your budget far in advance of your DC trip, be sure to double-check it for you arrive.

If You Aren't Sure, Just Ask!

- Budgeting is tricky, so do not be afraid to ask for help. IF you are unsure of how much certain things in DC cost (such as metro fair or eating out), feel free to reach out to our program staff to get a better estimate. We're happy to help.



Winter Seminars Sample Budgets

Winter Seminar

	Daily Budget	10 Day Budget (Estimated Total Cost)
<i>Food (Lunch is guaranteed on class days)</i>	15-20	150-200
<i>Local Transportation</i>	10	100
<i>Entertainment/Social</i>	Subject to change	25
<i>Other Necessities*</i>	Subject to change	10
TOTAL		\$285-335

*Other necessities may include (but are not limited to): books/school supplies, cell phone bill, toiletries and other purchases, etc.