CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
NURSING STUDENT
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC, USA

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ABOUT GEORGETOWN

Georgetown University is located in north western Washington DC. The university was founded in 1789 and consists of four schools, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the Medical School, the Law School and the College. The university is a Catholic Jesuit university, although it welcomes students of all faiths, and has a reputation for both academic and sporting excellence.

Georgetown University is home to approximately 8500 students from around the United States of America and over 100 other countries, including Australia, Canada, Mexico, China and France. Many of these students live on campus, or on nearby university properties, which allows them to take advantage of the facilities and services provided on Campus.

Services and facilities on the main campus include a multistory student centre, which has a student run coffee shop and supermarket on the main floor, the Yates Field House, which is the sporting centre of the university, housing a indoor lap pool and running track, gymnasium and basketball courts. Additionally, when you have some free time, nearby Wisconsin Avenue and M Street are well known for their upscale shopping and restaurants.
Georgetown University’s student exchange programs are ran by the Office of International Programs (OIP), located on the second floor of Poulton Hall across the road from the university’s main gates on 37th Street. Unlike Charles Sturt University, a large proportion of students choose to undertake an exchange program in their junior year, so the office is quite a busy place, although the staff are always willing to help where possible.

Upon arrival to Georgetown University you will meet Lisa Gordinier, the exchange student coordinator and the OIP Resource Centre Advisor. Lisa is one of your main contacts during your stay, acting as an academic advisor for exchange students, in addition to general support where she can. Lisa can be found in the resource centre, across from the reception desk in the OIP. Additionally, you will be assigned an immigration advisor who will help to ensure that all legal requirements of your exchange program are met.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies (NHS) is on the opposite side of campus to the OIP in the St Mary’s Building. Many of the nursing Faculty that you will deal with whilst you are at Georgetown can be found on either level 2 or level 4 of this building. Within the NHS, Jillian Orfeo (room 246), is your academic advisor, and is there to help you get settled into your classes and answer questions you may have about classes or the school.

Upon commencement of classes you will discover that there are students of varying ages. The main reason for this is because Georgetown not only has a traditional undergraduate 4 year degree nursing program, but also a fast track second degree program for people who have completed a prior undergraduate degree in another field.
CLASSES AND ASSESSMENTS

The NHS has a variety of classes for exchange students to choose from, including foundation subjects such as NURS173/174 Nursing Care of Adults and Children (equivalent to CSU’s NRS240/NRS250), and specialty subjects such as NURS172 Women’s Health which concentrates on pregnancy, childbirth and maternal postpartum and newborn health, and NURS204 Pharmacology. Further information on classes and their availability can be found on the Georgetown University website.

During the semester you will be required to complete a variety of assessments. These may include writing nursing care plans, completing clinical logs, writing evidence based papers and class theory examinations. In regards to examinations, as students are required to complete the NCLEX exam at completion of their course, exams are commonly in multiple choice format to prepare students for this national exam. All written work should be referenced according to the American Psychiatric Association guidelines (APA format). Academic help services in the Yates student centre and a proof reading service in the library are available to help students adjust to the American format of assessments.

Above is a picture of GUS, the Georgetown University Simulator. GUS is located in the basement level of the St Mary building next to the nursing clinical laboratories. GUS is used during the semester to give students the opportunity to carry out practice scenarios in a clinical setting. Students may also use GUS to complete practical assessments such as insertion of an nasogastric tube or an indwelling catheter during the semester.
Clinical Requirements

At Georgetown University the majority of NHS students are required to attend clinical 1-2 times a week, depending on the subjects they are completing that semester. Clinical groups for each subject are posted at the beginning of each semester, with Jillian a good person to contact if there is a problem with your clinical posting and you do not know who the clinical coordinator is.

Due to the large number of students requiring clinical placements, not everyone is assigned to complete their clinical at the Georgetown University Hospital. In fact many students are assigned hospitals around the Washington DC region, with many students car pooling to their clinical each week. As such, it is a good idea that when you know which group you have been assigned into, to contact the other students in your group (e.g. via email through blackboard or ask the professors to help you identify students in your group) to see if anyone will be driving to the clinical.

The NHS has a nursing uniform that you will be required to wear during your clinical visits. It is advisable to let Jillian know your clothing sizes as soon as possible so that one can hopefully be organised for you by the time you arrive. Depending on the availability, a nursing uniform may be able to be lent to you for the duration of your stay, however you will require white shoes to wear with the uniform. Additionally, you will receive a university name badge to wear to identify you as a Georgetown student whilst you are on clinical.
Living On Campus

Undergraduate exchange students have the opportunity to live on campus in the university residences. The majority of the rooms are dual occupancy, although there are a small amount of single rooms that may be available upon request, in addition to a number of triple occupancy dorm rooms.

In the halls of residences, each floor will have a common area that has a small kitchen and a TV lounge. Additionally, some of the dorms have separate study rooms and a library room that can be quiet places for students to study.

All of the university residences have some form of internet connection, whether it be wireless or a LAN connection. Additionally, in many of the halls of residences there are printer rooms for students who do not have printers to be able to print out their work at 10 cents per page (5 cents per page in the Nursing Computer Lab).

In regards to bathroom facilities, it depends on the type of accommodation you choose (for example hall or residence or shared flat) whether you will share a bathroom with other students on the floor or have an ensuite in your room. Additionally, each dorm has its own Laundry room (which may or may not be in the same building as your room), however you will need to have money on your GO Card (Student ID card) to be able to use the machines.
Living On Campus

The dorm rooms themselves a pretty bare once you first arrive. Generally you will find that the university has supplied a bed and mattress (twin extra long), a small desk, a chair, bookshelves and a wardrobe for your belongings. Bedding is not supplied and will either need to be brought with you or purchased upon your arrival. A mattress protector/foam underlay is advisable for comfort as the mattresses are covered in a plastic lining. Below is a list of other things you may wish to bring with you, or purchase when you get to Georgetown.

- Desk Lamp
- Towel and Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Umbrella
- Laundry Bag
- Kitchen Supplies
- Photos

- Books
- Computer
- Camera
- Shower bucket and shoes
- Stationary
- Paracetamol (Panadol) - this is called Acetaminophen (Tylenol) in the USA.

When you first arrive in Washington DC working out where to find the basics is a little difficult. While you can easily reach the metro train stations via the university run shuttle buses that are free for students, working out initially how to use the ticket machines and getting to the station you need can be a little confusing. For basic supermarket and food needs a Safeway is located on Wisconsin Avenue, along with a CVS pharmacy. If you are after bedding or electrical appliances then you can catch the metro train to either Friendship Heights or Pentagon City. You can also get to Friendship Heights via metro bus from Wisconsin Avenue. Both Pentagon City and Friendship Heights have a bed and bath store, however if you go to Pentagon City you will have to go outside of the main shopping complex to be able to find the store. Additionally a World Market store can be found at both Pentagon City and Friendship Heights where you will be able to buy Tim Tams and Darrel Lea liquorice, but make sure you bring your vegemite from home. Lisa Gordinier is a good person to help you work out where to go to get what you need, and don’t forget that the Yates Student Centre has a supermarket, coffee shop and food court on the main floor. Additionally Hoya Snaxa, a smaller version of the supermarket is located beneath Kennedy Hall across from the Lacrosse field.
Before you get to Georgetown

Organising to get yourself to Georgetown is not only a huge amount of paperwork, but also a lot of running around organising passports, if you don’t have one already, immigration documents (Visa and SEVIS form), travel arrangements and someone to take care of things at home. However, all this running around will be worth it when you’re on your way across the equator. Below is a short outline of things you may want to know.

Immigration Forms
The information you need to gain a USA exchange visa should hopefully arrive with your acceptance letter. Once you have the required paperwork you can make an appointment with your nearest American embassy online. Information on USA non-immigrant visas can be found at http://canberra.usembassy.gov/consular/visas.html.

Travelling to the Washington, DC
If you have the time, I found that a round the world ticket was one of the most economic ways to get from Australia to Washington, DC and back again. Buying a round the world ticket also allows you to do some travelling before you get to DC and on your way home. I purchased my ticket through STA Travel, however shopping around is your best option when organising flights, just make sure you have your visa prior to paying for the flight/s.

Financing your trip away
Apart from travel grants that your home university can help you with, if you are an Australian Citizen you may be entitled to Youth Allowance from Centrelink whilst you are away. Additionally, you are able to work in the USA, but there are regulations to you gaining employment that your immigration advisor will go through during orientation.
Travel and Health Insurance

Due to the high prices of health care in North America, when travelling to the USA you normally need to purchase the highest level of insurance available. Once again shopping around will help to find the best plan for you. In regards to health insurance, it is a requirement of the university that all students have appropriate health care. The university has their own health insurance policy, however you will need to check with Lisa and Jillian whether this will be included in your exchange program funding. If it is not, you will need to take your travel/health insurance to be sighted by the insurance office so that you are not charged for the university’s health insurance if you do not wish to purchase it.

Packing for Georgetown

The weather in Washington DC varies throughout the year. In the winter the temperature commonly ranges from –10°C to 10°C and chances are you will experience some snow and ice during the winter months. However, the university and surrounding area commonly experiences winds that make it feel much cooler, so be prepared to rug up. In the spring, Washington DC heats up with temperatures that can reach up to 38°C during the hot and humid summer. As a result, you should pack clothes suitable for a variety of different temperatures. If coming from Australia into an American winter you may wish to purchase a warm jacket upon arrival that is more suitable than what you may be able to buy at home.

Before packing your bag you should email Lisa Gordinier to see whether there anything has been left for you as the next nursing exchange student. Currently there are three boxes, including bedding, textbooks and kitchen supplies, that have been donated for use by nursing exchange students during their stay. Please feel free to add to these boxes when you leave. On a separate note, if a textbook that you need is not in the donated boxes, check with the professor prior to purchasing a copy from the bookshop. The professors commonly have spare copies that they may be happy to lend you during your stay. Additionally, www.amazon.com is a good place to purchase textbooks.
Where to go when you first arrive

When first arriving at Georgetown University your first stop will most likely be meeting Lisa Gordinier at the Office of International Programs. Lisa’s office can be found on the 2nd Floor of Poulton Hall, above the UPS store. Poulton Hall is located on the corners of 37th and P Street, on block north of the university’s main gates. Upon meeting Lisa she will most likely have some information waiting for you and tell you where and when orientation will be. As a school of nursing exchange student it may also be arranged for you to meet Jillian Orfeo upon your arrival, but Lisa will be able to point out St Mary’s Hall on a campus map so you will be able to find Jillian without too many problems.

After meeting Lisa it is important that you go and get your Georgetown Go Card, or student ID card, which also acts as a swipe card to get into university buildings (including your dorm) and computer labs, a library card and a cash card. The Go Card office is located across campus, underneath Darnell Hall, next to the Student Health Centre and St Mary’s Hall. Without this card you will be unable to gain access into your dorm if you are living on campus. Once you have gotten your Go card and are living in the university residences you will need to find your Residence Hall of Office (RHO) where you can pick up your room key. If you are unsure of where to go, Harbin Hall RHO will be able to point you in the right direction.
Georgetown University main campus map

(10) Academic Administration
(71) Academic Administration
(69) Alumni House
(67) Alumni Square (Village B)
(4) Beato Science Building
(12) Blee Building
(1) Building D
(27) Burn Laboratories Center (ICC)
(79) Car Barn
(9) Concentrated Care Center
(35) Copley Hall
(27) Copley House
(40) Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart
(8) Dahlgren Medical Library (DML)
(39) Dahlgren Quadrangle
(17) Danial Hall
(36) Davis Performing Arts Center (under construction)
(76) East Campus Quadrangle (ECQ)
(48) Gaston Hall
(11) Georgetown University Hospital
(53) Garvkee Building
(13) Gordan Building
(72) GU Shops
(50) Harblin Hall
(54) Harby Hall
(61) Hanley Hall
(60) Healy Law
(62) Housing and Dining Plant
(18) Harry Village
(28) ICC Auditorium
(39) Institute of Diplomacy
(36) Jesuit Residence (Washington Hall)
(29) Keiloh Field
(40) Kennedy Hall
(50) Kohler Cogen Building
(83) Lanning Library
(22) Lowey Center
(12) Lombardi Cancer Center
(76) Loyola Hill (LJR)
(58) Maguire Hall
(24) Main Campus bus stop
(42) McCarthy Hall
(31) McDonough Gymnasium
(49) MacDonald Auditorium
(52) McEachern Building
(8) Medical and Dental Annex
(8) Medical and Dental Building
(44) Miesbey Building
(74) Nevin Building
(44) New North
(3) New Research Building
(67) New South
(69) North Gatehouse
(10) North Keiloh Field
(43) O'Connell Dining Hall
(30) Observatory
(47) Old North
(14) O'Malley House
(86) Poulsen Hall
(7) Pre-Clinical Science Building (PBSc)
(24) Reid Square
(68) Reid Alumnae Residence
(28) Reiss Science Building
(2) Research Resource Facility
(RRF)
(39) Reynolds Hall
(57) Riggs Library
(65) Rybun Hall
(76) Rybun Hall (LJR)
(69) South Gatehouse
(41) Southeast Quadrangle
(10) St. Mary's Hall
(62) Village A
(44) Village C
(53) Walsh Building
(29) White-Gnanam Hall
(77) Xavier Hall (LJR)
(21) Yulee Field House

*Georgetown University Hospital is owned and operated by MedStar Health.
Georgetown University Contacts

- Lisa Gordinier—Exchange Student Coordinator
  Email: lag33@georgetown.edu
  Mailing Address
  Office of International Programs
  Georgetown University
  Box 571013
  2nd Floor Poulton Hall
  Washington, DC
  20057-1013
  Phone: +1 202 687 5867
  Fax: +1 202 687 5944

- Jillian Orfeo—School of Nursing
  Email: jo75@georgetown.edu
  Phone: +1 202 687 7114
  Location: Office 246 St Mary’s Hall

- Georgetown University 24 Hour Emergency Number 202 687 4343
Helpful Websites

Georgetown University

- Main Homepage
  http://www.georgetown.edu
- Georgetown University Office of International Programs
  http://www11.georgetown.edu/oip/
- Georgetown University Residences New Student Information
  http://housing.georgetown.edu/academic/new/index.cfm
- Georgetown University School of Nursing
  http://nhs.georgetown.edu/Nursing/dept.html
- Georgetown University Television Guide
  http://www.meevee.com/myguide.aspx
- APA format guide
- Map Quest
  http://www.mapquest.com

Transportation

- Georgetown University Transportation System (GUTS)
  http://otm.georgetown.edu/guts/index.cfm
- DC metro (has trip planner for both metro buses and trains)
  http://www.wmata.com
- DC Circulator Bus (Regular Fare $1 exact change)
  http://www.dccirculator.com
- Shuttle from Dulles Airport
  http://www.supershuttle.com
Helpful Websites

Immigration/Travel Information

- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
  http://www.ice.gov/sevis

- Foreign Embassies in the US
  http://www.embassy.org

- Australian Smart Traveller
  http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Travel Warnings)
  http://www.dfat.gov.au