Top Secret 2013: Challenges to National Security in a Global Society

Frequently Asked Questions

These questions are some of the most frequently asked from students and faculty interested in participating in the program. If you have questions that are not answered below, please feel free to contact us at seminars@twc.edu and we will be more than happy to process your request.

The Washington Center Academic Seminar Information

When will The Washington Center academic seminar schedule be available?
We will announce the tentative program schedule about a week before the program begins. Many speakers have asked us to contact them in April and the beginning of May so they can determine what times are best for them to speak.

What are the types of things I will be doing during the Washington Center program?
The specifics of the daily activities will be released closer to the program start however here are some of the things you can expect at your time with the academic seminar

- Speakers, panels, and lectures in General Sessions
- Afternoon Bus Tour of Mall and Monuments
- Site Visits to Embassies, Think Tanks, Nonprofit Groups, Defense Agencies, etc.
- Visit to Capitol Hill and the Capitol Visitors Center

Housing and Packing Information

When is check-in and check-out?
You should plan to arrive between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on May 19. If you expect to arrive later than 6 p.m., you should fill out the Late Arrival Form, which is available closer to the start of the program, on the accepted students website.

Check out is no later than noon on Saturday, May 25. We cannot extend the stay beyond that date, because we have to prepare the rooms for our summer term interns. If you are a summer term intern, you will be given instructions about when you will be moving to your summer semester housing location.

When will I learn where I should check in?
All students will be staying in our Residential and Academic Facility located at 1005 3rd Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. We will be sending additional information on check-in procedures to students via e-mail closer to the start of the program.
**Can I choose my roommate?**
You can request a roommate by indicating that information on the second section of your application. You can add that information once you log back in to complete the housing section of the application.

**How will my housing location be assigned?**
We will do our best to honor all roommate requests to the extent possible. Late applicants may be assigned to rollaway beds in some apartments in order to accommodate as many applicants as possible.

**Getting around D.C.**

**Which airport is closest to D.C.?**
Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) is the closest to downtown, D.C. and is most centrally located, but it doesn’t always have the lowest fares. Dulles International (IAD) is about 40 miles from downtown and handles mostly long distance flights. Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) is also about 40 minutes from downtown and often has the lowest fares, but is probably less convenient than the others.

**How will I travel around D.C.?**
All students will be able to travel around D.C. to locations that are either within walking distance or metro accessible. Each location students will be required to travel to, they will be provided instructions, with a map on how to get to each location. See details below on how to purchase metro cards.

**Credit and Fees**

**Can I receive credit from The Washington Center for this program?**
While our program is a credit-worthy experience, TWC does not issue credit. You must make arrangements with your home institution to receive credit for our program. To find out if your institution is affiliated with The Washington Center, or to find out whom your on-campus liaison is, please reach out to us at seminars@twc.edu.

**When is the last day to cancel? What is the refund policy?**
No refunds for drops or ‘no-shows’ after the final deadline of April 22, 2013. If you drop after this date, or fail to notify The Washington Center that you will not be attending the seminar for which you registered, you (not your school) will be held responsible for the full tuition amount. Students who submit a written cancellation request to seminars@twc.edu and have received an acknowledgement receipt from The Washington Center before April 22, 2013 will receive a full refund of paid tuition and deposit. If you emailed The Washington Center to withdraw from the seminar but did not receive a confirmation, please follow up at 202-238-7929 or you risk behind held accountable for the tuition. There are no refunds after April 22, 2013.
Budgeting and Packing

Should I buy a Metrorail Pass since I am responsible for my own transportation?
That would be recommended, but you should wait until you arrive at your housing location to determine which pass is best, but most people will be buying the 7-day Fast Pass for $57.50 the first week. Here is the link to Metrorail passes: [http://www.wmata.com/fares/purchase/passes.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/fares/purchase/passes.cfm)

How much should I budget for out-of-pocket expenses?
Your expenses are likely to include roundtrip ground transportation from the airport to the housing location, which could range from $15 to $40 each way, the cost of a Metrorail pass (probably $57.50 for 7 days plus the cost of 3-4 more days either with a day pass or another weekly pass, depending upon your expected use), and the cost of meals. If you have the time to go to a nearby grocery store you can save money by preparing your own breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you eat out for lunch, expect to pay about $7-10 for lunch and $12 to 15 minimum for dinner, but it is easy to spend more if you want. Every room at the Residential and Academic Facility has a fully equipped kitchen with pots, pans, plates, refrigerator and dishwasher, which students are more than welcome to take advantage of, reducing their food costs. Additionally, the TWC shuttle (operating in the evening) will stop at the local grocery store.

What should I bring with me?
You will receive more detailed information with the housing email, but at least be prepared to bring the following:

- a government-issued ID card
- an alarm clock
- a small folding umbrella
- a notebook and pens for taking notes

Many students bring a laptop with them to write in their journals each night. There is free internet access in the apartment buildings. For security purposes, it may be a good idea to bring a laptop lock, just in case.

What should I wear during the program?
You should be dressed in a professional manner during all Washington Center academic seminar events. That means jacket, dress shirt and tie for men and no jeans, shorts or revealing outfits for ladies (this is a conservative town). If you think you will be going to an inaugural ball or special event, something more formal may be in order. Most importantly, bring comfortable walking shoes, especially for programming times.

Since the weather in May is very volatile in D.C. in May, it is hard to suggest what students will need to pack for the event. We suggest you looking at [http://www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) before packing to get an idea of the climate.

When is final payment due?
Unless otherwise arranged through a student’s institution, payment is due by April 22, 2013.

What contact information should I have handy?
Our main email address is seminars@twc.edu. If you need to ask us a program question, call us at 202.238.7929 (Patricia Guidetti). If you have a student life or housing question, call the student life office at 202.469.8083 or email housing@twc.edu.