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## New York University to build campus in D.C.

Washington Business Journal - by [Tierney Plumb](#) Staff Reporter

**New York University** will build a facility at 1307 L St. NW to house students enrolled in its semester-long programs here.

It will be NYU's first U.S. study-away campus — dubbed NYU-D.C. — and will offer classes through its College of Arts and Sciences.

**Hickok Cole Architects** is designing the 75,000-square-foot mixed-use facility that is targeting Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. It will include space for classes, support staff, lobbyists and student dorms.

The five floors of student living space will feature four-person suites, and one challenge the architects encountered was creating equitable living spaces in the narrow, 60-foot wide site.

A developer has not yet been picked for the project. NYU hopes to have the center in operation by the fall semester of 2012.

To pick the center's location, NYU said it relied extensively on advice from its D.C. alums, who thought the L Street site was "ideal for our purposes, being both centrally located and in an active neighborhood for students," said Richard Foley, professor of philosophy and dean of the faculty of arts and science at NYU.

A recent pledge from Ronald Abramson, an NYU trustee and alumnus, sparked the project and helped fund the purchase of the plot of land.

The center will have the capacity to house about 200 students each semester.

Initially, the curricula will focus on politics, economics, history, journalism and art history. Over time, a range of other offerings — from biology to environmental studies — will also be offered, Foley added.

The faculty will comprise a combination of new professors hired locally and visiting NYU faculty.

"We view the NYU-D.C. center as an integral part of NYU's global network university," said Foley, adding that NYU has 12 major academic centers on five continents. "[NYU] is committed to a vision of a university in which students and faculty move easily from one center to another. A NYU student in politics, for example, might study not only in NYC but also in Shanghai, Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires and D.C."

NYU wanted Hickok Cole's design of the building to allow for multiple functions.

"A major part of the center's activities will, of course, revolve around academic programs, which will provide students a concentrated exposure to national political life and the rich cultural traditions of the capital," said Foley. "But the center is also being designed so that it can be the venue for intellectual and cultural events in the evening."

A balcony will run along the building facade outside the reading room, visually separating the dormitories from the academic areas below.

An interconnecting staircase will run from the first floor student lounge to academic areas.

Two levels will be reserved for academic space and one will house an auditorium-style venue.

"It was like putting a little Swiss watch together but we got it to work," said Laurence Caudle, associate principal at Hickok. "We think the undergraduates will get a real kick out of living there."

He noted that one challenge was getting actual windows on the building, since it is sandwiched in a narrow space, but the building to the west side is set back with a courtyard area which allowed the firm to add windows on that side.



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