The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University (OLLI) offers a unique opportunity to continue learning at the university level. Our 1,200 members come from varied careers, ranging from business and academia to medicine, government service, and the arts. We all share a deep desire to continue to learn about the world around us in an engaged community of informed and seasoned learners.

STUDY GROUPS
At the heart of the OLLI program are the study groups led by OLLI members, American University faculty, scholars from other institutions, and by experts from Washington’s think tanks and public policy and research organizations. The program consists of two terms, each ten weeks long. Study groups meet once a week for an hour and 30 minutes in the morning, mid-day, or in the afternoon. Typically, 85-90 study groups are offered each term, with class sizes ranging from 120 in lecture format to 10 in small discussion groups.

LECTURES
In addition to the study groups, OLLI offers four lecture series throughout the year. Drawing on Washington’s extraordinarily rich resource of senior public officials, policy experts, diplomats, journalists, and authors, OLLI lectures focus on current issues in public policy, the arts, education, economics, and international affairs. Lectures are open to the public and are free of charge. Study groups and lectures take place on the AU campus or at nearby venues.

ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS
OLLI provides many opportunities to learn and to socialize outside the classroom. Educational field trips, social gatherings, poetry groups, and trips to local theater performances are just a few of the special events OLLI members organize each year.

OUR HISTORY
Originally established in 1982 as the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), as part of the Continuing Education Department at American University, OLLI at AU was invited to become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in 2005. As a member of the larger Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network, we are one of 119 non-profit learning institutes nationwide funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation and are dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities for seasoned learners.

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