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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Ross School of Business

Exchange term: Fall 2018 (4 months)

The city

Ann arbor has it all. It has bars and restaurants like Tel- Aviv, a river and a lot of trees, and small houses like an American typical place.

Main nicknames you should be familiar with, it will help you on craigslist and on Facebook: "The big house" – that’s Michigan football stadium. Huge.

"The diag" – a diagonal central street, like a park in the middle of down-town. Full of squirrels!

Host University

Ross is an excellent university. The building is very modern and new. There are more than 70 students club, some of them are free and some of them cost money. You can also rent a locker for the semester, which is very convenient. The career center encourages you to update your resume and to practice interviews. If you don’t have American citizenship\green card, you are not allowed to work off-campus. However, you can work on-campus for 20 hours per week.

Courses

The semester is divided into 2 terms. Each class here is 2.25 or 1.5 or even 3 (when it is a full-term class).

TIP: To be a ROSS ALUMNI you need to complete 12 points. If you want to convert Ross points to TAU YAS, divide by 1.5 (12 Ross points = 9 yas, however, the maximum to be recognized are 6 yas)
**TIP**: register as quick as possible. The good courses are taken like they were free or something.

Most of the classes have a lot of reading here, and they do "cold call", so be sure to come prepared. **TIP**: If not, try to answer on the very beginning of the class on some questions and speak, so the professor won't go with your name later.

I took:

TO 515 (2.25 points) – VBA with excel: Israeli professor. Hila Etzion. Really nice class. One assignment per week. U can have an "automatic pass" if you do well on your homework. If you want excellent or good, you must go through the test, but it can't ruin your grade, only improve it.

TO 512 (1.5 points) – regular excel class. Tariq Maghul. One assignment in groups per week and one individual, same trick with the test as in TO 515.

BCOM 561 (1.5 points) – Management presentations. Professor Nancy Kotzian. I liked it, it improves your presentation skills, how to stand in front of a class. Each week an assignment.

MO 512 (2.25 points)– Bargaining & Influence skills. Israeli professor, Shirli Kopelman. She is great. Whoever took this class in Tel Aviv (with Dr. Hilla Dotan) this course will not be recognized for YAS as their syllabi is pretty much the same. However, I took it because this topic really interests me, it is one of the most popular and wanted classes over here, and it provides another perspective over negotiations. 3 assignments during the course. And participation doesn’t count for your grade.

BCOM 530 (3 points) – Positive communication. Prof amy young. Teaches about different ways to communicate, in a positive manner. Each class (twice a week) there is a reading and writing something about it.

BCOM 523 – Persuasive skills (1.5 points). Sarah Zimmerman. She is wonderful, super charismatic. After each class I had lots to think of. Really shows how to communicate with different types of people.

I did all this classes in one half, but totally worth it.

**TIP**: if you don’t get in to a course, don’t give up. Sign in for the waitlist. If the semester starts and you are still on the waitlist, write to the professor an email about that (they will answer something like: “thanks for your interest, please attend the first class and people will join according to the waitlist”).

GO to the FIRST class. A lot of people drop classes and don’t drop technically in the system. And the professor will remember your name from the mail. It helped me personally to get into two different classes.

**Important**: writing an email abroad is not like writing an email to a professor in Israel. Not just "Hi how are you", but rather be very respectful. Start with "Dear professor X, I am very interested about your course, especially topic Y.... Best regards, Z)
TIP: in my opinion, don’t take classes on Friday, then you will then have 3 days off.

**Accommodation**

It really depends.

You can find a place in a student building: most of them will be central, and they will have a gym and an outdoor pool.

Or, look in Facebook and craigslist. Watch out on craigslist. I have heard of 2 scams. Don’t transfer any money in advance to a private person.

I started looking about 4 months before the semester (Fall), and I found a place only the week before my flight. No one was willing to rent a place for a short-term lease. We were 5 exchange students, and we all found a place on the last minute. I rented a 2 bedrooms apartment on University towers. We paid 1300$ per month for each room.

**TIP:** just be in contact with all the student’s buildings. When they will finally be willing to rent for 4 months, your name will be on the top of their list. I would rent as much as close to Ross.

However, notice that if the walking distance is like 0.01 mile, it is too good to be true. Hill Street – full of frats and sororities. Lots of NOICE. Try to check on google map the houses around the place you consider living in, and make sure you don’t have any of those.

Facebook groups:
- Ann Arbor, Michigan Housing For Rent!
- Student housing in Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Ann Arbor Roommates and Housing
- Housing
- UMICH Housing, Rooms, Apartments, Sublets
- Israeli Community Ann Arbor
- Ann Arbor (MI) Apartments/Houses/Flats/Rooms/Homes For Rent/Buy/Sell/Sublet Housing, Sublets & Parking (Official)

**Visa:**

Two types – F1, J1. Most of the students here are with f1.
I would recommend you doing also a B1\B2 visa. You should enter with your student visa, but you can stay afterwards only 60 days in the US. And, the D-160 online (the 3 hours of questions that we need to fulfill for visa) is pretty much the same, and if you have a B1\B2 D-160 number, you can just import your answers for your F1 visa. Saves lots of time.

Appointments in the embassy for F1 visa are very easy to set, there are prioritized over the tourist visa.

**TIP:** arrive at 6:30 AM to the interview. There is a long line, even if you have an interview at 7.00 am and you think you will be the first, you won't. No phones are allowed. Leave it in your car\' back home.

I-20: super important document. Arrives with UPS. Keep it for your whole life. The fee is about 200$.

**Transportation to the city**

The most common way is to fly to Detroit, and from there to take a shuttle\bus to Ann Arbor.

The university representative will send a pdf with many transportation options.

If you are not alone, better to share a "door to door" cab. It costs about 50-60 including luggage.

[https://www.michiganflyer.com/](https://www.michiganflyer.com/) - 12$ bus from the airport to downtown

+17346998500 – the driver I used

**Transportation inside the city**

Very convenient. All the buses are free once you get your M-card. They run every 20 minutes or so.

Uber and Lyft are also very common here. (the prices go up when it snows)

**TIP:** Go and take your M-card from the international center BEFORE the orientation day. It will save you money on buses.

**Insurance**

You must do the U-M insurance. They have very strict requests, I tried to get a waiver, but it didn’t work. I did also PASSPORT travel insurance, because with the ATHENA insurance (the company of the university's insurance) there is a deductible amount and I didn’t want to worry about health issues.
**Buying things:**

There are a lot of big supermarkets here, in which you can buy food, towels, and staff for the house.

Aldi's – small place. Just local people are familiar with. Their Cottage is the best, and the vegetables and fruits are very good and very cheap.

Kroger – there is kosher meat there.

Walmart\Target\Meijer – pretty much the same. There is a direct bus to the three of them. Target is cheaper in "The house things", but in Walmart there is more food selection.

My tip: on the first day, go to target which is closer, for buying the essential things. (Pillows, sheets, milk) and on the next day, go to Walmart\Meijer.

Briarwood mall – a mall 😊 forever21, Victoria secrets, macy's, Jcpenny, H&M, and more, direct bus also.

Instacart – it’s a shipment online website. We used it when it started to get cold.

**What to Bring**

Well, it really depends on you. I came with one suitcase, with the intention to buy here and to return with 2 suitcases. I only brought a really good coat, because it is freezing. But, you can buy it here also, even on Amazon (which we have 6 months free prime!) and if it doesn’t fit, return it with full refund.

In the winter it is like -15 degrees (Celsius). You should bring\buy good shoes. Or boots. Also hat, gloves and a good coat. (Better bring if you have, if not – on Fall, you could wait for Black Friday and get one)

Bring your laptop. It is better if you have a PC and not a MAC, if you take some TO classes.

**TIP:** bring 1 towel, and 1 mattress set for the first night. And then you won’t need to worry about how to sleep, just find some food and relax.

**Bank account**

Do it on the second day you arrive, it takes them a lot of time to open the account, and after it is opened, it takes around another week for the debit card to arrive. (Debit
card is like direct card in Israel). A student account in most of the big banks is just until age of 24.

There are a lot of banks here:

PNC – the one I opened in. No fees for students. Free of charge for 6 years. It is the official bank of the university. Minus: it is not very common around the US. It has some branches in Vegas and New -York. Plus: it gives you one free international wire transfer.

Chase\ Bank of America:

12$ monthly fee or keeping a balance of 1500$. If you don’t do transactions, the fee applies. No free wire transfer, a fee of 15-16$ per transfer. Plus: global banks, all over the states.

**SIM card:**

I bought at&t one. It was the cheapest. First month 55$, and later on if you assign with your debit card (I didn’t had any when I bought the sim, as mentioned, they are very slow here in opening the account) it goes down to 40$ per month.

**TIP:** if you are in a group, sign together, we were 2 people on the same account and each paid 35$ per month. If you are 3, it goes down and so on.

Ross has free WIFI also.

**Going around**

The closest thing here is the river, the Argo river. There is a direct bus, about 15 minutes, you can rent a canoe or a tube and just go for about 3 hours.

**IMPORTANT!!!** If you plan to go out of the US before school starts, and you haven't been through the orientation day, you MUST go to the orientation center, they have to sign your I-20.

**Holidays and weekends**

"Hillel" – a nice place, which serve free ceremonies and free Shabbat dinner. Very nice place to meet people. At holidays the food costs money, around 15$, and you should reserve your seat in advance.

**GYM**

There are 3 free gyms for students around campus. One on North campus, which is far. The closer are CCRB and IMRB. Both have gym, sports halls and a pool. Ross also has a gym, but it costs money.
Traveling

Detroit airport is 45 minutes driving, so I would recommend travelling as much as you can.

Chicago is also very close, there is a direct bus and a direct train, it takes about 4 hours.

Enjoy the sports America has to offer – NBA games super close, Hockey, and of course, Michigan Football!! (fall only)

Night Life

Very good night life. Full of pubs and parties walking distance from Ann Arbor downtown. (Ricks, Skeeps, Charlies, Hopcat, etc) . Before AND after each football game there is “tailgating” (beer and such…)

Michigan State ID

You can get one in the security state office (direct bus). It is very useful as a regular id, and you could also use it when flying within the US, instead of taking your passport.

General experience

Being at Ross was one of the best experiences I have ever had. Don’t let anything stop you from doing it! (ח”ל etc)