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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

Term: 2018 winter semester, 4 months

The country and city

The University of Michigan is located in Ann Arbor, small and a very cute city within an hour driving distance from Detroit. There are plenty of shops, bars and restaurants in AA (that's how they call Ann Arbor). Most of the citizens are either studying or serving university lifecycle. The city of Ann Arbor is absolutely safe and citizens are friendly and helpful.

About the Host University

There are 48,000 students studying in the University of Michigan that is well known for business, law and engineering schools. It's absolutely Jewish friendly place as out of 48,000 students almost 40% are Jews, including the current president of the University – Mark Schlissel. Hillel has a huge community and it's the best way to find many interesting people and do networking. Tip: go to Hillel from the very start as well as check Israeli / Jewish communities at Ross. Both students and citizens are big fans of the Michigan University Football team, everyone is wearing an M logo on his clothes and if you suddenly scream GO BLUE! (their motto), they will smile and scream back – GO BLUE! During the fall there is a football season, so every Saturday morning all the students are celebrating it: pregame party, after-game party and the game party. Wearing maize and blue colors and drinking a lot of alcohol they are heading to the 114,000 seats' stadium (2nd largest stadium in the world). Still, everything is safe, no fights or battles. At the stadium the atmosphere is festive and truly amazing.

The Ross School of Business

Recently renovated, new building of Ross Business School is very comfortable for study and homework: classrooms for group studies, convenient printing system, cafeteria and even the gym. There are more than 1000 communities in Ross allowing students to participate in additional activities, lectures and networking. There are also communication and career centers that provide students with tips and trainings.

Tip: take formal clothes or suit with you as many meetings and events demand this.

Courses and professors

The courses we took:

VBA for Excel
Marketing Engineering
Valuation
Marketing sensory
Commercialization of Biomedicine
Applied Business Analytics
Advanced Big Data Analytics
Big Data Management Tools and Techniques

Overall, education level is very high. Students are constantly involved in the course doing personal and group assignments every week or even twice a week. Everybody is very serious about the studies as they pay \$60,000/ year, so it's advisable to do the same and enjoy new ideas and courses.

The bidding system is relatively similar to the one we're familiar with from TAU. From our experience, we got every class we wanted and bid on. Even if the system doesn't allow you to register to a specific class due to non-exchange students priorities or waiting lists - the professors are very responsive and will cooperate to find the optimal solution where you'll get what you wished for.

(It is important to note that for most classes you need to pay for class materials and registration)

It is advised to participate in this experience in election classes instead of core due to the wide options the university offers.

The recommended approach for a balanced term is to study 3 classes (one or two of them consider "big" classes - 2.25 or 3 points).

The best course that we took was Marketing eng , mainly since Fred (the professor) is one of those bigger than life intelligent characters that made every lesson something to look forward to .

Tip: if you're thinking about skipping the classes and travelling around the country, better not to do that and wait till the end of the program as you will miss homework deadlines as well as really interesting lectures.

Accommodation

There are plenty of rooms and apartments near Ross. Although it can be easier to sign a contract before getting to AA, especially for those of you that will come during the winter semester we suggest to rent an Airbnb/hotel for a week or two and see the different options before signing, there are always some options available.

While looking for an apt, Facebook groups monitoring as well as checking the Craigslist is the best options.

We stayed in an apartment building name "400 Maynard st", which is best for its location. (Walking distance to Ross and all the relevant coffee shops and restaurants). There are a few buildings like it in AA, that offers the best solution for short term apartments like we need. There are more accommodation opportunities for people looking for shared places, where you can share units or rooms with other students.

Tip: note that the closer to Ross, the less walking during the cold winter!

Visa

The University provides with a guide on how to obtain F-1 visa and I-20 form that you need in order to enter and study in the USA. You can enter the country 30 days prior to the study and stay for up to 60 days after the end of the program.

These timeframes are really relevant for traveling in the states before or after the semester. It is important to note that the I-20 form is super-important to carry with you if you leave the states. (We're sure the hosting university will emphasize it accordingly)

Tip: Note, that in case you stay before/ after the program, you need to obtain a separate health insurance as the one from the university works only during the program.

Transportation

Busses are free for students. Lyft and Uber are great and not very expensive. Zipcar and Maven – car sharing services – are super efficient and useful.

We used Michigan Flyer from the Detroit Airport to Ann Arbor and back. The service is really convenient.

Insurance and Health Services

Health Insurance is organized by the University (you pay around 200\$/ month) and explained in details during the orientation. U of M clinic on campus will provide you with most of the necessary help and medications. Tip: turn for prescriptions or to get medications for flu and fever to U of M clinic, it will be cheap and easy.

Living expenses

Besides housing and food (good and healthy food is quite costly), everything is pretty cheap. 1000\$ per month (incl food but not incl housing) is more than enough in Ann Arbor.

There are several large supermarkets around Ann Arbor: Whole Foods is quite expensive, but natural and healthy; Kroger is less expensive than Whole Foods; Target and Meyer are not healthy, but good for buying home stuff.

Nightlife and Good coffee houses

Live and Necto are nightclubs, Rick's place is more for undergrads.

MBA Happy Hour at Skeeps attracts many MBAs every Thursday night.

Roasted, Lab & Littrati Coffee were our favorite spots for good coffee and serve as great locations when you want to change a bit your studying setting.

General experience

It was an amazing experience with lots of insights about the country and people. We couldn't even imagine how interesting, insightful, challenging and mostly fun it will be or how much we'll love Ross, Ann Arbor and our new friends.

Not only exchange semester opens your mindset, but it also enhances with ideas, networking contacts and valuable skills. We will leverage this opportunity in order to thank Collier for this wonderful experience that was totally worth doing!

Photos

