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Degree Program at TAU: MSc Management of Technology & Information systems

Host University: Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

Exchange term: 2017 Fall 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 A2 (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 friendly and helpful. Detroit, however, is quite criminal and poor, so you'd better watch out, especially at night.

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 moto), 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: pre-game 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: in case a student completes 12 or more units of study, he becomes a Ross alumni that will allow to keep in touch with other Ross alumni. **Tip:** take formal clothes or suit with you as many meetings and events demand this.

Courses and professors

The courses I took:

Managerial Writing
Competing in the Global Business Environment
Marketing Analysis
Persuasive Management Communication
Mobile Innovation Development
Decision-Support Modeling with PC Excel 2017
Management Presentations

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. **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.

Sarah Zimmerman and her Persuasive Management course gave me lots of insights about American business culture, really enjoyed this charming lady and her lecturing.

Accommodation

There are plenty of rooms and apartments near Ross as well as outside of Ann Arbor. It's quite hard to rent an apt for the Fall semester as most of the contracts are signed for one year and almost nobody goes for exchange as it's a football game season. During the spring and summer semesters it's easy and much cheaper. While looking for an apt, Facebook groups monitoring as well as checking the Craigslist is the best option. **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. **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 but they are frequently late or don't come at all. Lyft and Uber are great and not very expensive. Zipcar and Maven – car sharing services – are super efficient and useful. Michigan Flyer is a recently launched direct bus from the Detroit Airport to Ann Arbor.

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.

Food

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.

Night life

Live and Necto are nice clubs, Rick's place is more for undergrads. MBA Happy Hour at Skeepers attracts many MBAs every Thursday night.

Other tips

Buy season ticket for football games, after watching a few games you may sell tickets for final games for a very good price.

Open a bank account in a local bank as Israeli cards often don't work.

Start looking for accommodation and registering for the classes as early as possible.

Visit Michigan Cinema, it's old and very beautiful with live organ music before the movie starts.

General experience

It was an amazing experience with lots of insights about the country and people. I couldn't even imagine how I would love Ross, Ann Arbor and my new friends.

Not only exchange semester opens your a mindset, but it also enhances with ideas, networking contacts and valuable skills.

I'm grateful to Recanati for this wonderful experience that was totally worth doing!

Photos



