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MBA Student

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Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Location

The University of Michigan (UM) is located in Ann Arbor, a town 40 minutes driving from Detroit, Michigan, it is clean, quiet and its residence are nice people. This is a university town, which means most of its resources are dedicated for the university.

VISA

F1 VISA is a must for every individual who desires to study in the US. To apply for F1 you need DS140 and I-20 documents. DS140 is the standard document for applying for a VISA, I-20 is the document you receive from UM once you finish your exchange student application process. UM staff will contact you and ask for various documents, once they approve your arriving they will send you the I-20. You can enter the US 30 days prior your school start date (the one that is written on the I20) and stay in the US up to 60 days after its end date. Be advised, if you'll depart from the US after your I-20 end date then you won't be able to enter again.

Campus

The University of Michigan has two campuses, the central and northern campus. The Ross School of Business is located on the central campus. The central campus is located in the heart of Ann Arbor and Northern campus is located 10-15 minutes driving from Ross. The building was built recently, its design and environment are perfect for your studies. Its classes are well designed, it has more than 50 meeting rooms, public learning environment places, and amazing library. Moreover, it even has a Starbuck which makes it very convenient when you are thrilled for a cup of coffee between classes.

Housing

Ann Arbor has plenty of accommodation opportunities. Finding accommodation for four months is difficult but possible. The city has various apartment buildings for students, such as, Landmark, Zaragon Palace, Zaragon West, Arbor Blu, Varsity, and University Towers. I was looking for an apartment on August and couldn't find any place for a reasonable price which accepted to accommodate me for four months. However, I looked on Airbnb and found a great deal in an apartment that is located in Woodbury Gardens, a community neighborhood near downtown. I find this neighborhood excellent and encourage incoming students to explore this opportunity.

Expenses

Accommodation is \$1,000 on average per month. Food is relatively cheap, grocery chains, such as, Kroger, Target, Trader Joe's, Meije, and Walmart are spreaded all around Ann Arbor. You may need to rent a vehicle or take the bus to get to one of these places. The average price for shopping for yourself for one week is \$100. If you are looking for the fast way to eat, Ann Arbor has a plenty of fast food chains and restaurants, the average price for a lunch is 15\$. Another option is the quad, think of it as a food court where you pay \$10 and eat how much do you want. Note that you should charge your student card with something called "Blue Bucks", which is dollas in your student card. You may find yourself buying course packs, they are essential for some of the courses, before you buy them, check if you really need them. The price for a course pack ranges between \$20 and \$100, approximately.

Classes

The semester is divided into two terms, A and B. The majority of classes are credited for 1.50 and 2.25 credits. Most classes are graded based on group projects, assignments, participation during the class, and of course there are the classes which require to do an exam. The grades scales is Excellent (A+, A), Good (A-), Pass (B+, B), Low Pass (B-, C+, C, C-) and Fail (D and so on). You are obligated to take at least 9 credits but not more than 18.

If you take more than twelve (12) credits you get an alumni status. Consider this opportunity.

These are the courses I enrolled during my exchange program.

- BCOM 524 - Persuasive Management Communication - Teaches you how to communicate persuasively
- BCOM 561 - Management Presentation - Teaches you how to be a good presenter
- ES 515 - Introduction to Entrepreneurship - Moves closely to the foundation of entrepreneurship
- MKT 613 - Consumer Behavior - This course discusses aspects of how consumers react to different marketing campaigns
- MKT 625 - New Product and Innovation Management - In this course you learn different techniques for thinking of new products
- MO 512 - Bargaining Behavior and Influence Skills - In this course you will learn how to be a good bargainer, **The most interesting course I have enrolled**
- MO 615 - Management Professional Relationships - In this course you learn how to be a nice co-worker
- ZLI Workshop - Entrepreneurship workshop where you can get different tools for your entrepreneurial experience

Transportation and Traveling

Commuting in Ann Arbor as a student is easy, you have plenty of options:

1. Blue Bus, anyone can ride for free. This is the commute of UM.
2. AATA buses (operated by AirRide), which you can ride for free using your M-Card (the student id).
3. ZipCar – Car sharing. You can join the service for ~7\$ per month and then pay on a use basis. They charge you for 250 NIS for the registration process. Note you should have an international license with you.

4. Uber and Lyft are pretty common in Ann Arbor area, and highly recommended!

Social Life

Ross, UM, and Ann Arbor in general offer students clubs, guest lectures, conferences, music concerts, parties, and festivals.

Students clubs is a major deal in this university, especially Ross. You may find that most of the students are attending clubs at night most are available for exchange students, some of them are free and some require you to pay, on average \$5 per session. Ross is big with guest lecturers, and conferences. I encourage you to get updated, you might find yourself listening to TED lecturers, for example, I had the pleasure to attend Adam Grant's talk.

If you keen on bars and clubs then UM is the place for you. If you are looking for the undergraduate experience, then you should explore the area of the South University Ave. with places like Blue leprechaun, Brown Jug, BTB Cantina, and Rick's. If you are looking for the graduate experience then you should example the in Main St. area with places like Habana, Mash and Live, Scorekeepers (MBA residence), and Hop Cat.

Major part of the University of Michigan experience is the football. It is common to tailgate prior football games, which includes food, drinks and music. On game days, Ann Arbor is filled with people from all around the area. There is a special tailgating for MBA students, called "The Bus". In addition, consider other sports as well, UM is huge in sports.

Look for other recreations in the area as well. 40 mins driving from Ann Arbor you can find Detroit. This city is going through a major positive changes. You can find there a lot of interesting happenings, exhibitions, and different recreations. NBA, NHL, and Baseball games, whether you are into sports or not I definitely encourage you to attend to at least one game.

Enjoy your time and GO BLUE!



The basketball hall

The Golf Court



The Big House