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Fall 2015

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Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

September 2015 – December 2015

My University of Michigan experience

Ann Arbor is a college town.

If you want to experience college life in the US, you should definitely go there.

Visa

If you're not a US citizen, you must have a F1 (Student) visa in order to study in the US (B1/2 visa is not enough). F1 visa is followed by I-20 form, which contains details regarding your school and semester period. Notice that your stay in the US as a student is valid until the I-20 form expiration date, not your F1 visa expiration date. You can enter the US 30 days prior to the I-20 start date 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, you wouldn't be able to enter again, even in the 60 days' period ("Grace Period").

You will receive all the required documents from a Ross representative by mail. The visa process at the US embassy is the same as tourist visa.

The Campus

University of Michigan has 2 campuses in Ann Arbor, Central and North Campus. Ross is in Central Campus in a building which has been built recently and has a great learning environment, including private study rooms and places to study all over. Central Campus is located in the heart of Ann Arbor and North campus is about 10-15 minutes driving from it.

Housing

Ann Arbor has plenty of housing options. Finding housing for four months (one semester) is difficult, but possible. The city contains many apartment buildings for students, including Landmark, Zaragon Palace, Zaragon West, Arbor Blu, Varsity, University Towers and Woodbury Gardens. When I checked on April, no building agreed to short lease beside Woodbury Gardens, but checking again in June resulted in signing a four-month lease with University Towers, which is 5 minutes walking from Ross and from other great places. Another available options are AirBnB and Co-Oop (Living in a community with many other people).

Rent is approximately 1000\$, depending on the number of roommates.

Living expenses

Living in Ann Arbor is cheaper than living in Tel Aviv. It will take you a couple of minutes to get to Target, Trader Joe's and Meijer for groceries. In Addition, a lot of places offer meal and drink specials every day. You must purchase the university insurance, which is approximately 130\$ per month and in most classes you'll be asked to buy books and course packs, although buying isn't always necessary. Check if you really need the course material before buying it.

Classes

The semester is divided into 2 terms, A and B. Most of the term classes are 1.50/2.25 credits and there are a few full-semester classes, which are 3.00 credits. The classes' grading is mostly based on group projects, assignments and class participation (all or some of the options) and the scale is Excellent (A+, A), Good (A-), Pass (B+, B), Low Pass (B-, C+, C, C-) and Fail (D and so on).

You have to take at least 9 credits in your semester in the University of Michigan and no more than 18. You can join and drop classes until the second week of the term, so I recommend joining classes that seem interesting anyway. You can drop them if they're different than what you had thought.

Transportation and Traveling

Transportation as a student in Ann Arbor is pretty easy. You have a couple of option: 1) Blue Bus, which anyone can ride on for free. 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. Refer to their website for more details if you'd like to. 4) Uber and Lyft are pretty common in Ann Arbor area.

I used Michigan Flyer in order to get from Ann Arbor to Detroit Metro Airport and vice versa. Ride costs 12\$ and the bus is very comfortable. Uber ride will cost approximately 40\$. You can also go to Chicago with Mega Bus for ~30\$. The ride takes 5 hours but I recommend doing it on one of the weekends.

Companies recruiting and On-Campus Jobs

You're allowed to participate in the on-campus-recruiting as any other student in Ross, including using the services of the Career Center (Help writing your resume and cover letter, doing mock interviews, etc.) The recruiting begins early in September, so be prepared to put a great amount of time preparing for that in the beginning of the month. Notice that in order to hire you (if you don't have a US citizenship), employers will have to "sponsor" you for the working visa. Therefore, if you want, you should apply only for employers that are willing to "sponsor", but be aware of the fact that US citizens are preferred (because of the complexity of the process).

During your stay, your visa allows you to work in on campus jobs (in the university facilities). You're allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week.

Social Life

University of Michigan has more than 1,000 clubs and most of them are open for exchange students. There are also many activities during the semester and I recommend attending as much as you can and joining the clubs that you find interesting.

Ann Arbor is full of places to hang out during all day and night. You can choose the undergraduate atmosphere in South University, which includes places like the Blue leprechaun, the Brown Jug, BTB Cantina and Rick's or the graduate atmosphere in Main St., including Rush, Habana, Mash and Live. Another good places are Score Keepers and Hop Cat.

Major part of the University of Michigan experience are the football game-days. American tradition is tailgating before football games, including food, drinks and music. During game-days, you can see a lot of people in the streets and music is sound from every corner. There is a special tailgating for MBA students, called "The Bus", which is also recommended. Michigan Stadium has a capacity of more than 115,000 people and being one of them is a unique experience. I recommend buying the season tickets for all the football games. Even if you're not planning on attending all of the games, you can always sell your tickets to someone, since there are no individual tickets for official sale.



Michigan Stadium during football game

Additional Information

University of Michigan MBA students are mostly with finance and consulting background.

Ross building contains a gym, which cost 150\$ per semester. In addition, there are large recreation centers, including free full equipped gym for students, called CCRB and NCRB. Another option is gym in your apartment building, if you live in one.

There is a big Jewish community, connected by Hillel Jewish Center and Jewish Resource Center. Every Friday night you can go, meet and connect with other Jewish students over free dinner.

As a resident of the State of Michigan, you're eligible for getting a Michigan State Id. I recommend getting that because you can use it everywhere, including in airports, and it's much easier for someone who checks your id. Plus, it's a great souvenir.

I tried to sum my experience in the University of Michigan. I enjoyed my time there and recommend going and trying it by yourself.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to help.