University of Michigan
Pre-Departure Orientation: Virtual
June 23, 2023
Welcome to Michigan!
Meet the IC Staff:

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Agenda

- 5 Things to Do Before Departure
- 5 Things to Do After Arrival
- Q&A
Download Today’s Slides!
Top 5: Things To Do Before Leaving
1. Register and Prepare For Classes

**Check in with Your Academic/Program Advisor:**
- **Undergraduate Students:** You should be led through the registration process through the Office of New Student Programs (ONSP). Read their communications.
- **Graduate Students:** Your program should reach out to you directly regarding class registration.

**What is “Backpacking”**
The Backpack is a feature available in Wolverine Access that works much like a "shopping cart" on a retail website. With Backpack you can prepare for your upcoming registration appointment by filling it with classes you want to take.

**NOTE:** Placing a class in your Backpack does not enroll you in that class. You must register for a class to become enrolled in it.

- Full course catalog available in Wolverine Access.
- Additional scheduling tool available: Atlas
1. Register and Prepare For Classes

U.S. Academic Expectations:
- Relaxed Atmosphere
- Student-Centered & Students Freely Express Opinions
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning (discussion/debate, presentations, team-work, papers, case studies)
- Academic Integrity

University of Michigan Academic Environment:
- Lecture and Discussion/Lab Section Structure
- Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs)
- Integrated Technology and Resources Available
  - Canvas and iClickr, for example
  - Microsoft Office 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud - FREE to Students!
- Campus Learning Resources
  - Academic Support Services, such as...
    - Academic Advising
    - UM Libraries - Shapiro, Hatcher, Taubman Health Sciences, et. al
    - Sweetland Center for Writing
  - Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD)
2. Secure Housing

**Michigan Housing** serves as a home on campus for nearly 11,000 students in a typical year. Far more than just places for resting or studying, residence halls function as small, accessible communities, helping new students transition from high school to college.

**On-Campus First-Year Undergraduate Housing**

- **Mid-April: Applications Open**
  - If enrollment deposit is paid, student should receive application instructions via email.

- **May 5: Applications Due**
  - Applications submitted after the deadline considered on first-come, first-served basis.

- **Submit Vaccine Information**
  - Proof of COVID-19 and 5 other vaccinations (or exemption/postponement request) are required before contract is issued.

- **June - August: Contracts Offered**
  - If vaccination information received, contracts will be sent from June - August.

- **August: Receive Room Information**
  - Your address, roommate(s) and move-in information become available.

**Housing for returning and transfer students** is limited. They are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis if spots remain vacant after first-year students are accommodated.
On-Campus Graduate Housing

Graduate students have many options for on-campus housing:

- Munger Graduate Residences (suites)
- Northwood I, II, IV & V: Graduate and Family Apartments/Townhomes
- Lawyer’s Club (Only students enrolled in Law School)
- Martha Cook Residence Hall (Women Only)
- Henderson House (Women Only)

Timeline For Applications:

- Email regarding application began going out in Mid-April to students who have paid their deposit. Assignments are made on a rolling basis and released starting in early-May. Applicants must have all materials/vaccine information submitted to get their contract.
- **Questions**: contact graduatehousing@umich.edu from your U-M email account. Include your UMID in the email.
2. Secure Housing

Off-Campus Housing
Most students at U-M live in off-campus housing, which is not managed by the University. There is an office called Beyond the Diag to help you with finding housing. They also have an Off-Campus Living Guide to help answer your common questions.

- Off-Campus Housing Q&A: June 16 at 9:00am EDT (virtual event)

Meal Plans

- Managed by MiDining. Available for off-campus housing, as well!

Lease Review: Student Legal Services
Student Legal Services (SLS) can review your leases and help you look out for problems before you sign!

Visit https://studentlegalservices.umich.edu/ and click “Housing” to set up an appointment with a lawyer for advice before you sign or send a security deposit.
2. Secure Housing

Avoiding Scams
Every year, students get scammed by replying to fake apartment advertisements. If a listing seems too good to be true - it probably is!

Common Red Flags:

- Rent offered at rate well below market value.
- Can’t or won't meet in-person or show you the unit over video call.
- Request to wire money to an account not located in the USA. Or, lists unit on legitimate site (Zillow, Apartments.com, AirBnB, etc) but won’t go through their payment system.
- Request for a deposit in bitcoin, money wire (Western Union) or other service that isn’t traceable to a person.
- Dramatic story trying to pressure you to say yes quickly or give money before you’ve signed a contract. Landlords may charge small application fee ($25-$100) to run background check, but never send security deposit before you have signed a lease.
3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures

Do you need to apply for a new US visa?

- Yes
  - Most students
- No
  - Canadian citizens
  - Students who already have a valid, unexpired student visa that was previously used to enter the US
3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures

Applying for Your U.S. Visa:

- Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee
- Complete the DS-160 form online
- Pay the visa application fee
- Make an appointment with the nearest consulate
- U.S. Visa Application Website
3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures

Documents To Bring to Interview:

- Valid passport
- Form DS-160 confirmation page
- Visa application fee payment receipt
- Photo - If the photo upload fails on the DS-160, you must bring one printed photo in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements.
- Form I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students)
- I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt
- Proof of funding for all educational and living expenses

Consular Officer May Request Additional Documents:

Evidence of your academic preparation, such as:

- Transcripts, diplomas, degrees, or certificates from schools you attended
- Standardized test scores (if needed) for admission to your U-M program

*Documentation requirements vary by country, so be sure to check the specific website/ guidance of your consulate/embassy.
3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures

Quick Tips/Advice:

- Apply for your visa as soon as possible after receiving your Form I-20/DS-2019 and follow expedited appointment procedure if needed.

- These links contain more detailed information about required documentation for your visa application:
  - U.S. Department of State F-1 visa application information
  - U.S. Department of State J-1 visa application information

- Visit our website for additional tips on the visa process and review these resources.
3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures

Preparing for Your Arrival:

- COVID-19 information (vaccination, testing, and safety policies) are available on the U-M Health Response website (healthresponse.umich.edu)

- Any amount/combination of money (cash, money order, travelers’ checks) over $10,000 must be declared in advance on a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Declaration Form 6059B and FinCEN 105 when you arrive in the US.

- Please notify your U-M admissions team if you are unable to arrive by the start of the term.
4. What to Pack and Booking Your Flight

Nearest International Airport: Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)

- Approximately 25 miles (40km) from campus
- Delta Hub = many direct international flights

Transportation options from DTW to Ann Arbor

- Michigan Flyer ($15) *reservation required
- Lyft & Uber (around $50+ to Central Campus)
- Taxi (stations at airport)
- Your own networks
4. What to Pack and Booking Your Flight

What to Pack:
- Passport, I-20, Visa (and copies of each)
- Clothing you can layer for varying temperatures
  - Extra clothing (carry-on) in case of lost luggage.
- School supplies (computer, calculator)
  - Can also be purchased through U-M Tech Shop
- Packaged snacks (in case of flight delays/late arrival)
- Personal supplies: glasses, contact lenses, medications
  - UHS: Prescription medication guidelines and recommendations

What NOT to Pack:
- Bulky winter clothing (can buy in U.S.)
- Spices, cooking utensils, dishes
- Electronics not compatible with U.S. outlets (120v)
- “Don’t Pack a Pest”
- U.S. DHS Prohibited & Restricted Items
5. Prepare for Culture Shock!

Cultural Adjustment Process:

- **01** At Home: Anticipation
- **02** Honeymoon Phase: Exhilaration
- **03** Cultural Shock Phase: Discouragement/Irritability
- **04** Adjustment Phase: Gradual Recovery
- **05** Adaptation Phase: Integration
5. Prepare for Culture Shock!

Weather in Ann Arbor

Average High Temperatures:
- Summer: 26-28°C / 80-83°F
- Fall: 9-23°C / 48-70°F
- Winter: -1-1.6°C / 30-35°F
- Spring: 7-22°C / 45-70°F

Average Snowfall (Dec-Feb):
- 33-40.6 cm per month
- 13-16 inches per month
Q&A

01 Register & Prepare for Classes

02 Secure Housing

03 Prepare for Your Visa Interview

04 What to Pack & Booking Your Flight

05 Prepare for Culture Shock
Top 5: Things To Do After Arrival
1. Immigration Check-In and Maintaining Status

Immigration Check-In Process:

- Check your I-94 online after you have arrived in the U.S. to be sure you were admitted in the correct immigration status.

- Complete our mandatory online immigration check-in course as soon as possible after arriving in the U.S.
  - Instructions will be sent via email closer to the start of the term.
1. Immigration Check-In and Maintaining Status

Maintaining Status While in the United States:

- Maintain **good academic standing** and make progress towards program requirements.

- Enroll **full-time** during academic year (Fall & Winter terms):
  - Undergraduate = 12 credits per term
  - Graduate = 8 credits per term;
  - Graduate students with GSI/GSRA appointments = 6 credits per term.

- Students are expected to be **physically present on-campus**.
  - Only 3 online credits may count towards the full-time enrollment requirement. The remaining courses must be in-person or hybrid.

- Maintain **valid passport** and **I-20 or DS-2019**

- Maintain [health insurance](#) coverage (automatic enrollment/coverage begins with start date of I-20/DS-2019)
  - Students with an assistantship or fellowship that includes GradCare for health insurance should reach out to the [U-M Benefits Office](#) or their department for support.
1. Immigration Check-In and Maintaining Status

Employment in the USA

On-campus:

- May work on-campus up to 20 hours each week during academic year
  - On-campus work authorization for F-1 students is automatic.
  - J-1 students must receive authorization in advance through the International Center.
- May work more than 20 hours each week during breaks/vacation period

Off-campus:

- May not work off campus without proper work authorization such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT) for F-1 students or Academic Training for J-1 students
  - All off-campus employment activities must be directly related to the major field of study
  - F-1 degree-seeking students must be enrolled for one academic year (i.e. two full terms) before they are eligible for CPT or OPT, unless academic program requires immediate participation for all students in the program.
2. Getting Around Ann Arbor & Shopping

**U-M Blue Buses**
- Free
- Connects Central, North, Medical, and South campuses

**The Ride (Ann Arbor public bus system)**
- Free when using Mcard
- Operates public transportation services in the greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area

**Cycling**
- Protected bike lanes and trails available throughout campus

**Spin Scooters & Electric Bikes**
- Spin scooters are available around downtown area and campus, for a fee

Rideshare: [Lyft](https://www.lyft.com) & [Uber](https://www.uber.com)

Hourly Car Rental: [ZipCar](https://www.zipcar.com)
2. Getting Around Ann Arbor & Shopping

International Grocery Stores (a few examples!):
- Bombay Grocers: 3010 Packard St
- Hua Xing Asia Market: 2867 Washtenaw Ave, Ypsilanti
- Patel Bros: 3426 Washtenaw Ave
- Om Market: 2713 Plymouth Rd
- Way 1 Supermarket: 2789 Plymouth Road
- Kasoa African Market: 3925 Jackson Road
- Galleria Asian Market, 3111 Packard Street
- Aladdin’s Market, 3188 Packard Street
- Tienda La Libertad, 2231 Liberty Street
- Euro Market, 3108 Packard Street
- Among others!

Downtown Shopping:
- Pharmacy: Walgreens and CVS
- Target (groceries, personal care, household supplies, etc.)
- Groceries:
  - Ann Arbor Farmers Market
  - Kerrytown Market & Shops
  - People’s Food Co-op
- Maize & Blue Cupboard (Free groceries and personal supplies)

Online Shopping:
- Amazon (student membership available)
- Most major retailers, including grocery delivery
3. Paying Your Bills and Banking

**Setting Up a US Bank Account:**
- The selection of bank is your personal choice.
  - PNC, the official MCard bank
  - Regional banks, credit unions, national banks, and international banks
  - Find banks that have ATM machines close to where you live
  - Set-up online & mobile banking
- It is okay to switch banks
  - See local banks comparison here.

**Parents and family authorization:** Students may authorize up to four other individuals access to their student account information (eBill, 1098T form, etc.) electronically as well as authorize the University of Michigan to discuss this information via phone/in-person or via e-mail.

**U-M Payment Plan:** Enrollment period April 15 - June 30. Last deadline: September 1. Enroll early to get the most benefit! $30 fee/semester to participate.

**Fall 2023 Due Date:**
August 31, 2023
How to Pay Tuition with Flywire

1. Find your institution
2. Enter your payment amount
3. Select payment method
4. Enter the payer’s information
5. Enter the student’s information
6. Review and submit!

You can track your payment via SMS text or online through your account.

Flywire can also be used to process refunds from U-M.

More about how to pay tuition through Flywire can be found here.

Flywire payment overview video
4. Discover Student Orgs and Get Involved

Maize Pages

- Find any student organization
  - Search by type of organization
  - Search by name
- Discover events happening nearby
- Track your involvement in clubs
- U-M International Student Organizations
- Festifall-North - Tuesday, August 29
- Festifall-Central - Wednesday, August 30
5. Attend Other Orientation Events

IC Orientation Overview
- Peer-To-Peer Workshops: (July 24 - August 4 - VIRTUAL)
  - Led by Summer Orientation Peer Advisors on academic, social, cultural, and living resources.
- IC Welcome Desk: A great place to drop-in and ask Peer Advisors questions about U-M and Ann Arbor
- In-Person Social Events in August!
- Undergraduate Students: International Undergraduate Student and Family Welcome Day (Aug 23)

ONSP Orientation Overview (undergraduate students)
Orientation for first-year and transfer undergraduate international students is hybrid and involves both virtual and in-person components for all students. International students will be scheduled for their in-person orientation program Aug 24 - 27. All steps of orientation are required for new students.

Graduate Program Orientation Details
- Ross Global MBA - starts August 10
- Rackham orientation programs
- Check with your school!
Hot Topics & Additional Resources

**Department of Public Safety and Security (DPSS)**
- [U-M Emergency Alert](#)
- Emergency text/email alerts (bad weather, power outages, school closings, safety concerns)
- Save this phone number: (734)763-1131
- [Blue Light Phones](#)
- DPSS Mobile App to easily access services ([Apple & Android](#))
- In an emergency: DIAL 911 (physical health or safety) or 988 (Suicide Hotline)

**University Health Services (UHS)**
- Appointments and 24-hour Nurse Advice Line are available
- Most services are free or have low fees
- Can request interpretation when scheduling
- [Wolverine Wellness](#): promotes holistic well-being
- [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) (SSD) can help get accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
- Free counseling services
- Counselors speak a variety of languages
- Offers events and group supports
- Virtual mental health tools: [Togetherall](#)

**Recreational Sports**
- There are gym facilities, group fitness classes, and personal training, intramural and club sports available. North Campus Recreation Building (NCRB) and Intramural Sports Building (ISB) remain open for 2023-2024 academic year. Central Campus Recreation Building (CCRB) is currently being rebuilt (plan to open 2025) and a temporary facility is available.

Check out more resources available on the International Center's "[Life in Ann Arbor](#)" and "[New Student FAQ](#)" web pages!
IC Communications:

- Social Media
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
- Orientation Program Announcements (summer)
- Weekly Newsletter (Fall/Winter)
U-M International Center Information

The University of Michigan has more than 8,800 international students and scholars from 124 countries!

Location:
1500 Student Activities Building (SAB)
515 E. Jefferson Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Contact:
+1(734)764-9310
icenter@umich.edu
Q&A

01  Maintaining Immigration Status
02  Getting Around Ann Arbor & Shopping
03  Paying Your Bills & Banking
04  Student Orgs and Getting Involved
05  International Center & Other Orientations