



University of Michigan

Pre-Departure Orientation: Virtual

December 19, 2024





**Welcome to
Michigan!**

Meet the IC Staff:



Samantha Antoine
(She/Her)
Program Manager, GEEA



Laure Bordas-Isner, Ph.d.
(She/Her)
International Student & Scholar
Advisor



Shih-Ya Chang
(She/Her)
International Student
Advocate, GEEA



Jake Koelzer
(He/Him)
Program Manager &
Advisor, GEEA

Meet the IC Staff:



Kelly Nelson
(She/Her)

Assistant Director,
GEEA



John Prescott
(He/Him)

International
Student & Scholar
Advisor



Kelly Wagner
(She/Her)

Senior Program Manager,
GEEA



Agenda

**5 To-dos
before
Departure**

**5 To-dos
after
Arrival**

Q & A



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

Undergraduate Students



First-year Undergraduate Students

[Michigan Housing](#) serves as a home on campus for nearly 11,000 students in a typical year. Residence halls function as small, accessible communities, helping new students transition from high school to college.



Winter 2025

Applications received December 20 through January 1 will be assigned & contract notifications sent on or after January 2.

Returning and Transfer Undergraduate Students

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.

2. Secure Housing

Graduate Students



On-campus Housing Options for Graduate Students:

- 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)

Applications Timeline:

- **Early November:** Information emails going out in to students who have paid their deposit
- **Prior to Winter Term:** Assignments made on a rolling basis
- **Note:** Applicants must have all materials/vaccine information submitted to get their contract.
- **Contact:** graduatehousing@umich.edu (use U-M email account and include your UMID in the email)

2. Secure Housing

All Students



Off-Campus Housing

- Most students at U-M live in off-campus housing
- [Beyond the Diag](#) Office
- [Off-Campus Living Guide](#)
- [Off-Campus Housing Q&A](#) (2024 Recording and Slides Available)

Meal Plans

- Managed by [MIDining](#). Available for off-campus housing too!!

Lease Review: Student Legal Services

- [Student Legal Services \(SLS\)](#) can review your leases and help you look out for problems before you sign! (*SLS presentation on 1/24/2025, 12 - 1:30 pm*)
- 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



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:

- Passport valid for 6 months beyond the date of entry into the U.S. (unless exempt by [country-specific agreements](#))
- [Form DS-160](#) confirmation page
- Application fee payment receipt, if you are required to pay before your interview
- 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)
- 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 required by U-M
- Evidence of intent to depart the United States upon completion of the course of study

**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
- The following links contain more detailed information regarding the 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](#)
- Be prepared to demonstrate your intent to return home after you complete your academic program
- Visit our website for [additional tips on the visa appointment](#) and our [U.S. Immigration and Visas](#) page
- If you need visa assistance, submit the 'Report Visa Problem' form under the Requests section of [M-Passport](#)

3. Prepare for Your Visa Interview and Immigration Procedures



Preparing for Your Arrival:

- If you will be living in U-M Housing, please ensure that you have all the necessary vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccine, by visiting the Michigan Housing website [here](#).
- Make arrangements to transfer money to the U.S. after you arrive and open a bank account.
- 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 unit 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!
 - For example: international student-focused student organizations

4. What to Pack and Booking Your Flight



What to Pack:

- Passport, Visa, I-20, and other immigration documents
 - Copies of each!
- Clothing you can layer for varying temperatures
- School supplies (computer, calculator)
- Packaged snacks (in case of flight delays/late arrival)
- Extra clothing (carry-on) in case of lost luggage
- 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!



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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





HOW TO SURVIVE
(AND THRIVE!) IN A

*Michigan
Winter!*

Friday, January 10
12:00 - 1:00 PM
International House Ann Arbor
921 Church St



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 [Most Recent I-94](#) online **after** you have arrived in the U.S. to be sure you were admitted in the correct immigration status



Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 51415565885

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Class of Admission (F1)

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

- Enroll in and complete our mandatory **online** immigration check-in course **as soon as possible upon arrival in the U.S.**
 - Instructions will be sent via email closer to the start of the term
 - Both online check-in course completion, and a separate M-Passport check-in documents submission, are required. Also, [address/phone](#) reporting.

1. Immigration Check-In and Maintaining Status



Maintaining Status While in the United States:

- Maintain **good academic standing** and make progress towards degree 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 be counted towards the full-time enrollment requirement. The remaining courses must be in-person or hybrid to protect your immigration status.
- 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 apply 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, unless academic program requires immediate participation for all students in the program.

1. Immigration Check-In and Maintaining Status



Immigration Advising Services:

- **Virtual Drop-In Advising (Zoom-based)**
 - Advising for students who have quick questions
 - Two hours every weekday
 - Recommended first step for speaking to an advisor
- **Appointments**
 - For students who have many questions or complicated situations
 - Various times during business hours
- **Email**
 - Any questions
 - Emails are distributed among our advisors and answered in a timely manner

[More Information](#)



Photo: International Center Staff (December 2023)

2. Getting Around Ann Arbor & Shopping



U-M Blue Buses

- Free
- Map available on [Mbus Tracker app](#)
- 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](#) & [Uber](#)

Hourly Car Rental: [ZipCar](#)

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 (Central Campus):

- [Maize & Blue Cupboard](#) (appointment needed)
 - Groceries and personal supplies available at no cost for students who have physical or financial barriers to access a regular grocery store.
- Pharmacy: [Walgreens](#) and [CVS](#)
- [Target](#) (groceries, personal care, household supplies, etc.)
- Groceries:
 - [Ann Arbor Farmers Market](#)
 - [Argus Farm Stop](#)
 - [People's Food Co-op](#)

Online Shopping:

- Amazon (student membership available)
- [Weee!](#): Asian groceries
- Most major retailers, including grocery delivery

3. Paying Your Bills and Banking



**Winter 2025 Due Date:
January 31, 2025**

Setting Up a US Bank Account

- The selection of bank is your personal choice.
 - 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
- [Click here](#) for more info and a local bank comparison survey

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, email or in-person.

U-M Payment Plan

Enrollment period October 15-November 30th. Final deadline: January 31. Enroll early to get the most benefit! \$30 fee/semester to participate.



How it works

Help

Login

English

Flywire is the trusted choice of **millions of students and thousands of institutions worldwide**



University of Michigan

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

University of Michigan - Flint

University of Michigan - Flint Application Fees

University of Michigan - Ross Executive Education Program

Start typing the institution's name

Continue

or

[I can't find who I want to pay](#)

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!
- Track your payment via SMS text or online through your account.
 - Can also be used to process refunds from U-M.
 - 24/7 multilingual customer service via phone, WeChat, live chat, and email.
 - [More information](#)

4. Discover Student Orgs and Get Involved

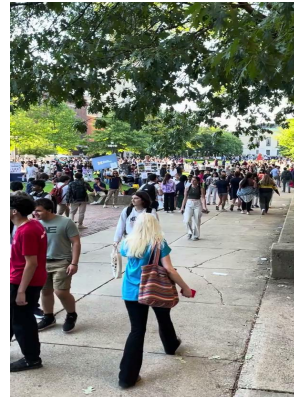


Maize Pages

- [Find any student organization](#)
 - Search by type of organization
 - Search by name
- Discover events happening nearby
- Track your involvement in clubs

Student Organization Fairs: Winterfest

- **Winterfest (January)**
 - January 13 - January 15
 - Location & times are to be announced!
- **Festifall (First week of classes)**
 - Will be announced during the summer.



5. Attend Other Orientation Events



[Scan to reach the IC Orientation Page!](#)

IC Orientation Overview

- [Winter Orientation Canvas Course:](#)
 - Peer-To-Peer Workshops(recordings): Led by Summer '24 Orientation Peer Advisors on academic, social, cultural, and living resources.
 - Campus Department/Partner Workshops (recordings)
- [New Student Welcome Dinner:](#) January 16th
- Additional events resources can be found on the [Winter 2025 orientation page](#).

Exchange Students:

- Check with your school/college regarding any required orientation meetings.

[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. Information about this orientation requirements will be communicated to you directly by the Office of New Student Programs (ONSP).

Graduate Program Orientation Details

- This varies by school/college/department. You will receive more information about this from your academic unit directly.

Wellness Resources for Students - University

Division 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)**

Late Night Transportation including SafeRide

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

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

- Free counseling services; counselors speak a variety of languages
- Offers events and group support
- Virtual mental health tools: [Togetherall](#)

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)

- Provides emergency/urgent walk-in evaluation and crisis phone services available 24/7
- Supports students who are in immediate danger because of thoughts of suicide



Wellness Resources for Students - University

Dean of Students Office

- Assists students who are experiencing anything that may be interrupting their campus life.
- Students can walk-in, call, or email and receive support during normal business hours (typically 8 am - 5 pm on Mondays - Fridays).

Wolverine Wellness

- Promotes holistic well-being
- Offers [wellness coaching](#)
- Offers [wellness course](#): ALA 240: Living Well in College & Beyond for Student Leaders (2 credits)

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

- Help get accommodations for students with disabilities.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC)

- Provides a wide array of supportive services for survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment

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 2024-25 academic year. Central Campus Recreation Building (CCRB) is currently being rebuilt (Will reopen in Fall 2025) and a temporary facility is available.



Wellness Resources for Students - International Center

Immigration Advising

- Offers advising for any immigration-related issues
- Virtual drop-in hours every week day

Health Insurance Advising (Virtual Presentation on 1/10/2025 @ 3pm)

- Offers advising and supports on health insurance questions
- Virtual drop-in hours offered on Mondays and Thursdays

International Student Advocate

- Supports international students to navigate campus life
- Appointments available via email

International Center Events

- Monthly events such as International Coffee Hour, Lunch Conversations, Birthday Celebration, and more.
- There's always free food!

International Center Emergency Fund

- Provides financial support for unusual and unforeseen emergency expenses
- Applications are reviewed two times a month

International Center Grant Fund

- Funds creative programming that elevates the voices of the international student, supports international students, or is tailored for international students interests
- Available for student organizations



Wellness Resources for Students - Scam Alert!!!

- International students are targets, and sometimes victims, of phone and email scams.
- Criminals could call and/or email students pretending to be from their home country consulate (or embassy), from U.S. law enforcement agencies, or University officials.
- [For more information about Scams, visit this information webpage.](#)
- If you receive a call, text, or email that may be scam and are not sure what to do:
 - Contact the U-M Division of Public Safety & Security (DPSS) at (734-763-1131) or online here. The DPSS is always open so if you get a call like this at night or over the weekend you can always call them for advice.
 - Enrolled students can also contact Student Legal Services for assistance (a free service), or consult residence hall staff if you live in university housing.
 - Always seek advice **BEFORE sending money** and before giving out personal information.



Additional Resources

Life in Ann Arbor

Curated collection of resources available on the IC website



Home » Resources

Resources

Life in Ann Arbor

Immigration & Visas

Health Insurance

Taxes & Social Security

International Center Emergency Fund

International Center Grant Fund

S&S Fund

Life in Ann Arbor

Housing

Transportation

Michigan Driver's Licenses and State IDs

Banking & Personal Finance

Cell Phones

Health & Safety

Travel to Canada

Family Life in Ann Arbor

Legal Considerations

Cultural Adjustment

Things To Do

English Language Resources

Finding Community

Located in southeast Michigan, Ann Arbor is a vibrant university town, technology and innovation hotspot, and culinary center with an active downtown scene. Frequently voted the best place to live in Michigan, Ann Arbor blends the charm of the U.S. midwest with multicultural influences from around the globe. Ann Arbor is approximately a 45 minute drive from Detroit, a 4 hour drive from Chicago, and is in close proximity to the North American Great Lakes, which are beautiful and popular spring, summer, and fall destinations for locals.

The University of Michigan has numerous resources available for students, scholars, and community members to use during their time here, and the Division of Student Life's Get Help page lists many. The city of Ann Arbor, similarly, offers a variety of support for individuals and families as they navigate life in the city. U-M's Undergraduate Admissions Office offers [Interactive virtual tours](#) for several areas of campus. Experience the U-M environment from anywhere in the world! Learn more about life in Ann Arbor by navigating the categories below.



Housing



Transportation



Banking & Personal Finance



Cell Phones



Guide for Family Members

Guide to key resources related to a student's experience at U-M



Orientation Guide for Family Members of U-M International Students

This guide is designed to provide family members of University of Michigan (U-M) international students a broad overview of key resources and pertinent information related to their student's experience on campus. This overview is not exhaustive. Please visit the [U-M International Center](#) website for more information

Academic Support – U-M offers numerous offices and services to assist students in their academic pursuits. However, students are expected to take charge of their education. If your student is having trouble academically, they must take the initiative by seeking out the resources available to help.

- **Academic Advising:** Advisors are provided by the School or College in which your student is enrolled. Students spend time one-on-one with their academic advisor to discuss individual interests and course selections. Advisors can also help students set academic goals and refer students to campus and community resources.



Taco Bar Included!



WELCOME

NEW FAMILIES

Sunday, January 12

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Northwood Community Center

1000 McIntyre Drive



NO VEHICLE TRAFFIC PERMITTED ON BRIDGE

U-M International Center Information

Fall 2024

 **13,718** Students, Scholars, Employees, & Dependents Supported by the IC

 **146** Countries Represented

 **8,635** International Students Enrolled at U-M

Location:

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

Contact:

+1(734)764-9310
icenter@umich.edu



International Center Communications

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

@uminternationalcenter



M STUDENT LIFE
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- **Social Media**
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
- **Orientation Program Announcements** (late December/early January)
- **Weekly Newsletter** (Fall/Winter)

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





Thank You!