Welcome to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor!

International Student Welcome Booklet
The International Center welcomes you to the University of Michigan!

We are so excited that you have decided to embark your journey here at U-M! This booklet provides resources for you as you get settled in Ann Arbor. Of course, if you have any additional questions, you can contact us at icenter@umich.edu or +1-734-764-9310.

We hope to see you at orientation and future International Center events!

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International Center

The International Center is a one stop shop for most international student needs! It has staff to help international students navigate their time here at U-M. The International Center's website has information ranging from announcements to upcoming events. Make sure to visit the center or site if you want information on current events or more specific information like health insurance or immigration.

Internationalcenter.umich.edu

International Center Orientation

International Student Orientation is unique here at U-M. Held the three weeks prior to fall term, we offer more than 20 workshops each week to help you adjust to your new life in the U.S. Topics of the workshops can range from communicating with your academic advisor to making friends in the US. The IC also hosts a variety of shopping trips and social events throughout orientation to help you meet other new international students.

Internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/orientation
Let the preparation begin!

**Applying for a U.S. Visa**
Before making travel arrangements, you will need to obtain an appropriate U.S. visa.

**Searching for Housing**
The earlier you start looking for housing, the more options you will have.

**Exploring Orientation Workshops and Social Events**
Identify and attend the workshops and events which are beneficial for you.

**Reviewing International Health Insurance**
Learn how health insurance works, what is covered and what is not covered.

**Understanding Mandatory Immigration Check-in**
Learn about the basic immigration rules in order to maintain your legal status in the U.S.

**Getting to Ann Arbor from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)**
Discover the best way to get to campus.

**Safe Travel**
Overview of Immigration Check-in

During the check-in session you will:

- Review legal requirements of F1/J1 status
- Provide original and photocopies of your immigration documents
- Receive a travel signature

The check-in session will last approximately two and a half hours (one hour for Returning/Change Of Level students), and you must attend the entire session. If you do not have the required documents or if you arrive late, you will NOT be allowed to attend the session and you will have to reschedule your appointment.

Check-in Presentation and Student Responsibility Checklist

What You Must Bring With You to the Check-In:
(Two printed copies of each are required at check-in)

- Your passport
- Your original I-20 or DS-2019
- Copies of the following documents (black & white, standard U.S. letter size – 8.5 by 11 inches)
- Passport picture page
- Your F-1 or J-1 visa (and entry stamp) - (except Canadian citizens)
- Page 1 of your I-20 or DS-2019
- Electronic I-94 form (printed AFTER your arrival in the United States)

If you have F-2 or J-2 dependents (spouse and/or children) who traveled with you to the US, bring their original passports and I-20 (or DS-2019) forms, photocopies of their visas, photocopies of page 1 of their I-20 (or DS-2019) and a copy of their electronic I-94 forms printed from https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home

Registration

The International Center uses Sessions@Michigan for check-in registration. All F-1 and J-1 students required to attend a check-in will receive an email with instructions regarding your check-in. You should receive the email 30 days before the start date on your I-20.

You may also visit the website for Sessions@Michigan, log in using your Umich login, and click on “My Sessions” (top right of the page) for more information about your check-in. The information should be available 30 days before the start date on your I-20.

You may see that you have been registered for a particular session (usually if your check-in is taking place as a part of your departmental orientation) or that you have been invited to register for one of several options. If Sessions@Michigan (or the email you received) indicates that you have already been registered, there is nothing more you need to do. Please attend the session that Sessions@Michigan instructs you to attend and to bring the documents outlined in the email.

New Undergraduate Students

Your check-in session will be part of the International Undergraduate Orientation co-sponsored by the Office of New Students Programs and the International Center. If you already attended a domestic student orientation because you are a Canadian or transfer student, you will not be attending the International Undergraduate Orientation and you will receive an invitation to register for a regular check-in.
Academic Advising Offices
U-M has academic advising offices for students in order to support their academic journey. Each department has their own advising office. Whether it is for advising about your future or current classes, any academic advisor will be happy to help. Make sure to utilize their offices if you have any questions about academics!

For undergraduate advising, please see the Academic Advising Contact Info.

For graduate advising, please contact your school department for more information (the list below is not exhaustive):

Rackham Graduate School
- List of Academic Programs
- Professional and Academic Development

Professional Schools and Colleges
- Art and Architecture
- Ross School of Business
- School of Dentistry
- College of Engineering
- Health Informatics
- School of Information
- Law School
- Medical School
- Naval Architecture
- School of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- School of Public Health
- School of Social Work

Registering for Classes
U-M students complete their registration on the Wolverine Access.

Undergraduate students: can refer to the LSA Course Guide for all the courses being offered in each term. Speak with an academic advisor if you don’t know what to register for.

Graduate students: You should speak with your faculty advisor to determine which courses to take each semester in order to fulfill degree requirements.

What is Backpacking?
Once courses are chosen, students can start backpacking classes on Wolverine Access. Your “Backpack” is where students load all their class selections prior to their assigned registration time. Like an online shopping cart, students can then check the boxes for classes that they want to sign up for when their assigned registration time arrives. Then, they can click next to finish registering. For more information regarding backpack and registration, please visit the Wolverine Access FAQ.
Religious Holidays

The University of Michigan respects and honors religious holidays that are observed by our students. As a student, you are allowed to request the day off to observe the holiday from your culture or religion. All you need to do is email your professor and say that you are observing the holiday. You can find a list of religious holidays on the Office of Provost Website.

English Resources

The English Language Institute (ELI) provides a full range of English for Academic Purposes courses and other types of language and academic support for international graduate students, scholars, researchers, staff, and post-docs at the University of Michigan. ELI offers several Language Clinics which provide international graduate students, GSIs, scholars, faculty, and staff with one-on-one language and academic support. ELI also hosts the Conversation Circle during the year to help students improve their English in a casual setting.

The Language Resource Center (LRC) is another wonderful resource for your English language skills. There are Conversation Partners available at the LRC and they can help you improve your skills by having a mutual interest in learning each others language.

Besides the U-M English resources, there are English as a Second Language classes available at Washtenaw Community College (WCC). WCC is located off campus, and it is about an 11 minute drive from U-M’s campus.

Libraries

The University of Michigan has one of the best library systems in the world. Our library system, MLibrary, has many resources for students and scholars in regards to research and to finding any books. The two main libraries used by students are the Shapiro Undergraduate Library (The UGLi) and Hatcher located on Central Campus. Both of those libraries have a plethora of study spaces and although they are labeled the undergraduate and graduate library, all U-M students are allowed to use them. For more information, see the list of all U-M libraries and their hours.

Special Accommodations

At the University of Michigan, we are committed to making everything accessible to students. The Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) works to make accommodations for students easy and hassle free. Their mission is to support the University’s commitment to equity and diversity by providing support services and academic accommodations to students with disabilities.

If you have a disability, you can file for academic support services in the classroom through the SSD department.
Health & Wellness

Health Insurance
If you are an F-1 or J-1 international student or a J-1 scholar whose Form I-20 or DS-2019 was issued by the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), you are required to have health insurance coverage for yourself and any F-2 or J-2 dependents while at the University of Michigan. You are automatically enrolled in the plan after they complete their Mandatory Check-In at the International Center, unless you have health insurance that meets the University's minimum requirements. Coverage under the plan begins on the student or scholar's “program start date” (Form I-20, Item 5 or Form DS-2019, Item 3).

Health insurance coverage is coordinated through the U-M International Center. For contact information and office hours, see U-M International Center Health Insurance Office Hours.

This section provides the following information on the U-M health insurance requirement and the U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI) Plan:
- Useful Links & Frequently Asked Questions
- U-M Health Insurance Requirement and Enrollment Process
- U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI) Plan Coverage and Rates
- Alternatives to the U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI)
- U-M Health Insurance Standards and Insurance Waiver
- Using the U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI)
- U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI) ID Card
- Doctor Visits and Hospital Stays
- What's Covered and What's Not
- What To Do If You Get A Bill From The Hospital or Doctor
- Travel Outside the U.S.
- Prescription Drugs
- Important Phone Numbers
- If You Are Not Eligible for U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI)
- Health Insurance Information for Canadian Students and Scholars
- Health Insurance Forms
- Dental Care

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
CAPS is committed to creating an environment based on our values of multicultural, multi-disciplinary and multi-theoretical practices that allow our diverse student body to access care, receive high quality services and take positive pathways to mental health. We also strive to find creative ways of reaching out to students and the U-M community to nurture and develop a proactive, renewed sense of engagement throughout the campus.

CAPS Counselors speak a variety of languages and may be embedded within your own school/college. You can also set up a time to meet with a counselor at the main CAPS office.
University Health Services & U-M Health Systems

Most costs at the University Health Services (UHS) are covered by the health service fee, which you pay as part of tuition. Students will save money by getting medical care at University Health Service during terms when they are enrolled in classes. Many UHS services are free for enrolled students, so it will not be necessary to pay the deductible, co-pay or co-insurance. For other costs, UHS will bill this insurance, and you are responsible for payment if insurance does not cover costs. UHS may also refer you for health care services that are not available at UHS. Services outside UHS are not covered by the health service fee, but your insurance may cover some or all of these costs. Make sure to take your insurance card to when you visit UHS.

If you are not an enrolled student, do not want to receive health care at UHS, or need health care that UHS cannot provide, you will save money by going to a doctor or hospital in the Aetna Network, such as the U-M Health System. You can find other doctors and hospitals in the network on the Aetna website.

Check the U-M International Student/Scholar Health Insurance (IHI) Plan Coverage and Rates for more information about annual deductible, co-pays for office visits and hospital admissions, co-insurance for services, out of network medical care, out of pocket maximum, other coverage highlights, and current rates.

Recreation Activities

U-M is a very active campus, from sports to recreational programs, and we have many facilities and ways to get moving! There are three recreation centers on campus: the Central Campus Recreational Building (CCRB), the North Campus Recreational Building (NCRB), and the Intramural Sports Building (IM Building). As a student, you have a membership to these facilities when you are enrolled. Wolverine Wellness is also a great resource for those who want to talk more in depth about the realms of wellness. There are also student organizations within Wolverine Wellness with which you can get involved.
Cultural Awareness

Cultural Adjustment

Coming to the United States from another country can be daunting with a new culture and new people to be surrounded by, but with time, you'll become more acclimated to the culture. Here is a chart of phases of adjustment. There are many factors that contribute to culture shock and it's completely normal to feel this way when you arrive to a new country. There may be things you are not used to and that is okay. Talking to others who have the same struggles definitely helps. CAPS is a wonderful resource when it comes to talking about the struggles of being a new international student.

Below are seven tips for you to adjust to the U.S. quickly and comfortably:

1. Explore - Get familiar with your environment
2. Learn about cultural norms - Pay attention to other people's behavior
3. Be slow to judge
4. Expect to go through an adjustment process
5. Go to events where you can meet new people
6. Be open to starting conversations
7. Read local newspapers, magazines, and books


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Please be aware that banks, the post office and other government offices are closed during these U.S. holidays.
Idioms

The In the United States, there are many idioms that are used when speaking. The phrases usually do not mean what you think they would mean, and they will not make sense if you directly translated them. Some of the most commonly used idioms are listed below, along with what they mean when used in conversations. There are more idioms that can be found here.

- **Rule of thumb** - An unwritten rule that is known by the general public.
- **Break a leg** – A way to say “good luck” when someone has a big event.
- **Under the weather** - To be sick or not feel well.
- **To blow off steam** - To relax or have time to yourself after a stressful situation.
- **To look like a million bucks** – A way to let a person know they look good.
- **To get over something** – When you’re feeling low/sad/mad and you need to move on.
- **Keep your chin/head up** – To try to be in good spirits.
- **To hit the books** – To go study.
- **To hit the hay** - To go to sleep.
- **To be up in the air** - When plans or a decision are not certain.
- **To sit tight** - To wait for something.
- **To pitch in** - To help out in order for a group to achieve a goal.
- **Spill the beans** – To tell others about secret information.
- **Plead the fifth** – To decline an answer to a question if it has the possibility of incriminating oneself.
- **Lighten up** – To become more cheerful.
- **Hang out** - To spend time socializing with others.
- **Couch potato** - Refers to a person who is viewed as lazy.
- **Piece of cake** - Means completing the task was easy or did not take a lot of work.
- **Baseball references:**
  - **A ballpark figure** - An estimate.
  - **Strike out (I struck out)** - To fail (to have failed).
  - **Hit a homerun** – To be very successful.
- **Beating around the bush** - To avoid talking about the actual problem/issue.
- **Feeling blue** – To feel sad/depressed.
Living in Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor is one of the most beautiful cities in Michigan and is consistently ranked among the best places to live in the Midwest. The website Livability named Ann Arbor the best place in the U.S. to live in 2017 and 2018.

Ann Arbor offers a combination of cosmopolitan flavor, scenic beauty, small town pleasures, and big city conveniences. It is home to internationally renowned universities, stellar health care, beautiful parks and recreational activities, charming homes, superb and diverse cultural amenities, over 200 diverse restaurants, and numerous galleries. It's close to airports and expressways as well as beautiful lakes—both “Great” and small!

Things to do in Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor is a city filled with surprises and there is never a day where you’ll be bored. From exquisite eateries to fun museums, there are so many things to do. There are fairy doors scattered throughout downtown and these are hidden treasures in the Ann Arbor Community. Finding all the fairy doors makes for a fun scavenger hunt for adults and kids.

Besides fairy doors, there are many great museums, restaurants and attractions to see in the city. Here are just a few to get you started:

- UMMA (Free, but donations are appreciated)
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (Free)
- Argo Park Canoe Livery
- The Ann Arbor Farmers Market (Free)
- The Michigan Theater
- The State Theater
- Washtenaw Dairy
- Zingerman’s Delicatessen

For more things to do in Ann Arbor, visit the website “Visit Ann Arbor.”
Shopping in Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor is an incredible shopping hub. From Briarwood Mall to the grocery stores, the options are endless. These places are easily accessible via AATA bus routes.

• **Shopping Centers/Malls**
  - [Briarwood Mall](#) (Take Route 6 on AATA)
  - [Arbordale](#) Center (Take Route 4 on AATA)
  - [Arbor Hills](#) (Take Route 4 on AATA)
  - [Westgate Shopping Center](#) (take Route 30 on AATA)

• **Household Supplies**
  - [Bed Bath and Beyond](#) (Take Route 4 on AATA)
  - [JCPenney](#) (Located at Briarwood Mall; take Route 6 on AATA)
  - [Target](#) (located at Carpenter Road [Route 5 on AATA] or Saline Road [Route 25 on AATA])

• **Cell Phones**
  - [AT&T](#) (At Briarwood Mall or on 407 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor 48104)
  - [Verizon](#) (At Briarwood Mall or 212 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104)
  - [T-Mobile](#) (At Briarwood or on 200 E Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104)

• **Grocery Stores (General)**
  - [Meijer](#) (open 24hours, except Christmas day)
    - 3145 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 ([Route 5 on AATA](#))
    - 3825 Carpenter Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 ([Route 25 on AATA](#))
  - [Kroger](#)
    - 2641 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (Take the Northwood 5 route)
    - 3615 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (Take [Route 4](#) on AATA)
  - [Busch’s Fresh Market](#)
    - 2240 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 ([via Route 24 on AATA](#))
  - [Trader Joe’s](#)
    - 2398 East Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 ([via Route 4](#) on AATA)
  - [Aldi](#)
    - 2340 Dexter Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 ([via route 31](#) on AATA)
  - [Whole Foods](#)
    - 3135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 ([via Route 4](#) on AATA)
    - 990 W Eisenhower Pkwy, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 ([via Route 24 on AATA](#))
Shopping in Ann Arbor (Continued)

* Indian (South Asian) Grocery Stores
  - **Bombay Grocery**
    - 3010 Packard St, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
    - Take Route 5 on AATA
  - **Patel Brothers**
    - 3426 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
    - Take Route 4 on AATA

* Asian (East Asian) Grocery Stores
  - **Hua Xing**
    - 2867 Washtenaw Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
    - Take Route 4 on AATA
  - **Way 1** (located on North Campus)
    - 2641 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
    - Take Northwood 5 Bus Route
  - **Galleria**
    - 3111 Packard St, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
    - Take Route 5 on AATA

* Latinx Grocery Stores
  - **Tienda La Libertad**
    - 2231 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
    - Take Route 30 on AATA
  - **ZZ's Produce**
    - 4092 Packard St, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
    - Take Route 5 on AATA

* African Grocery Stores
  - **Kasoa African Market**
    - 3980 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
    - Take Route 5 on AATA

University Meal Plans

If you don’t want to worry about shopping for groceries or cook, the University of Michigan has many dining halls all across campus that you can take advantage of! To eat in a dining hall, you can pay per meal, or, if you plan on eating there often, you can purchase a meal plan. If you live on-campus, you may be required to have a meal plan. There are term rates that are applied to your student account once you decide to have a meal plan, and the many options allow for you to eat all or just some of your meals there.
Living On-Campus (University-owned Housing)

Living on-campus has many advantages, including the opportunity to start establishing a network of friends and neighbors and access to professional housing staff members who can answer your questions and help you locate University and community resources. On-campus housing is served by U-M buses.

On-campus housing options include:

- For undergraduate students:
  - Residence halls and apartments
- For graduate students:
  - Munger Graduate Residences
  - Northwood Community Apartments
- For students and postdoctoral research fellows with families:
  - Northwood Community Apartments and Townhouses
- For women:
  - Henderson House and Martha Cook
- For law students:
  - Lawyers Club

As with any lease or contract, be sure that you understand your University of Michigan housing lease or contract before you sign it. Read the information about your contract at University Housing. University Housing also recommends buying renter’s insurance.

Living Off-Campus:

Getting an Apartment on campus can be tricky and difficult at times. U-M offers an off-campus housing resource with a list of apartments for rent in the Ann Arbor or Metro Detroit Area. Below are a few links for you. It is highly recommended that you review these links before signing a lease:

- Off-Campus Housing Assistance is available to help
- Have Student Legal Services (SLS) to view your lease before signing.
- Setting up utilities (Electricity, internet, etc.)
  * Television Options through U-M
  * Internet with Comcast
- Pros and Cons to Unfurnished vs. Furnished

Mandatory Address Update

You are required to update your address in Wolverine Access within 10 days of any address change while you are in F-1 status.
Winter Weather Tips

Whether this is your first time living in a climate with winter weather or you are well accustomed to snow and colder temperatures, Ann Arbor can be a very exciting place in the winter! There are many places you can go sledding, skiing, snowshoeing or ice skating!

Even though winter activities can be fun, it is important to be geared up for the colder temperature in order to truly enjoy it and prevent injury. We highly recommend that you get a good waterproof pair of boots for walking around campus in the winter, along with a warm coat and layering items such as a scarf, gloves, hats and sweaters.

Here is a table of averages when it comes to the monthly temperatures of Ann Arbor. While some of these numbers may seem scary, you will be warm and cozy in the correct clothing! Below are some things to look for when shopping for winter weather clothing:

Clothing items:
- Qualities of winter coats to look for:
  - Have enough room to wear layers underneath
  - Pockets and Hood
  - Down Feathers
  - Windproof
  - Waterproof
  - The longer the coat the more insulated you will be
- Qualities of winter boots to look for:
  - Waterproof
  - Insulation properties
  - A good sole with traction
  - Boots that go above your ankle are good in case there is slush (melted snow)

For your home:
- A warm comforter is necessary, down feather comforters insulate the best.
- A space heater, in case your home’s heating is uneven.
- Plastic window coverings to prevent drafts.
- Reminder: you must keep your home at a minimum of 55 Fahrenheit to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.

For your Car:
- Keep a bag of cat litter in your car in case you get stuck in ice (provides traction).
- Keep an extra blanket, shovel and flashlight in case you get stuck.
- In very bad storms, do not leave your car. Call for help and wait inside.
- Here’s a full List of Essentials to keep in the car in case of an emergency.

Great stores for winter gear: Columbia, North Face, Moosejaw, Eddie Bauer, REI
How to Get Around Campus/Ann Arbor:

Getting around campus is incredibly easy without a car! This is because Ann Arbor has an excellent public transportation system, along with the U-M buses that are provided to commute around campus.

While public transportation is usually reliable, some students choose to buy a car while they study at U-M. Please be aware that parking in Ann Arbor can be costly, as permits are required to park on-campus, and your neighborhood may require city parking passes.

If you need to drive and you don’t want to own a car, you can also rent a car by the hour or day through rental companies, or use ride share/taxi services to get to and from your destination.

Below are some transportation tools for you:

- Blue Buses (University Buses):
  - Routes
  - Live Map
- Bicycle Rental through U-M
- City Buses:
  - Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA)
- Car Sharing Companies:
  - ZipCar
  - Maven
- Taxi:
  - There are over 20 taxi cab service providers in Ann Arbor. See the full list.
  - Uber
  - Lyft
Driving in Ann Arbor

Driving conditions and customs in the U.S. may be different than what you are used to in your home country. With driving in Ann Arbor, there are certain restrictions for foreign drivers you need to know about before driving in Ann Arbor. The “Driving in the U.S.” presentation found in the International Center Summer Orientation has basic information about Michigan driving laws. You can also refer to Getting a Driver’s License, Buying a Used Car, and Winter Car Care for more information about driving in Ann Arbor.

Parking on campus is very limited and rather expensive. If you are considering purchasing a parking pass, please visit the Student Parking Website. The University and the AATA also provide several free commuter parking lots that provide service to campus via bus. This is called the Park and Ride Program.

Airport Transportation

The nearest airport by the University of Michigan is the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). Below are the transportation options between DTW and Ann Arbor:

- **AirRide** (airport bus): The AirRide, also known as the Michigan Flyer, costs $12 for one way with reservation. It is the least expensive option. Be sure to read the information about where to board AirRide at DTW.

- **AirBus:** The AirBus runs between U-M and DTW before and after U-M breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring).

- Taxi: Taxi is the most expensive option; however, if you did not make plans for transportation, you can follow the signs to Ground Transportation and find a taxi.

- **Uber, Lyft:** Uber and Lyft are ridesharing services that are popular around the world. You can download the apps from your mobile app distribution platforms and order rides through the apps.

- Your own network: You can also ask your friends who own a car to take you or pick you up from the airport.
Choosing a Bank

Most people choose banks with branch offices or ATM's near where they live, work, or study. It is not difficult to change banks, so if you choose one and decide you do not like it, you can always choose a different bank. All the banks and credit unions list on the comparison chart are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund which provide U.S. government insurance for your account. As of 2011, the deposit insurance limit is $250,000.

The PNC Bank is an official consumer bank of the University of Michigan. However, students at U-M are not required to have a PNC Bank account. For more information about the PNC Bank, please refer to this factsheet or visit the PNC Bank website for information tailored to U-M students.

Opening a Bank Account

To open an account, you will need identification, such as a passport. F and J-visa holders do not need a Social Security number to open a bank account or for most other financial transactions. Banks may ask you to fill out an Internal Revenue Service form W-8BEN to prove that you are exempt from the requirement of providing a Social Security number.

After you have opened your account, you can also sign up for online banking. Most banks do not require a social security number for online banking.

As of June, 2010, the following Ann Arbor banks will allow you to sign up for online banking without a social security number if you do not have one: Bank of America, Bank of Ann Arbor, Chase, Citizens Bank, Comerica Bank, Flagstar Bank, Midwest Financial Credit Union, PNC, U-M Credit Union, United Bank & Trust-Washtenaw.

When you open your account, be sure that you understand any fees that might apply. Read the banking terms and explanations section below before opening your account. You can find a list of banking terms and explanations here.

Money Conversion

When coming to the United States, knowing the conversion rates is really useful. Although we do not advise you to follow money conversions over time. OANDA and XE are conversion sites that can aid in converting currencies.
Ann Arbor Safety

Ann Arbor is a fairly safe city with many resources that work to protect the student body. The University of Michigan has its own police department as well as Department of Public Safety and Security Officers that work closely to ensure you’re safe on campus. Make sure to register your valuable devices through DPSS in case that your devices are lost or found. If you feel unsafe walking home late at night, UofM offers a SafeRide service to get you home safely.

- University of Michigan Police Department (UMPD)
- Department of Public Safety and Security (DPSS)
- Register devices
- SafeRide (After Hours Ride Service)

Emergency Alerts

UM Emergency Alert is an urgent, mass notification system that keeps students, faculty and staff informed about major active emergencies on campus. This system will be activated without undue delay by the Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS). U-M students, faculty and staff sign up for voice and text EAlerts on Wolverine Access.

Alerts will be delivered via:

- Text message (SMS)
- Voice message
- Email
- University of Michigan’s digital displays
- University of Michigan or DPSS homepage
Acronyms & Directory

Acronyms for Campus Resources
The University of Michigan loves acronyms and shortening building names for convenience so don’t alarmed if you hear all these new terms! Listed below are the commonly used acronyms for places on campus, but you can use the [campus acronym converter](#) to figure out others.

- UHS- University Health Services
- CAPS- Counseling and Psychological Services
- SAPAC- Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center
- UMMA- University of Michigan Museum of Art
- UGLI- Shapiro Library (The Undergraduate Library)
- LSA- Literature, Science, and Arts
- CSG- Central Student Government
- SAB- Student Activities Building
- OAMI- Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Directory
Here are quick links to useful campus resources. Through these links, you may schedule appointments, reserve spaces for meetings, etc. MaizeLink is also a great link that includes up to speed websites with what is going on in Ann Arbor and most used links by students. Check it out!

- [MaizeLink](#) (Quick Links for all U-M related information)
- [Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA)](#)
- [Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI)](#)
- [First Generation College Students](#)
- [International Center](#)
- [Trotter Multicultural Center](#)
- [The Spectrum Center](#)
- [Sexual Assault and Prevention Awareness Center (SAPAC)](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](#)
- [University Health Services (UHS)](#)
Address:
1500 Student Activities Building
515 E. Jefferson Street
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