MEET TODAY’S PRESENTERS

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MEET TODAY’S PRESENTERS

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Today’s Agenda

● U.S. Culture and Connecting with Campus
● Small Group Activity
● Traveling to and Getting Settled in Ann Arbor
● Immigration and COVID-19 Considerations
● International Student Orientation Information
● Q&A
Housekeeping Items

- Please keep your microphone on MUTE unless you have been called upon to ask a question. Questions can be asked in the chat.

- Please keep questions in the chat related to the subject we are discussing, especially for immigration questions. This will help us from losing track of them along the way.

- **This presentation will be recorded.** A recording of the PDO events will be available on the IC website soon, as well as emailed to participants. Only those speaking will have their image recorded.

- Closed captioning is available (auto caption may not be perfect)
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

Services:
Immigration Advising, Health Insurance,
Intercultural Programming, Social Events,
Education Abroad Advising
Message from the IC’s Director:
U.S. Culture and Connecting with Campus
Michigan, Ann Arbor, & Campus
Ann Arbor Weather

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

Average Snowfall (Dec-Feb):
- 33-40.6 cm per month
  /13-16 inches per month
U.S. and Midwest Culture

- Midwest Americans are friendly, but they like to keep personal life private. Don’t be surprised if it takes a while to make close friendships.
  - Smiling, saying good morning/hello, but no conversation following
  - Don’t ask: age, weight, sexual orientation, relationship status, political views, income level, etc. when initially meeting people.

- U-M is diverse. You will get to know people from all over the world and from many backgrounds.
- You usually need to be invited over; “potluck” dinners are typical.
- Don’t expect to see pictures of food on the menus!
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI): gender pronouns, accessibility, etc.
Common Challenges

- Homesickness
- Loss of support systems
- Lack of meaningful relationships
- Language difficulties
- U.S. immigration regulatory restrictions
- New approaches to learning
- Changing sense of identity
- Unrealistic expectations from family & self
- Financial problems
- Difficulties in home country
- New ways of doing things
U.S. Classroom Expectations

- Relaxed Atmosphere
- Technology Friendly
- Student Centered
- Critical Thinking
- Students Freely Express Opinions
- Active Learning
  - In class discussion/debate
  - Presentation
  - Role-playing
  - Team-work
  - Papers
  - Case study
Academic Resources

- **Campus Libraries**
- Faculty Office Hours
- Advising Centers
- **Information Technology Services (ITS)**
  - Resource guide for International Students
- **English Language Support:**
  - Sweetland Writing Center
  - English Language Institute
  - Language Resources Center
  - Conversation Partners
  - Conversation Circles
Campus Involvement

Maize Pages
- Find any student organization
  - Search by type of organization
  - Search by name
- Discover events happening nearby
- Track your involvement in clubs

Check with your departments about their own student organizations!

International Center Student Council
- Identify and examine issues affecting international students
- Organize several events throughout the year.
Campus Involvement

WinterFest
- January 9-10 at Michigan League (Central Campus)
- January 11-12 at Pierpont Commons (North Campus)
- Explore hundreds of student organizations
- Free giveaways, games, and activities
- Best way to start finding your community

Happening @ Michigan
- Search for any event happening on campus
- Calendar view of events
Breakout Activity

Hi Wolverines, Welcome Home!
Get to know our Winter 2023 International Cohort

Group Activity Details:

- Introductions:
  - Your name
  - Where you are from
  - Which program are you pursuing at U-M
  - Have you ever been to the U.S. before?
- What parts of Michigan/Midwest culture are you most curious about?
- Upon arrival, what are you hoping to do first on the U-M campus?
- What aspects of life in Ann Arbor are you most concerned about? (Food? Transportation? Friends? Sports? Winter?)
Debrief

How are you feeling about your new journey to Ann Arbor after talking with your peers? (Excited? More prepared? Still nervous?)

Instructions:
Scan the QR code
*or*
Navigate to menti.com
Enter the following code: 4887 2319
Getting to Ann Arbor

Travel Tips and Getting Settled
What Should I Pack?

- Passport, I-20, Visa (and copies of each)
- Clothing you can layer for varying temperatures
- School supplies
- Winter clothing
  - Waterproof and warm coat
  - Waterproof boots
  - Hat, gloves, scarf
  - Student Perspective: Winter in Michigan
- Personal supplies: glasses, contact lenses, medications
  - UHS: Prescription medication guidelines and recommendations
- U.S. DHS Prohibited & Restricted Items
- “Don’t Pack a Pest”
Airport Arrival and Transportation

Nearest International Airport: Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)

- Direct international flights from Amsterdam, Beijing, Frankfurt, Paris, Seoul, Shanghai, and Tokyo (Delta Hub)

Transportation options from DTW to Ann Arbor

- Michigan Flyer ($15) *reservation required
- Uber, Lyft (around $50+ to Central Campus)
- Taxi
- Your own networks!
- Airbus * before & after U-M breaks only ($5)
Getting Around Ann Arbor

**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**
- Spin scooters are available around downtown area and campus, for a fee
On Campus Housing

- **Undergraduate students:**
  - Residence halls
  - Use MCards to enter
  - Winter breaks & Summer breaks

- **Graduate students:**
  - Munger Suites (Central Campus)
  - Northwood Townhomes (North Campus)
  - Lease dates vary by residence

- [U-M Housing Office](mailto:housing@umich.edu) (Contact: housing@umich.edu)
Off-Campus Housing

Many students find housing through:
○ U-M Off-Campus Housing Website
○ Facebook, Zillow & Craigslist
○ Your network/Student orgs

Student Legal Services can review leases, and be aware of rental scams.
Dining Halls

- University dining halls provide meals for a variety of needs: Kosher, vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, and halal.
- MDining To Go is available for students wishing to eat their meal outside of the dining hall.
- Students living in off-campus apartments can also purchase meal plans.

Visit MDining here.
Banking

● 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

Visit the IC’s banking webpage here.
See local banks comparison here.
Paying Fees and Tuition

- **Due dates and billing**
- **How to pay**
  - International payments accepted through [Flywire](#)
- **(Optional) Payment plan for tuition**
    - Enrollment allowed up until January 31, 2023
    - Enroll during Enrollment Period to benefit the most from a five payment schedule!
  - Sign up via Wolverine Access
  - $30/term enrollment fee
- **Parents and family authorization**
  - There are steps that you need to take in Wolverine Access in order to give your parents/family members access to your student account information.
- **Tuition Refund Insurance**
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 instructions can be found here!
Safety Information

General Safety & Security:
- Lock your doors
- Don’t leave valuables unattended ([Register Devices])
- Don’t walk alone late at night ([SafeRide])

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 9-1-1
Don’t Lose your Money! - Avoid Scams

● What are scams?
  ○ Scams are illegal and fraudulent schemes by criminals (scammers) who are trying to get money from you. Scammers will often impersonate actual agencies or companies and use fear tactics to threaten you into paying them or providing them with your personal information.

● How do I avoid falling victim to a scam?
  ○ Learn more about common scams impacting U-M students and how to avoid them.
Health and Wellness

University Health Services (UHS)
- Walk-in visits and appointments available
- Most services are free or have low fees
- Can request interpretation when scheduling
- Wolverine Wellness: promotes holistic well-being

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Free counseling services
- Counselors speak a variety of languages
- Offers events and group supports
- SilverCloud Online mental health tool

Recreational Sports
- There are gym facilities, group fitness classes, and personal training, intramural and club sports available.
Immigration and COVID-19 Considerations
COVID-19 information (vaccination, testing, and safety policies) are available on the U-M Health Response website (healthresponse.umich.edu).

All incoming Winter 2023 students are required to be vaccinated and boosted.
- Report your COVID-19 vaccination information at: campusblueprint.umich.edu/vaccine
- Read the U-M COVID-19 Vaccination Policy here.
- FAQ Page
- If you need an exemption or postponement, you must submit an application.
- Questions? Contact the Campus COVID-19 Call Center
International Student Health Insurance

International Student Health Insurance Plan
○ Automatically enrolled
○ Monthly payment posted on Wolverine Access
○ Check the coverage highlights
○ Dental care coverage

GradCare
● Students who receive a fellowship that includes GradCare for health insurance should reach out to the U-M Benefits Office or their department for support.

Useful Links and FAQs
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 Consulate

U.S. Visa Application Website
Tips: Applying for Your U.S. Visa

- Apply for your visa as early as possible
- Students may be issued F-1 visas up to 120 days before the I-20 program start date
- The following will provide a list of generally required documents 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 or if you are seeking additional visa assistance
Preparing for Your Arrival

- Make arrangements for transportation to campus before you arrive.
- Check your I-94 online to be sure you were admitted to the U.S. in the correct immigration status.
- Enroll in and complete the International Center's 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.
- Plan to attend all of the international student orientation.
Preparing for Your Arrival

- 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.
- Make temporary housing arrangements before you arrive, if you plan to arrive before you can enter your dorm room or apartment.
Maintaining Your Immigration Status

- Maintain good academic standing and make progress towards degree program requirements
- Enroll full-time during academic year (Fall & Winter semesters)
- Undergraduate = 12 credits per term; Graduate = 8 credits per term; Graduate students with GSI/GSRA appointments = 6 credits per term
  
  *New F-1 students: Be sure to select at least one in-person or hybrid class (at least 3 credit hours) in order to protect your immigration status.
- Maintain valid passport and I-20 or DS-2019
- Maintain health insurance coverage
- May work on-campus up to 20 hours each week during academic year
- May work more than 20 hours each week during breaks/vacation period
- May **not** work off campus without proper work authorization
FAQs for Newly Admitted Students

- Immigration Documents (Visas, I-20s, etc.)
- Travel
- Late Arrivals/Deferrals
- Planning for Winter 2023
Peer-To-Peer Workshops (Recordings Available from Summer):
- Address practical needs: banking, transportation, driving, car, health care, legal issues
- Academic support: library basics, cultural differences in the classroom, communicating with advisors
- Health and wellness: health services, managing stress, making friends, getting involved
- Employment: finding a job on campus, tax forms

IC Welcome Desk: A great place to drop-in and ask Peer Advisors questions about U-M and Ann Arbor

Blogs and Videos: our orientation peer advisors will make blog posts and YouTube videos that give helpful advice
International Center Programs

- International Coffee Hour
- Lunch and Learn Series
- International Student Lunch Conversation
- Birthday Celebration
- Meet, Eat, and American Life (MEAL) @ Michigan
- Immigration Workshops
- Career Workshops
- Income Tax Preparation
- Education Abroad Advising
- Graduation Reception

*Check your umich email for important information and announcements.*
Thank you for attending!

QUESTIONS?
Please type them in the chat.