



Individual Income Tax for International Students University of Michigan Webinar

Thank you for attending the Individual Income Tax for International Students webinars hosted by the University of Michigan. This document contains questions addressed within these events by representatives from the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury). Keep in mind that questions may have been altered for conciseness and clarity, or to minimize redundancy. For the slide deck and associated handouts, visit the [University of Michigan International Center's website](#).

The following questions are general and clarifying in nature; account specific inquiries were directed to contact Treasury directly at TreasuryOutreach@michigan.gov.

For more information on tax assistance through the University of Michigan, please utilize the [International Center's Tax Assistance webpage](#). This includes resources such as [Getting Tax Ready](#), which provides F-1 and J-1 international students and scholars an overview of the U.S tax filing process. Additionally, you can find information about [Glacier Tax Prep](#), which is the tax software available free of charge to University of Michigan and Ann Arbor international students and scholars for federal tax form preparation.

Session 1 – March 12, 2024

1. **When is Michigan tax filing required?**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sets the official start of tax season and the deadline for filing individual income tax returns. Michigan follows these federal guidelines. Tax Day is typically April 15 unless that date falls on a weekend or holiday. For tax year 2023, you will need to file your Michigan tax return on or before Monday, April 15, 2024.

2. **Is Michigan Schedule 1 necessary for international students? Why is it that when I used the software, I only received Michigan 1040 & Schedule W?**

Michigan taxable income starts with federal adjusted gross income (AGI). Michigan Schedule 1 is used to adjust AGI to determine how much taxable income should be taxed in Michigan. For example, this form is used to subtract out scholarships that are non-taxable in Michigan for non-residents. Also, Michigan Schedule NR is used to designate income taxable in Michigan and income taxable to other states or not taxable in Michigan. Please see [example 1](#).

- 3. I filed my Michigan tax return last year with the passport I entered the United States with, but I now have a renewed passport. Will it matter if I put in my new passport number?**
Michigan does not use passport numbers as identification numbers. You should use your Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- 4. I was a J1 research scholar in Michigan in 2023, but I do not live in the United States anymore (I live in Mexico). Is it possible to send my signed documents to a trusted friend in the United States so that he or she can send them to you using the United States Postal Service?**
Treasury cannot provide guidance on how you should file your Michigan tax return. Whatever method allows you to file and pay in a timely manner is the method you should use.
- 5. I only worked at the University of Michigan, paid tuition, and obtained insurance through the university. Are there any source documents not provided by the university? I have a W-2, 1098-T, and 1095.**
You may want to contact University of Michigan payroll at payroll@umich.edu.
- 6. I am a nonresident and all my income in 2023 was from on-campus jobs at the University of Michigan (>\$5,400). What forms other than my W-2 and 1040-NR will be needed for my Michigan tax return?**
Please see [example 1](#) and [example 2](#) for Michigan individual income tax forms used with W-2 income only.
- 7. All my income is reported in a Form 1042-S under code 16. Which forms do I need to complete? Do I need to file Schedule W?**
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- 8. I opted for tax treaty benefits in my first two years on J1, and I am now in my third year. How should I file my taxes being nonexempt for treaty benefits?**
This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.
- 9. I am an international PhD student. Do I file taxes if I have been employed by the University of Michigan since August 2023?**
This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.
- 10. I have a scholarship that is directly paid to the University of Michigan and then appears in my student account. It is intended to be used to pay tuition, but it arrives after I have paid my tuition, so it is actually used to pay the monthly health insurance. Would this be considered scholarships used to pay tuition?**
Treasury cannot provide guidance on questions related to potential federal taxation.
- 11. If the federal income is empty in the W-2, then there was no federal income tax withheld?**
Treasury cannot provide guidance on questions relating to federal taxation and federal forms.

- 12. I worked in Massachusetts for my summer internship. How can I get a tax refund from Massachusetts?**
Treasury cannot provide guidance on questions relating to the taxation of another state. Please contact the [Massachusetts Department of Revenue](#) for guidance on this matter.
- 13. Would a Michigan tax return need to be filed if the income for 2023 is less than the exemption amount?**
Although you would have no filing requirement, if you filed a federal 1040-NR it is advised that you also file a MI-1040 to show Treasury that your federal income is not taxable in Michigan. This will avoid a possible inquiry letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury.
- 14. I was with two different employers in two different states in 2023. How should I go about my tax filing?**
The Michigan return starts with adjusted gross income (AGI). If you worked in Michigan during 2023 and that income is included in your AGI and it is not exempt from being taxed by a treaty agreement, then you may have income that is subject to taxation in Michigan. Michigan cannot advise on the income earned in another state, except that it would not be subject to taxation in Michigan.
- 15. I worked in New York for 2 months in 2023. The remainder of the year I was based out of Ann Arbor with no income. On my W-2, I was taxed for the state of New York only. However, the address listed on my W-2 was my Ann Arbor address. Should I file state taxes for both New York and Michigan?**
Although you would have no filing requirement, if you filed a federal 1040-NR it is advised that you also file a MI-1040 to show Treasury that your federal income is not taxable in Michigan. This would avoid a possible inquiry letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury.
- 16. Will the interest from my Certificate of Deposit and bank account be subject to state income tax as well?**
Interest earned is taxable to your state of residence when earned. If you are a non-resident of Michigan, Michigan would not tax your interest.
- 17. I was a J1 research scholar in 2023. All my income is reported in a Form 1042-S under code 16. Do I need to file Michigan taxes?**
Although you would have no filing requirement, if you filed a federal 1040-NR it is advised that you also file a MI-1040 to show Treasury that your federal income is not taxable in Michigan. This will avoid a possible inquiry letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Session 2 – March 13, 2024

- 18. Where can we find the forms mentioned during the presentation?**
The forms referenced in the presentation are available on Treasury's website: [2023 Individual Income Tax Forms and Instructions](#).
- 19. What are the ways to pay the Michigan Department of Treasury? Does one send cash along with the tax forms by mail with the United States Postal Service?**
Never send cash. You may go to our website at [michigan.gov/iit](#) and navigate to the ePayments platform (Pay Income Taxes Online). You may make an electronic payment of your tax due with a direct debit from your checking/savings account or use a debit/credit card to pay. Alternatively, you may mail in a payment using a check or money order and include a payment voucher form MI-1040-V, found at [michigan.gov/iit](#). For tax year 2023, you can [use this MI-1040-V](#).

20. I think I am considered a resident for tax purposes this year. Do I still need a 1040-NR?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

21. I have received a tuition waiver and there were some forms mailed to me. How am I supposed to use those forms?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

22. Is Schedule 1 required to be filed if a person has not lived in any other state except Michigan?

Michigan taxable income starts with federal adjusted gross income (AGI). Michigan Schedule 1 is used to adjust AGI to determine how much taxable income should be taxed in Michigan. For example, this form is used to subtract out scholarships that are non-taxable in Michigan for non-residents. Also, Michigan Schedule NR is used to designate income taxable in Michigan and income taxable to other states or not taxable in Michigan. Please see [example 1](#).

23. Where does the scholarship amount go on Schedule NR and Schedule 1? It is federally taxed, so do we need to include it on the state tax forms? If so, can you mention the line number(s)?

Please see [example 1](#) explaining how to subtract out non-taxable scholarship income for Michigan non-residents.

24. I'm a non-resident international student. I got a fellowship and did not work as GSI in 2023. Do I have to submit documents for state tax?

Treasury cannot determine if you have a filing requirement in Michigan from the information you provided. If you file a federal 1040-NR, you should also file a Michigan MI-1040 to determine how much federal AGI is also taxable in Michigan.

25. I was a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor for six months. During my time there, I did not receive any financial support from the United States—my scholarship was funded by Brazil. However, I did obtain my Social Security Number (SSN) and State ID. Despite this, I did not receive any financial assistance from the United States. Do I need to fill out any forms? If so, which forms do I need to fill out?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

26. As a J1 nonresident alien, I did not receive a 1042-S or 1099 document from my employer. However, I did receive a 1095-C. Do I still require the prior two documents, and does the 1095-C replace the 1099?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

You may want to contact University of Michigan payroll at payroll@umich.edu.

27. I worked in Wisconsin last summer. Will I have to file a tax return in two states? If so, is the process the same? I believe there is a treaty between Wisconsin and Michigan—how do you use that?

States do not have treaties with each other. We cannot advise on filing with any other states. If you earned income while physically working in Michigan, that income is taxable to Michigan and you would have a filing requirement in Michigan. Use Michigan Form NR and Michigan Schedule 1 to determine how much of federal AGI is taxable in Michigan and how much is not taxed in Michigan. Please see [example 2](#).

28. I am a non-resident alien J1. Last year I was in a conference with total expenses of \$2,092.72. The University of Michigan reimbursed this amount into my bank account. Do I need to file any form to declare this income?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

29. Are tax treaties made between countries applicable to state taxes?

The Michigan return begins with federal adjusted gross income, if your income is exempt from being taxed federally, it would not be taxed in Michigan.

30. My country has a tax treaty with the United States which exempts a certain amount of income from being taxed. What should I do about this?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

The Michigan return begins with federal adjusted gross income, if your income is exempt from being taxed federally, it would not be taxed in Michigan.

31. Is a fellowship considered a taxable income in Michigan?

Fellowships used for tuition, books, school supplies, or room and board are not taxable in Michigan to a non-resident filer.

32. If we know we have made less than the taxable income, what should we do?

If your federal adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than your prorated Michigan exemption allowance, you would not have a filing requirement in Michigan. However, it is recommended you file a MI-1040 to show Treasury that your AGI is not taxable. This would avoid a possible inquiry letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

33. What if I am a nonresident but I don't have a taxable income in Michigan?

If your federal adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than your prorated Michigan exemption allowance, you would not have a filing requirement in Michigan. However, it is recommended you file a MI-1040 to show Treasury that your AGI is not taxable. This would avoid a possible inquiry letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

34. I had a total income of \$100 in 2023. I am an F1-student, non-resident alien. My pay sheet already shows deducted tax to the state. Do I need to do anything?

If you would like a refund of the Michigan state income tax withheld from your pay, you must file an MI-1040 and accompanying forms to claim a refund.

35. I received a \$1,000 scholarship from the University of Michigan, but it was already taxed when I received it (I got around \$800). Should I write the income as \$1,000 or \$800?

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.

36. I received a state tax refund last year (Form 1099). Is that considered taxable income? I found out that if I had a standard deduction, it would not be taxable, and if I had itemized deduction, it would be taxable. I am not sure which one I was last year.

This is a federal income tax question, and the Michigan Department of Treasury cannot advise.