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Host University: ROSS School of Business, Michigan

Exchange term: Winter 2019

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Degree	MBA in Management of Technology, Innovation & Entrepreneurship	General MBA	MBA in Financial Management

Contact us if you have any questions!



About the Country and City

The University of Michigan is located in Ann Arbor, a rather small and cozy city, located about an hour drive from Detroit (30 minutes from DTW airport, 4 hours from Chicago and 4 hours from Toronto). It's a college town and hence, there are lots of shops, bars and restaurants in A2 (short for Ann Arbor). Most of the citizens are either studying or serving as university personnel. The city of Ann Arbor is absolutely safe and its citizens are friendly and helpful.

Michigan is located in the Midwest on the Canadian border and is notorious for its cold weather. During our stay we had days with comfortable weather and days that were pretty cold (the coldest that it got was around minus -40 °C - school was cancelled for 2 days during that time :) but you need to remember that they're well prepared for this weather and everything is well heated - (don't worry, you just need to get a decent jacket and shoes).

About the Host University

There are over 50 thousand students studying at the University of Michigan which is known for its business, law and engineering schools. It is a Jewish friendly university and approximately 15% of its students are Jewish, including the current president of the University – Mark Schlissel. There are several Jewish organizations in the area and we would highly recommend Hillel and Jewish Resource Center (JRC), each with large communities and a great way to meet many interesting people and network. **Tip:** go to Hillel and JRC within your first week living in Ann Arbor and they will welcome you with open arms and bring you up to speed.

“Unit pride” - this is something very strong and fun in Michigan. You feel a part of an elite school and everyone is walking around with “M” shirts. Even when I was in New York walking with my “M” logo shirt, people suddenly scream to me “GO BLUE!” (their motto).

Sports:

Being at Ross during the winter semester, we did not get to witness the Football season but the basketball team is also renowned and we highly recommend attending games and watch in amazement the Michigan Wolverines. The student tickets are very cheap and in great locations. Try also going to the hockey games. In football season, there's usually pregame (American slang for partying before an event) and in general, U.S college sports is crazy and everybody should experience it.

Tip: Let somebody invite you to selling/exchanging tickets group in GroupMe.



Ross School of Business

Ross School of Business is one of the top 10 business schools in the US and for a good reason. There are super smart, experienced and fun students and they constantly involved in school and extra activities (and pay \$150K for their MBA). The building was our second home and it is one of the more exciting buildings we got to study in.

There are more than 1000 communities in Ross allowing students to participate in additional activities, lectures and networking. There are also communication and career centers that provide students with tips and trainings.

Tip: in case a student completes 12 or more units of study, he becomes a Ross alumni that will allow to keep in touch with other Ross alumni and get access to the Ross data sources and keep your email for a lifetime!

Tip: Take (we bought it there) formal clothes or suit with you, since many meetings and events demand it. Formal means: a suit, matching belt and shoes (!), in many of the classes you have to dress business casual every day, and when presenting.



The international students and the program - we were about 15 from all around the world, amazing people and a good social group. Ross is very good in arranging activities (i.e taking us to the Detroit museum and to see an NBA game) and help with anything you need - they will contact you before you arrive to Ross.

Courses and professors

Course #	Commentary
ES 515 Prof. Menon Rashmi	Introduction to Entrepreneurship: This course gives, as the name suggests, an introductory overview of the world of venturing: business plan, launch, key concepts in establishing a startup, etc. There is a lot of material to read before class (some is really interesting), no exam and you are graded on participation and a business plan for your made up company (check syllabus for further breakdown)
MO 512 Prof. Laurie Morgan	Bargaining and Influential Skills: This course is essentially different scenarios of negotiation that you need to prepare for beforehand (email negotiation, team negotiation, with one partner, multi-party negotiation, etc.). Every class is the actual negotiation in private rooms, followed by a debrief by the professor, showing all results (our attitude shines in that class). Highly recommended
TO 512 Prof. Tariq Mughal	Decision Support with Spreadsheets: This course deals with decision support using spreadsheets, including: what if analysis; financial, statistical; graphical presentation of data; organizing, sorting, querying and extracting information from spreadsheet and external databases. An introductory course to excel, recommend for those who have little or no experience working with Excel. And Tariq is a great guy.
BCOM 561 Prof. Nancy A. Kotzian	Management Presentation: Practical course, requires to give presentations in class. It is good for practicing and to overcome the challenge of presenting in front of an audience. The classroom gives a warm environment to try and to learn. Highly recommended.

<p>Marketing 630 Prof. Fred Feinberg</p>	<p>Marketing Engineering and Analytics: The first-ever practical course we did for marketing. The course takes basic marketing tools (i.e. segmentation) and gives real data in order to practice those tools. The Prof. is great and funny. Recommended</p>
<p>MO 611 Prof. Mike Barger</p>	<p>Business Leadership in Changing times: Crisis leadership on steroids (!), the class is divided into 6 groups: Advocates (executives), Media, Customers, Industry analysts, Regulators, Competitors. You have to play your role, dress professionally and a lot of high executives come to visit! (CFO of American Airlines, Cardinal health, GM, and more) Recommended +</p>
<p>FIN 626 Prof. David Brophy</p>	<p>Global Private Equity: David Brophy is one of the key personnel in Ross and also teaches FIN623 and FIN624 (venture capital and private equity, accordingly). This course gives an intro to private equities around the world, a lot of guest lecturers. Highly recommended</p>
<p>MO 455 & MO 555 Prof. Jane E. Dutton</p>	<p>Flourishing At Work And Beyond: The course is designed to give you a working and practical knowledge of the positive organizational scholarship - which is how to make your organization effective (and else) with tools that do not cost money (positive psychology). The course is taught by one am amazing faculty and a worldwide expert. Highly recommended</p>
<p>BL 504 & ES 504 Prof. Cindy Schipaniof</p>	<p>Legal Aspects Of Entrepreneurship: The course teaches various legal issues every entrepreneur should understand. It is very basic but interesting and important. The Prof. is very good and the cases are relevant. The course is focused on the Us law, but the basics are the same. Recommended</p>
<p>ES 569 Prof. Vinay Gupta</p>	<p>Managing The Growth Of New Ventures: On paper, the course is great - every week a different guest lecture with different entrepreneur experience talking about different aspects of "Growth Of New Ventures". In practice, the cases are not dated and also the guests. The final project is not bad.</p>

- **Tips:**

After orientation day, go and speak to the academic consultant, they will talk to you about your career and help you choose good courses (even if you think there is no room).

- Don't do too many courses - it is hard to take off courses, they are all good. But leave time for the extra activities, professional clubs, meetups, lectures and conferences that are happening on a daily basis.
- Take as much as possible! The courses are worth it and a great way to network with other ROSS students.

Accommodations

There are plenty of rooms and apartments near Ross, though it can be challenging to rent an apartment for the fall semester as most of the contracts are for one year and not many students go on exchange programs during the football season. During the **winter** semester it's easier and much cheaper.

While looking for an apartment, your best option is to monitor Facebook groups and check the Craigslist - in the winter semester, Ross created a google doc for students who are going abroad so we can sublet from them (if they don't do it - ask for it).

We had a flat in Zaragon Place (East): Matan and Majd in one apartment with 2 other roommates, Amit with 3 other roommates). The rent is lower during the winter semester (instead of ~\$1400 per month, \$600-\$1000).

Tips:

- Keep in mind that the closer you are to Ross, the less walking during the cold winter!
- Ask your Ross coordinator (Aicha in our case) to create a spreadsheet for exchange students going outside of Ross and you! Best way to find a sublet.

Cost of living

Besides housing and food, everything is relatively cheap. \$1200 per month (excluding housing) is enough in Ann Arbor, depending on your lifestyle. There are several large supermarkets around Ann Arbor: Whole Foods is quite expensive, but natural and healthy; Kroger, Meyers and Target are a lot cheaper and but good for buying home stuff.

Tip: Use the Instacart application for grocery delivery. As a new user you will receive two weeks of free trial, and afterwards it costs \$10 per month and additional 2-3% fee out of the total order. You pay a bit more but it saves you a lot of time, split the cost with your roomies it is worth it! Specially, that you can order from Costco as well!

Student Visa

Sounds scary, right? But the University provides you with a guide on how to obtain F-1 visa and I-20 form that you need in order to enter and study in the USA. You can enter the country 30 days prior to the study and stay for up to 60 days after the end of the program. These timeframes are really relevant for traveling in the states before or after the semester. It is important to note that the I-20 form is super-important to carry with you if you leave the states.

Tip: Note, that in case you stay before/ after the program, you need to obtain a separate health insurance as the one from the university works only during the program.

Transportation

We didn't use a lot of transportation - A2 is small - so you mostly walk. Buses in Ann Arbor are free for students but they are frequently late. Lyft and Uber are also great options and are very cheap. Zipcar and Maven – car-sharing services – are efficient and useful. Michigan Flyer is a direct bus from the Detroit Airport to Ann Arbor (costs \$12 compared to an Uber ride that costs approximately \$40).

We rented a car to drive to Toronto & Chicago. We used economycarrentals.com to rent the car - they are cheap and include insurance - but you need to pick the car up in the A2 airport (~10\$ lyft).

Insurance and Health Services

Mandatory insurance - the normal traveling insurance does not suffice and Health Insurance is organized by the University (you pay ~\$180/ month directly to the university) and explained in detail during the orientation. U of M clinic on campus will provide you with most of the necessary help and medications

Tips: (i) For prescriptions or medications go to the U of M clinic, it will be cheap and easy (co-pay of \$20 for each visit). (ii) At the beginning of the semester they have a flu shot booth for several days free of charge, check it out.

Night life

Lots of clubs and bars in Ann Arbor- Those on South University Avenue usually attract undergrads (Rick's, Good Time Charlie's, Brown Jug). Clubs to visit - Rick's, Skeeps (MBA Happy hour every Thursday), Necto and any other place that you fancy..

Tip: Join the MBSA (Michigan Business Student Association) club and you can enter for free every Thursday to Skeeps you get free drinks until the tap is over

Tip: Look for the yellow bus event! (see picture) it is an MBA only event, drinks and mingling.



Tip: Ann Arbor Hash bash day (Google it =D)



Tips

Local bank account – we all opened an account at PNC since they offer an account with zero fees for six years as a student. Hopefully, Aviv (Israeli guy) will still be working there and you'll have an easy time.

Cellular - we had a prepaid plan with Mint Mobile. It's the cheapest but not the best (~\$25-\$30 a month) and some switched to a prepaid in AT&T with unlimited calls and 8GB of data for \$55 a month.

Amazon – Your new best friend, you can order anything you want with free delivery as a Prime member which is free for students with an EDU email for six months. Start thinking what you want to order and get an extra luggage :)

Places in A2

We concentrated a lot of stuff for you in this google doc - it is dynamic so you can change it and pass it on :) [Link](#)

50+ Things to do in Ann Arbor before Graduation

1. Hug the 100 year old tree in the courtyard
2. Get a Zingerman's sandwich
3. Go for a run (or walk!) in the Arb
4. Have brunch at Sava's
5. Study or read in the law library
6. Have lunch or coffee with a professor
7. Get coffee at: Roos Roast, Comet Coffee, or Coffee Lab
8. Stock up at the MDen
9. Visit the statues on North Campus
10. Stop in the Shinola store
11. Ride the Commuter North or South
12. Get late night pizza at NYPD
13. Play trivia at Ashley's
14. Hang out with friends in Bill's Beer Garden
15. Get ice cream at Blank Slate
16. Get donuts at Washtenaw Dairy
17. Eat BBQ from Westside
18. Visit the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
19. Visit the Art Museum

20. Play darts at 8 ball
21. Have a cocktail at the Last Word
22. Listen to live music at Detroit Filling Station
23. Go strolling through the Kerrytown Farmer's Market
24. Get a t-shirt at Vault of Midnight
25. Have a wine flight from Vin Bar
26. Eat sushi lunch at Sushi Town
27. Share Feta bread at Pizza House with a friend
28. Have Taco Tuesday at Cantina
29. Get fresh produce from Argus Farm stop
30. See a live performance at the School of Music, Theater, and Dance
31. Go to a rally on the diag
32. Yell "Go Blue" at one more varsity sports game
33. Find the fairy doors
34. Browse the shelves at Literati Bookstore
35. Have the Hippie Hash at the Fleetwood
36. Canoe or kayak on the Huron River
37. See a movie at the Michigan Theater or State Theater
38. Play pinball at Pinball Pete's
39. Go ice skating at Yost
40. Walk the Wave Field on North Campus
41. Visit the Matthaei Botanical Gardens
42. Walk through all three floors of Treasure Mart
43. Eat at Crazy Jim's Blimpyburger (brush up on how to order!)
44. See a show at The Ark or the Blind Pig
45. Trivia night at Wolverine State Brewing Company
46. Explore the Computer & Video Game Archive at the Dude
47. Have a shake and chipati at Pizza Bob's
48. Try the cinnamon french toast at Angelo's (and sing the song)
49. Have tea at Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room
50. Visit the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
51. Have a fishbowl at Charley's
52. Feed a squirrel on the diag
53. Build a snowman or make a snow angel
54. Visit the Ann Arbor District Library and sign out a metal detector
55. Visit Gallup Park
56. Donuts at Dimo's Deli & Donuts!
57. Big House 5K

General experience

It was an amazing experience with lots of insights about the country and people. We couldn't even imagine how interesting, insightful, challenging and mostly fun it will be, or how much we'll love Ross, Ann Arbor and our new friends.

Not only exchange semester opens your mindset, but it also enhances with ideas, networking contacts and valuable skills. We will leverage this opportunity in order to thank Collier School of Management and Hila for this wonderful opportunity (!). Don't think twice, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and indeed a life changing event!









