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School info

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business

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Michigan and Ann Arbor

University of Michigan is located in Ann Arbor, a small suburb in Michigan, about an hour drive from Detroit.

Ann Arbor is a very nice city. Most of the population consisted of students and faculty members which makes the city characteristics very young and call. It is also one of the five safest cities over the United States (2014).

There are a vast Jewish community in this town so for us, the Israeli students, it feels very nice and safe.

The University

The university is located in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor. As opposed to Tel Aviv University, University of Michigan is not closed and not surrounded with borders, it's just buildings on the city streets.

Within 2 KM radius you'll find all the university institutions and it's very walkable, bikeable, and easy to reach.

As M.B.A. students, most of your classes will take place in the Ross Business School campus, which is located at the southern part of the university.

This campus is the newest building of all the university buildings (some parts of it are still under construction, fall 2015). It is highly equipped, high end decorated and gives the business students the opportunity to use all its facilities.

Inside the building you also find a GYM the allowed to be used only by students of the business and the law school. It has everything you'll find in your hometown GYM and it costs only 100\$ per semester. It has showers and you can work out between classes – highly recommended!

Residence

Residence is the difficult issue in Ann Arbor not because of the lack in places, but because almost all of them wouldn't let you to rent a place just for one semester. They would let you to rent it for your time there and sub rent it to someone else when you done but you would be responsible to find the new tenant and if you don't you'll pay for the rest of the period.

One place who permits a four months period rental is "Woodbury Gardens". It is located on the southern part of Ann Arbor and it's about 5-10 minutes' drive or 25-30 minutes' walk. Despite the fact that this place is a little bit far that's the best place to live in terms of facilities, rental rates and living environment.

If you're interested in living there, contact me and we can get a discount for both of us.

Transportation

There's a bus station right outside the Woodbury gardens, comes every 30 minutes and it's free for the university students. The bus stops about 100 meters from Ross. In the evenings the bus comes once an hour so you can either wait or order UBER.

UBER is a great way for transportation and it cost 5-8 \$ per ride within Ann Arbor.

If you live in downtown Ann Arbor you don't need any transportation because everything will be within 10 minutes' walk distance.

Things to do

- NBA Games – I watched three games of the Detroit Pistons games during my time there. If you love NBA, do it. It's a great experience, pretty cheap and very close (about an hour drive from Ann Arbor). If you do that, consider to register for the Zipcar service (it's like Car2Go in Israel).
- University of Michigan Football Games – The University of Michigan has a football team, which has a very big place in the Ann Arbor community life. Women and men, old and young, students and citizens are all crazy about their football team. Their merchandise are all over the place and their stadium is the second largest sport stadium in the entire US (120,000 people). It's a must go experience and I highly recommend to buy the season tickets (175\$ if you buy it at the preseason). You can also sell the tickets which will cover the costs (for instance, I sold my Michigan vs Ohio state ticket for 150\$!!!!!!). Buy it even if you are not intend to go.
- Pubs, Bars and Restaurants – Ann Arbor is full with places to hang out with your friends. You do not need my recommendations because you will find out

about it yourself within your first week but I'll list some: bars – 8 ball, Hopcat, Skeep's, Rick's. Restaurants – Buffalo Wild Wings, Piology, Pacific Rim, Gandy Dancer (Fancy restaurant, great food, expensive).

- Live concerts – If you are into music check out the concerts around Detroit while you are there. During my time there, I watched Alt-j, Beach House and Norah Jones.

Visa

The Visa process is very easy. You will get full instructions from the university about the process and you'll find this part easier than you expect.

Courses

In order to give you my inputs regarding to the courses I need to explain the university academic structure of the program. There are two types of courses, core and elective. Exchange students are allowed to take only elective courses (which are much more interesting). Each course is evaluated by credits (1.5-3.0) depending on the time of the classes. The semester divided into two terms, Fall A – the first 7 weeks of the semester and Fall B – the second 7 weeks of the semester. Between fall A and B there's a week break ("Term break"). Courses can be taught in fall A, fall B or both. This would also effect the credit value of the course. The courses are very hard and demanding high amount of time out of class to do readings, assignment, group projects etc. When the class take place the professor assume that you did everything that he required in the syllabus for the class and he'll start his lecture as if you read the article he asked you to read before class. He will also ask your opinion and require your contribution to the topic discussed in the class. It's a lot of work but if you'll be prepared for each class you'll get the best out of your studies and learn like you never learnt before. This is a great opportunity for you to learn real stuff from great professors. My recommendation – use it! The level of the studies there is like nothings you ever experience. The materials are practice and realistic which makes the learning process much more efficient. Just for you to get into proportion, M.B.A. student pays over 120,000 \$ for his degree, that's over half million NIS. They are there to learn and they do because the university do everything to give them the best skills they can. You have the opportunity to learn the exact same materials in the exact same form for about 3,000 NIS so again – use it! If you won't you also won't feel that you took anything out of your time there in terms of studding.

Tel Aviv University 1 credit equals 1.5 University of Michigan credits and would acknowledge up to 7 TAU credits (10.5 U of M credits), but the Ross Business School limit you up to 18 U of M credits for both terms. I suggest to use the maximum amount of credits and take as much courses as you can. I took 17.25 credits consisted of these courses:

Number	Name	Professor	Credits	Term	Times a week	Class duration
FIN 517	Real Estate Essentials	Peter Allen	3.00	Full Semester	1	3 Hrs
FIN 623	Venture Capital Finance	David Brophy	2.25	Fall A	2	2 Hrs
FIN 624	Private Equity Finance	David Brophy	2.25	Fall B	2	2 Hrs
FIN 629	Financing Technology Commercialization	David Brophy	3.00	Full Semester	1	3 Hrs
ACC 564	Corporate Financial Reporting	Ryan Ball	2.25	Fall A	2	2 Hrs
ACC 711	Financial Statements Analysis 1	Christopher Williams	2.25	Fall B	2	2 Hrs
TO 515	VBA for Excel	Hila Etzion	2.25	Fall B	2	2 Hrs
			17.25			

FIN 517 – Good class. Gives a great interpretation of the US real estate field. Two big projects but very practical.

FIN 623 – Great class. If you not familiar with VC or interested in learning that you have to take this course. Great professor.

FIN 624 – Great class. Much more demanding then the VC class but also has great materials.

FIN 629 – Very cool course. Interdisciplinary course. Every six students become a team who build a real business plan for a real startup company. Takes a lot of time but that's the most realistic thing I did in my entire academic studies. Do it!

ACC 564 – Best professor I ever had! Take this class unless you leant accounting.

ACC 711 – Good course but you shouldn't take it.

TO 515 – Great class, great topic, great professor (Israeli). If you want to expend your skills with excel take it. Don't take it if you well skilled with programing.

Tips

- Take as much classes as you can and work hard. This is a great opportunity for you.
- Start your daily routine right away. Don't let the time spill out of your hands. It ends as fast as a blink so live it from the first day.
- Try to get involved with foreign students, Americans and Internationals. This is the heart of this experience, watch different people, explore other perspectives and ways of thinking, creating new friends, improve your English, learn from team mates and other students' experiences etc. That would make your experience unforgettable.
- Make sure you take pictures. I didn't and I have non.

My experience

As I think you already realized, my experience was terrific. Without a doubt this is the best thing I did in my life. There's nothing like it and you'll find yourselves living an American citizen life which either if you like it or not the experience is unbelievable. After I did it I can say that if you have the opportunity and you can leave your jobs/family/other issues here for one semester – you absolutely have to do it!

If you have any questions, please give me a call and I would do the best I can to help you.

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