

# Welcome to Michigan Anthropology!



A guidebook for International Students  
(by fellow international students)

# Welcome!

We are so glad that you are going to be joining us in the coming school year.

We have put together this guide to help you navigate the complicated process of moving to Ann Arbor to start your studies.

This guide was put together by various international students in hopes of addressing some of the challenges we faced during our move to the US, settling into Ann Arbor, and our first year living in the USA.

It is not exhaustive and not meant to replace instructions you receive from the Department or University. Please make sure you check your email for instructions on completing the necessary steps and paperwork in order to enroll in the University and obtain your travel documents.

# Websites to know

1. [International Center at UMich](#)
2. [Rackham Graduate School](#)
3. [Anthropology Department Website](#)
4. [UMMAA LSA Website](#) (for Archaeology Students)
5. Websites with useful information depending on your area of study, for example:
  - a. [CREES](#) - Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies
  - b. [Weiser Center](#) - Center for European Studies
  - c. [African Studies](#)
  - d. [Southeast Asian Studies Center](#)
  - e. [Center for South Asian Studies](#)

# I've Accepted my Offer, now what?

You will receive many emails from the Department outlining the things that you will have to do in order to register to classes, obtain your visa and arrive in the US.

## **CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY**

### **Generally you will have to:**

- 1) Set up your UMich ID, Email and Wolverine Access (Wolverine is a convoluted website, so don't feel bad to ask for help!)
- 2) Fill out and submit paperwork, including but not limited to a health check, a background check, etc.
- 3) After you receive your I20 or equivalent document make an appointment to apply for your VISA
- 4) Enroll in classes - you do that through Wolverine Access
- 5) Look for a home in Ann Arbor
- 6) Purchase your ticket
- 7) Enroll for necessary orientations

# Important Contacts

- For general international student concerns: [icenter@umich.edu](mailto:icenter@umich.edu)
  - Questions related to I20 (or DS2019), VISAS, SEVIS etc.
- Department related questions - Kari Conley and Kat East: [anthro.grad.program@umich.edu](mailto:anthro.grad.program@umich.edu)
  - All of the above, and more specific program related questions; classes, schedules, milestones, and funding support.
- International Student Group Liaison and Student Contact: [Laura MacLatchy](#)
- UMMAA related questions: [amywin@umich.edu](mailto:amywin@umich.edu) (For Museum related questions)
- UMMAA International Student Contact: [Michael L. Galaty](#), Director of UMMAA
- You can also contact us in the student group at: [international-anthrostudents@umich.edu](mailto:international-anthrostudents@umich.edu)
  - Questions related to classes, housing, Ann Arbor and anything else.
  - Your First Year Buddies / Mentors
  - These individuals will be assigned to be an unofficial mentor if you would like to have one.

# 1) Set up your Unique ID, Email & Wolverine Access Account

Generally, one of the first things you will be asked to do is to set up your UMich ID, email and your [Wolverine Access Account](#).

- What is Wolverine Access? (Good Question)
  - Wolverine Access is the interface where you enroll for classes, can view your grades, your finances, your work hours, your tax forms, and much more. It is like the hub of all school information related to you.
- You will receive an email to do this soon after you accept your offer.
  - Use your UMich email address as your primary mode of communication for anything school related.
- Information on your unickname (your UM user name), and email can be found [here](#).
  - Once you do this, you will get an email to set up your Wolverine Access Account..
- Information on Wolverine Access can be found [here](#).

# Two Factor Duo Login

You will be asked to setup and use Duo Login (yes- annoying). This is a double authentication method that the university has us use in order to protect our information. Information on Duo and how to set it up can be found [here](#).

If you travel frequently or are usually without Data or Wi-Fi, check out [this website](#) for information on how to use Duo without Data or Wi-Fi on your phone. Just make sure you download the Duo App earlier! You can also pick up a hardware token for free at the [Computer Showcase](#), which will provide you with a code to use in situations where you do not have data or wifi. This is really important if you are conducting research overseas or going home for the summer.

## 2) Filling in all the paperwork

The next few emails you receive will ask you to fill out various forms and provide proof of certain documents.

1. SEVIS - Read about what is SEVIS [here](#)
2. Check SEVIS status and/or pay fee [here](#)
  - a. The Geo student Union can reimburse the SEVIS fee after arrival, for more information, [go here](#).
3. Proof of Immunization
  - a. Not everyone may have to do this, if you need to do it, the department will let you know. [Read general instructions here](#). More information for international students [here](#).
4. Background Check
  - a. Not everyone may have to do this, the Anthropology Department will contact you with information if they require you to do one. You will receive all of the instructions in your email.

### 3) Make Appointment to get your VISA

Do this as soon as possible as the waiting time for your interview can be long. Make sure to check the specific rules between your country and the US - the procedure is not the same for everyone.

Information on VISA's and the application process can be found [here](#). When in doubt, email the department ([anthro.grad.program@umich.edu](mailto:anthro.grad.program@umich.edu)) and the International Center ([icenter@umich.edu](mailto:icenter@umich.edu)), they will be able to provide advice specific to your situation.

## 4) Enroll in classes and get familiar with program requirements

Once the department received your paperwork and transcripts and you have officially accepted your offer, you will receive an email to enroll for your Fall classes.

Course enrollment is done on Wolverine Access. Information on course enrollment can be found on the [Rackham Graduate School website](#).

Based on the structure of our program, there are certain (mandatory) core classes that you have to enroll in your first year. This information can be found in the [Graduate Student Handbook](#), which has all program related information. Take some time to read this document and familiarize yourself with the requirements of the program. Many important documents are also found in [MBox](#), which you will get access to once you matriculate.

You will likely receive advice on your courses from your first year advisor. But if you want a second (or third) opinion, or some insider perspective, reach out to your First Year Buddy or any of us. We are more than happy to answer any course or scheduling related questions.

# How to navigate Wolverine Access - Enrolling in classes the first time

In order to enroll in classes you will need a few things:

1. Active Wolverine Access Account
2. Schedule of classes offered, which can be found [here](#).
3. [Student Handbook](#) - Outlining mandatory courses and suggested schedule for first year

# When you open your Wolverine Access account - go to student Self Service

▼ Student Self Service



New&Prospective Student Center



LSA Honors Application



Student Employment Application



Student Center



Payroll and Compensation



Class Search/Browse Catalog



Academic Records



Campus Finances



← On the left side select Academics

▼ Academics

- Search
- Planner
- Backpack/ Registration
- My Academics
- Schedule Builder

Search | Planner | **Backpack/ Registration** | My Academics

My Class Schedule | Add | Drop | Swap | Edit | Term Information

Add Classes 1 2 3

### Select Term

Select a term then select Continue.

	Term	Career	Institution
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Fall 2020	Rackham	University of Michigan
<input type="radio"/>	Summer 2020	Rackham	University of Michigan
<input type="radio"/>	Spring/Summer 2020	Rackham	University of Michigan

[Continue](#)

Go to top

Select the term you are registering for

# Example:

This is an example of the number you will have to write

481	Lang, Cult in N Amer							
33476	P W SEM 001 TTH	10-1130AM	210 WH	Meek				
497	Honors Soc/Ling Anth			3.00		ENFORCED		
11605	PIR SEM 001 T	4-7PM	ARR					
499	Ug Reading & Res			1.00-3.00				
	I IND +	ARR	ARR					
519	Hist Ling			3.00		ADVISORY		
26680	P W LEC 001 MW	1130-1PM	403 LORCH	Thomason				
526	Traditn Ethnology I			4.00		ADVISORY		
11607	P RW SEM 001 W	9-1PM	210 WH	Dua				
541	Environ Anthropology			3.00		ADVISORY		
34011	P W SEM 001 T	4-7PM	3163 USB	Kirsch				
546	Int Ethnomus			3.00		ADVISORY		
29575	P SEM 001 T	2-5PM	REMOTE	Kaur				
558	Issues-Sociocul Anth			3.00		ADVISORY		
22731	P W SEM 001 W	1-4PM	B814 EQ	Moll				
	Muslim Societies: Ethnog Persp							
576	Intro to Ling Anthro			3.00		ADVISORY		
11608	P RW LEC 001 TTH	1-230PM	210 WH	Mannheim				
579	Semiotic Anthro			3.00		ADVISORY		
33550	P W SEM 001 W	230-530PM	210 WH	Keane				
647	Sexological Theory			3.00				

Look for the class number and enter

Fall 2020 | Rackham | University of Michigan Change Term

Open  Closed  Wait List

Add to Backpack:  
Enter Class Nbr ▲  
 Enter

**Fall 2020 Backpack**  
Your enrollment backpack is empty.

Find Classes

- Class Search
- Class Search by School/College
- My Planner

Search

Schedule Builder

[validate backpack classes](#)  
Use "validate backpack classes" to check for time conflicts, enforced prerequisites, department or instructor consent and repetition rules

▼ **My Fall 2020 Class Schedule**

# Once you select you can view the details

## 1. Select classes to add - Enrollment Preferences

Fall 2020 | Rackham | University of Michigan

ANTHRCUL 526 - Traditn Ethnology I

### Class Preferences

ANTHRCUL 526-001

Seminar



**Session** Regular Academic Session

### Enrollment Information

- **Advisory Pre-Requisite:** Graduate standing only
- **Enforced Pre-Requisite:** Graduate Standing

**Override Time Conflict:**

**Wait List**  Wait list if class is full

**Grading**

**Units** 4.00

**Available Seats** 17

**Wait List Total** 0

**Available Seats Reserved For**

ANTHR GRAD PROGS-17

Cancel

Next

# Once you select your classes, you can create a calendar

[Search](#)

[Planner](#)

**[Backpack/ Registration](#)**

[My Academics](#)

**My Class Schedule** | [Add](#) | [Drop](#) | [Swap](#) | [Edit](#) | [Term Information](#)

My Class Schedule

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Select Display Option

List View

Weekly Calendar View

# 5) Look for accommodations - Things to keep in mind

You have to start to think about housing **early**. Housing in Ann Arbor is expensive but there is a big option selection.

There are a couple things to keep in mind:

- Almost all accommodations will require a **security deposit of at least 1 ½ months rent** at the sign of the lease. Some will also have application fees as well.
- Most rentals are for **12 months!** 9 month long rents are relatively rare and you might need to pay some extra for having a shorter term lease. Often you can sublease your apartment/room for the summer months, but there is no guarantee you find someone. So keep in mind that you might be responsible for paying rent and utilities for the summer months too, even if you are not in Ann Arbor.
- Utilities - check if and what utilities (water, electricity, heating etc) are included in the rent. Keep in mind that heating cost can be high in winter months (up to \$90) in Ann Arbor.
- Renting offices sometimes ask for a guarantor (a person that can be held accountable at the time of you signing the lease)
- Finding a place from abroad can be really challenging. To make things easier you can choose to either **apply for one of the university's housing options** (Next slide), try to team up with other incoming students, or look for **Anthropology students who are looking for new roommates** (people usually send out emails in the Winter semester stating that they are looking for a roommate or someone to take their place in the coming school year). Emailing to other Anthropology students and inquiring about possible places to sublease or looking for roommates is absolutely ok.

# 5A - On Campus Housing

The University has reserved housing for graduate students; [North Wood I and II](#), [North Wood III and IV](#), and [Munger Graduate Residences](#). There are pros and cons to On Campus housing. It depends on you personal preferences, what amenities you prioritise and if you are moving alone or with your family.

You can apply for these through the University, but keep in mind the deadlines! A good rule of thumb is to apply for on campus housing regardless, as a backup. There is no application fee.

More information on University Housing can be found [here](#).

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-No massive security deposit (usually).</li><li>-Rent is reasonable and amenities are included in rent.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Spots fill up fast - so you have to apply early!</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Can request furnished units (you don't have to buy furniture).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Less choice on roommates - but not impossible, you can request roommate matching and if you are travelling with your family you can request an entire apartment (North Campus).</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Units are usually very nice, clean and have a lot of amenities and services.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Munger: You Share this very lovely apartment with 5 or 6 other people.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Close to campus. If off campus, there are shuttles that go back and forth regularly.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Some Munger rooms don't have windows.. (Yes, terrible).</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Can pay rent through Wolverine Access.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-For Northwood housing, you need to bring your own Wi-Fi router.</li></ul>

# Student Experiences - Munger

"I really enjoyed my time at Munger, but not having a window was a big deal breaker for me. The apartment is really nice and spacious. You share the apartment with 5-6 other graduate students, but the shared spaces are so big that this is rarely an issue. The building has a lot of amenities and activities which can be nice to make new friends outside of the department. The other deal breaker is that it is expensive, with rent going over \$1000 a month. This includes everything however; internet, electricity, water. And because everything is set up you don't have to pay set up or deposit fees as you would for other places. Despite some of the down sides, I think Munger is a good starting place for international students because you can literally just show up with your suitcase. It is close to campus and has so many nice work spaces. I would not recommend staying there past the first year however, because it is very expensive. But it gives you lots of time to get to know Ann Arbor and look for a more affordable place for the next year."

Erina, Anthropological Archaeology

# Student Experiences - North Wood

"I've lived in Northwood V (2 br unfurnished) and Northwood II (1 br furnished). Both apartments are reasonably priced although Northwood V apartments are more spacious, recently built, and have an in house laundry facility. And because there is already a vibrant international community there, sometimes it is easy to get essential furniture through a network of friends or people who are moving out of those apartments. You can also break a Northwood lease anytime (with two weeks or a month's notice minimum) and you don't have to find a replacement or someone to take over your lease for you. There is no security deposit for Northwood but you need to apply pretty early (Feb-Mar) to get an apartment assigned to you in the Fall. Northwood V is also family friendly so if you are moving in with your family/spouse and kids, it's a great spot! The blue buses are always running back and forth from campus every twenty minutes. It also stops near a Kroger so it is very convenient to do grocery shopping as well if you don't have a car.

The only con is that it is incredibly competitive so always plan for a backup if you are applying for NW apartments. Also it is on North Campus which means that it is a little away from the hustle and bustle of downtown and central campus. But the buses are a great if you want to go to town and are willing to commute a little."

# 5B - Off Campus Housing

If you do not want to live off campus, there are many places you can look for accommodations.

- [UMich Off Campus Housing](#)
- Facebook groups: Umich housing, rooms, apartments, sublets
- Each individual leasing company has their website too - sometimes reaching out to them and ask questions can save you a lot of trouble, but keep in mind the different caveats they might put in front (they want your money)
- Pad Mapper - Use with caution. There are scammers.
- Craigslist.org - Use with extreme caution. Again, scammers.

Feel free to reach out to your First Year Buddy or to international students for further advice if you have questions on a certain listing, leasing company etc. We would be happy to provide some perspective or advice.

# Student Experiences - Ypsilanti

“When I arrived to Michigan I chose to live in Ypsilanti for a few months, because housing in Ann Arbor seemed scarily expensive. I found a place on Craigslist, after having two online interviews with the person I was going to share the apartment with. The place was tremendously comfortable, furbished, and I paid \$450. My roommate was extremely nice. It was very convenient, except by the fact that the bus’s schedule is tricky in the evenings and weekends. It worked perfectly for having an academic life, but it was not ideal for having a social life. Still, I think it was a very convenient way of saving money to fly back to my home country over the next summer. Also, Ypsilanti has a very diverse, vibrant community, which can be important if you ever want to disconnect yourself from the academia. I would love to share tips about Ypsi if you are interested!”

Paloma, Biological Anthropology

# Student Experience - Off Campus Apartment rent

"I was looking for a 1 bedroom to move in with my partner, that would be close to campus (I was warned by the cold winter and I was worried about public transport). I remember struggling a lot with finding an apartment. The agencies did not "trust me." My moving in date was before most leases terminated - I had to arrive by August 20th for the check-in, and the places were really expensive. I ended up living in the South Forest area - close to campus (10 min walk), expensive (\$1300 for 1 bedroom apartment with all bills except internet), filled with undergraduates who partied non-stop. On the images the apartment was furnished, but when I arrived there was nothing there. I moved out in the end of my lease.

If you are planning to look for an apartment like I did, I would advice to keep in contact with the current graduate students as some of us can go and view the apartment for you and can advice on the areas where to live."

Iride, Anthropological Archaeology

# Student Experiences - Off Campus Housing Advice

People chose many different options to suit their lives when it comes to off campus housing. Sometimes you are only in Ann Arbor for half a semester. If you do choose to go an alternate route, make sure that you protect yourself and your rights by signing a roommate agreement. This is a document you can create yourself and sign with your roommates, if you are sub-letting for example, or if you are not officially on the lease in order to ensure that you will have a home for the agreed amount of time and that you will not be charged or expected to cover any unexpected expenses.

Make sure you keep track of payments and deposits for your own records.

As always we can help you figure out any questions you have in regards to this or other off campus housing concerns.

## 6) Purchase Ticket

There are several websites that you can look for purchasing your airfare ticket, such as:

- [Skyscanner](#)
- [Kayak](#)
- Google Flights - there is a video tip how to find cheap flights [here](#)
- [Student Universe](#) - you need to prove you're a student and sometimes you might get cheaper flights — worth checking!
- You can also go the old school route of calling a travel agent and booking in person if you feel more comfortable with that.

## 7) Enroll for necessary orientations

There are several orientations that you will have to attend when you arrive. You will get emails to RSVP for these during the summer. They include (but are not limited to)

1) Rackham International Student Immigration Check In

- This one is really important as it goes over visa requirements, the I20 and you get your first travel signature on this day.

2) Anthropology Department Orientation

3) Rackham Welcome Fair

There are also many social events usually scheduled in September. These are a nice way to meet the rest of your peers and faculty members.

# Before you leave

1. Make sure you have the necessary immunizations (if required, may not apply to everyone)
2. Have your new address written down somewhere, you may need to provide the address at the airport.
3. Have contact information written down.
4. Have your country's embassy information written down as well.
5. Packing
  - a. Most tickets will only let you check one luggage for free. For those of us coming from far, we may consider bringing another luggage. But this will cost you. Is it worth it?
    - i. It depends! If you have certain items you want to bring with you, that would be expensive to buy here then maybe it is something to consider. Keep in mind, paying for an extra luggage usually costs an extra \$100-150 USD.
6. It might be a good idea to have some cash on you, just in case there are some hiccups. \$200 should provide you a safe buffer for a cab (if for some reason we cannot pick you up or arrange a ticket with the Michigan Flyer) and a meal once you arrive.

# Arrival Day

**On the plane** - fill out customs forms (this varies on format and requirements based on where you are arriving from).

**Security check at the airport** - Do not panic if they pull you out for extra security check. It happens sometimes. Keep your documentation with you that provides information about your VISA and your address in the US. Do what they tell you and you should be ok. Keep in mind that in these areas you are usually required to turn off your phone.

**Out of the airport** - YAY! There are different ways in how you can come to Ann Arbor:

- Buses that take you from the airport to Ann Arbor (you can buy tickets online, but will need a debit/credit card that is accepted). You can buy a ticket for the Michigan flyer, [here](#). You can also buy the ticket at the airport (see reservation section on [this](#) page), but you need to have the the exact amount of the ticket price in cash, and there is no guarantee in this case that there will be free seats for the bus you want to catch. Most buses offer bottles of water or there are water fountains around the airport (tip: bring a small refillable bottle, so you don't need to buy water at the airport!)
- Taxi, Uber or Lyft - outside the airport there will be taxis that can take you to Ann Arbor, those tend to be expensive, but it can be an option.

**Email us** before and maybe one of us can pick you up! [international-anthrostudents@umich.edu](mailto:international-anthrostudents@umich.edu)

# Now what?

For further information about how settle in we compiled information about “The First Two weeks.”

[Check it out!](#)

Again if you have any further questions don't hesitate to contact the International Student Center, the Anthropology Department, or us - your fellow international students - we are happy to help!

Please Note: This guide is meant to be a helpful resource created by current international graduate students to help explain certain process or experiences we found challenging about the program or life in the US. It is not a substitute for official advice or mentoring from the University, the department or your advisor. We encourage the use of this guide as a starting point, but stress that it should not replace specific or official guidelines or advice pertaining to your specific situation. Whenever you need specific advice in regards to the program, classes, funding or anything bureaucratic (Visa, paperwork, taxes, payroll) you need to reach out to the appropriate administrator within the University as they are equipped to help answer your questions.