

The University of Michigan  
Michigan in Washington Program



**For Parents and Students**  
**MIW Program Information**  
*(Updated December 2023)*

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### I. Financial Aid and Related FAQs

#### Overview

- The housing charge for the semester is \$5,500 and will appear on the student's account.
- Tuition for the Washington semester is the same as Ann Arbor tuition.
- MIW scholarships must be used for MIW-related expenses.
- Students will write thank-you letters to donors for the scholarships that they receive. ● Students should be sure to have direct deposit, so scholarship money goes into their bank accounts, rather than having checks mailed.
- Costs in D.C. tend to be higher than in Ann Arbor, but they can be managed and minimized:
  - Need for dress clothes and dry cleaning
  - Food
  - Transportation around the Washington metropolitan area and travel to nearby cities (New York City, Philadelphia, etc.) MIW will provide Metro Cards.
  - The Washington Monument and many museums are generally free admission ○

#### Financial FAQs

**Q: I'm currently receiving financial aid for my courses in Ann Arbor. Will I lose it when I'm in D.C.?**

A: You will continue to receive applicable financial aid while in Washington D.C.; however, students who receive work-study or who serve as resident advisors will not be able to perform those positions, and that will be calculated into their financial packages for their MIW semester.

**Q: I understand that everyone automatically receives a \$1,500 scholarship to help cover increased costs of living in D.C. Do I have to apply for this?**

A: You don't have to do anything to receive the \$1,500 (not available to student-athletes). When admitted into the program, your information is sent to the Office of Financial Aid, where they recalculate your financial aid package based on the higher cost of living in D.C. Please *make sure that you have a current EAFSA on file in the OEA.*

**Q: Will my tuition increase?**

A: No. You will pay the same tuition that you pay in Ann Arbor based on your school and class standing (junior, senior, etc.). Housing may be higher, depending on where you live in Ann Arbor. The MIW housing charge will appear on your Wolverine Access account (along with tuition) the month before you go to D.C.

**Q: What are some of the increased costs that I can expect in the program?**

- Food and eating out
- Copies and printing
- Professional attire and associated cleaning
- Shipping
- Transportation to and from Washington

**Q: Are these covered by the increased financial aid that I'll receive?**

A: Food, transportation, and books are considered in your award. The others are not.

**Q: I've been offered a loan to help cover expenses. Should I accept it, or wait until I hear from MIW regarding the scholarship amount?**

A: You may wish to go ahead and accept the loan. Loan funds take 2-3 weeks to actually be paid to your UMich Student Account, and accepting the loan will get the process started. You may always decline the loan later. Regarding the MIW scholarship, the Office of Financial Aid will first reduce any Federal Direct Subsidized or Perkins Loan funds before adjusting anything else. *Unsubsidized loans* that are helping your family cover the Expected Family Contribution amount *cannot be reduced* to allow for additional assistance such as scholarship assistance.

**Q: I have to give up a paid part-time job to do my semester in D.C. Should I find a paid internship? If I can't, is the pay difference taken into account when my award is considered?**

A: The Office of Financial Aid cannot consider "lost wages" when calculating eligibility for financial assistance; however, if you have been working through the Federal Work-Study program, when you decline your award for the term of participation, there may be increased eligibility for aid equivalent to the amount of the FWS reduction.

**Q: When do I get access to the actual funds for my scholarship?**

A: Funds will be available prior to your arrival in D.C. Tuition and housing will be posted approximately 2 weeks before the new term, and your financial aid will be used to cover those bills first.

**Q: I need to know the award amount before I can commit to going to D.C. When will we find out how much financial aid we will get for the Washington semester?**

A: Winter students usually find out in late November, and Fall students find out in early August.

**Q: I don't know if I can sublet my apartment. If not, can I receive additional financial aid?**

A: Unfortunately, no. One of the reasons we encourage early admission is so that students have time to make housing arrangements that don't lock them into a long-term lease. Suggestions for subletting include the Off-Campus housing office, Craig's List, and Facebook Marketplace.

**Q: I have a one-year contract in a University dorm. Can I break my lease without a penalty?**

A: Most residence halls have waiting lists and will allow study-away students to do one-term contracts or break a lease if they are admitted to MIW during the lease term. However, students who are wait-listed for MIW may not have their fall term participation confirmed in the D.C. residence until June, and housing contracts for the University have to be signed in March. The residence hall directors are very good about working with students on semester-away programs, but the students need to communicate directly with the Housing Office to make arrangements (see the list of contacts at the end of this Q-and-A section).

**Q: I don't have health insurance, and neither do my parents. Individual policies are expensive, and many have a one-year minimum. How should I handle this?**

A: We suggest looking into enrolling in the [Domestic Student Health Insurance Plan \(DSHIP\)](#). Blue Cross and Aetna also offer short-term policies.

**Q: I heard that even if you have health insurance, you must pay out-of-pocket to visit a doctor in D.C. and then submit a claim with the insurance company because D.C. is out of network for most Michigan or other insurance providers.**

A: Not necessarily. If the student enrolls in DSHIP (see above), it provides coverage throughout the United States. Other insurance plans may not have the same benefit, and you will be charged out-of-network costs. Please check your individual plan for specifics.

If something happens, and you need to see a physician (non-emergency) in D.C., contact MIW Program Manager Margaret Howard, [meghow@umich.edu](mailto:meghow@umich.edu) or 202-746-0159.

In emergency situations where you need funds to cover medical, dental, or mental health events, UM's Office of the Provost maintains a list of [emergency funding sources](#) available to students. In addition, the Office of Financial Aid has emergency loans available. These are short-term (90 days)

loans up to \$500 and they are interest-free. For more information, please visit the [OFA Emergency Loan page](#). If you apply for a short-term loan it is important to keep in mind that if it is not paid back in 90 days, you will not be able to register for your next semester of classes. It could also

reduce your financial aid package. You apply for these loans on Wolverine Access. [Student Center > Financial Aid > Aid Year > Loans > Short-Term University Loans.](#)

**Q: What if I have to return home unexpectedly during the term for a family event? That will increase my travel cost. Can I get additional aid for this? How?**

A: Contact the Office of Financial Aid to see if you are eligible for an emergency award. Eligible items include a death in the family, illness of a close relative, and other non-travel items such as replacement of a computer or prescription drugs for an illness. You may also want to collect documentation and cost estimates for the return trips. We can increase the budget for emergencies such as these.

**Q: Where can I get further financial information?**

A: Start with the MIW Office. If we are not able to assist, we will direct you to the appropriate people.

[Office of Financial Aid](#)

[University Housing Office](#)

## II. Administrative Items

**All forms must be completed, signed, and submitted** before a student arrives in D.C.

- **An acceptance form** showing which semester and year the student plans to participate in the program, kept in the University of Michigan's M-Compass system.
- **A participation agreement** (if the student is dependent), which authorizes the University to bill for tuition and housing while the student is off campus. (M Compass)
- Students must have a **basic health insurance** policy. MIW keeps emergency contacts on file in M-Compass.
- **A living contract signed and agreed to between roommates.**

## III. Internships

- Students take a professional development course before leaving for D.C. They are coached on their internship search strategy, including resume and cover letter writing and refining, as well as office and professional decorum.
- Some students have internships when they arrive in D.C.; others don't.
- MIW staff will work with students, internship providers and D.C. alumni contacts to help students find internships.
- Student performance and progress at internships is monitored regularly by Dr. Howard.
- Student class performance and progress is also monitored regularly.
- If applicable, students must negotiate time off during spring break with their internship providers. Students may not assume they will automatically have time off.

## IV. What to Bring

### Documents

- Government-issued ID
- University of Michigan student ID
- Health insurance card(s) for major medical and/or prescription coverage ● U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) vaccination card: MIW staff and faculty will not ask students to show this card, but some internship providers, local businesses, or entertainment venues may. For example, local theaters may require proof of vaccination for admittance to a live performance. All faculty, staff, and students must comply with the University of Michigan vaccination, booster, and mask requirements.

### Clothes

- Two suits or women's professional outfits for those working on the Hill and internships with a dress code.
- 2-4 nice shirts and tops for business.
- Two business casual/dressy outfits for social functions.
- Jeans and weekend casual clothes for classes and weekend excursions. ● Umbrella, boots, cold/wet weather apparel, boots if you enjoy hiking in nearby national parks
- Fall semester: The first month will be warm and humid.  
Winter semester: Yes, D.C. has snow, ice, and cold, but it does not last as long as Ann Arbor.

### **Bedroom, Bathroom, and Kitchen Items-Please see attached list.**

The apartments come fully furnished and have all of the basic amenities, including linens, dishes, washer/dryer, utensils, etc. Roommates share all of these items and should be respectful of others. Clean up after yourself! Roommates should have already discussed and agreed upon a plan of action for anyone that has food allergies or other restrictions.

### Miscellaneous

- Laptop and laptop power cord
- Cell phone and power cord
- Earbuds or headphones
- **Prescriptions** because D.C. pharmacists may not be able to fill prescriptions written by doctors outside D.C., suburban Virginia, and Maryland. Most national chain pharmacies will fill your prescription at an out-of-area pharmacy. For example, CVS and Rite Aid.
- PLEASE DO NOT ship prescriptions that need refrigeration to Washington.
- Students may discover they have allergies in the Mid-Atlantic they do not have at home or in Ann Arbor.

- Dr. Howard has a few small printers for some students to borrow for the semester.
- NO FAX: U.S. government internship providers sometimes still insist students' FAX paperwork to the government human resources offices. Please go to one of the nearby office supply and copying shops for FAX service.

## V. Travel to Washington, D.C.

### Flying to Washington, D.C.

- Reagan/National Airport (D.C.A) is the closest airport to downtown Washington.
  - Baltimore airport (BWI) approximately 1 hour northeast of Washington.
- Dulles International (IAD) in Chantilly, Virginia is approximately 1 hour west of Washington.
- Consider the Super Shuttle, 1-800-BLUE-VAN for ground transportation.
  - U of M has a travel system available to students that offers excellent pricing (often better than Expedia or Travelocity). Check Wolverine Access – Travel Registry.
    - Students using the U of M system can use personal credit cards to make travel arrangements.

### • Driving to Washington, D.C.

- Students are discouraged from having a car while in D.C., but families and friends are welcome to drive students to Washington, which takes about 10 hours from Ann Arbor in good weather.
- Be forewarned that the District of Columbia is strict about issuing parking and speeding tickets, and first-time tickets for any infraction cost more than in Ann Arbor.
- If you, your family, and your friends are planning to see the sights, we suggest you unload your belongings in the apartment, park the car in a secure garage and leave it there. Go around town by Metro subway or bus. The “Circulator Bus” is designed to take you from one sight to the next, so it is particularly useful for visiting attractions.
- Bicycles are for rent from Capital BikeShare, <https://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>. 9

## VI. COVID-19 Policies, Physical, and Mental Health Care Services

- Students, staff, and faculty will obey the District of Columbia COVID-19 mandates and the University of Michigan COVID-19 mandates.
- Everyone must be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19 unless officially exempted by the University of Michigan. Every morning, seven days a week, all students must fill out the University of Michigan’s [ResponsiBlue](https://responsiblue.umich.edu/sign-in) (<https://responsiblue.umich.edu/sign-in>) daily health questionnaire.



## **New National Mental Health Hotline: Dial 9-8-8.**

- Michigan has a new service being offered to students that provides sessions with mental health professionals free of charge. [Uwill](#) services can be accessed via video, phone, chat, or messaging. U-M students have up to six sessions at no cost. A few of the benefits of using [Uwill](#), students can:
  - Choose a therapist based on their preferences including issue, gender, language and race or ethnicity
  - Choose a time that fits with their schedule with day, night, and weekend availability
  - Choose the appointment mode that is right for them - video, phone, chat or messaging
  - Some MIW students have consulted Parkhurst Associates Mental Health Services at 1755 S St., NW 20009; make appointments at [parkhurstassociates.com](http://parkhurstassociates.com). Please check with your insurance about whether/how it will pay for the service. Parkhurst liaises with a psychiatrist, who can work with your psychiatrist on campus or at home if you need prescription refills in Washington.
- University of Michigan Telehealth through University Health Service in Ann Arbor  
<https://uhs.umich.edu/virtual-services>;  
734-764-8320 for 24/7 nurse advice; or,  
email [ContactUHS@umich.edu](mailto:ContactUHS@umich.edu).
- Nearest Hospital Easily Accessible By Metro
  - The George Washington University Hospital – 900 23<sup>rd</sup> St., NW  
<https://www.gwhospital.com/> 202-745-1000
  - Take the Orange/Blue/Silver Line Metro train west to the Foggy Bottom/GWU station, which is literally under the hospital. Ascend the escalator and turn left. Also accessible by bus. The hospital is on the southwest side of Washington Circle, where K St., 23<sup>rd</sup> St., New Hampshire Ave., and Pennsylvania Ave. intersect. Level 1 Trauma Center staffed 24/7/365. For a referral to GW primary care physicians and specialists, go to [gw.docs.com](http://gw.docs.com).
  - Program Manager Margaret Howard's internist:  
David M. Hansen, M.D., Internal Medicine  
Foxhall Internists, P.C. 3301 New Mexico Ave., NW #347  
Washington, D.C. 20016 202-362-4467; answering service/on-call  
301-446-2541; Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. by  
appointment only; [www.foxhallinternists.com](http://www.foxhallinternists.com) Fax: 202-362-3639



Dr. Hansen's office is not nearby, and he does not take insurance. He is expensive, and you must pay for everything upfront; however, if you need a physician whom Dr. Howard trusts implicitly, consult Dr. Hansen. When you call for an appointment, tell Dr. Hansen's assistant you are Dr. Howard's student.

## VII. End-of-Term Overview

- Students are required to complete program evaluations and attend a debrief dinner with the program director typically the 3rd week of the new term after returning from D.C. Students will receive a grade for the prep course after evaluations are complete and they have attended the final gathering.
- Students who complete a Washington semester will be asked to assist with MIW recruiting by serving on panels at information sessions and other University presentations, assisting with booth duty at regularly scheduled University program fairs and other promotional efforts at clubs and in classrooms.
- Students will also be asked to provide information to use on the MIW website for publicity and recruiting (e.g., bios with photos and comments about their Washington semester).
  - MIW students who relocate to the D.C. area may volunteer to assist with mentoring new MIW students.
  - Students interested in working for the program after returning to campus should contact Amber Blomquist, [akblomqu@umich.edu](mailto:akblomqu@umich.edu), for additional details.

### Important Dates

Move-in: January 5-6

Orientation: January 7

Internships Start: January 8

Welcome Dinner: January 18

Move-out: April 20

\*\*more details to follow\*\*