

Frequently Asked Questions (July 29, 2022)

Q1: How can I find an apartment to rent in Ann Arbor?

Ann Arbor is a university town, and it offers a large number of rental properties/apartments for students and visitors. You can find these using the Google search engine (for example, by typing ‘apartments for rent in Ann Arbor, Michigan’). You need to be prepared to pay a security deposit on the apartment when you sign the lease, whether on-line or in-person. This deposit will be returned to you upon vacating the property, provided no damage occurred to the property during your stay there. You will find both furnished (with furniture) and unfurnished apartments. You may need to look into furnished apartments; otherwise, you will need to rent or purchase furniture, which may be more costly than renting a furnished property. The rent payment is due at the beginning of each month.

The Dekaban Fund does not endorse any rental property over another.

Q2: What is the monthly fellowship compensation and when do I get the first monthly payment?

The monthly 2022-23 fellowship is set for \$4,750 (\$57,000 per year). The payment will be transferred to your bank account, which you will have to open in a U.S. bank after arrival in Michigan. The first payment will be transferred to your bank account at the end of the first month (i.e., end of October 2022, if you arrive by October 1, 2022), and at the end of each month thereafter. The University will not transfer any payments to a Polish or a European bank. You need to have sufficient funds for paying all your expenses in the first month, as your first fellowship payment will be deposited in your account at the end of the first month.

Q3: When do I start paying for my health insurance?

You will be automatically signed up to a graduate student health care insurance before your arrival in Michigan. Once you arrive in Ann Arbor, you will be eligible to switch to a regular faculty insurance policy (you will have about a one-month window to change your insurance policy). The price is dependent on the choice of insurance, the Dekaban Fund will pay for part of the cost (typically about 2/3), and the rest will be deducted automatically from your fellowship. The health insurance is mandatory, and it will include your dependents should you come with your family. You will be eligible for the same insurance as regular faculty at the University of Michigan.

Q4: Will I pay taxes in the U.S?

It is your responsibility to research your options regarding paying taxes in the U.S. or in Poland, and inform the financial services at the University of Michigan of your choice.

Q5: How do I get a U.S. visa to be eligible to work at the University of Michigan?

Should you win the fellowship competition, you will be asked to fill out a visa form sent to you by the International Center at the University of Michigan. The International Center will need a copy of the main page of your passport to process the paperwork. If you plan to bring your family with you, copies of your family members' passports will also be needed. You will later receive the visa paperwork delivered to you by a courier service (the International Center will need your correspondence address and your telephone number), and you will go with this paperwork to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to claim your visa (and visas for your family members if they are coming with you).

Q6: Can I take time off during my fellowship?

Typically, the intensity of work slows down during the holiday season in December, but this is a busy travel period, not recommended for visiting other parts of the country. You can take two weeks off in late spring or summer in consultation with your advisor. Make your travel plans ahead of time; some of the National Parks, e.g., Yellowstone, can get very busy in spring and summer.

Q7: What is the closest major airport to Ann Arbor and when do I get reimbursed for my travel from Warsaw to Ann Arbor?

The closest international airport is Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), about 25 miles from Ann Arbor, which is a hub of Delta Air Lines. An easy connection is by KLM and/or Delta with a connecting flight from Amsterdam. You will be reimbursed for your round-trip airfare after presenting an appropriate receipt/invoice (showing your name and the form of payment), and the reimbursement will be transferred to your U.S. bank account after it is processed. The reimbursement will be processed for the Dekaban Fellow, not for the members of the family.

Q8: Do I need to own a car while in Ann Arbor?

Ann Arbor has a public bus system of transportation and the University has a fleet of M-buses that can take you from North Campus, where the College of Engineering is located, to downtown and Central Campus, and vice versa. M-Buses are free, and the city buses will be free for you after you receive the UM identification Yellow Card (they will not be free for the members of your family). Most Dekaban Fellows purchased a vehicle while in Michigan, particularly those who brought their families with them. Ownership of a car makes it more convenient, and gives additional options for visiting the country.