**Relocation Resource Guide**

Relocating can be exciting, but there are often expenses you might not have anticipated. We have included some information on housing and transportation but there are many more resources out there! If you have questions, please ask.

**Your first step…**

Find out the actual address where you will be working. You will want to base your decisions on that. Ask HR for ideas…they live there. They can tell you what is close by or if you can walk or even if there are apartments near to your work.

**Where to stay after you leave MIU…**

***With a friend***

*We recommend staying with a friend, if you can, so you can get to know the area before committing to an apartment.*

We can send an email to students in the area you will be moving to and ask them to contact you. Other students can be a great source of information on where to look for a safe place to live, transportation options, and fun things to do. Just ask us!

***Extended stay hotels***

*Easy check-in process and availability. You know what to expect.*

<https://www.extendedstayamerica.com/hotels>

<https://www.hotelplanner.com/>

<https://www.crosslandstudios.com/>

[www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)

***Short-term rentals***

*These can give you an option to “live like a local”. Can be cheaper than a hotel in some cases. You can check out neighborhoods close to your work before you make a long-term commitment. These can be anywhere from a few days, weeks or months.*

[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)  
Allows for flexibility in price and type of housing. Not regulated by the government.

[www.sublet.com](http://www.sublet.com)

Wide range of furnished, short-term options.

[www.homeaway.com](http://www.homeaway.com)   
Vacation rental site like Airbnb…some affordable options.

*Keep in mind that for apartments you will need to pay a* ***Security Deposit*** *(in cash not with a credit card); an amount of money that a renter pays when beginning to rent property (such as an apartment) and that can be used to pay for any damage that the renter causes to the property. This is refundable upon move out. This is usually equal to the amount you pay in rent but can be less; so your first month’s payment may be up to double the normal amount.*

[www.apartmentguide.com](http://www.apartmentguide.com)  
Can filter by lease length and furnished options.

[www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com)   
Can filter by corporate, utilities included, and furnished.

[www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)  
Keyword search for short-term lease and/or furnished.

***Long-term rentals***

*After you know you will be staying in the area and where you want to be, these are some great sites for finding your long-term home. You can still search for things like* *“Short term rental”, “temporary apartment”, “corporate apartment”* *because they may offer furnished options.*

[www.trulia.com](http://www.trulia.com)   
Can filter for near public transportation and furnished.

[www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)  
Keyword search for short-term lease and/or furnished.

[www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com)  
Can filter by corporate, utilities included, and furnished.

[www.apartmentguide.com](http://www.apartmentguide.com)  
Can filter by lease length and furnished options.

[www.rentcafe.com](http://www.rentcafe.com)  
Also shows nearby areas and average costs.

**How to get around…**

**If you have a car**

Rules of the road can be a little different in each state. Read up before you go to be sure. Good rules to follow everywhere (because it makes you safer but is also the law in many places):

* NO CELL PHONES! It is illegal in most, if not all states, to be on your phone while driving.
* If you see flashing lights, pull over to the right to let them pass. This is a law in many places.
* The left lane on a highway is for passing only (if more than one lane going in the same direction). Again, a law some places.
* Keep to the posted speed limit in construction zones. There are large fines for speeding especially when workers are present.
* Toll roads-you must pay to drive on some roads. Each state has a unique method of charging for the use of toll roads. Do your research before you leave. Search “toll roads…”

**NOTE-**In many states you have 30 days after becoming a permanent resident [this means you have a place where you are getting mail (proof of residency)] to change your drivers license and registration. You also MUST change your car insurance (not just your contact information) and it is recommended that you do this BEFORE you move.

Search for “DMV …”, “Department of Motor Vehicles”, “Driver’s License in…”,

**If you don’t have a car**

***Links to public transportation***

<https://www.apta.com/resources/links/Pages/default.aspx>  
Links to Public Transportation in every state

***Busses that leave from Fairfield***This can be a cheaper option especially if you have some time for travel but want to leave quickly.

[www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)

<https://www.trailways.com/>

***National railroad with intercity service***

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

***Leaves from Mt. Pleasant, IA***  
Passenger railroad service that provides medium- and long-distance intercity service in the contiguous United States and to nine Canadian cities.

***Taxi service/Ride apps***

*Search for “taxi service” in any city in the US. Have cash, not all take credit cards.*

<https://www.uber.com/>

<https://www.lyft.com/>

***If you want to ride a bike everywhere***

Search for “best bike cities in the US”

<https://www.bicycling.com/culture/a23676188/best-bike-cities-2018/>

Search for “bike rentals” in major US cities

***If you want to walk***

<https://www.walkscore.com/>

*Walk Score provides walkability services and apartment search tools through a website and mobile applications.* *Not only does the service account for the proximity of shops, restaurants, parks, and similar amenities, it also factors in things like block length and transit access, which can affect the texture and connectedness of a neighborhood. In effect, it quantifies what makes one place less car-dependent than another.*

**Questions to ask about your new home:**

1. Where to get your mail/packages?
2. How much should you expect your utilities to cost per month?
3. How do I pay the rent?
4. Will rent go up? If so, when?
5. What do I do in an emergency? (No heat or water, gas smell)
6. Can I have guests and for how long?
7. Under what circumstances will you enter my apartment without notice and will you tell me you’ve done so?
8. How much notice will you give before coming into my apartment?
9. Where do I park?
10. How much notice do I give before moving out?
11. Can I sublet my apartment/penalty for breaking my lease?
12. What transportation is close by?
13. Is it a safe area?
14. Are there any insect problems, how do you handle this?
15. How are trash and recycling handled?

**Resources for making your budget:**

***Cost of Living Estimator*** [***www.numbeo.com***](http://www.numbeo.com)Estimate your cost of living in a certain city with a fillable form.

***Cost of Living Calculator*** [***www.nerdwallet.com/cost-of-living-calculator***](http://www.nerdwallet.com/cost-of-living-calculator)Compare the cost of living in two different cities (good for comparing offers).

***Quick family budget calculator*** [***https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/***](https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/)Add $300+ to rent.

***Compare 2 or more cities at once*** [***www.areavibes.com/cost-of-living-calculator/***](http://www.areavibes.com/cost-of-living-calculator/)

**Estimated Budget****:** *Loan $1,600  
 (estimated, can vary)*

*Rent & utilities $1,450*

*Phone $90*

*Internet $60*

*Food $600*

*Transportation $300  
 (can vary)*

*Health Insurance $240 per person  
 (estimated, can vary)*

*Clothing $100*

*Misc. expenses $200*

*-------------------------------------------*

*TOTAL $4,640*