



Welcome to AIESEC Michigan



AIESEC



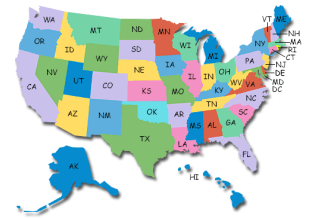
Welcome to Michigan!

Dear trainee,

Welcome to the United States and AIESEC University of Michigan! We are delighted that you have chosen an opportunity in Michigan and look forward to sharing the experience with you!

Adjusting to a new culture can be daunting and frustrating. In order to make your experience more fulfilling, please read the following booklet thoroughly. We hope it will answer the questions you have about staying in the United States.

AIESEC University of Michigan will support you throughout your stay. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Committee for any matter, big or small. We are eager to get to know you and provide you with a positive international experience. Congratulations, and thank you for choosing a traineeship in Michigan!



*Sincerely,
Dipika Mouli*

Local Committee President 2010 - 2011

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**See
Trainee
Manager**

Preparation and Arrival

Packing List

Important things you should not forget to bring:

- » Travel documents (visas, passports, tickets)
- » Photocopies of your identification and health Insurance, placed throughout your baggage and on your person
- » Medicines, prescriptive and preventive. Have a valid Prescription, just in case.
- » Hard currency (be sure to check the exchange rate)
- » Sturdy backpack or bag for day trips
- » Appropriate clothing - be sure to ask your employer about professional attire, and be prepared for the weather
- » Chargers for cell phones, laptop; voltage adapter for electronic devices
- » Reminders of home/family/friends
- » Cultural items from your home country to share with your new friends in the U.S.

Please be aware that some items are prohibited from carry-on luggage. For flights within the U.S., all carry-on liquids must be in bottles 100 ml or less and must be put in one clear, plastic, quart-sized bag. The bag must be visibly placed in the screening bin at airport security. Laptops and other large electronic devices must be removed from carry-on baggage and put in their own bin for screening. Shoes and jackets must also be removed for screening.

Before You Leave

- Complete the trainee questionnaire provided by your Trainee Manager
- Please let us know your exact departure and arrival details at least one week in advance so that we can arrange for your transportation
- Confirm your housing preferences

Arrival Logistics

We will pick you up directly from the airport or bus stop. At the airport, please follow the signs to the baggage claim. We will meet you directly outside under your airline sign.

What to Expect When You Arrive

- A Welcome Dinner to meet AIESEC Michigan
- Logistics: SSN, bank account, driver's license
- Weekly General Member Meeting (GMM)

We are all just as excited to meet you as you are excited about coming here!

Housing and Necessities

Housing

The ICX team at AIESEC Michigan will help you in securing housing for your stay. Please make sure to tell us the exact dates you are going to be staying, where you will be working, how much you're willing to spend per month on housing, whether or not you'd prefer to live near the Ann Arbor campus or near work, whether or not you're willing to share a room, and any other preferences you may have. Complete and return the housing preference sheet provided by your trainee manager.

Shopping for Necessities

There is no need to bring supplies for cooking or living. There are plenty of grocery stores and places to buy other items. Upon arrival we will ensure you are able to get necessities, as well as show you nearby locations for you to buy anything from day-to-day needs to souvenirs for home.

About Michigan

Michigan is located in the northern Midwest region of America. It is known for its five 'Great Lakes' that comprise the largest freshwater collection in the world. The state is made up of two peninsulas: the Upper Peninsula and the Lower Peninsula. The majority of Michigan's population lives in the Lower Peninsula, which locals call "the mitten" for its hand-like shape. The Upper Peninsula (U.P.) is separated from its lower counterpart by the Strait of Mackinac. The Mackinac Bridge links the two halves, and also connects to Mackinac Island, a very popular tourist site. Lansing is the capitol of Michigan, located in the south center of the Lower Peninsula. Michigan is renowned for driving much of America's economy and culture in the early 20th century. The first automobiles were built in Michigan, and the state spearheaded the commercial automotive industry, birthing such giants as Ford and GM. The culture of Detroit, Michigan has been closely associated with various forms of popular music in the 20th century, most notably "Motown". The people of Michigan are fiercely proud of their state's heritage, legacy, and influence on the rest of the US. Although recent economic downturn has hit Michigan's economy hard, the people still retain their strong drive to excel and their faith in the great state of Michigan.



Michigan Weather

» Winter – November to March

Michigan winters are *cold*. The average temperature is 18 degrees Fahrenheit (-8 Centigrade). However, the temperature sometimes falls to 0 degrees Fahrenheit (-18 Centigrade), or below. Make sure to have plenty of thermal underwear, long sleeve shirts, jacket, and a padded winter coat. Also, a pair of good boots will help you get through the heavy snow and ice.

» Spring – April to June

Temperatures are in the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit (10 – 16 C) with the occasional warm day in the 70s. There are many cloudy or rainy days, so be sure to have a rain jacket on hand. A lightweight sweater or sweatshirt is the best choice for this season.

» Summer – July to September

Summer is Michigan's warmest season. Temperatures hover around 70°F to 85°F (20s C), so make sure to have shorts and t-shirts, and wear plenty of sunscreen. Make sure to drink extra water so you don't get dehydrated.

» Fall – October and November

This is the most beautiful time in Michigan! Temperatures range from the 40s to the 60s Fahrenheit (4 – 16°C) and the leaves are changing colors. All you need is a warm sweater and jacket and your favorite pair of jeans.



Things to Do and See in Michigan

» Ann Arbor

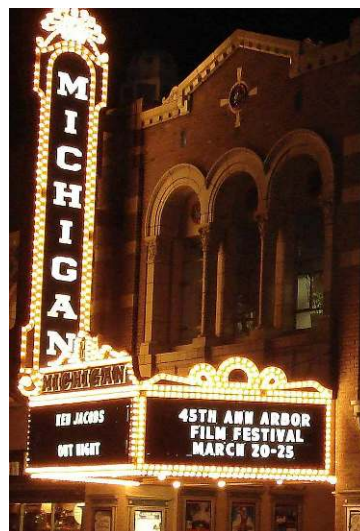
- Art Festival
- Arts Beats & Eats
- Film Festival
- AIESEC General Member Meetings (GMMs)
- Plenty of AIESEC get-togethers and outings!

» Detroit

- Detroit Institute of Art (DIA)
- Greektown Casinos
- Greenfield Village
- Henry Ford Museum
- Jazz Festival
- Riverwalk
- Tiger's Baseball Game
- Woodward Dream Cruise

» Near Michigan

- Mackinac Island
- Niagara Falls
- Cedar Point Adventure Park



The glowing sign of Michigan Theatre during the 45th Film Festival in Ann Arbor, MI. The theatre is popular for festivals and art shows throughout the year.

Being an American

American Values

Personal Control over the Environment

Most Americans find it impossible to accept that there are some things which lie beyond the power of humans to achieve. In the United States people believe every single individual should have control over whatever in the environment might potentially affect him or her. The problems of one's life are not seen as having resulted from bad luck as much as having come from one's laziness in pursuing a better life.

Change

In the American mind, change is seen as an indisputable good condition. Change is strongly linked to development, progress, improvement, and growth.

Time and Control

Time is of utmost importance. To the foreign visitor, Americans seem to be more concerned with getting things accomplished on time than they are with developing deep interpersonal relations. Schedules are meant to be planned and then followed in the smallest detail. Vacations and events are often planned far in advance; nevertheless, college life is full of spontaneity.

Equality/Egalitarianism

Equality is one of the most cherished American values. In secular terms this belief is translated into the assertion that all people receive equal treatment regardless of their background, and that all people have equal opportunity to succeed in life.

Individualism and Privacy

Americans highly value individualism and exhibit a wide variety of opinions. They take pride in doing things other people do not or will not; there is a societal pressure not to conform. As a result, Americans also tend to be more assertive and are lauded for taking an initiative. Americans also highly value their privacy—they like spending down time, alone. There are also a lot of issues or information, i.e. about someone's history, salary, and a woman's weight or age, that are private and usually not discussed unless brought up by the person it concerns.

Body Language

When two people are talking to each other in America, they tend to stand a farther distance apart than in other cultures. They will feel uncomfortable if you step into their personal space (the major exception being family members and other loved ones.) This personal distance is not due to body odor or dislike, but because closeness lends a sense of intimacy that is at odds with their relationship to the individual. In contrast, Americans expect eye contact while conversing. Looking away or down is seen as less respectful.

Self-Help Concept

In the United States, a person can take credit only for what he or she has achieved by him- or herself. The "self made man or woman" is the ideal.

Competition and Free Enterprise

Americans believe that competition brings out the best in any individual. They assert that it challenges or forces each person to produce the best possible results. Consequently, the foreign visitor will see competition being fostered in the American home and in the American workplace, even on the youngest age levels. The American economic system of free enterprise reflects the American value of competition. Americans feel strongly that a highly competitive economy brings out the best in its people and, ultimately, that the society which fosters competition will progress most rapidly.

Being an American

Action and Work Oriented

“Don’t just stand there,” goes a typical bit of American advice, “do something!” Normally, this expression is used in a crisis situation; yet, in a sense, it describes most people’s entire waking life, where action—any action—is seen superior to inaction. Americans routinely plan and schedule an extremely active day.

Directness, Openness and Honesty

Americans prefer the direct approach to informing other people of unpleasant information. They are likely to be completely honest in delivering their negative evaluations. They consider anything other than the most direct and open approach to be dishonest and insincere and will quickly lose confidence in and distrust for anyone who hints at what is intended rather than saying it outright.

Practicality and Efficiency

Americans have a reputation for being an extremely realistic, practical and efficient people. The practical consideration is likely to be given the highest priority in making any important decision in the United States. They pride themselves in not being very philosophical or theoretically oriented, but more pragmatic.

Materialism

Americans would like to think that their material objects are just the natural benefits which always result from hard work and serious intent. Physical possessions are a sign of wealth, status, and achievement.

Etiquette

Tipping

Many restaurants do not include a service charge in the bill, so you should tip the waiter 15% of the total bill. If service was slow or particularly bad, some Americans will tip only 10%. Likewise, if service was particularly good, it is appropriate to tip 20%. If service was so bad that you would never eat in the restaurant again, leave two cents. This is a deliberate insult, because it tells the waiter that you didn't forget to leave a tip. It is also appropriate to tip bellboys, taxi drivers, and valet attendants.

Manners

Americans highly esteem having manners and treating others respectfully. Those who do not are often viewed as less sophisticated or educated. It is inappropriate to burp, fart, spit, urinate, or pick your nose in public. If someone has performed a service for you in some way, thank them. “I’m sorry,” and, “Excuse me,” are common phrases when accidentally bumping into or hitting someone. If someone sneezes, you may say “bless you.” Don’t forget to cover your mouth when you cough. At the table, slurping soup or chewing with one’s mouth open are seen as extremely poor manners.

Smoking

Smoking has become socially unacceptable in the US, in part due to the health risks.

Smoking is prohibited in government and public buildings, and many businesses, especially restaurants, will not permit smoking on the premises. Those restaurants that permit smoking will usually have a separate section for customers who smoke. Smoking is also prohibited inside many nightlife venues, including bars and clubs, and these establishments will often provide an outdoor area for smokers.

AIESEC Michigan will be your home away from home! From searching for internships to landing in Michigan and through your entire journey here, AIESEC Michigan will take care of you. AIESEC Michigan will handle the logistics for your arrival: find housing (if needed), obtaining a Social Security Number, bank account, and driver's license, and any other arrangements you may need. Trainees are received with a formal reception, and have the opportunity to attend any AIESEC meetings, events, and conferences with us. We look forward to you enriching our community with your cultural viewpoint, opinions, and ideas!



AIESEC is the world's largest student-based organization, spanning 107 countries and over 1700 universities. AIESEC is dedicated to building international understanding and cooperation by providing young people with the tools to become globally-minded, responsible leaders and connecting them to organizations worldwide for international internship experiences.

Important Contact Information

AIESEC Michigan Executive Board 2010-2011

This is the contact information for the AIESEC Michigan Executive Board. In case of an emergency, feel free to contact any of them. They will be more than happy to help.

Title	First Name	Last Name	Phone Number	E-mail
Local Committee President	Dipika	Mouli	240-418-7528	michigan-president@aiesecus.org
VP Business Development	Mary	McGilvray	786-375-1740	mcgilvrm@umich.edu
VP External Relations	Justin	McCandless	702-528-4976	mcjustin80@gmail.com
VP Finance	Michael	LaCivita	248-924-5729	michaellacivita@gmail.com
VP Outgoing Exchange	Marissa	Gawel	586-909-3087	mariseli@umich.edu
VP Talent Management	Melissa	Nacy	586-567-0439	melissa.nacy@gmail.com

Important Phone Numbers

Please write these down and save them.

Emergency Help Service: 911
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ann Arbor: (734) 327-3933
Henry Ford Hospital Detroit: (313) 916-2600
Ann Arbor Fire Department: (734) 994-4958
Detroit Fire Department: (313) 596-2900
Ann Arbor Cab: (734) 272-8009
Custom Transit Ann Arbor: (734) 971-5555
Detroit Cab Co.: (313) 841-6000
Greater Detroit Cab Co.: (313) 962-4116

Your Trainee Manager

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