

# Ann Arbor Travel Guide - Soc Recruitment 2023

**All locations (and more!) mapped here: [Sociology PhD Recruitment Map](#)**

Based on our knowledge of your travel plans, we're offering specific information about getting to and around Ann Arbor. These are just our recommendations - you are more than welcome to travel as you'd prefer. If you require any accommodations, need help with arranging travel, or are simply overwhelmed by any aspect of this trip, please don't hesitate to contact Chloe Unrein ([soc-gradassistant@umich.edu](mailto:soc-gradassistant@umich.edu), 734-647-6895).

## **To and From the Detroit Airport**

**Bus:** The [Michigan Flyer](#) is a bus that runs throughout the day to and from the Detroit Airport into Downtown Ann Arbor. To purchase a ticket (\$15 one-way, \$25 roundtrip), select "Detroit Airport" (they will ask for your specific airline), as well as "Ann Arbor (Blake Transit Center)". Blake Transit Center is located in Downtown Ann Arbor and has outgoing buses anywhere in the city and neighboring cities. Note that the prices listed above apply to tickets booked in advance.

## **From Blake Transit Center (BTC) to The Graduate Hotel**

The 4 (Washtenaw) city bus travels directly from the transit center to The Graduate. The Ann Arbor bus system is \$1.50 per ride, through cash, token, or passes (see [rates and how to access the app here](#)).

*Note: You will be able to use your student ID to ride the city buses for free as a U-M student!*

## **From the Ann Arbor Amtrak Station**

The Amtrak Station in Ann Arbor is just north of downtown Ann Arbor. The 65 (Beakes + Summit) bus can bring you from there to The Graduate Hotel.

## **From The Graduate Hotel to the LSA Building**

The hotel is less than a ½ mile from the LSA Building. If walking isn't accessible to you, the 6 (Ellsworth) and 24 (Eisenhower - Golfside) buses travel directly from the hotel to the LSA Building.

## **Around Ann Arbor, campus, and into Ypsilanti**

**Local bus ("The Ride"):** The Ann Arbor/Ypsi bus system is \$1.50 per ride, through cash, token, or passes (see [rates and how to access the app here](#)). You can also track buses and see routes through their website.

**University bus (big blue buses):** The University transit system is free and open to the public without ID. The [route tracker](#) can be helpful.

**NOTE:** If you require any accommodations whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact me! - Chloe ([soc-gradassistant@umich.edu](mailto:soc-gradassistant@umich.edu))

## Weather and Packing

In mid-March, the weather in Ann Arbor can be quite unpredictable. We recommend being prepared for rain (and potentially snow) every day and temperatures between 35 - 60 degrees. Wear layers!

## Things To Do Around Town

### **Coffee & Tea**

**Comet Coffee in Nickels Arcade** | [facebook.com/cometcoffee/](https://facebook.com/cometcoffee/)

A small, local spot that is one block from the LSA Building (that also has fantastic pour-overs). I highly recommend at least stopping in the Nickels Arcade!

**Hyperion Coffee - Ann Arbor** | <https://www.hyperioncoffee.com/>

A local staple that focuses on responsibly sourced coffee. (Original location is in Ypsi!)

**Roos Roast Coffee on Liberty St.** | [roosroast.com/](https://roosroast.com/)

Fun, local spot in the heart of downtown—stay and study or grab a cup and walk around; coffee is locally roasted in Ann Arbor.

**Vertex Coffee Roasters** | [vertex-coffee.com/](https://vertex-coffee.com/)

Local coffee spot committed to zero waste, sustainability, and an inclusive environment.

### **Boba Tea**

We have so many fantastic boba/bubble tea shops in town, but my two recommendations are [Quickly Boba](#) and [Ding Tea](#)!

**TeaHaus** | <https://teahaus.com/>

A small business that offers a large variety of loose-leaf teas.

### **Eating & Drinking**

*We are providing meals, but if you need/want to eat in at your hotel or are staying beyond the recruitment events, there are many local restaurants nearby and most offer delivery.*

**Blue Nile** | [bluenilemi.com](https://bluenilemi.com)

Ethiopian family-style/shared plate, local Ethiopian family-owned

**Dalat** | [dalatrestaurantannarbor.com](https://dalatrestaurantannarbor.com)

Vietnamese food, Vietnamese family-owned.

**Detroit Street Filling Station** | [thelunchrooma2.com/detroit-street-filling-station-1](http://thelunchrooma2.com/detroit-street-filling-station-1)

Vegan food, committed to hiring formerly incarcerated and substance-using individuals.

**Jamaican Jerk Pit** | [jamaicanjerkpit.com](http://jamaicanjerkpit.com)

Jamaican food, local Jamaican family-owned.

**Jerusalem Garden** | <https://jerusalemgarden.net/>

Palestinian food, immigrant family-owned.

**Miss Kim** | [misskimannarbor.com](http://misskimannarbor.com)

Korean-inspired food, Korean woman-owned, local Michigan ingredients.

**One Bowl** | [One Bowl on Grub Hub](#)

Asian food, Korean-woman-owned.

**Slurping Turtle** | [slurpingturtle.com/annarbor](http://slurpingturtle.com/annarbor)

Japanese restaurant - this is where our Sunday welcome dinner will be!

**sweetgreen** | [order.sweetgreen.com](http://order.sweetgreen.com)

Chain restaurant with nutrient-dense food options at a reasonable price.

**The Blue Leprechaun** | [theblueleprechaun.com](http://theblueleprechaun.com)

An Irish Tavern with a college-town environment.

### **Shopping**

**BYOC Co.** | [byocco.com/pages/mission](http://byocco.com/pages/mission)

Bulk purchase household items or purchase plastic free shampoo and body bars, and reduce plastic waste. *Psst...this store is owned by a recent University of Michigan Sociology alumni!*

**Blackstone Bookstore & Cultural Center (Ypsilanti)** | [blackstonebookstore.com](http://blackstonebookstore.com)

Ypsilanti is our neighboring community—if you find yourself there, Blackstone Bookstore is a must for book lovers.

**Literati Bookstore** | [literatibookstore.com/](http://literatibookstore.com/)

Locally owned bookstore with many literary events featuring authors and writers.

**The M Den** | [mden.com/](http://mden.com/)

The official store of Michigan athletics, where you can purchase Wolverine tees, jerseys, and gifts.

## **Activities**

**U-M Museum of Art (UMMA)** | [umma.umich.edu/](http://umma.umich.edu/)

Free and open to the public.

**U-M Museum of Natural History** | [lsa.umich.edu/ummnh/](http://lsa.umich.edu/ummnh/)

Free and open to the public.

**Kelsey Museum of Archaeology** | [lsa.umich.edu/kelsey](http://lsa.umich.edu/kelsey)

Free and open to the public (and next door to our building!)

**Ann Arbor Hands on Museum & Leslie Nature Center** | [discoverscienceandnature.org](http://discoverscienceandnature.org)

Interactive activities for kids and families, if you bring your family along!

**Pinball Petes** | [pinballpetes.org](http://pinballpetes.org)

Pinball, billiards, and arcade games.

**Nichols Arboretum ("The Arb")** | [mbgna.umich.edu/nichols-arboretum](http://mbgna.umich.edu/nichols-arboretum)

Located along the Huron River, this is an open network of trails, fields, and gardens frequented by U-M students, staff, and faculty as well as the wider Ann Arbor Community.

**Boylesque (Ypsilanti)** | <https://www.jadeinblack.com/boylesque-michigan>

Local Ypsilanti-based Drag Troupe puts on shows throughout the year. Check their page for opportunities to see a show.

# Living in Ann Arbor as a Graduate Student

## **International Students**

[internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/incoming-students](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/incoming-students)

The International Center is the best resource for Graduate students about Visas, work rules, housing search, international health insurance, and travel.

## **Housing**

**University Housing** | [housing.umich.edu/graduate-housing-basics/](http://housing.umich.edu/graduate-housing-basics/)

Graduate students are eligible for housing for individuals, roommates, and families at below-market rate rent, including apartments, townhouses, and cooperatives. This housing is paid for through your University of Michigan account, along with tuition and benefits.

## **Off-campus housing**

Grad students typically live in the City of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Saline, and Pittsfield Township. In these areas, housing tends to revolve around the academic year, so looking early and often for leases that begin around August is your best bet. Here are some places to look and get an idea of what is available and at what price:

- All: <https://offcampushousing.umich.edu/>
- Ann Arbor: [https://www.trulia.com/for\\_rent/48103\\_zip/](https://www.trulia.com/for_rent/48103_zip/)
- Ypsilanti: [https://www.trulia.com/for\\_rent/48197\\_zip/](https://www.trulia.com/for_rent/48197_zip/)

## **Healthcare and Health Insurance**

[hr.umich.edu/benefits-wellness/health-well-being/health-plans/gradcare](https://hr.umich.edu/benefits-wellness/health-well-being/health-plans/gradcare)

Through our funding packages, Sociology graduate students are covered by GradCare, a Blue Care Network HMO plan. Dependents and spouses can be added to your GradCare plan, and also covers gender-affirming care! *Note: graduate students may not be covered by this health insurance if they are on an external fellowship (e.g. Fulbright) that provides a healthcare stipend.*

## **Graduate Employees Organization 3550 (Grad Student Union)**

[geo3550.org](https://geo3550.org)

During your time in our program, you will likely be a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), teaching classes in the Sociology department. If so, you can become a member of GEO 3550, the local graduate employee union. GEO 3550 is a very politically active union that bargains and negotiates for contract improvements for grad workers, as well as engaging in local political and solidarity projects.<sup>1</sup>

## **Local Schools (for children)**

Depending on where your family ends up living, your children could be within the following districts:

- Ann Arbor Public Schools: <https://www.a2schools.org/>
- Ypsilanti Community Schools: <https://www.ycschools.us/>
- Saline Schools: <https://www.salineschools.org/>

Early childhood and special education programs are facilitated by Washtenaw Intermediate School District: <https://www.washtenawisd.org/about-us/>

## **Employment (for family)**

Job postings for the top employers in and nearby Washtenaw County:

- University of Michigan and Michigan Medicine: [careers.umich.edu/search-jobs](https://careers.umich.edu/search-jobs)

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<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, Graduate Student Research Assistants (GSRAs) are not eligible to join the Graduate Employees union because the union is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and, therefore, only covers teaching positions.

- Eastern Michigan University: [emich.edu/hr/working/employment/index.php](http://emich.edu/hr/working/employment/index.php)
- Trinity Health: [jobs.trinity-health.org/stjoes](http://jobs.trinity-health.org/stjoes)
- Toyota Technical Center: [careers.toyota.com/us/en/](http://careers.toyota.com/us/en/)
- General Motors: [search-careers.gm.com/en/jobs/](http://search-careers.gm.com/en/jobs/)
- Veterans Affairs: [va.gov/ann-arbor-health-care/work-with-us/jobs-and-careers/](http://va.gov/ann-arbor-health-care/work-with-us/jobs-and-careers/)
- Washtenaw County Health Department: [washtenaw.org/1859/Jobs-Internships](http://washtenaw.org/1859/Jobs-Internships)
- Washtenaw County Community Mental Health: [washtenaw.org/2933/Employment-Opportunities](http://washtenaw.org/2933/Employment-Opportunities)
- Zingerman's Community of Businesses: <https://www.zingermanscommunity.com/jobs/>

You can also search [Indeed](https://www.indeed.com) with the Washtenaw County filter.

### **Spirituality, Faith**

Washtenaw County has a diverse religious and spiritual community. Here are a few (but by no means all) nearby faith organizations:

- Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (Quaker) - [annarborfriends.org](http://annarborfriends.org)
- Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (Judaism) - [aarecon.org](http://aarecon.org)
- The Baha'is of Ann Arbor - [annarborbahais.org/public](http://annarborbahais.org/public)
- Bethlehem United Church of Christ - [bethlehem-ucc.org](http://bethlehem-ucc.org)
- Beth Israel Congregation - [bethisrael-aa.org](http://bethisrael-aa.org)
- Canterbury House (Episcopal Church) - [canterburyhouse.org](http://canterburyhouse.org)
- Church of the Good Shepherd (United Church of Christ) - [cogsaa.org](http://cogsaa.org)
- Jewish Cultural Society - [jewishculturalsociety.org/about](http://jewishculturalsociety.org/about)
- Journey of Faith (Disciples of Christ) - [journeyoffaitha2.org](http://journeyoffaitha2.org)
- Michigan Nones and Dones: religiously unaffiliated, inter-spiritual conversation focused group - [facebook.com/nonesanddones/](https://facebook.com/nonesanddones/)
- Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor - [mca-a2.org](http://mca-a2.org)
- Shalom Community Church - [shalomcc.org](http://shalomcc.org)
- Temple Beth Emeth - [templebethemeth.org](http://templebethemeth.org)
- Zen Buddhist Temple - [zenbuddhisttemple.org](http://zenbuddhisttemple.org)