



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Michigan State University

The United States of America



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VISA APPLICATION

Michigan State University (MSU) helps students apply for a J1 visa (Exchange student visitor). Students should make an interview appointment with the U.S. Consulate as soon as they get the Form DS-2019 from MSU. I would recommend applying for SEVIS right after you receive the Form DS-2019 as the system will require some time to proceed your application till it is visible to the U.S. Consulate interviewers.

On the interview day, students need to prepare the following documents:

- ✓ Current passport and old passports
- ✓ One photographs
- ✓ Visa fees (160 USD)
- ✓ Original interview appointment letter and one copy
- ✓ All pages of original SEVIS generated Form DS-2019 in original, approved and signed by MSU
- ✓ Original proof of payment of SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt and one copy, if applicable
- ✓ Copy of Form DS-2019
- ✓ Evidence of financial resources

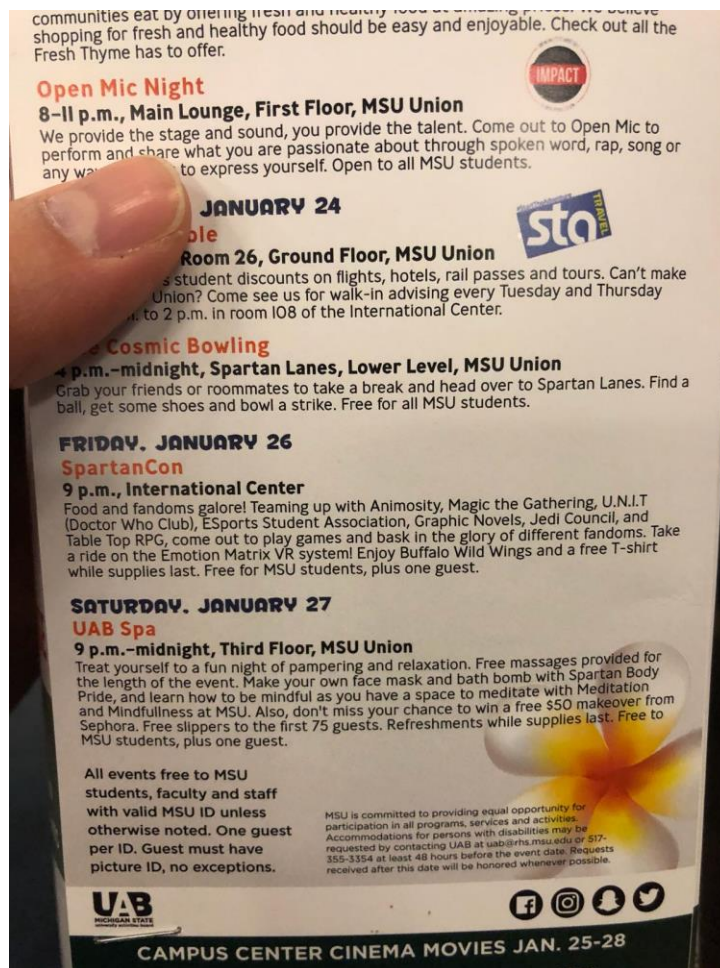
It would be better if you can arrive the U.S. Consulate 20-30 minutes earlier than their scheduled time as the security check will take quite some time. Be reminded that people are not allowed to take any food into the Consulate.

A valid VISA would allow students to enter the U.S. 30 days before the program starts and stay until 30 days after the program ends.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES, INTERNATIONAL SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

A series of orientation activities were provided by MSU and I strongly encourage you to attend those as it will be the first step for you to meet new people under the new environment. The majority of the activities are free of charge. Sessions involve important information like immigration rules are mandatory so please attend the sessions as required.

The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) provides support to MSU's international students, scholars and families. Students can contact the office via email before arrival and visit their office after arriving the campus if they need any support regarding immigration regulations, health care and life at MSU.



As you can see from the brochure, a variety of fun events are organized from time to time!

ACCOMMODATIONS AND FOOD

I stayed at the Live On Campus and my building is named North Hubbard. It is located at the East of the campus and it takes around 45 minutes to walk to the West. Four people with the same gender stayed with me as my roommates. A meal plan is associated with my accommodations so I did not really have to worry about meals. Dining halls are all around the corner and they serve students from 7am - 1am by providing buffet style meals. My life was so much easier with the meal plan.

It would be good if you can pay attention to the first day MSU housing accepts students' check-in. From my experience the day is usually close to the commencement of the semester. Therefore, plan ahead for your arrival date or else you will have to arrange your own accommodation if you arrive early.

COURSES REGISTRATION

These are the courses I took during the semester:

Course Code	Course Title
ACC 230	Survey of Accounting Concepts
EC 301	Microeconomics
EC 302	Intermediate Macroeconomics
EC 330	Money Bank & Fin Markets

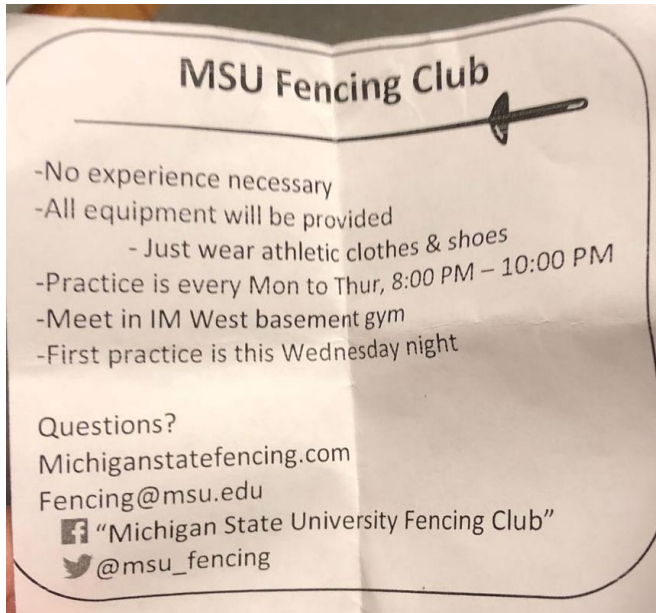
Plan which courses you would like to transfer from MSU to HKUST. Details can be found from the credit transfer page of HKUST (provided in the “link” section). Communicate with your coordinator and they will assist with your course registration according to your list of 10 preferred courses. Some classes have pre-requisites so please pay attention to that. If you have proof of studying related courses to the pre-requisites at HKUST, the coordinator may consider enrolling you in the course. You will be required to take at least 12 credits for one semester. If you register under 12 credits when you arrive at MSU, the coordinator will provide necessary assistance to your class schedule.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT METHODS

All of the courses I took involve:

- ✓ Weekly quizzes
- ✓ Mid-terms
- ✓ Finals

SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES



I subscribed to the fitness center membership for \$85 per semester. There are two fitness centers in the campus, one in IM Sports West and one in IM Sports East. Other sports activities are also available for students to enjoy. I personally joined the archery and fencing activity and I found them fun! It's always nice to try something you don't get to try in Hong Kong.

In March, there was even a free football event match to watch!



FINANCE & BANKING

I created my bank account after my arrival at MSU to avoid the repetitive high service charges doing foreign currency transfer from Hong Kong. There's an on-campus bank

serving students called MSU Federal Union and it has branches near the campus with ATMs all over. Although your debit/credit card would be very convenient and widely-accepted, you may get discount for paying cash, especially in restaurants. Therefore, it is not necessary bad to have some cash with you!

When you hang out with friends, you may need to split the bills with them. A popular app in the U.S. called “Venmo” will help with share payments if you have a U.S. bank account.

HEALTH & SAFETY

A qualified health insurance is mandatory for Non-U.S. students in the U.S. You will be required to pay for a health insurance provided by MSU. The insurance can be waived only if you have an existing insurance that covers all the requirements of MSU.

If you are unfortunately sick during your exchange, you can enjoy a few free visits to the on-campus doctor by having the insurance. MSU is a pretty safe place to study but they do have their more than 80 sworn police officers certified by the State of Michigan on campus. Additional campus safety and security services include late night transport/escort service, 24-hour emergency telephones, lighted pathways/sidewalks and controlled residence hall access. Please report to the police if you see some suspicious incidents that may jeopardize your or others’ safety.

SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



For those who will have their exchange in the spring semester, the Chinese New Year event is definitely a highlight social opportunities. You will have the chance to meet more Chinese/Hongkongers in the event. CNY and the cold weather triggered my homesick that time. I was so lucky to meet people sharing the similar culture background with me to celebrate our traditional festival.

TRANSPORTATION

My flight to MSU with American Airlines:

Hong Kong → Tokyo Narita (transfer) → Los Angeles (transfer) → East Lansing

I used Michigan Flyer to travel from the East Lansing airport to MSU.

The overall transportation is definitely not as convenient as Hong Kong's. Only bus is available in the town and we as exchange students could purchase a bus pass for unlimited rides.

When buses are not available or cannot reach to your desired destination, you can also use Uber or Lyft to travel around. Buses to Detroit City are available and it's a nice day trip destination.



CLIMATE

In the East Coast of the US, the weather is freezing during winter – sometimes there is even snow storm! Therefore, always stay warm. My tip is: avoid wearing too many layers so you can remove the clothes quickly. It's often very warm in the indoor areas when heaters are on. If you are unable to remove the clothes and start to sweat, you may get sick when you step into the freezing outdoor areas.



However, during summer time, the weather is warm and amazing!



Monthly Log

January

Stepping out of the East Lansing Airport, braving bloodily freezing wind and storm, I found the shuttle bus service to MSU was ended. While I tried to search for taxi services, I noticed that the Capital Region International Airport did not have any Wi-Fi service. Fortunately, someone rescued me from the predicament by calling a taxi for me. At the end I was able to arrive my hall before the registration center closed hence I was able to get my room key and a good rest.

I was crammed with various welcoming activities on the first 2 weeks, ranging from campus tour to Chicago trip. Apart from joining the officially-organized activities, I spent a few days walking around the school with my friends to familiarize myself with the campus. It was important to find out where the class rooms and canteens were.

February

All the courses I enrolled had weekly quiz starting from the first week of February. Although all the classes did not take attendance, sometimes you had to get to classes because the weekly quizzes were testing something that the professor talked about in class and you could not really find the answers on the lecture notes and textbooks. Some societies like fencing club would start their recruitment this month so I used to pay heed to my mailbox and see if there were any updates on society recruitments.

March

This was a mid-term month. Comparing to HKUST, the mid-terms in MSU were just few pieces of cakes. Some professors would send a report to you, predicting your final grades. Grading was truly transparent in MSU. All professors opted for absolute grading - as long as you passed 90%, you would definitely get 4.0. In March after all the mid-terms, I joined a few parties, following by a trip to Ithaca and New York Wall Street.

April

This month I spent a relatively more time on joining hall activities such as movie nights, gambling days and joint-hall dancing performance, to name but a few. I was so glad to have a decent and amicable roommate, an African American called James. I went to a number of hall activities with him. After participating in all the events and functions I discovered that students here were proud of being a part of MSU. Indeed, you could see how proud they were when you strolled around Lansing. Basically

every single mall/supermarket/department store in Lansing would have a huge section selling multifarious MSU products.



May

Everyone was revising finals. The school and halls would put a halt to all the activities. The canteens opened until mid-night to offer late-night meals for students this month. I enjoyed my last month in MSU with my lovely friends.



CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BRING

Underwear	Socks	Thermal underwear	Shirts
Sweatshirt/ hoodie	Pajamas	Snow boots	Cold weather gear (i.e. gloves/ mittens, hat, scarf)
Water resistant warm jacket	Laptop	Chargers and adapters	Backpack
Neck pillow	Passport + Visa	Cash	Credit card

USEFUL LINKS

Visa appointment wait time: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

Office for International Students and Scholars: <http://oiss.isp.msu.edu/>

Student dining plans: <https://eatatstate.msu.edu/diningplans/residential>

MSU Course Schedule: <http://schedule.msu.edu>

HKUST credit transfer for undergraduates: <https://crtran.ust.hk/>

Michigan Flyer: <http://www.michiganflyer.com/>