

Jose Cordova

IHAA Resident 2019-2020

Hi! I am a first year graduate student [from Ecuador] here at the University of Michigan. I am really glad to tell you about my experience here at IHAA. As you can imagine, or maybe you've experienced something similar, coming to study in a different country has definitely its ups and downs. There is so much to learn and experience but there are also moments where you can feel isolated, as an island surrounded by people who don't have the same experiences and perspectives and therefore are hard to relate too. IHAA does a great job dealing with this type of loneliness.



IHAA's program of Global Engagement for Understanding along with its events provide a space where everyone feels included and where you can understand their perspective and relate to your fellow residents.

Being surrounded by international students from all over the world, each and everyone of us with different experiences and points of view of the world is really an amazing experience and opportunity. It opens your eyes and gives you different perspectives even on everyday events. It fosters an understanding and makes you a more open minded individual, something extremely valuable and important to be an active and considerate part of the now cosmopolitan society we live in...

These types of events and gatherings are also great for my personal situation. Being a graduate student in a new country with no friends, it is hard to make room for social events and to form a group of friends to attend those events with. Having these events being held right in your building where everyone is invited takes care of both of those difficulties.

So, in my experience I am especially grateful to IHAA for two things. First, helping me have a more rounded experience here in Ann Arbor, being able to focus on something other than academics is extremely important and IHAA almost guarantees you have some other stuff going on to take your mind off work. And Second, the way in which I got to learn extremely varied points of view that helped me enrich my understanding of society and the world and lead me to have a much more comprehensive and considerate philosophy.

Happy IHAA Resident
Jose M. Cordova, 2020

