

Budget justification

Tuition:

The base tuition of \$52,000 is as per the official offer letter from the University of Michigan. I have also secured \$16,960 from the University of Michigan to contribute towards my tuition and living expenses through my research assistantship. This support is provided through a graduate student research assistantship, which requires approximately 20 hours per week during the academic year, primarily involving laboratory sample processing and data entry in support of my advisor's ongoing project in Ethiopia. There are no teaching responsibilities attached to this assistantship.

The University of Michigan has provided a funding package totaling \$68,960, which covers my base tuition, health insurance, utilities, and a portion of my living expenses. While the base tuition is covered by the University of Michigan, I am requesting \$12,843 from TLF to supplement the remaining costs of my education as detailed below.

The estimated costs for textbooks and course materials are based on the University of Michigan's website (\$1,908).

Food & Lodging:

A monthly budget of \$200 for groceries is allocated based on the estimated cost of living in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This includes the cost of food, toiletries, and household supplies. The estimated monthly rent of \$1,100 is based on average rental prices for student housing in Ann Arbor. A security deposit of \$1,650 is included. A monthly cellular phone plan of \$80 is estimated based on standard Verizon plans. A budget of \$275 is allocated for winter clothing, including a coat, boots, hats, and gloves, as these items are essential for staying warm in the Michigan climate, calculated from REI.

Travel:

Airfare: The estimated round-trip cost of \$2,600 (\$1,300 per flight) for travel between Nairobi and Detroit in late August 2027 (Google flights). The estimated cost of the F1 international student visa (\$510) is based on the current fee schedule published by the U.S. Department of State.

Sustainability of Funding: The funds from the foundation and the University of Michigan will cover my expenses for the first year of my studies. The assistantship is a multi-year award, renewable annually based on satisfactory academic progress and continued research contributions. I am actively exploring additional funding opportunities, such as teaching assistantships and internal scholarships, to ensure the sustainability of my funding in future years. I am confident in my ability to secure these additional funds based on my academic performance.