



# EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

إتحاد الدارسين المصريين بأمریکا الشمالية

( [WWW.ESANA.ORG](http://WWW.ESANA.ORG) )

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## Unit Location

- ✚ **City:** West Lafayette
- ✚ **State/Province:** Indiana (IN)
- ✚ **Country:** USA

## University

1. Purdue University

## Current Active Fields

1. Computer Science
2. Electrical and Computer Engineering
3. Chemistry
4. Pharmacy
5. Statistics
6. Civil Engineering
7. Veterinary Medicine
8. Agriculture
9. Biology

## Availability of Financial Aid and Grants

This is something that varies from year to year and from one discipline to another. Generally, each department can support a number of graduate students each year as Teaching Assistants (TAs), and additionally some professors are able to fund some other students as Research Assistants (RAs) from their own project funds. The departments also offer a few selected students a fellowship, where they get funded while not being required to do any TA or RA tasks.

Some students come at the beginning of their programs on their own funding, and then try to get funded from the university. While this might be possible in some cases, we strongly discourage this behaviour if the student does not have sufficient funds in case(s) he cannot get funded.

## City Information

West Lafayette is a small and quiet city. Mostly it is based on the activities of the university. The RA or TA salary is usually good for the student to have a fair life, even if they have family. Living expenses in West Lafayette are very reasonable. Housing and food are affordable without a problem. One of its benefits is that the living expenses are



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quite reasonable. You can get a 1 bedroom apartment for a little above \$500 and a two bedroom apartment for a little above \$600, which is considered relatively low. Other expenses including food, clothes, etc are also in the moderate range.

## Weather conditions

It does snow in West Lafayette. Snow can be there anywhere from November up to March. However, it mainly occurs from December to February and the average temperature is on average around  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The summer is too hot and extremely humid. Also, it rains a lot here in the summer. It's usually sunny and temperatures can get up to the  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . From April to June: nice summer weather. From July to September: usually hot ( $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

## City Attractions

West Lafayette is quite a small town. It's a college town, with the Purdue campus covering most of it. Most, if not all, of the town inhabitants are Purdue students and faculty, making it full of youth, and thus full of energy. There are no particular attractions there except for the campus and some restaurants and coffee shops. This town is optimal for living as a student. There is nothing much to do except studying. Separated only by the Wabash River, Lafayette is the sister town of West Lafayette and located right next to it.

The nearest two big cities to West Lafayette are Indianapolis (1 hour driving), and Chicago (2 hrs driving). Chicago is definitely the best. Being one of the largest four cities in the united states, and with its long lake shore, impressive downtown, diverse ethnic districts (China town, Arab districts, etc) and numerous museums and attractions, it is really worth visiting several times.

Good Egyptian community here and being a quiet city. It is also safer than many other places.

## City Drawbacks

No major drawbacks. If you prefer to live in a big dynamic city, then West Lafayette is not your best choice, although it's easy to go as frequently as you wish to neighbor Indianapolis and Chicago. The cold weather is another drawback, though experience tells that it's totally manageable, even fun at sometimes. This is not to say of course that you will miss the nice sunny weather from time to time. But for the few years of living as a student, this cold weather should not be a very big problem.



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There were also complaints about safety in parking lots of big grocery stores (or even the mall), especially for women.

## Size of the Egyptian Community

The Egyptian community here seems one of the best in the states. Being in a small town, the community is very coherent and cooperative. Social gatherings and group dinners are a very common practice here. If you once needed to move from one place to another, you'll find many people helping you side by side. Similarly if you needed a ride from/to the airport, your car broke down, or any other difficulty you may face and you feel that you need help.

A rough estimate for the number of students here is around 20 graduate students with their families. A similar number of undergraduates may also be there.

They all know each other and very supportive to each other. There is also a nice Muslim community, which is bigger than the Egyptian one. This community is very active and helpful. They all support each other.

## Contact person

1. Hicham G. Elmongui (Unit President), email: [elmongui@hotmail.com](mailto:elmongui@hotmail.com)
2. Check ESANA's West Lafayette Unit at:  
[http://esana.org/Esanas\\_units/Active/Active.asp](http://esana.org/Esanas_units/Active/Active.asp)