



SPRING 2017 WELCOME GUIDE



WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The Welcome Guide contains important information about activities, programs, requirements, and services for new international students. Whether you are coming to UT Austin from your home country or from another U.S. university, we encourage you to read the Welcome Guide carefully to take advantage of all of the opportunities available to you.

Austin is situated on the banks of the Colorado River in the heart of central Texas known as the Hill Country. Rolling hills dotted with lakes and streams provide a beautiful setting for the downtown capital area and The University of Texas at Austin. The Capitol Building, UT Tower and downtown office buildings create a skyline which reflects the city itself – a center for education, government and commerce. Austin features a pleasant climate and a wealth of outdoor settings for swimming, cycling, hiking and other activities. Summer days are humid and often reach temperatures above 36 degrees Celsius. Winter days may fall below freezing. Students will need warm jackets for winter and light cottons for summer.

Austin is known for its variety of artistic venues which feature live music, dramatic performances and artistic exhibitions. Local festivals and national and international tours fill the central Texas calendar. Austin is only a short drive from San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas, all of which are centers for cultural and touring performances as well as major sporting events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

International Student and Scholar Services
The University of Texas at Austin

MAILING ADDRESS

International Office
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box A
Austin, TX 78713-8901

Telephone: (512) 471-2477

world.utexas.edu/isss
hotline@austin.utexas.edu

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PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

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Make travel plans to arrive in Austin.

- Remember that you will need to familiarize yourself with UT Austin, attend orientation events, complete housing arrangements, complete immunization and tuberculosis testing requirements, and prepare to register for classes. Plan your arrival accordingly.
- The earliest that new F-1 and J-1 students may enter the United States is Tuesday, December 6, 2016 – 30 days prior to the start date on their I-20 or DS-2019. This is an immigration limitation and cannot be changed.
- We recommend that you arrive in Austin no later than January 5, 2017 so that you can be prepared to register for classes on January 17.

Make financial arrangements to receive an appropriate amount of funds.

- Bring at least enough to cover tuition for your first semester, books, and living expenses for three months at minimum. Be sure to include estimates for unexpected expenses in your calculations. See “Financial Matters” on page 6 for more detailed information.

Obtain your student visa.

- See “Immigration Information for New Students” on page 3 for further information.

Consider your short-term and long-term housing needs.

- The International Office is unable to make housing arrangements on behalf of students. We are unable to reserve off-campus housing on your behalf. However, you can find information on your short-

term and long-term options on pages 16 and 17. You can also find information at: world.utexas.edu/iss/students/new/housing

Prepare proof of immunizations.

- University Health Services requires proof of immunizations before you are allowed to register for classes. See page 8 for more information.
- If you are required to take a tuberculosis test, it can take up to five days for your registration bar to clear.

Visit the ISSS New Student Website.

- We have gathered information to assist with your arrival and transition to live in Austin.
- You can visit the site at: world.utexas.edu/iss/students/new

Register for Immigration Briefing & Check-In (IBC).

- All students who are not United States citizens or permanent residents are required to check-in with the International Office prior to registering for classes by attending an IBC session. Registration for IBC will open in mid-November at: world.utexas.edu/iss/students/new/orientation

Arrange transportation upon arrival to Austin.

- The International Office does not offer shuttle service from the airport.
- If you arrive on a Saturday or Sunday, you will find that the University and most businesses are closed.
- See “Transportation Information” on page 18 for transportation suggestions.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

If you are not in the United States, you will need a student visa in order to enter the United States and attend UT Austin. International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) can help you obtain the documents you need in order to apply for a student visa.

For more information about the difference between F-1 and J-1 status, please see the ISSS website at: world.utexas.edu/issss/students/new/immigration. Unless otherwise informed on the Certification of Financial Responsibility (CFR), ISSS will issue documents for you to obtain F-1 status. We will issue the appropriate document only after you have been admitted AND submitted a CFR.

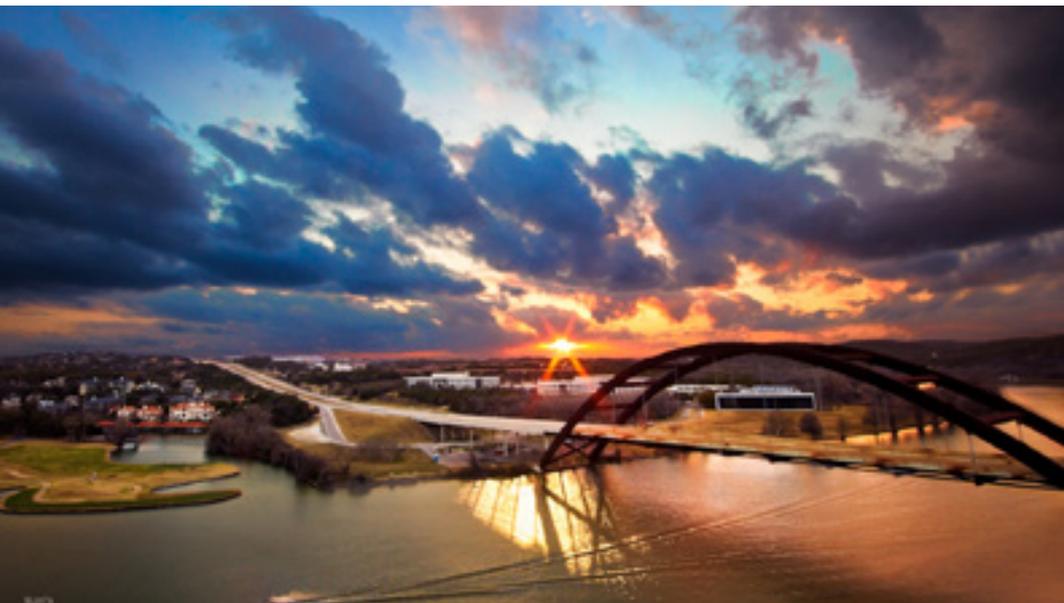
F-1 STATUS

Most students come to the United States to enroll in a full-time degree program in F-1

student status. A Form I-20 is issued to students by UT Austin for entry into the U.S. If you plan to bring a spouse or child with you, they will also be issued a Form I-20 in order to apply for F-2 dependent status. F-2 dependents are not permitted to be employed in the United States or study full-time. Only part-time study is permitted for F-2 dependents.

J-1 STATUS

The J-1 visa is administered by the Department of State and is used for a variety of educational purposes. UT Austin can issue Form DS-2019 to students who qualify for J-1 status. A DS-2019 may be issued to a student with a scholarship, either from a sponsoring organization or from UT Austin. Dependents of a J-1 visa holder can accompany the student on a J-2 dependent visa. J-2s may study and may apply for permission to work in the U.S.



IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

APPLYING FOR AN F-1 OR J-1 VISA

In order to apply for a student visa, you will need to schedule an appointment with the United States embassy or consulate in your area. You will need:

- **Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.** You will need the original during your visa appointment. You may not use emailed or faxed copies.
- **Proof of financial support.** You should show that you have enough funds to support yourself for one year of studies at minimum.
- **Proof of ties to your home country.** The F-1 and J-1 visa categories are non-immigrant categories. This means that you should demonstrate that you do not intend to abandon your residence outside of the United States. Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to: copies of bank statements from a bank in your home country, evidence of ownership of property or residence in your home country, or a job offer letter from a company in your home country.
- **Issuance Fee charged for the visa.** The visa application is \$160 for F and J visas. Depending on your country of citizenship, there also may be an issuance fee, also called a visa reciprocity fee. Check with the consulate to determine if you are subject to this fee.
- **Proof of SEVIS fee payment.** Also called the I-901 fee, the SEVIS fee is paid after you obtain Form I-20 or DS-2019. The cost is \$200 for F-1 students and \$180 for J-1 students. The fee must be paid at least three business days prior to applying for an initial F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate or at least three business days prior to entering the United States for F-1 or J-1 students exempt from the visa requirement (Canadian citizens). For information about paying the SEVIS fee, go to www.fmjfee.com



IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

ALREADY IN F-1 OR J-1 STATUS?

If you plan to maintain your F-1 or J-1 status, immigration regulations permit you to transfer your immigration record (SEVIS record) to UT Austin. In order to transfer your SEVIS record to UT Austin you must be in valid status with your current school.

Please note that if you plan to work at UT Austin, you will first need to transfer your immigration record before being eligible to begin employment.

AFTER YOU ARE ADMITTED TO UT AUSTIN:

1. Inform your current school of your intent to transfer your immigration record to UT Austin.
2. Complete the top portion of the "Transfer In" form found at world.utexas.edu/iss/students/status and give it to your current international advisor to complete the bottom portion.
3. Make note of the "SEVIS Release Date" that your advisor lists on the form.
4. Submit the "Transfer In" form to hotline@austin.utexas.edu.
5. After the "SEVIS Release Date" and after you submit the Certification of Financial Responsibility (CFR), an advisor will issue your I-20 or DS-2019.

If you plan to leave the United States before enrolling at UT Austin, please use the I-20 or DS-2019 that UT Austin issues when you return to the United States. If your current visa has expired, you will need the UT Austin I-20 or DS-2019 to apply for a new visa.

ONCE YOU ARRIVE IN AUSTIN:

1. Attend Immigration Briefing & Check-In (IBC).

2. Register for classes.

Obtain a "Transfer Complete" I-20 from the International Office. If you have any questions about the transfer process, please email us at hotline@austin.utexas.edu for assistance.

OTHER STATUSES

- If you do not plan to enter the United States in F-1 or J-1 status, you will need to obtain another status that will allow enrollment in a full-time degree program.
- DO NOT enter the United States on a B-1/B-2 tourist visa or the visa waiver program. Doing so may prevent you from beginning your academic program on time or make it necessary for you to leave the United States to change to a student status. If it is absolutely necessary for you to enter the U.S. prior to receiving the Form I-20 or DS-2019, you should request at the United States Embassy/Consulate that "prospective student" be noted on the B-1/B-2 visa to make a change of status easier to obtain.
- You will still be required to attend and present your immigration documents to an international student advisor during Immigration Briefing and Check-In (IBC).
- If you are interested in changing your status to F-1 or J-1 within the United States, please contact an international student advisor at the International Office as soon as possible for advice on your visa status.
- F-2 dependents may study part-time. If you plan to change your status to F-1 within the United States, you will be limited to studying part-time while your application is pending with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL MATTERS

You may bring funding in the form of a bank draft, cashier's check in US dollars, cash, or travelers checks. If you bring a bank draft or cashier's check, it may take 15-30 days for the funds to be available for your use. Therefore, it is recommended that part of your funds be in the form of travelers check or cash.

LIVING EXPENSES

Living expenses can vary from \$1,400 to \$1,900 per month depending on individual lifestyle. Additionally, you will need initial funds beyond these estimates to set up your housing arrangements – usually in the form of deposits and set-up fees.

The minimum estimate is for a single student with a very frugal lifestyle. Students with dependents should be prepared to spend at least an additional \$750 per month for a spouse and \$350 more per month for each child. These estimates do not include the cost of dependent health insurance coverage which can be quite expensive.

Minimum Annual Living Expenses:

- \$1,458 per month for 12 months = \$17,500
- Additional living expenses for dependents for 12 months = \$8,800 for spouse and \$3,800 for each child.

TUITION

Tuition and fees at UT Austin vary by department and level of study. They are also subject to change each year. For more detailed information about flat rate tuition in a specific department visit: tuition.utexas.edu/rates

UNDERGRADUATE TUITION

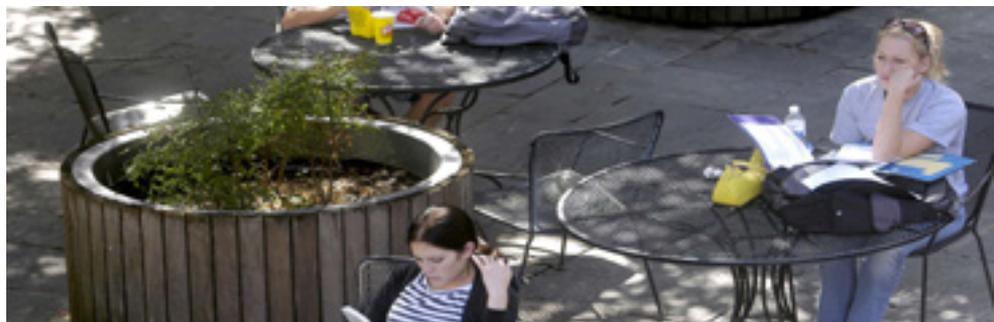
Undergraduate tuition is based on a flat rate. This means that a student enrolled in 15 credit hours is charged the same as a student enrolled in 12 credit hours. The flat rate assessed varies slightly by college and major.

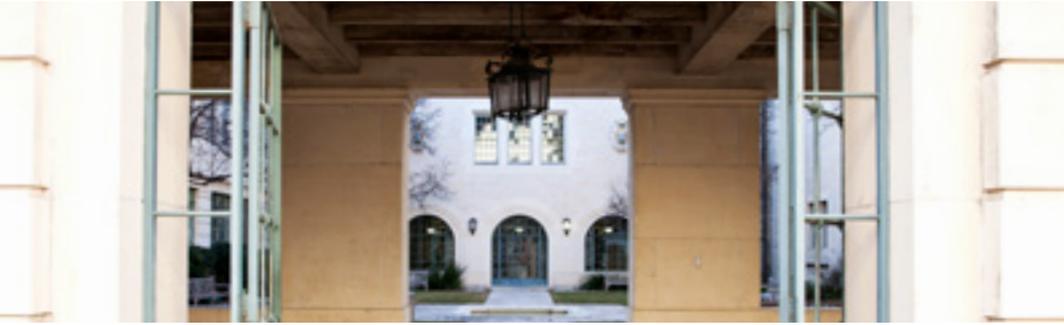
GRADUATE TUITION

The estimate for non-resident graduate tuition is calculated based on each school's tuition rates as well as the minimum course load for each school. Tuition is charged per credit hour.

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMS

Tuition rates for students participating in specific executive programs (also called "Option III Programs") will be determined by the department. For a list of these programs, go to: world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new/executive_programs





FEES

All international students are assessed an ISSS Support Services fee each semester. For 2016-2017 the fee is \$125, but this amount is subject to change in future semesters.

Additionally F-1 and J-1 students will be charged automatically for student health insurance. For information about how to waive out of this fee, please see page 8.

PAYING TUITION & FEES

You will not pay your tuition and fees until after you register for classes. No advance tuition deposit is required.

Forms of payment include:

- A personal check, cashier's check or money order in U.S. dollars made payable to The University of Texas at Austin
- Credit card (please note that UT Austin does NOT accept payments by VISA credit/debit cards!)
- Cash

Students who pay by cash, personal check, or credit card may pay in three installments.

The first 50 percent is due at the time of registration. For more details, please visit:

tuition.utexas.edu/pay

WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Financial assistance for new international students is extremely limited. Financial aid for continuing students is also limited and consists primarily of small amounts of funding for emergency situations. For a list of aid available through the International Office visit world.utexas.edu/issc/students/financial-aid

Graduate Students may apply for teaching or research assistantships (TA or RA) through their academic department. Contact your academic department for information about such awards. Please remember that TAs and RAs (like other university employees) do not receive the first paycheck until one month after the start of employment and/or the beginning of classes. You may be able to find part-time employment on campus. However, there is considerable competition for these jobs, and you should not expect to use employment as a means of financial support. Immigration regulations restrict off-campus employment opportunities.

HEALTH INSURANCE & IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

The University of Texas Board of Regents requires that all international students in F-1 and J-1 immigration status have health insurance. Due to this requirement, you will be AUTOMATICALLY billed for the Student Health Insurance Plan when you register for classes.

The cost of the student health insurance is approximately \$2,300.00 per year. However, that amount will be broken down by semester. Fall coverage will appear on the Fall tuition bill; Spring and Summer coverage will appear on the Spring tuition bill. Note that summer coverage is required if you plan to enroll in the following fall semester. Students in an immigration status other than F-1 or J-1 may opt-in to insurance on a voluntary basis at world.utexas.edu/isss/insurance/optin

Limited waivers of the Student Health Insurance may be available to students who already hold insurance plans issued in the United States that meet certain requirements. Waivers cannot be issued for students attending UT on exchange. For more information regarding the Student Health Insurance Plan waiver eligibility and

IMPORTANT

Spring 2017 waivers are due on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Late waiver requests will not be accepted.

procedures, as well as to download the appropriate waiver request form, please visit: world.utexas.edu/isss/insurance/waivers
Waivers are granted at the full discretion of the International Office.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND IMMUNIZATIONS

The Student Health Insurance Plan coverage begins January 1, 2017. General access to medical care at University Health Services (UHS) begins January 13, 2017 for new students. Vaccinations and TB screenings at UHS can be scheduled earlier than January 13. However, please do not schedule these appointments before January 1 if you are using the Student Health Insurance Plan, or these services will not be covered. Students and dependents who arrive earlier than January 1 should have their own temporary travel insurance.



HEALTH INSURANCE & IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR DEPENDENTS

Students can add their accompanying spouse and children to the Student Health Insurance Plan by appointment with the ISSS Insurance Advisor at the International Office. For updated costs, visit: world.utexas.edu/iss/insurance/costs

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

International students are not permitted to register for classes until they have submitted documentation from University Health Services (UHS) to demonstrate they have met certain immunization requirements. You will need to print the TB and Vaccination History for International Students form and have your healthcare provider complete and sign it. If your healthcare provider cannot complete the form, provide an alternate form of immunization documentation to UHS if you have it. If you are outside the United States, DO NOT complete the TB screening portion. The TB test must be administered in the United States.

Once you arrive in Austin, take the completed, signed form with your immunization records to the UHS Allergy/Immunization Clinic. It may take up to five days for UHS to process your paperwork and permit you to register for classes.

For details about immunization requirements and to print the TB and Vaccination History for International Students form, visit the UHS website at:

www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/internationalstudents.html

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

UHS, located at 100 West Dean Keeton Street in the Student Services Building (SSB), provides Immunizations and TB screening by appointment. There are fees for immunizations administered and TB tests performed by University Health Services. These fees are covered under the UT Student Health Insurance Plan. To schedule an appointment, call (512) 475-8301 upon your arrival in Austin.

In addition, there will be a special Immunization and TB Screening Clinics held at UHS the week before registration. For the dates of the clinics, go to: www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/internationalstudents.html

You may receive immunizations and the TB screening test during these clinics without an appointment, but to avoid a longer wait, please schedule an appointment in advance by calling (512) 475-8301.

NOTE

Medical insurance coverage is mandatory for the accompanying spouse and children of J-1 visa holders under Department of State regulations. If you hold a J-1 visa, you must maintain health insurance with the required minimum coverage for all accompanying or subsequently arriving J-2 dependents. Failure to do so will result in the termination of your program.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMS FOR NEW STUDENTS

IMMIGRATION BRIEFING AND CHECK-IN

If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you are required to attend the Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC) to clear your International Office bar and prepare to register for classes. This 90-minute session reviews the basic information international student need, including immigration rules and regulations, health insurance, and registration. Register for IBC online at world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new/orientation. IBC is not available on weekends. A schedule of IBC sessions will be available beginning mid-November.

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION & WELCOME LUNCH

International Orientation will be held on Friday, January 6, 2017. You will learn information about adjusting to life and study at The University of Texas at Austin, including UT Austin traditions and the school song, The Eyes of Texas! It's also an opportunity to meet many international students.

International Orientation is not required, but it is very important. If you cannot attend, we invite you to explore our new student website at world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new

WELCOME EVENTS & INFORMATION SESSIONS

Social events are the best part of any program! We hope that you will find time in your busy arrival schedule to join us for fun, food, and recreation. Examples of welcome events include:

- Bowling & Billiards Night
- Texas Dance Lessons
- PALS Game Night

- Bus Trip to San Antonio

We have developed a series of information sessions – UT 101 – about topics of interest to new students. Attendance is optional, and you are welcome to attend any part of the sessions. Topics include:

- Getting Around Austin
- How to Register for Classes
- Campus Safety
- Employment & Taxes
- Tips for Academic Success

You can find a listing of all Welcome Events and Information Sessions at:

world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new/orientation

UT ORIENTATION

All new undergraduate students to UT Austin are required to attend either freshman or transfer student orientation. This program provides orientation specific to your major field of study and the earliest opportunity to take placement tests and to register for classes. For further information, see: orientation.utexas.edu

GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

Please view gradschool.utexas.edu for new student and department orientation and information.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE COURSES

UT Austin offers English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for UT Austin students and their family members. For information about all the programs offered, visit world.utexas.edu/esl

ESL courses may be right for students who:

- Would like to prepare for their upcoming graduate studies with an intensive academic English program in the summer.
- Need to take an English course during their first semester of enrollment
- Need additional English training to become a teaching assistant

We teach several ESL courses designed for graduate students, as well as courses for family and friends. Full-time and part-time study options are available; we offer discounts for part-time study for dependents of UT students, scholars, or faculty/staff. I-20s can be issued for full-time language study; if you are requesting a Form I-20, please apply at least 60 days prior to the start of the semester.

For more information and an application, visit the ESL Services web site at world.utexas.edu/esl or

contact the office at (512) 471-2480. Classes fill quickly, so apply early.

ENGLISH SCREENING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Some non-native English speaking graduate students may be required to take an English screening test before they will be allowed to register; for example, those with TOEFL scores below 600 (on a paper-based test) or 250 (on a computer-based test) or a writing/speaking score below 23 (internet based test).

If you are required to take the screening test, you will be notified that you have a registration "J-bar" during IBC at the International Office or when you meet with your graduate advisor. At that time, you will receive instructions on how to schedule the screening test, which consists of a short oral interview and writing sample. The screening may result in a requirement to take an ESL course in Academic Writing, Oral Communication, or both. Your graduate advisor will be informed of any resulting requirements for courses. For more information visit world.utexas.edu/esl/jbar

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS (TA) AND ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS (AI)

To be eligible for a TA or AI appointment with student contact, non-native English speakers must receive English Certification, which entails passing the Oral English Assessment, and completing the online ITA Workshop.

Further details are online at:

world.utexas.edu/esl/ita

NOTE

The Oral English Assessment is different from and in addition to the J-bar English Screening.

Steps in the ITA English Certification process:

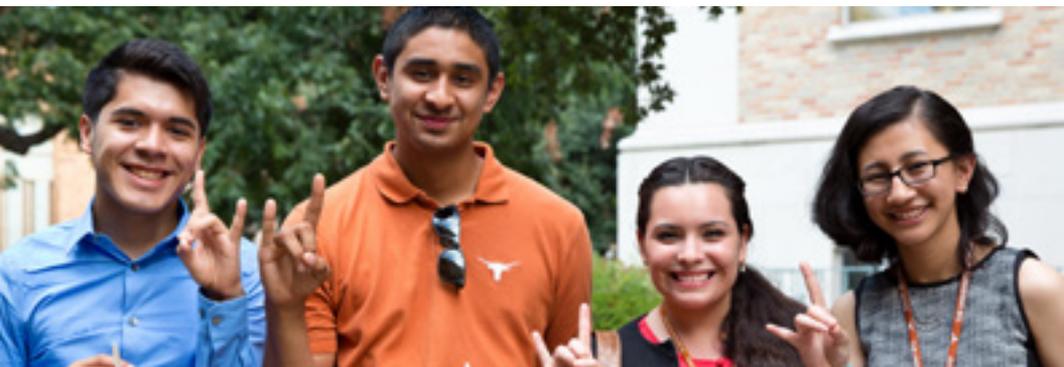
1. Ask your graduate coordinator or advisor of your employing department to register you in the online ITA Program database at world.utexas.edu/esl/ita
2. Make an appointment for the Oral English Assessment at: www.tiec.org/tiep/ita.htm
A limited number of dates are available.
3. Complete the ITA Workshop online; instructions are linked at: world.utexas.edu/esl/ita

TRANSFER CREDIT FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Contact the Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC) for information about transfer of credit from your previous university studies. GIAC can also answer questions about credit for International Baccalaureate and "A" level examinations. Contact GIAC at (512) 475-7391 or intladm@austin.utexas.edu



INFORMATION FOR J-1 EXCHANGE STUDENTS



EXCHANGE IMMIGRATION BRIEFING AND CHECK-IN

All reciprocal exchange students must attend a Reciprocal Exchange Orientation and Check-In prior to registering for classes. Attendance will fulfill the Immigration Briefing & Check-In (IBC) requirement. For further information about dates and session reservations, please go to:

world.utexas.edu/isss/students/exchange/dates

FEES

While reciprocal exchange students do not pay tuition at UT Austin, they will still be responsible for miscellaneous fees. Such fees include the Student Services fee (\$125) and the student ID fee (\$10). Both fees are subject to change.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All Exchange students are automatically charged for health insurance at UT. We are not able to accept any waivers. For information about coverage and costs go to

world.utexas.edu/isss/insurance

EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND COURSEWORK

At UT Austin, international exchange agreements – except for Law and MBA – are administered as undergraduate agreements. All exchange students are administratively classified and coded at UT Austin as undergraduate students, no matter what their actual academic standing is at their home university.

International reciprocal exchange students are not guaranteed registration in any courses – undergraduate and/or graduate. Registration in MBA, Law, and Medical School courses is not permissible for students participating in exchanges coordinated by the UT International Office.

MCCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Courses in the McCombs School of Business are largely closed to students participating in the general exchange program. Students who wish to enroll in an undergraduate business course must follow the required petition upon arrival at UT Austin. Approval cannot be given prior to arrival in Austin. Please note that should approval be obtained, students may enroll in a maximum of two courses and only on a space available basis.

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Before you may register for classes, you will need to complete particular tasks:

1. Attend an IBC Session with the International Office. Bring your immigration documents with you.
2. Claim your UT EID if you haven't done so already. Make sure you upgrade your UT EID to a high assurance ID. Detailed information is available online at idmanager.its.utexas.edu/eid_self_help (see information below)
3. Go to University Health Services (UHS). UHS is located in the Student Services Building (SSB) on Dean Keeton. TB testing and other immunizations are required before you may register for classes. Please note that it can take up to five days after you visit UHS for your registration bar to clear. For information on immunization requirements call (512) 475-8301 or visit healthyhorns.utexas.edu
4. See an academic advisor at your individual department concerning classes that are appropriate for your degree plan. For academic advising resources, visit MyUT at my.utexas.edu
5. Complete any Registration Advising Worksheets as needed for the meeting with your academic advisor.
6. Access the Course Schedule online at: registrar.utexas.edu/schedules or MyUT.
7. Check Registration Access Times and Bar Information on your Registration Information Sheet (RIS) through registrar.utexas.edu/students/registration/before or MyUT.
8. Register for classes. Use the web-based registration system at registrar.utexas.edu/students/registration/during or MyUT during your registration access period. See your RIS form (step 6) for dates and times.
9. Pay your fee bill at the Main Building if paying by cash. Pay by check or online if using an electronic payment method. If you wish to pay your tuition by credit card (MasterCard or Discover, drawn on a U.S. bank), service charges apply. Visit tuition.utexas.edu/pay or MyUT for more information regarding financial services. To pay other charges such as ITS, library fees, etc., go to the "What I Owe" page at utdirect.utexas.edu/acct/rec/wio/wio_home.WBX or MyUT.
* If you are enrolling in an Executive/ Option III program, please inquire with your academic department for tuition payment instructions.
10. Obtain a student photo ID at the Flawn Academic Center. Bring a photo ID, such as your passport. You may obtain your student ID any time prior to or after registration.

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

UT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (EID)

Your UT EID is an electronic identifier that allows you to access secure UT Austin web services. You used the EID when you applied for admission. To use your EID, you must activate or claim it and choose a password. Once you have claimed your UT EID and chosen your password, your UT EID is ready to use.

For students who are 17 or younger:

Students younger than 18 years old must have a legal guardian accompany them to upgrade their EID. The student and their legal guardian must present their own government-issued photo identification. Both the parent and the student must be processed together, at the same time. Students who are unable to bring their parent or legal guardian to the ID Center may apply for a temporary remote upgrade request. For more information on remote upgrades, please visit the ID Center website at it.utexas.edu

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID)

You can obtain a student identification card with your photo printed on the card at the ID center in the Flawn Academic Center (FAC), even before you register for classes. The cost of \$10 will be added to your account. At that time, you may also upgrade your medium assurance UT EID to high assurance. For security reasons, UT Austin prints a 16-digit ISO (International Standardization Organization) number on your student ID card. The ISO number is linked to your student ID number.

WHAT IS MyUT?

MyUT is the web site that you can use to do all your business with the University, to find out what is happening on campus, and even what is going on in your department. It is "one-stop shopping" for students for university orientation, registration, and other student services. The URL is my.utexas.edu. You must have a UT EID and password to use MyUT.



HOUSING INFORMATION

SHORT-TERM HOUSING

There is no temporary housing available on campus. You may plan to stay in one of the following facilities until you find permanent housing. Ask if they provide a UT discount. For more information about short-term and long-term housing, see our website:

world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new/housing

MOTELS/HOTELS

- **Days Inn, University Area:** 3105 N. IH 35, (512) 478-1631 www.daysinn.com
- **Doubletree:** 303 W. 15th, (512) 478-7000 www.doubletree.com
- **La Quinta Inn:** 5812 N. IH 35 (need car), (512)459-4381 www.lq.com
- **Motel 6:** 5330 N. IH 35, (512) 467-9111 www.motel6.com
- **At&T Executive Education and Conference Center:** 1900 University Avenue, (512) 404-3600 meetattexas.com/hotel

VACATION RENTALS

- **Airbnb:** Prices and locations vary, www.airbnb.com
- **HomeAway:** Prices and locations vary, www.homeaway.com

YOUTH HOSTELS

- **Hostelling International Austin:** 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd. (located near the NR shuttle bus route), (512) 444-2294 hiusa.org/austin
- **Drifter Jacks Hostel:** 2602 Guadalupe Street, (512) 243-8410, drifterjacks@gmail.com. Shared and private rooms near campus. drifterjackshostel.com
- **Firehouse Hostel:** 605 Brazos Street, (512) 201-2522, firehousehostel.com. Shared and private rooms in Downtown Austin

BED & BREAKFASTS

- **The Star of Texas Inn:** 611 W. 22nd Street,

(512) 472-6700 staroftexasinn.com

- **Strickland Arms:** 604 E. 47th Street, (512) 454-4426 www.stricklandarmstexas.com
- **Inn at Pearl Street:** 1809 Pearl Street, (512) 478-0051 www.innpearl.com

LONG-TERM HOUSING

Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. The University does not require that students live on campus and cannot make off-campus housing reservations. There are many housing choices in Austin.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING & INTERNATIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY

On-campus housing is available only to enrolled students at UT Austin. Priority for on-campus housing is given to freshmen (first-year undergraduate students). Once you are granted a housing contract, you may request to live in the university's International Housing Community (IHC). You can learn about the vibrant IHC at world.utexas.edu/isss/intercultural/international-housing

Apply as early as possible for on-campus housing as spaces are limited. For more information and an online application, visit the web site of the Division of Housing and Food Services at www.utexas.edu/student/housing (512) 471 3136.

UNIVERSITY APARTMENTS

A few apartments known as "family housing" are owned by the University. Family housing offers inexpensive off-campus furnished apartments for married students and single graduate students, available on a limited basis. For information and application, visit the Division of Housing and Food Services web site at www.utexas.edu/student/housing (512) 471-3136.

HOUSING INFORMATION

COOPERATIVE HOUSES

Cooperative Houses are democratically, student-run residences, called “co-ops,” in which occupants share cooking and cleaning responsibilities. Decisions about house policies and rules are made by the entire house board. Co-ops can be less expensive than other housing options and provide an opportunity to meet a variety of people. For information contact:

- **College Houses:** 1906 Pearl St., (512) 476-5678 collegehouses.org
- **UT Inter-Cooperative Council:** 2305 Nueces St., (512) 476-1957 www.iccaustin.coop
- **German House (Deutsches Haus):** 2103 Nueces St., (512) 477-8865 deutscheshaus.wixsite.com/dhaus. A mix of people from all over the world live here!

PRIVATE DORMITORIES

Though on-campus dormitory space is limited, the need for safe, convenient dormitory space in Austin is filled by several off-campus private dormitories. Though located “off” campus, private dormitories are quite near (in some cases, just across the street) from UT Austin. Private dormitory room prices may also include a meal package. You can find more information at www.austindorms.com.

- **The Castilian Dormitory:** 2323 San Antonio, (512) 478-9811 www.thecastilian.com
- **Goodall-Wooten Dorm:** 2112 Guadalupe St., (512) 472-1343 www.goodallwooten.com
- **Dobie Center:** 2021 Guadalupe, (512) 505-1000 www.dobietwenty21.com
- **Abbey House:** 408 W. 17th St., (512) 474-2036 www.abbey-house.com
- **Hardin House Dorm (women only):** 2206 Rio Grande (512) 472-6717 www.hardinhouse.com

- **Callaway House** (freshmen only): 505 W. 22th St., (512) 582-0200 www.callawayhouseaustin.com

PRIVATE APARTMENTS

Most students live in privately owned apartments, many of which are available within walking or bicycle distance of campus. The UT shuttle bus and Austin city bus systems also serve a large number of students who live farther away from the UT campus.

Apartments are usually rented in person, but apartment locator services may assist you before you arrive. In Austin, apartment locator services are free of charge to the potential renter. The International Office does not endorse any specific locator services.

Before you sign a lease, please review the lease carefully. Keep in mind that in the United States all leases are legally binding, and it may be very difficult or impossible to break a contract early. Be sure to review the contract for extra costs and always ask questions about a contract cancelation. Please see our guide on the types of questions to consider: world.utexas.edu/io/forms/iss/apartment-hunting-questions.pdf

HOUSING INFORMATION ON THE UT WEB SITE:

world.utexas.edu/iss/students/new/housing

Search the internet for rental apartments or homes as well as merchandise. Select “Central Austin” for addresses nearest to the University of Texas at Austin. Refer to CapMetro and the University Shuttle buss routes and schedules for convenient public transportation.

- www.austinchronicleclassifieds.com
- austin.craigslist.org
- www.statesman.com/s/classifieds

TRANSPORTATION IN AUSTIN

ARRIVING IN AUSTIN

The local airport, Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA), is located approximately 15 miles (24 kilometers) from campus. Unfortunately, the International Office is unable to meet you at the airport, however there are three transportation options from ABIA:

BUS CAPITAL METRO

- #100 Austin-Bergstrom Airport to The University of Texas at Austin. Fare is \$1.75, cash only. The University stop is at 21st Street and San Jacinto, as well as 23rd and Robert Redman next to the Darrel K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.
- Phone: (512) 474-1200 (reservations are not necessary)
- Visit: www.capmetro.org

SUPERSHUTTLE

- Supershuttle (Blue Van) reservation desk is located inside the airport. Approximate fare to the university area is \$17 for one person, \$10 for each additional passenger.
- Phone: 1 (800) 258-3826 (reservations not necessary)
- Visit: www.supershuttle.com

TAXI

- Taxi cabs can be found immediately outside the airport. Fare to the university area costs approximately \$25.

THE BUS SYSTEM

The UT shuttle bus system serves a large population of students who live in apartments farther away from campus, as do the city bus routes. The UT shuttle buses do not require any form of payment or ID to ride.

Obtain more information about the routes that serve the UT campus at parking.utexas.edu/transportation/shuttle

For city bus/UT shuttle routes and schedules: www.capmetro.org

The city bus costs \$1.25-\$1.75 (exact change), but after you have your UT photo ID card, you can swipe the ID card as you enter the bus and ride for free.

You can download the CapMetro app to purchase day passes, search schedules, and look up real-time arrival information at www.capmetro.org/app

PARKING

Parking on the UT Austin campus is available with permits issued by Parking and Transportation-Services (PTS). The PTS office is located on the first level of Trinity Garage (TRG) located at 1815 Trinity St. For the most current regulations, students should visit the PTS web site at: www.utexas.edu/parking or call (512) 471-7275.



GETTING INVOLVED

GETTING INVOLVED

There are many opportunities to get involved and meet new people once you arrive on campus. Review the information below to get a taste of what to expect!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Many UT student organizations are eager to be in contact with new students and answer questions about life at the University. There are over 900 registered student organizations at UT Austin. Making contact with student organizations is a great way to get pre-arrival information, as well as assistance in settling into the University. Please see the HornsLink website to view a list of all registered student organizations at the University: utexas.collegiatelink.net

PALS: PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE LANGUAGE STUDY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The PALS program is a registered UT student organization affiliated with the International Office. It was created in 1993 to bring together students for language and cultural exchange. This mission is accomplished by the dedicated work of the PALS coordinators, who match students according to language and/or culture preferences. Besides one-on-one interaction between matched PALS, the program also offers a variety of social activities such as coffee hours, movie nights, pot lucks, and picnics. For more information, please visit utpals.weebly.com

LANGUAGE CIRCLES

Language Circles are informal groups of students that meet weekly to practice their language skills. A variety of languages are offered. For more information, please visit utpals.weebly.com/language-circles.html

FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

The Friendship Program provides international students a connection to the Austin community. One of the most rewarding experiences is the opportunity to share your culture with others and learn about theirs. When you become friends with locals, there is a reciprocal exchange of traditions, customs, and lifestyles which is an exciting learning opportunity. For more information, please visit: world.utexas.edu/isss/intercultural/friendship



TEXAS EXCURSIONS

Each month, the International Office coordinates a bus trip to various cities and sites around Texas. Past trips have included a day in San Antonio to visit the Alamo & Riverwalk, a trip to the NASA Space Center in Houston, and a truly Texas experience at the Austin Rodeo. For a current schedule, please visit world.utexas.edu/isss/intercultural/excursions

IMPORTANT JANUARY 2017 DATES

IMPORTANT DATES	EVENT
Sunday, December 6	Earliest date students with I-20/DS-2019 start date of January 5 may enter the United States
Thursday, January 5	Immigration Briefing and Check-In (IBC) sessions begin
Friday, January 6	International Student Orientation
Saturday, January 7	Welcome Saturday for New International Students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus Tours of Austin• Walking Tours of UT Austin campus• Shopping Shuttle
Thursday, January 12	Registration for new students begins. **All registration bars must be cleared by this date.**
Friday, January 13	Payment deadline for undergraduate students is 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 17	Classes Begin
Friday, January 20	Payment deadline for graduate and law students is 5:00 p.m.

For a full and up-to-date list of Welcome & Orientation activities and locations, please go to:

world.utexas.edu/isss/students/new/orientation/ut101

CAMPUS MAP

Listed below are some of the frequently-visited buildings on campus.

North Office Building A (NOA)

Student Services Building (SSB)

Walter Webb Hall (WWH)
Building containing the Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC)

International Office (INT)

Texas Union (UNB)

Peter T. Flawn Academic Center (FAC)

Main Building/Tower (MAI)

Mezes Hall (MEZ)

Student Activity Center (SAC)

Gregory Gymnasium (GRE)

Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL)

Rec Sports Center (RSC)



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

PHYSICAL LOCATION:

2400 Nueces Street, Suite B
Austin, TX 78705

STANDARD MAIL:

International Office
P.O. Box A
Austin, TX 78713-8901

EXPRESS MAIL:

International Office
2400 Nueces Street, Suite B
Austin, Texas 78705

CONTACT:

(512) 471-2477
hotline@austin.utexas.edu

world.utexas.edu/iss



The University of Texas at Austin
International Office