



Dotan Bar-On

MS.c Marketing class of 2016

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The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business located in the center of Austin metropolitan.

The Visa

In order for non-US residents to study in a school located in USA one must obtain a proper visa, in most cases – the F1 visa. That visa can be obtained from the US embassy in Tel-Aviv in the same procedure of the tourist visa. The F1 visa is followed by I-20 form, which contains details regarding your school and semester period. UT international office will walk you through the process and will send detailed information regarding your visa. You can enter the US 30 days prior to the I-20 start date and stay in the US up to 60 days after its end date. Be advised, if you'll depart from the US after your I-20 end date, you wouldn't be able to enter again, even in the 60 days' period ("Grace Period").



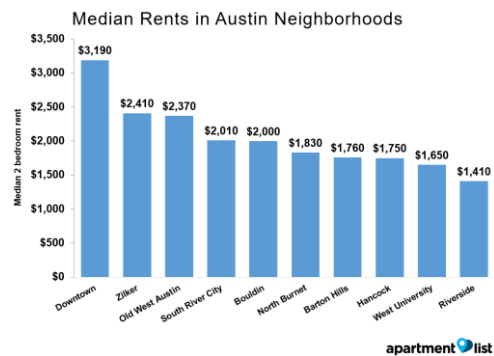
The Campus

With 40,000 undergraduate students and more than 11,000 graduate students UT Austin is one of the biggest campus in the US. Spread across the campus you will find dozens of museums, libraries, centers, institutes and special venues. The campus basketball and football teams expecting an exciting season (2016-2017) where game days are a big orange celebration in the campus area (Hook' Em Horns!) UT Austin football stadium is the biggest college stadium ever built. University of Texas Austin campus main building (94 m tower) was my northern star navigating my way to campus, on special events the tower will glow wearing special colors.



Housing

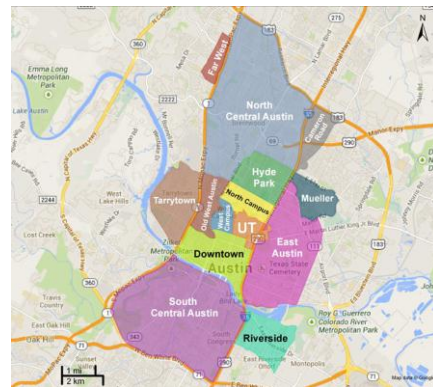
Austin has plenty of housing options and locations, I would recommend checking the local Facebook groups for available rooms and apartments. If you are looking for the undergrad "Wild" life or you want to walk less than 5 min to school, West university is the neighborhood to live in. take in consideration that with fraternity and sororities houses spreader around, the



weekends in west campus starts on Thursdays. Austin also offers lower cost co-op housing.

Living expenses

Rent - prices starts at around 550\$ if you are willing to live in a remote area with roommates and can go up to 1,500\$ for a 1X1 room in west campus. you can find a nice furnished room in a 4x4 apartment in west campus for about 900\$ including all bills– look for relevant Facebook groups like [UT Austin Sublets/Roommate Finder](#).



Food – fast food and truck yards are all around and relatively cheap (avg. of 5\$ for fast food and 9\$ for a meal at the truck yard), fruits and vegetables are relatively expensive. Amazon prime now groceries service available in the city and can save you the drive to Walmart, HEB or any of the big groceries stores around the city. [here is the food locations chart my roommates and I built](#).

others – Harvard business school cases are a requirement for many of the classes, I paid about 200\$ on cases, [parking on campus](#) permit will cost around 300\$ a semester.

Transportation and Traveling

Bus rides in Austin are free for all students with a student ID (you can get you ID in [the ID center](#) as soon as you get to Austin)



The University of Texas at Austin strongly supports efforts to reduce congestion and curb vehicle pollution in the Austin area. The University has established an active Alternative Transportation Program, entitled Green on the Go, that seeks to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles by staff, faculty, students, and visitors.

[UT Shuttles](#) ; [Capital Metro Mass Transit](#) ; [E-Bus \(Entertainment Bus\)](#) ; [Car Share \(Zipcar\)](#) ; [Carpools](#) ; [Vanpools](#) ; [Electric Vehicles](#) [UT Share Pass \(garage debit card\)](#) ; [Bike UT](#) ; [The Kickstand](#) ; [Orange Bike Project \(OBP\)](#) ; [Safe Cycling](#) ; [Sure Walk](#)

Uber and Lyft are popular and easy to use in Austin, you can use pool/share options in the city to lower your ride fee sharing the ride with others around. Temporarily (June 2016) the services are not available in Austin do to the vote result on the prop one vote.

Social Life

The culture at McCombs creates a truly distinctive atmosphere that blends rigorous intensity and relaxed collegiality, social activity and individuality, a sense of community and an appreciation for diversity. You will learn with your fellow MBAs, and you'll learn from them - in and out of the classroom but most important you will become friend with them. McCombs will host plenty of events for MBAs only, work on your networking skills and make new friends 😊



As part of orientation you will get to meet all the exchange students (including the undergrads) and have different fun activities.

You will also get a daily email from UT with more than 50 events that takes place on campus or by one of UTs clubs.

The city [hosts great music festivals](#) like SXSW, where most of the shows are free.

[6th street](#) and [Rainey street](#) are the places to go if you are looking to get a drink of party with the locals.



Courses in McCombs: according to TAU exchange policy you can convert up to 8 course points. Most courses in McCombs are 45 hours and will convert to 2 points.

Personally I would recommend taking no more than 4 courses. Take in consideration that the MBA+ project might count as a course too but you need to get an approval from TAU. The courses I took required about 3-5 hours a week (each) to prepare the cases when projects, presentations and team work will consume extra time too. Make sure you check the course syllabus before you choose – all the information you need will be there.

My favorite classes are Global management with the famous John Doggett and Strategic marketing that combines a real simulation and a “competition” in class.

Weather: Austin, TX share the same wide line with Israel so over all the weather is similar. Unlike Israel it might rain throughout the year (ye, even when it’s 40 degrees Celsius out there) so make sure you have an umbrella.

Dress code in McCombs: As part of orientation you will have a “dress code” talk. Basically the code is business casual and no one will comment on your outfit. In order to access the Ford Career Center (or have an interview in general), you will have to wear a suit.

Traveling around Austin: Depending on your budget, you can easily travel to other states and south to Mexico, if you decided to stay in Texas you can take the bus and travel to Dallas, Houston and San Antonio in 2-3 hours – ask your classmates and locals for some “Insiders” tip on where to go. If you love zoos, I will recommend Fort Worth Zoo. If you are looking for shopping, San Marcus outlet will be your place to go. You can also enjoy New Orleans if you are willing to drive 7-9 hours.