

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

New International Students **Pre-Arrival Information Packet**

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If you need help understanding this information, please contact the International Office.

F-1 Visa Students

International Students admitted into a degree program at Texas State are issued a Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility), which allows them to apply for an F-1 Student Visa. If you said that you needed this visa, the International office will mail/has mailed the I-20 form to you for your initial attendance at Texas State. Be sure to follow all proper procedures to obtain your F-1 Student Visa. The best source of information will be an online guide available on the Department of Homeland Security's website: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/>.

To apply for the visa, make an appointment at your nearest American Embassy/Consulate. When you go to the visa interview, remember to take your original form I-20, your enclosed acceptance letter to Texas State, your financial support documents, and your passport.

Please review the "Program Reporting Date" in Part 5 on your I-20. Due to current Department of Homeland Security regulations, you may enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before that program reporting date and no later than the actual program reporting date (usually the first day of classes). Please keep these dates in mind when making travel arrangements to avoid any problems when entering the United States.

If there is an error on your I-20, notify the Texas State International Office or the Admissions Office immediately. If the error is found to be one that will cause problems at your visa appointment or at entry into the US, you will be issued a corrected I-20, otherwise you may be advised to keep the I-20 and have it corrected at the International Office upon your arrival.

Transportation from the Airport

Texas State University does not provide transportation from the airport. We recommend arriving at the Austin or San Antonio airport and taking ground transportation such as a taxi or Super Shuttle from the airport to your residence. You can find more information about local airport transportation from here:

<http://www.international.txstate.edu/prospective/afterapplying/travelling.html>

Complete Undergraduate Admissions "Next Steps"

Before you arrive, be sure that you review and complete all the "Next Steps" which Undergraduate Admissions lists on their website here:

<http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/international-admit.html>

Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Freshman

****Mandatory for all Undergraduate Students**** All students should review the e-mails which come from Undergraduate Admissions/NSO staff which include information about how to sign

up for NSO and allow you to pay the NSO fee online. Find the category that fits you on the NSO sign up page (<http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/orientation.html>), and sign up using the link for *international* under your category. NSO is where you will meet with an Academic Advisor, and be registered for your classes.

The information given at NSO is not specific to international students, which is why it is important to attend **both** the mandatory NSO orientation, **and Resource Fair** for International students, which is hosted by the International Office.

You will be able to meet your academic advisor, and will be registered for classes during NSO

Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Transfers

Undergraduate transfer students coming in with more than 30 hours... You may be able to ask the NSO staff to allow you to complete your NSO online. If you complete all of the NSO requirements online you will not have to attend NSO in person. However, if you do not complete the Online NSO by the deadline which Undergraduate Admission sets, you will have to attend the NSO session in person. <http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/orientation>

The information given at NSO is not specific to international students, which is why it is important to attend **both** the mandatory NSO orientation, **and Resource Fair** for International students, which is hosted by the International Office.

You will be able to meet your academic advisor, and will be registered for classes during NSO

Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Exchange Students

**Special note for Study Abroad Exchange Students.*

Follow the instructions provided by your Study Abroad advisor regarding class registration and completion of the mandatory New Student Orientation.

Graduate College Orientation

All graduate students should review the Online Graduate Student Orientation which is available on the website here: (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Orientation>). Additionally, the Graduate College hosts an in-person Graduate Orientation each Spring semester. The information is not specific to international students, which is why it is important to attend **both** the Graduate College orientation, and the International Orientation which is hosted by the International Office prior to the start of each semester. Students will be notified of the Graduate Orientation by email.

Advising and Class Registration

Graduate Students will not be able to register for classes until they have received Academic Advising from their Graduate Advisor. Your Graduate Advisor will tell you which classes you are able to register for and answer questions you may have about the program. Students are encouraged to e-mail the Graduate Advisor for their program prior to arriving in Texas in order to set up an advising appointment. Once advised, students must register for classes online

through CatsWeb (Texas State Self-Service). **Class registration must be completed prior to the date indicated on the following website:**

<http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/registration.html>

International Check-In and Resource Fair for New International Students

A week before the semester begins, the International Office will host a mandatory check-in for all new international students. Your attendance at one of the check-in sessions and International Student Resource Fair is required. During the immigration check-in, you will present the International Office with your passport, I-94, visa, and signed I-20. During the International Student Resource Fair you will meet with campus departments as well as be introduced to other university services and resources. You will also be able to ask questions about university life and procedures and discuss immigration requirements and employment. RSVP here: <http://www.international.txstate.edu/prospective/orientation.html>

Note: If you arrive after the check-in sessions, please contact the International Office to arrange for a late check-in session.

Paying your Tuition

You will not be able to pay for tuition until you register for class. To pay your tuition bill at Texas State, you must log into the Student Business Services website (SBS) or visit the Bursar's office on the first floor of the J.C. Kellam (JCK) Building. You may learn about payment options such as installment payments and wire transfers here: <http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/> under Student Services, Payment Options

Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) Student Requirements and other country government sponsored students

If you are sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM), Kuwait, WAMS during

1. Provide a copy of your Texas State University acceptance letter to your government advisor.
2. Confirm with government advisor that you are eligible to receive a scholarship for **non-conditional admission** to Texas State.
3. Verify that the Texas State Intensive English (TSIE) (Thornton Int. House, Room 300) has a copy of your valid Financial Guarantee Letter provided by SACM. If you have not been approved for a scholarship or have not submitted a copy of your Financial Guarantee to TSIE, **you will be responsible for paying your own tuition.**

Bacterial Meningitis Immunization Documentation

State law requires that all new students up to the age of 21 at the time of their first class day at Texas State must provide proof of immunization for bacterial meningitis. You must meet this requirement before you will be allowed to register for classes.

- If your country does not offer a meningitis vaccination, you must make an appointment to get one when you arrive in Texas (before the class registration period ends).
- If you already have received a meningitis vaccination before, or if you have just received the vaccination, you will need to submit proof through CatsWeb (Texas State's Self-Service) system here: https://ssb.txstate.edu/prod/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin. A processing fee of \$10 will be charged when creating the required Magnus Health SMR account to submit the proof of meningitis.
- If you have any questions on how to submit the proof, please follow the directions found here: <http://www.healthcenter.txstate.edu/meningitis/submitproof.html>.

Health Insurance Requirements

Texas State requires that **all non-immigrant international students** enrolled in classes to have health insurance that meets the minimum requirements set by the university's Student Health Center. **International students will be required to purchase the International Student Health Insurance Plan or submit a waiver.** Students will have to purchase the health insurance directly through Academic Health Plans. Please review the website for further details: <http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/Health-insurance-.html>

Third Party Government Sponsored Students: If you currently receive health insurance by a government sponsorship/scholarship, who will fund your education in the United States, you can submit a waiver. You should submit your letter of financial guarantee/ financial support to our office as soon as possible. Please email your documents to tsie@txstate.edu and international@txstate.edu.

Employer Insurance coverage: If your spouse or guardian lives in the United States and claims you as a dependent for insurance coverage, you may also to submit a waiver through the International Student Health Insurance.

On-campus Housing Information

Texas State Housing Policy requires all students under the age of 20 and with less than 30 credit hours earned by September 1, 2016, to live in on-campus housing.

To live in a Residence Hall on campus or the university owned off-campus apartments, known as Bobcat Village, you must sign a year-long contract and purchase a meal plan. You will need to complete the steps found online here: <http://www.reslife.txstate.edu/future/timeline.html#process>

Off-campus Housing Information

Living off-campus housing options (an apartment or house not owned by Texas State University)

- a) Find a friend or family member that is willing to let you stay in their home
- b) **Find your own apartment or house using an apartment locating service** (online or in person). Internet Search, Keywords: “apartments in San Marcos TX 78666”
- c) When seeking off-campus housing in apartments or rental houses, ***look for places that are walking distance to campus or at the very least on the Bobcat Tram route and near a grocery store (we have two HEBs in San Marcos).***

Before signing a lease:

- Read the lease before you sign it
- Ask about getting your deposit back when you move out
- Ask about whether or not the utilities and water, internet and cable are included in the rent payment or if you have to pay them separately.
- Ask about parking zones and whether or not the complex tows cars without parking passes.
- Check the apartment for broken appliances, cleanliness, and make sure you fill out the inventory sheet thoroughly and indicate any problems.

Check out our housing link here:

<http://www.international.txstate.edu/prospective/afterapplying/housinginformation.html>

Learn more about Renting Information from the Attorney for Students

<http://attorney.dos.txstate.edu/student-resources/editLegalInfoLinks/Renting.html>

Activate Your Texas State Email and Net ID

1. Go to: <https://tim.txstate.edu/onlinetoolkit/CustomLogin?ProceedIdVet=True>
2. Enter your identifier: Type in your Student ID number (this number is found at the top of your acceptance letter)
3. Enter your date of birth MMDDYY format. For example, if you were born on September 28th, 1980, your temporary Pin Code would be 092880
4. Enter the Generated image
5. Input the required information and remember to input information exactly what was on your Apply TX and answer the on-screen directions until your Net ID has been activated
6. If you have trouble contact ITAC 512.245.4822

Finding On-Campus Jobs

F-1 students can only work on campus and for regular wage positions. The best way to find an on-campus job is to create a profile and begin searching Jobs4Cats before the semester starts. You can learn how to use Jobs4Cats here:

<http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/employment/oncampus.html>

GA Positions are competitive and not guaranteed for any student: Almost every Graduate student who is admitted to Texas State would like to acquire a Graduate Assistantship. Because of this, finding a Graduate Assistantship is very difficult and competitive. Priority is given to students who meet the job criteria first and best.

If you are offered a Graduate Assistantship (GA), you must be hired before the 12th class day to be awarded In-State Tuition & complete a Waiver. If you are not hired prior to the 12th class day of the semester, you will not be eligible for in-state tuition that semester. This is non-negotiable.

Talk to other New International Students

The International Office has created a Facebook event page. Also, be sure to like the International Office Facebook page to get the most up-to-date reminders about immigration changes, international events, workshops, and more:

<https://www.facebook.com/TxStateInternationalOffice>

Also follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/Txst_intloffice