

## TEXAS PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD

Students and scholars who do not plan to drive in the U.S. should apply for a Texas Photo Identification Card at the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This card is not related to driving. It is useful as identification when a photo ID is required.

You will need the following documents in order to make your application: passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card, and current enrollment letter. If you have a Social Security Number (SSN), please present your Social Security Card at the time of application. However, an SSN is not necessary to apply for a Texas ID. There is a \$15.00 fee for this card.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS (F-1 and J-1)

Students and scholars who will be in the U.S. for longer than 30 days and plan to drive a car should obtain a Texas Driver's License at the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Access to a car, knowledge of Texas driving regulations, as well as testable driving skills are basic requirements for a driver's license. You must provide your own vehicle when taking the driving test.

Please take the following steps to obtain your driver's license:

- A. Study the information about traffic laws in the Texas Driver's Handbook, which is available in both English and Spanish, from the Department of Public Safety (DPS), as well as, on-line at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/ftp/forms/Dlhandbook.pdf>
- B. Take the written and in-car examinations for driving at any DPS office. If you do not have a driver's license from another state, you must take both a written and a driving test. There is a \$24.00 fee, valid for three opportunities to take the test within a 90-day period. (The written exam is offered in English and Spanish).
- C. You will need the following documents in order to make your application: passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card, current enrollment letter and Social Security Card (if you are eligible to obtain an SSN). If you are not eligible for an SSN (i.e. you are an F-1 student without an offer of employment) you will need to sign a "Social Security Affidavit" at the DPS office when applying for your Texas Driver's License.

Note: If you own a car but do not have insurance, you will NOT be permitted to apply for a driver's license. If possible, it is recommended that you apply for a driver's license before you purchase a car.

12/2007

## DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEPENDENTS

International dependents (F-2, J-2, H-4, etc.) can obtain a Texas Driver's License at the Texas Department of Public Safety Office (DPS). Access to a car, knowledge of Texas driving regulations, as well as testable driving skills are basic requirements for a driver's license. You must provide your own vehicle when taking the driving test.

Please take the following steps to obtain your driver's license:

1. If you are eligible to obtain an SSN (i.e. you are a J-2 dependent and have work authorization), take your EAD (Employment Authorization Document), passport, I-94 card and DS-2019 to the Social Security Administration to apply for an SSN. It will take approximately two to four weeks to obtain your Social Security Card.

If you are not eligible for an SSN (i.e. you are an F-2 or H-4 dependent, or a J-2 dependent without work authorization), you will need to sign a "Social Security Affidavit" at the DPS office when applying for your Texas Driver's License.

Note: If you have already obtained an SSN from a previous visit to the U.S., you will not need to go to the Social Security Office. Simply present your Social Security Card to the DPS when applying for your driver's license.

2. Follow steps A and B on the reverse side of this handout.
3. You will need the following documents in order to make your application: passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card, spouse's current enrollment letter and Social Security Card (if applicable).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Social Security Administration

903 San Jacinto, Suite 102  
Austin, TX 78701  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM  
Phone number: 1-800-772-1213

### Texas Department of Public Safety

Regular office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM

Central Austin: 6121 North Lamar (512-424-2076) - open till 7 pm on Tuesdays  
North Austin: 13730 Research Blvd (512-335-8131) - open till 7 pm on Wednesdays  
South Austin: 4719 South Congress (512-444-5241) - open till 7 pm on Thursdays

### Vehicle and Title Registration Department

(for questions concerning car registration)  
512-465-7611