

THE WELCOME GUIDE

for international students coming to UT



The University of Texas at Austin
Summer/Fall 2009

<http://www.utexas.edu/international/issc/students/new>

Contents

Welcome to The University of Texas at Austin	1
Pre-Arrival Checklist	1
Immigration Matters for New Students	3
Financial Matters	5
Estimate of Annual Expenses	
Evidence of Financial Support	
What about Financial Assistance?	
Health and Immunization Requirements	6
Health Insurance Requirements	
Immunization Requirements	
Orientation Programs	8
Required Immigration Briefing and Check-In	
Welcome Weekend	
Other Orientation Options	
Learning About UT 101 and 102	
Making Connections	
English Requirements for Graduate Students	10
Information for Undergraduate Students	11
Steps to Registration at UT Austin	12
Housing Information	13
International Student Organizations	15
Important Dates	16

ADMITTED BEGINNING SUMMER 2009? The Summer semester consists of two sessions: first and second. Summer courses may be six weeks, nine weeks, or twelve weeks in length. For students admitted to the summer session, Immigration Briefing and Check-In will begin on May 18 in the International Office. Registration for all summer courses will be June 2 and 3. The first day of classes for all first session courses, regardless of duration, is June 4. A separate registration for the second session six-week courses ONLY will be July 10. The second six-week session classes will begin July 13. Summer students are invited to participate in all the August orientation events. See pg. 8 for more details.

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 so you can take advantage of all 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, and winter days may fall below freezing. Students will need warm jackets for winter and light cottons for summer. Austin is also 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 to San Antonio, Houston and Dallas, all of which are centers for cultural and touring performances as well as major sporting events.

International Student and Scholar Services The University of Texas at Austin

Mailing Address

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

Express Mail

600 West 24th Street
Austin, TX 78705

<http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss>

Telephone: 512-471-2477

FAX: 512-471-8848

Pre-Arrival Checklist

- ✿ **Make travel plans to allow sufficient time** for you to familiarize yourself with the University, attend the orientation events, complete housing arrangements, complete immunization and tuberculosis testing requirements, and prepare to register for classes.
- ✿ **Make financial arrangements to receive at least U.S. \$35,500 each year** (more if you plan to bring dependents). Bring at least **\$17,500** with you when you arrive to cover first semester tuition, fees, books, and three month's living expenses. These estimates are higher if you bring dependents, and if you are enrolled in Law School or Business School. The \$17,750 estimate reflects:
 - 1. Tuition and Fees: For the first semester tuition and fees**, undergraduate students should bring \$14,000; students in the Graduate School of Business or School of Law should bring at least \$19,500; graduate students should bring at least \$7,600 and students with an assistantship which qualifies them for resident tuition should bring at least \$4,700. This can be in the form of a bank draft or cashier's check in U.S. dollars made payable to The University of Texas at Austin. Students paying tuition by cash, personal check, traveler's check, or credit card may pay in 3 installments, the first 50% due at the time of registration. **No advance deposit for tuition and fees is required.**
 - 2. Living Expenses: \$3,750** for initial living expenses. A bank draft or cashier's check in U.S. dollars, payable to yourself, is a convenient way to bring money to be deposited with a local bank. However, the draft or check will not clear for your use until 15-30 days after deposit. Therefore, it is recommended that part of this amount be in traveler's checks or cash.

- ✿ **Obtain your visa** (other than Canadian students). If you reside outside the U.S., take your valid passport, Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, evidence of adequate financial support and receipt of SEVIS fee payment to the nearest U.S. Embassy/Consulate to apply for your visa. You may also need to provide proof of ties to your home country, such as job offers, evidence of ownership of a residence or property in your home country, or copies of bank statements from a bank in your home country. For information about other immigration matters, see page 3.
- ✿ **Consider your short-term and long-term housing needs.** Visit <<http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/housing>> for short and long-term options. Due to our large student population, we are unable to reserve off-campus housing on your behalf. Bring an extra copy of your evidence of financial support with you to Austin; it is required for certain housing options. See pages 14-15 for more housing information.
- ✿ **Proof of Immunizations.** See page 7 for Immunization Requirements and instructions on how to show proof of required immunizations to The University of Texas at Austin.
- ✿ **Shipping and Mailing Addresses.** You may use the following **mailing** address until you have an Austin address: YOUR NAME, International Office, c/o Angela Branigan, P.O. Box A, Austin, TX 78713-8901. You may send a limited number of small **parcels** to: YOUR NAME, International Office, 600 W. 24th Street, Austin, TX 78705. Because storage space in the International Office is extremely limited, parcels should be sent to coincide with your arrival.
- ✿ **Arrival Information.** If you arrive on a Saturday or Sunday, you will find that the University, and most businesses, are closed. If you arrive on a weekday, we invite you to visit the International Office (IO) between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. There will be a Welcome Center in the IO beginning Monday, August 3rd, to answer individual questions about living in Austin. The local airport, Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA), is located approximately 15 miles (24 kilometers) from campus.

Unfortunately, the IO is unable to meet you at the airport, however there are 3 transportation options from ABIA:

1. **BUS** - Capitol Metro 100: Austin-Bergstrom Airport to The University of Texas at Austin. Fare is \$0.75. The university stop is at Dean Keeton St. and Speedway. Reservations are not necessary. For more information, please view: <<http://www.capmetro.org/index.asp>> or call Toll Free 1-800-474-1201.
2. **SUPERSHUTTLE** - Approximate fare to the university area is \$14 for one person, \$10 for each additional passenger. Reservations are not necessary. For more information, please view: <<http://www.supershuttle.com>> or call Toll Free 1-800-258-3826.
3. **TAXI** - Approximate fare to university area is \$25.

Immigration Matters for New Students

...who currently reside outside of the U.S.

Most students come to the United States to enroll in a full-time degree program on an F-1 student status. A Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for an F-1 student visa) is issued to students by UT Austin for entry into the U.S. Dependents (spouse or children) of an F-1 visa holder can accompany the student on F-2 dependent visas. F-2s are not permitted to be employed in the U.S., study full-time, or take classes toward a degree.

Some students enter the U.S. in J-1 student status. The J-1 visa is administered by the Department of State and is used for a variety of educational purposes. The Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for a J-1 visa) 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 are classified as J-2, may study, and may apply for permission to work in the U.S.

If you reside outside the U.S., the UT Austin International Office will mail you the certificate of eligibility (Form I-20 or Form DS-2019) after you have submitted the required evidence of financial support. You must then pay the SEVIS fee (see pg. 4). The certificate of eligibility (Form I-20 or Form DS-2019) must be presented at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy when applying for your F-1 or J-1 student visa, along with your unexpired passport, evidence of financial support and SEVIS fee receipt.

If you do not receive the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, DO NOT enter the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 Form DS-2019, you should request at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate that "prospective student" be noted on the B-1/B-2 visa to make a change of status easier to obtain.

... who are currently in the U.S. in F-1 status

If you plan to remain in the U.S., United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations permit a transfer of your immigration status to UT Austin provided that you are in valid F-1 status at the school you are currently attending. You must inform your current school of your intent to transfer to UT Austin as soon as possible but no later than the last day of your final semester at your current school (ex. if spring is your last semester at your current school, then no later than the last day of the spring semester). Your Form I-20 from UT Austin cannot be issued until your current school has been notified and releases your SEVIS record. Please talk to your international student advisor about the transfer process as soon as you decide you will transfer. For more information about the transfer process, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/immigration/transfer.html>.

If you plan to leave the U.S. before enrolling, please use the UT Austin transfer Form I-20 to re-enter the U.S. and to apply for a new visa at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy (if your current F-1 visa has expired or if you changed your status to F-1 while in the U.S.).

**** Failure to complete the transfer process within 15 days of the program start date at UT Austin results in a violation of immigration regulations. Furthermore, you may not work on campus until the transfer of your immigration record is processed. If you are out of status, discuss your options with your current international student advisor or with an immigration advisor at UT Austin.**

...who are already in the U.S. on a visa category other than F or J

If you are in a status other than F-2/B-1/B-2, the University does not require you to change your status to the F-1 or J-1 student status to be enrolled; however, you may not be eligible to work on campus without changing to F-1 or J-1 status. You are required to present your immigration documents to an immigration advisor during Immigration Briefing and Check-In. For individuals interested in changing their status within the U.S., the change of status MUST be submitted to USCIS prior to the expiration of your current status (and prior to the termination of employment for H-1 visa holders). Please contact an immigration advisor at the International Office as soon as possible for advice on your visa status.

SEVIS Fee Information

F-1 and J-1 students whose immigration documents indicate "initial attendance" (I-20) or "begin new program" (DS-2019) must pay the SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee. The cost is \$200 for F-1 students & \$180 for J-1 students. The SEVIS fee must be paid at least 3 business days prior to applying for an initial F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, or at least 3 business days prior to entering the U.S. for F-1 or J-1 students exempt from the visa requirement (e.g. Canadian citizens).

The SEVIS fee can only be paid after obtaining an I-20 or DS- 2019 in one of the following ways:

1. On-line at <www.fmjfee.com> with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express). The student must complete an electronic Form I-901 and print out a receipt as confirmation of payment. The information on Form I-901 must match the I-20 or DS-2019 exactly. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will also mail the student a paper receipt.
2. By mail with a check, money order or foreign draft drawn on a U.S. bank (made payable to the Department of Homeland Security). Form I-901, which can be downloaded from <www.fmjfee.com>, must accompany the payment which is mailed to: DHS, P.O. Box 970020, St. Louis, MO 63197-0020. DHS will mail the student a paper receipt at the address on Form I-901.

Present the SEVIS fee receipt at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate with an F-1 or J-1 visa application form and supporting documents. U.S. Embassies and Consulates will be able to verify SEVIS fee payment electronically, but it is strongly recommended to have the paper receipt when applying for a visa, as well as, when entering the U.S.

Financial Matters

The Cost of Attending UT Austin

The cost of tuition and fees varies by department and level of study. **The cost of tuition is subject to change without notice.** The estimated rates at the time of publication are described in the paragraphs below. Living expenses vary from \$1,250 to \$1,450 per month depending on individual lifestyle. The minimum estimate of \$1,250 is for a single student with a frugal lifestyle. Students with dependents should be prepared to spend more: at least \$625 more per month for a spouse and \$250 more per month for each child. This estimate does not include the cost of dependent health insurance coverage, which can be quite expensive. These estimated living expenses for dependents will appear on the immigration document.

International (nonresident) graduate tuition:

Graduate School of Business: \$1,300 per credit (15 credits minimum load each semester)
 Law: \$1,475 per credit (12 credits minimum load each semester)
 All other graduate departments \$819 per credit (9 credits minimum load each semester)

Resident tuition (available only to qualifying students, such as those with teaching or research assistantships) is \$676 per credit in the Graduate School of Business, \$725 per credit in the School of law, and \$850 per credit in all other graduate departments.

The cost of tuition does not include the required fees, which vary by college, department and course. For an estimated total, see the following Estimated Annual Expense Planner.

International (nonresident) undergraduate tuition:

Undergraduate tuition is a flat rate, based on a minimum course load of 12 credits each semester. This means that a student with a course load of 15 credits is charged the same as a student with a course load of 12 credits. The flat rate assessed varies slightly by college and major. The average flat rate for international students is \$14,700 per semester, which includes the cost of health insurance and other required fees. The average flat rate for students eligible to pay resident tuition is \$4,800 per semester. For more information about flat rate tuition in a specific college or department, visit http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/pubs/tf_flatsem.pdf

Estimated Annual Expense Planner

Minimum Annual Living Expenses:

\$1,250 per month for 12 months = \$15,000
 *Add additional living expenses for dependents:
 \$7,500 for spouse & \$3,000 for each child.

My estimated annual expenses are:

\$ _____ Tuition
 +
 \$ _____ Living Expenses

Tuition and Fees for two long semesters:

Total: \$ _____

Category	International (nonresident)	Resident
Graduate	\$15,270	\$9,330
Graduate School of Business	\$38,910	\$22,890
Law	\$35,410	\$21,850
Undergraduate	\$29,450	\$9,670
PharmD	\$34,810	\$12,960

Evidence of Financial Support

Satisfactory evidence of financial support is required for issuance of the Form I-20 or DS-2019 and to obtain the appropriate visa from the U.S. Consulate or Embassy. The University of Texas at Austin provides a **Certification of Financial Responsibility** (CFR) form for your use in certifying the availability of sufficient funding for your program. This form is available at <<http://www.utexas.edu/international/new>>. Other evidence of financial responsibility is acceptable, and includes: a letter confirming a University academic appointment, a letter from your parent or sponsor confirming their willingness to support your educational program in addition to a bank statement, or other comparable evidence of financial stability. Evidence of financial support may be submitted by fax (512-471-8848), by email (cfr@austin.utexas.edu), or by mail (P.O. Box A, Austin, TX 78713-8901). *Remember to keep original/copies of all financial documents to present at the U.S. Consulate.

IMPORTANT: If you are currently in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status (and thus may not require a new visa), you are still required to submit evidence of financial support in order to process the appropriate immigration transfer. If you are in the U.S. on another type of visa and do not wish to change your status, you are not required to submit evidence of financial support.

What about Financial Assistance?

Financial assistance for which new international students may apply is EXTREMELY LIMITED. 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. If you have been awarded a TA or RA position, we recommend that you send or fax a copy of the award letter to the International Office as soon as possible to ensure prompt issuance of immigration documents. If your departmental award does not equal the annual estimate of expenses, you will need to provide evidence of personal or other funds to supplement the University award. Please remember that TAs and RAs (like other university employees) do not receive the first paycheck until one month after start of employment and/or the beginning of classes.

Admitted students from Mexico may apply for a waiver of the nonresident portion of tuition. Information and application forms are available at:
<<http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/students/financialaid/>>.

Financial aid available to continuing students is also very limited and consists primarily of small amounts of funding for emergency situations. You may be able to find part-time employment on campus; however, there is considerable competition for these jobs. Immigration regulations restrict off-campus employment opportunities. Please review carefully the financial recommendations in the Pre-Arrival Checklist (p.1). You must ensure that you have sufficient funds to cover your educational and living expenses at UT Austin for first and future years of study.

Health Insurance & Immunization Requirements

Student Health Insurance Coverage

The University of Texas Board of Regents requires that all international students have health insurance. Due to this, you will be **automatically** billed for Student Health Insurance when you register for classes. The **cost** of the student health insurance is approximately \$1,300/year, however you will only be billed by long semester (i.e. Fall coverage on the Fall tuition bill; Spring & Summer coverage on the Spring tuition bill).

New students are also charged a one-month health insurance fee of \$93; health insurance coverage and access to medical care at University Health Services (UHS) begins approximately one month before classes start. Students and dependents who arrive earlier than July 27, 2008 should have their own temporary travel health insurance.

It is possible to obtain a waiver of the student health insurance that is billed to your tuition and fee bill. For information regarding the Student Health Insurance plan, waiver eligibility requirements, policies & procedures, as well as to download the appropriate waiver request form to be submitted

to the International Office, please see the following website:
<<http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/insurance/>>

IMPORTANT: Waiver requests must be approved by the International Office by the 12th class day of the current semester (e.g. Fall waiver requests must be approved by September 11, 2009). **Waiver requests will NOT be accepted after the 12th class day.**

Health Insurance for Dependents

Health insurance is highly recommended for dependent family members due to the high cost of medical care in the U.S. The cost of family insurance coverage is estimated to be \$3,203 per year for a spouse and \$1,730 per year for all children. These amounts are in addition to the estimate for living expenses included on immigration documents. Insurance for dependents may be purchased at the International Office.

NOTE: Medical insurance coverage is mandatory for the accompanying spouse and children of J-1 visa holders, under regulations of the Department of State. 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. For updated costs, go to <<http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/insurance/>>.

University Health Services (UHS)

Immunization Requirements

International students cannot register for classes until they have submitted documentation to University Health Services (UHS) that they have met the following immunization requirements:

1. Proof of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella
2. A PPD (Mantoux) skin test for tuberculosis (TB) administered in the United States

Please print the **TB and Vaccination History for International Students** form (see below) and have your healthcare provider complete and sign it. If you are outside of the U.S., DO NOT complete the TB screening portion. The TB test must be administered in the U.S.

You will take the completed, signed form and your immunization records to the UHS Allergy/Immunization Clinic (Student Services Building 2nd floor) as soon as you arrive in Austin. If your healthcare provider cannot complete the form, take another form of immunization documentation to UHS if you have it.

For details about medical clearance requirements and to print the **TB and Vaccination History for International Students** form, go to the “*Incoming Students*” section of <www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu> and click “*Medical Requirements to Attend UT for International Students.*”

Immunization Clinic

University Health Services (UHS), located at 100 West Dean Keeton St. in the Student Services Building, provides immunizations and TB screening by appointment, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, starting approximately one month before classes begin. There is a fee for immunizations performed by the University. To schedule an appointment, call (512) 471-4955.

In addition, there will be a special immunization clinic held at the UHS on the following dates from 8:30 am - 11:30 am and from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm. You may walk in, but to avoid a wait, please schedule an appointment in advance.

- Monday, August 10
- Thursday, August 13
- Saturday, August 15
- Monday, August 17
- Wednesday, August 19

Orientation to UT Austin

Required Immigration Briefing and Check-in

You are required to attend the Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC) to clear your IO bar and prepare to register for classes. This 75-minute session reviews the basic information international students need, including immigration rules and regulations, health insurance, and registration. Register for IBC online at <http://www.utexas.edu/international/issss/students/new/>. IBC is not available on weekends or on Friday, August 14. IBC will begin:

- Monday, May 18, for students admitted beginning Summer 2009
- Monday, July 15, for students admitted beginning Fall 2009

Welcome Weekend

Welcome Weekend begins with the International Student Orientation Program on Friday, August 14. This fun and interactive event begins at 9:30 am and ends at 2:30 pm. This is your opportunity to meet many other international students and make connections with departments on campus. The highlight of this day is the Welcome Lunch and Information Fair.

Friday, August 14

- International Student Orientation
- TX Union Ballroom
- 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Saturday, August 15

- International Office Welcome Center open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Tours of campus depart the IO at 10:00 am and Noon
- Tours of Austin depart the IO at 10:00 am, Noon and 2:00 pm
- Ice Cream Social 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday, August 16

- International Office Welcome Center open 10:00 am - 4 pm
- Shopping Shuttle departs the IO on the 1/2 hour from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Orientation is not required, but it is very important. If you cannot attend, we invite you to explore our new student web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/international/issss/students/new/>.

Other Orientation Options

For your convenience, the **Graduate School** offers orientation online at <http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/orientation/>. In addition, many graduate departments offer orientation programs specifically for students in that department.

Undergraduate Summer Orientation Program The Dean of Students Office offers orientation programs during June and July for freshmen and transfer students. These programs provide on-campus housing, 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 the web site at utorientation.com. Attendance does not substitute for the International Student Orientation on August 14. You must go through the IBC in the IO before you register.

Undergraduate College Meetings Attend college meetings on Wednesday, August 19 and Thursday, August 20 at 8:00 am (location to be determined) to learn more about degree requirements and make an appointment for academic advising. Attendance is mandatory.

When do I need to arrive in Austin?

The answer to this frequently asked question depends upon your choice of orientation options, your housing needs, your immunization requirements, your budget and many other factors. The program is designed for you to receive an orientation whenever you arrive.

If it is important to you to participate in the entire orientation program, you may choose to arrive on Wednesday, August 12 or before.

A sample schedule:

August 13	Learning about UT 101 (also offered August 5)
August 14	International Student Orientation
August 15	City and Campus Tours, Immunization Clinic, Ice Cream Social
August 16	Shopping Trip
August 17	Learning about UT 102 (also offered August 11)
August 17-19	Immigration Briefing and Check-in
August 20-21	Registration

If it is important to you to arrive as late as possible and still register at the earliest possible opportunity (August 20), then you will probably need to arrive during the day on August 17, in order to complete the required health and TB testing prior to August 20.

Learning about UT 101 and 102

If you would like to experience orientation in a classroom setting, Learning about UT 101 and 102 are for you. These are a series of information sessions, “mini-courses” about topics of interest to new students. Attendance is optional. You are welcome to attend any part of either set of courses. Learning about UT 101 and 102 take place in the Texas Union Theater.

Learning about UT 101 (August 5 & 13)

Getting Around Austin
Knowing the Law
Health Insurance (UHS)
Personal Safety
Employment & Taxes

Learning about UT 102 (August 11 & 17)

How to Register for Classes
Using the Course Schedule
Tips for Academic Success
Academic Integrity
Internship & Career Opportunities
Buying Books On-line

**An updated schedule will be available in the International Office in August.

Making Connections

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. In addition to the fun-filled Welcome Weekend, there will be an opportunity to meet other students for movies, swimming, ice cream or simply socializing – on the following dates:

Wednesday, August 5	Movie Night
Friday, August 7	Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, August 12	Movie Night
Saturday, August 15	Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, August 19	Movie Night
Friday, August 21	Ice Cream Social
Saturday, August 22	Trip to Zilker Park & Swimming Pool

**All events are subject to change

English as a Second Language Courses offered by the International Office

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

ESL courses may be right for students who:

- would like to take a short ESL program prior to the beginning of the fall semester
- need to take an English course during the 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 by dependents of UT students, scholars, or faculty/staff. I-20's 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 & an application, visit ESL Services website at www.utexas.edu/student/esl, email: esl@www.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-2480. Classes fill quickly, so apply soon.

English Requirements for Graduate Students

English Screening

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). On the iBT, you would be required for screening if you had a writing/speaking score below 22. 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 adviser will be informed of any resulting recommendations for courses, which are designed for students whose native language is not English.

International Teaching Assistants (TA) & 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 half-day ITA Workshop offered just prior to the start of each semester. (Note the Oral English Assessment is different from and in addition to the English Screening.) Further details are online at <http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl/ita>, including options for those who fail the assessment or receive a conditional pass.

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: ita.io.utexas.edu.
2. Make an appointment for the Oral English Assessment online at: <http://www.tiec.org/tiep/ita.htm>. A limited number of dates are available.
3. Complete the ITA workshop online at: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl/certificationcalendar.html>

Testing and Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Students

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) (formerly TASP) is a state-legislated program designed to improve student success in college. There are two components of the program: 1) an assessment to diagnose students' basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing; and 2) developmental instruction, to strengthen those academic skills that need improvement.

Students who have transferred directly to UT Austin from a college outside the United States are exempt from the TSI. Therefore TSI does not apply to most international students.

All freshmen international students must meet TSI requirements. Visit the TSI Web site at <<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/tsi/>> to review other exemptions. Students who are not exempt must take the THEA, a test of basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. You should register for a Quick THEA on a date offered before the semester begins.

The Quick THEA test dates are June 3, and August 19, 21 & 25, 2009. If you have any questions regarding your status or if you want to register for a Quick THEA, you can e-mail the TSI Office at: vikki.landrum@austin.utexas.edu

Direct questions to:

MAIL: UT TSI Office, 1 University Station, FAC 411, Austin, TX 78712

PHONE: (512) 471-8277, FAX: (512) 471-4990

EMAIL: tasp@www.utexas.edu

UT TSI Web Page: <<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/tsi/>>

To practice the THEA test: <<http://www.thea.nesinc.com>>

On-Campus Testing and Credit by Examination

Tests are required of some students before they will be allowed to register for certain courses because the results are used for placement at appropriate instructional levels. Other tests are optional for all students. On most tests, if you perform well enough, you can earn course credit without taking the course(s).

- You are responsible for determining your eligibility to take a particular test and for identifying tests required of you. You cannot earn credit by examination for a course (or its equivalent) in which you already have a passing or failing grade.

- UT's program of course placement and credit by examination is conducted by the Instructional Assessment and Evaluation Center, P.O. Box 7246, Austin, TX 78713-7246; phone (512) 232-2662. Descriptions of tests and test schedules are at <<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/mec/>>.

Undergraduate Transfer Credit

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 by phone at (512) 475-7391 or email their office at adint@utxdp.dp.utexas.edu.

Steps to Registration at UT Austin

1. Attend IBC at the International Office. Bring your immigration documents and SEVIS fee receipt 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 https://idmanager.its.utexas.edu/eid_self_help. (see info below)
3. Go to the University Health Services (UHS). UHS is located at the Student Services Building (SSB) on Dean Keaton. TB testing and other immunizations are required before you may register for classes. For information on immunization requirements call (512) 475-8301 or visit <http://healthyhorns.utexas.edu>.
4. Access the Course Schedule online at: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/schedules>. *
5. Check Registration Access Times and Bar Information on your Registration Information Sheet (RIS) through <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/student/registrar/ris.WBX>. *
6. See an academic advisor at your individual department concerning classes that are appropriate for your degree plan. Locations for academic advising are listed at <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/advising>. Complete any Registration Advising Worksheets as needed for the meeting with your academic advisor.
7. Register for classes. Use ROSE, the web-based registration system at <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/registrar/reg/Registration.WBX> during your registration access period. See your RIS form (step 5) for dates and times.
8. Pay your fee bill at the Main Building if paying by cash or 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. See: <http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar> for more information regarding financial services. To pay other charges such as ITS, libraries, go to the "What I Owe" page at http://www.utdirect.utexas.edu/acct/rec/wio/wio_home.WBX. *
9. To make changes in your class schedule, refer to the add/drop instructions on ROSE.
10. Obtain a student photo ID (\$10) at the Flawn Academic Center (FAC). Bring a photo ID (such as your passport). See info below.

UT Electronic Identification: Your UT EID, an electronic identifier that allows you to access secure UT Austin web services, is assigned when you apply for admission. To use your EID, you must activate or claim it. At that time you may choose to keep the default name as your UT EID or you may create your own. You must choose a password when you claim your UT EID. Once you have claimed your UT EID and chosen your password, your UT EID is ready to use.

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). 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 UT DIRECT? UT Direct 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 orientation, registration and other student services. The URL is <http://utdirect.utexas.edu>. You may also access UT Direct by clicking on the UT Direct logo on the University's public web site. You must have a UT EID and password to use UT Direct.

* UT EID required

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 for a UT discount. For more information about short-term and long-term housing, see <http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/housing/>.

MOTELS (in order of proximity to UT campus)

Rodeway Inn: 2900 N. IH 35, (512) 477-6395, <www.rodewayinn.com>

Days Inn, University: 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: 9420 N. IH35 (need car), (512) 339-6161, <www.motel6.com>

YOUTH HOSTELS

American Youth Hostel, 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd. (located on the NR shuttlebus route), (512) 444-2294, <www.hiaustin.org>

PRIVATE DORMITORIES AND COOPERATIVES

In the Long-term Housing section below, many of the private dormitories and cooperative houses may accept temporary residents if space is available. Reservations may be

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.

Residence halls or dormitories are living facilities which provide room and meals. Meals are served in a cafeteria. Bathrooms may be shared. Some of the dormitories are located on campus, while many more are privately operated and located off-campus within easy walking distance.

For on-campus housing information and online application, visit the website of the Division of Housing and Food Services at <http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/>, (512) 471-3136; FAX (512)475-6532. Priority for on-campus dormitory housing is given to freshmen (first-year undergraduate students). Apply as early as possible as spaces are limited.

Following is a listing of private dormitories: <<http://www.austindorms.com>>

The Castilian Dormitory: 2323 San Antonio, (512) 478-9811, <<http://www.thecastilian.com>>

Goodall-Wooten Dorm: 2112 Guadalupe St., (512) 472-1343, <<http://www.goodallwooten.com>>

Dobie Center: 2021 Guadalupe, (512) 505-1000, <<http://www.dobiecenter.com>>

University Towers: 801 W. 24th St., (512) 472-5846, <<http://www.universitytowers.com>>

Abbey House: 408 W. 17th St., (512) 474-2408,

<<http://www.abbey-house.com/abbey/index.php>>

Hardin House Dorm: (women only) 2206 Rio Grande, (512) 472-6717,

<<http://www.hardinhouse.com/>>

Cooperative houses are democratically-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: (512) 476-5678, <<http://www.collegehouses.coop>>

If you are interested in living in a College House Co-op, you need to contact the individual Membership Coordinator from each house. Go to the website listed above to find the house Coordinator and ask about living co-op style.

UT Inter-Cooperative Council: (512) 476-1957, <<http://www.iccaustin.coop/index.shtml>>

German House (Deutsches Haus): (512) 477-8865, <<http://www.utexas.edu/students/dhaus/>>

A mix of people from all over the world live here!

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 more information and application, visit the Division of Housing and Food Services website at <<http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/>>, (512) 471-3136

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. *For more information about bus transportation, see the section further below.*

Apartments are usually rented in person, but apartment locator services may assist you before you arrive:

Apartment Finders: (512) 322-9556 or 1-800-711-0498 <<http://www.ausapt.com>>

Properties One: (512) 836-0727 <<http://www.prop1.com>>

Habitat Hunters: (512) 482-8651 <<http://www.habitathunters.com>>

A+ Properties: (512) 231-1400 <<http://www.aplusapartments.com>>

ELY Properties: (512) 476-1976 <<http://www.elyproperties.com/>>

Texas Apartment Locators: (512) 472-1900 <<http://www.texasapt.com>>

Austin 4 Rent: (512) 452-0122 <<http://www.austin4rent.com>>

Austin Apartment Store: (512) 828-4470 <<http://www.austinapartmentstore.com>>

The Perfect Place: (512) 791-7774, rbjeffrey@austin.rr.com

West Campus: <<http://www.gowestcampus.com/>>

UT Website Housing and Accommodations Information:

<<http://www.utexas.edu/austin/housing.html>>

Daily Texan: <<http://www.dailytexanonline.com>>

Austin Chronicle: <<http://classifieds.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase>>

Austin American Statesman: <<http://www.statesman.com/classifieds/content/classifieds/index.html>>

Yahoo: <<http://realestate.yahoo.com>>

Craig's List: <<http://austin.craigslist.org>>

Local Bus Transportation

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. Obtain more information about the routes that serve the UT campus at <http://www.capmetro.org/riding/schedules_ut.asp>. For city bus/UT shuttle routes and schedules: <<http://www.capmetro.org/riding/schedulesandmaps.asp>>.

The UT shuttle buses do not require any form of payment or ID to ride. The city bus cost \$0.75, but after you have your UT photo ID card made, you can swipe the ID card as you enter the bus and ride for free. The Airport Limited #100 bus will cost \$0.75 and the only UT bus stop is located near Speedway and Dean Keeton St.

Campus Tours

Tours of campus are available every weekday at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Tours depart from the Information Kiosk located on the first floor of the Main Building (MAI). The Main Building is where the UT Tower is located. See the following website for additional information regarding Camput Tours: <<http://www.utexas.edu/tours/>>

International Student Organizations

Many UT student organizations are eager to be in contact with new students and answer questions about life at the University. Following are some of the many student organizations at UT. Visit <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sald/studentorgs/vieworgs.php> to view all student organizations currently registered at the University.

- African Students Association** <<http://ut-asa.org>>
- Arab Students Association** <<http://www.utexas.edu/students/arab>>
- Austin Japan Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/aja>>
- Caribbean Students Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/csaut>>
- Chinese Student Association** <<http://www.longhorncsa.org>>
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/cssa>>
- European Students Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/esa>>
- Filipino Students Association** <<http://www.texasflips.org>>
- Hong Kong Students Association** <<http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~hkasa>>
- Indian Students Association** <<http://ut-isa.org>>
- Iranian Students Academic Association** <<http://www.isaco.org>>
- Korean Students Association** <<http://www.utksaweb.org>>
- Mexican Student Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/mexico>>
- Organizacion Latinoamericana** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/ola>>
- Pakistani Students Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/paksa>>
- Singapore Students Association** <<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/ssa/>>
- Taiwanese Int'l Students Association** <<http://www.uttisa.com>>
- Turkish University Students Association** <<http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~tusa/>>

PALS: Partnerships to Advance Language Study and Cultural Exchange

The PALS Program, a registered UT student organization affiliated with the Intercultural Programs of the International Office, 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, potlucks, and picnics. Informal group language instruction is also available through The English Corner and The Spanish Corner. Joining PALS, at any time during your studies at UT, is a great way to improve language skills and become more familiar with U.S. American culture. Get more information at <http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/iopals/>

UT Family and Community Programs

UT Family and Community Programs offer advice and programming for international students and their families settling into the Austin community. Their web site has an Info Guide to help you find Austin resources and learn how to use them for your benefit. Get more information at <http://www.utexas.edu/international/utfamily/index.html>.

Important Dates

May 18, Monday. Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC) begins for new summer students.

June 2-3, Tuesday-Wednesday. Registration for new summer students only: register for all courses to be taken during the summer; fees must be paid by 5:00 pm on June 3 for undergraduates and 5:00 pm on June 5 for graduate and law students.

July 10, Friday. Registration for new summer students (second session) only. Undergraduate students registering July 11 pay fees no later than 5:00 pm on July 11. Graduate and law students must pay by 5:00 pm on July 15.

July 15, Wednesday. IBC for new fall students begins.

August 3, Monday. IO Welcome Center opens Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

August 5, Wednesday. Movie Night • Learning About UT 101

August 7, Friday. Ice Cream Social, 4:00 - 5:00pm

August 10, Monday. UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm

August 11, Tuesday. Learning About UT 102

August 12, Wednesday. Movie Night

August 13, Thursday. UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm
• Learning About UT 101

August 14, Friday. International Student Orientation Program & Information Fair 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

August 15, Saturday. Welcome Weekend activities!

- International Office Welcome Center open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm
- Tours of Austin depart from the IO at 10:00 am, Noon and 2:00 pm
- Tours of campus depart from the IO at 10:00 am and Noon
- Ice Cream Social, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

August 16, Sunday. Welcome Weekend continues!

- International Office Welcome Center open - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Shopping Shuttle - departs IO on the 1/2 hour from 11:00 am -3:00 pm

August 17, Monday. UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm
• Learning About UT 102

August 18, Tuesday. Exchange Student Orientation 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
• UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm

August 19, Wednesday. UHS Immunization Clinic 8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:30 pm
• Movie Night

August 20-21, Thursday – Friday. Registration for new fall students only. Fees must be paid no later than 5:00 pm on August 25th for undergraduates, and by 5:00 pm on August 31st for graduates.

August 21, Friday. University Residence halls open at 9:00 am (for students with an on-campus housing contract) • Ice Cream Social

August 22, Saturday. Trip to Zilker Park and Swimming Pool

August 25, Tuesday. “Gone to Texas.” Campus-wide event for new students, 8:00 pm outside on Main mall (near Tower)

August 26, Wednesday. Classes begin.

September 7, Monday. Labor Day Holiday. University closed.