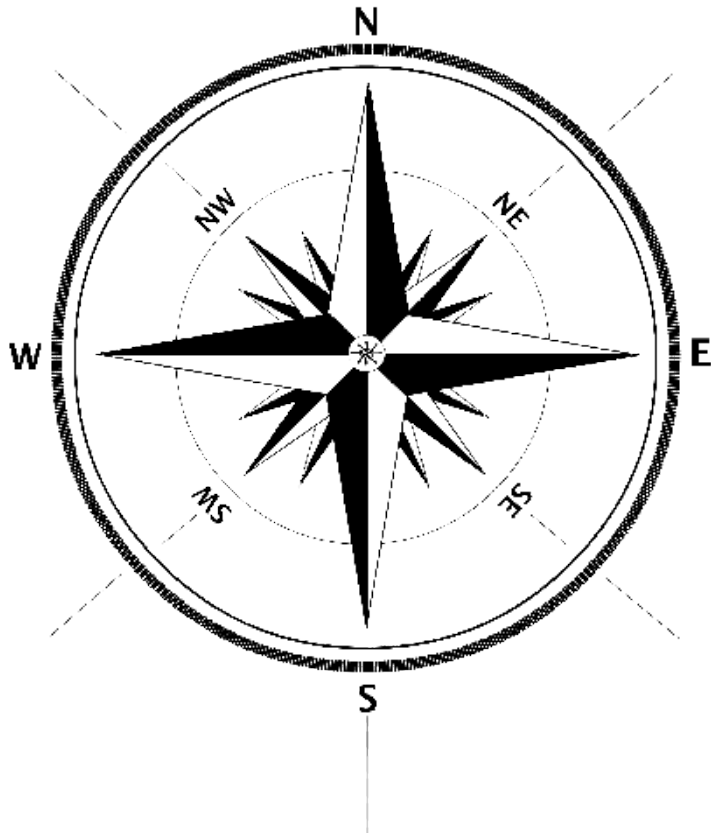


# THE WELCOME GUIDE



Spring 2010

International Student and Scholar Services

[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/students/new](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/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

## **UNABLE TO ATTEND SPRING 2010?**

**If you wish to defer your admission to a future semester, send a written request to the Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC). If you are a graduate student, you should also notify your graduate department. New immigration documents will be issued when you are admitted for a future semester.**

## 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. \$35,000 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 \$17,500 estimate reflects:
  - 1. Tuition and Fees: For the first semester tuition and fees**, undergraduate students should bring \$14,700; students in the Graduate School of Business or School of Law should bring at least \$19,400; 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: \$3,000** 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 resources 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 as well as suggested ways to seek off-campus housing. 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.** International students should not mail their form to UHS. Instead, bring your form to the Allergy/Immunization clinic on the 2nd floor of the Student Services Building when you arrive to Austin. Students born outside of the U.S. will be barred from registering for classes (even during new student orientation) until UHS has documentation that they have met the medical clearance requirements. Your physician or health care provider must complete the sections on your immunization history, including documentation of required immunizations. ONLY Tuberculin PPD (Mantoux) skin tests and chest x-rays performed in the U.S. within 1 year of your enrollment at UT will be accepted. More information can be found at <<http://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu>>.
- ✿ **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, January 4th, 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 - Capital Metro <<http://www.capmetro.org>>  
#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.  
Phone: 1-800-474-1200 (reservations are not necessary)
2. SUPERSHUTTLE <<http://www.supershuttle.com>>  
Approximate fare to the university area is \$13-19 for one person, \$10 for each additional passenger.  
Phone: 1-800-258-3826 (reservations are not necessary)  
Supershuttle (Blue Van) reservation desk is located inside the airport.
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 in degree programs.

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 SEVIS Fee Information). 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. 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 fall is your last semester at your current school, then no later than the last day of the fall 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/library/transfer.shtml>>.

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, the University does not require you to change your status to 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 international student 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 international student 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 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 (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: I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee, P.O. Box 970020, St. Louis, MO 63197-0020. If using courier service, mail your I-901 to: I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101. 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.

**Please note:**

**Effective October 27, 2008, the SEVIS fee increased from \$100 to \$200 for F-1 students, and from \$100 to \$180 for J-1 students.**

## 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 \$1,400 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: \$19,460 per semester (15 credits minimum load each semester)  
 Law: \$17,705 per semester (12 credits minimum load each semester)  
 All other graduate departments: \$7,600 per semester (9 credits minimum load each semester)

Resident tuition is available only to qualifying students, such as those with teaching or research assistantships. 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 \$4,500 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](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

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Tuition and Fees for two long semesters:

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 from your parent or sponsor confirming their willingness to support your educational program, along with a bank statement, certification of employment, 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](mailto:cfr@austin.utexas.edu)), or by mail (P.O. Box A, Austin, TX 78713-8901).

\*Remember to keep originals/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.

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 December 14, 2009 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 more 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. Spring waiver requests must be approved by 5:00 PM on February 3, 2010).

### 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 tuberculosis screening test performed in the United States

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

Take the completed, signed form with your immunization records to the UHS Allergy/Immunization Clinic upon arrival to Austin. If your healthcare provider cannot complete the form, provide an alternate form of immunization documentation to the UHS if you have it.

For details about medical clearance and to print the **TB and Vaccination History for International Students** form, visit the *Incoming Students* section at <[www.healthyhorns.com](http://www.healthyhorns.com)>, click on *Medical Requirements to Attend UT for International Students* under the *Helpful Links* section.

### Immunization Clinic

The UHS, located at 100 West Dean Keeton St., in the Student Services Building (SSB), 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 and appointment, call (512) 475 - 8301.

In addition, there will be a special Immunization and TB Screening Test Clinic held at the UHS during the week of registration. Go to the *Incoming Students* section of <[www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu](http://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu)> and click *Medical Requirements to Attend UT Austin for International Students* under the *Helpful Links* section. You may receive immunizations and the TB screening test during this clinic without an appointment, but to avoid a longer wait, please schedule an appointment in advance by calling (512) 475-8301.

## 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/isss/students/new/>. IBC will begin on Monday, December 7, 2009. IBC is not available on weekends or Tuesday mornings.

### Welcome Weekend

Welcome Weekend begins with the International Student Orientation Program on Friday, January 8, 2010. This fun and interactive event begins at 9:30 am and ends at 3:30 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, January 8

- International Student Orientation (TX Union Theatre)
- 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

### Saturday, January 9

- 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 and Noon
- Shopping Shuttle to Target 2:00 pm - 4:00 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/isss/students/new/>.

### Other Orientation Options

**Graduate students** should view [www.utexas.edu/ogs/current](http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/current) for new student and department orientation information.

**Undergraduate students are required** to attend college meetings on Monday, January 11th (times and locations to be determined). During these meetings you will learn about degree requirements and how to make an appointment for academic advising. For more information, please see <http://bealonghorn.utexas.edu> or [utorientation.com](http://utorientation.com). Attendance does not substitute for the Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC). You must go through the IBC in the IO before you register for classes!

## 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, January 6th or before. Reminder: The University is closed from December 22nd to January 1st.

A sample schedule:

January 8	International Student Orientation
January 9	Campus & City Tours; Shopping Shuttle
January 11-15	Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC)
January 13	New Student Registration

**If it is important to you to arrive as late as possible and still register at the earliest possible opportunity** (January 13th), then you will probably need to arrive during the day on January 11th, in order to complete the required health and TB testing prior to January 13th.

### Welcome Center

The Welcome Center will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday, January 4th - 15th. Here you will have access to a variety of resources that will help make your transition to Austin and The University much more easy! Information includes, but is not limited to:

- Short-term & Long-term Housing
- Buying Books
- Obtaining a TX Driver's License
- Local Specialty Stores to purchase clothing & food

Please feel free to utilize the Welcome Center and it's resources as much as possible upon arrival to The University.

### 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 a movie and socializing on the following date:

Monday, January 11th    Movie Night

\*\*Event is 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](http://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](http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl), email: [esl@www.utexas.edu](mailto: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) 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 adviser will be informed of any resulting requirements for courses, which are designed for students whose native language is not English. For more information: [www.utexas.edu/student/esl/jbar.html](http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl/jbar.html)

### 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 <http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl/ita>.
2. Make an appointment for the Oral English Assessment at: <http://www.tiec.org/tiep/ita.htm>. A limited number of dates are available.
3. Attend 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 January 12 & January 15, 2010. 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: [ugs@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:ugs@uts.cc.utexas.edu).

Direct questions to:

Texas Success Initiative, Flawn Academic Center, Room 411  
1 University Station G8000  
phone (512) 471-8277, FAX: (512) 232-8418  
UT TSI Web Page: <<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/tsi/>>

### 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, 2616 Wichita Street, 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](mailto: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](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://registrar.utexas.edu/schedules>. \*
5. Check Registration Access Times and Bar Information on your Registration Information Sheet (RIS) through <http://registrar.utexas.edu/students/registration/before/ris/index.html>. \*
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 the web-based registration system at <http://registrar/utexas.edu/schedules/102/registration/index.html> 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](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.
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 <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/housing/](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](http://www.rodewayinn.com)>

**Days Inn: University Area:** 3105 N. IH 35, (512) 478-1631, <[www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)>

**Doubletree:** 303 W. 15th, (512) 478-7000 <[www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com)>

**La Quinta Inn:** 5812 N. IH 35 (need car), (512) 459-4381 <[www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)>

**Motel 6:** 5330 NIH35, (512) 467-9111 <[www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com)>

#### YOUTH HOSTELS

**Hosteling International Austin,** 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd. (located on the NR shuttlebus route), (512) 444-2294 <[www.hiaustin.org](http://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 required.

### 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 an 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

#### Private dormitories: <<http://www.austindorms.com>>

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

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

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

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

**Abbey House:** 408 W. 17th St., (512) 474-2408 <[www.abbey-house.com](http://www.abbey-house.com)>

**Hardin House Dorm: (women only)** 2206 Rio Grande (512) 472-6717, <[www.hardinhouse.com](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 <[www.collegehouses.org/contact.html](http://www.collegehouses.org/contact.html)>

**UT Inter-Cooperative Council:** <[www.iccaustin.coop/index](http://www.iccaustin.coop/index)>

**German House (Deutsches Haus):** 2103 Nueces St. (512) 477-8865

<[studentorgs.utexas.edu/dhaus/](http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/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 <[www.utexas.edu/student/housing/](http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/)>, (512) 471-3136, FAX: (512) 475-6532.

**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. *Note: The International Office does not endorse the below listed locator services.*

#### **UT Website Housing and Accommodations Information:**

<[www.utexas.edu/austin/housing.html](http://www.utexas.edu/austin/housing.html)>

**A+ Apartments:** (512) 836-0727 <[www.aplusapartments.com](http://www.aplusapartments.com)>

**Austin Chronicle:** <[www.auschron.com/class/](http://www.auschron.com/class/)>

**Apartment Finders:** (512) 322-9556 <[www.ausapt.com](http://www.ausapt.com)>

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

**Austin American Statesman:** <[classifieds.austinchronicle.com](http://classifieds.austinchronicle.com)>

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

**Craig's List:** <[austin.craigslist.org](http://austin.craigslist.org)>

**Daily Texan:** <[www.dailytexanonline.com](http://www.dailytexanonline.com)>

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

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

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

**Remax Affinity Group:** (512) 795-4532 <[www.affinityproperties.com](http://www.affinityproperties.com)>

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

**West Campus:** <[www.gowestcampus.com/](http://www.gowestcampus.com/)>

**Yahoo:** <[realestate.yahoo.com/Texas/Austin](http://realestate.yahoo.com/Texas/Austin)>

#### **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 UTcampus at <[www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/shuttle/map.html](http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/shuttle/map.html)>. For city bus/UT shuttle routes and schedules: <[www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org)>. The UT shuttle buses do not require any form of payment or ID to ride. The city bus cost \$.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 \$.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.*

## 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 500 registered student organizations at The University of Texas at Austin. Making contact with a student organization is a great way to get prearrival information, as well as assistance in settling into The University. Please see the following website to view a list of all registered student organizations at The University: <[deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sald/studentorgs/vieworgs.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sald/studentorgs/vieworgs.php)>.

## Intercultural Programs

### **PALS: Partnership to Advance Language Study and Cultural Exchange**

The PALS program is a registered UT student organization affiliated with 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. For more information, please visit <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/pals/](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/pals/)>

### **Language Circles**

Language Circles are informal groups of UT students that meet weekly to practice their language skills. A variety of languages are offered. For more information, please visit <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/language/](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/language/)>

### **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 <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/language/](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/language/)>

### **Bus Trips**

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 <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/bus/](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/bus/)>

### **Coffee Mornings**

Coffee Mornings provide an opportunity for students' spouse and children to participate in cultural activities and discussions. Join the group weekly to enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, and great conversation and crafts! For more information, please visit <[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/coffee/](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/intercultural/coffee/)>

## Important Dates

### December 7, Monday.

- Immigration Briefing and Check-in (IBC) begins for new students.

### December 22 - January 3.

- Staff Holidays - University closed

### January 4, Monday.

- University opens after holiday break
- Welcome Center Opens

### January 8, Friday.

- International Student Orientation  
9:30am - 3:30pm  
TX Union Theatre

### January 9, Saturday. Welcome Weekend Activities

- Welcome Center Open 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Tours of Austin depart the IO at 10:00am & 12:00pm
- Tours of Campus depart the IO at 10:00am & 12:00pm
- Shopping Shuttle to Target runs from 2:00pm - 4:00pm

### January 10, Sunday.

- University Residence Halls open at 9:00am

### January 11, Monday. Get ready to register!

- Check in at the IO if you haven't already done so
- Attend Undergraduate College Meetings
- Movie Night, 6:30pm, location to be determined

### January 13, Wednesday.

- Registration for New Students only

### January 18, Monday.

- Martin Luther King Jr Day - University Closed

### January 19, Tuesday.

- Classes Begin!

### February 3, Wednesday.

- 12th Class Day
- Last day to register

\*\*\*\*\*

### Parking on the The University of Texas at Austin campus

Parking on the UT Campus is available with permits issued by Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) or the parking garages listed below. 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 website at <[www.utexas.edu/parking](http://www.utexas.edu/parking)>, visit the PTS office, or call (512) 471-7275.

#### Parking Garages:

##### San Jacinto Garage (PG1):

2401 San Jacinto Blvd. (between 24th & Dean Keeton Streets)

##### Brazos Garage (PG3):

210 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. (MLK) (between MLK and Jester Circle)

##### 27th St. Garage (PG4):

109 W. 7th St. (corner of 27th & Speedway)

##### Speedway Garage (PG6):

105 E. 27th St. (corner of 27th & Speedway)

##### Trinity Garage (PG7):

1815 Trinity St. (corner of MLK & Trinity)



## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

### International Student and Scholar Services

Standard Mail:

P.O. Box A

Austin, TX 78713-8901

Express Mail:

600 West 24th St.

Austin, TX 78705

(512)471-2477

(512)471-8848 (fax)

[www.utexas.edu/international/iss](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss)

[www.utexas.edu/international/iss/students/new](http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/students/new)