



New International Students

Pre-Arrival Information Packet

F-1 Visa Students	2
Transportation from the Airport	2
Complete Undergraduate Admissions “Next Steps”	2
Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Freshman	2
Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Transfers	3
Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Exchange Students	3
Graduate College Orientation	3
Advising and Class Registration	3
Mandatory ISSS Immigration Check-in Appointment	4
International Student Resource Fair	4
Paying your Tuition	4
Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) Student Requirements and other country government sponsored students	4
Bacterial Meningitis Immunization Documentation	5
Health Insurance Requirements	5
On-campus Housing Information	6
Off-campus Housing Information	6
Activate Your Texas State Email and Net ID	6
Finding On-Campus Jobs	7
Talk to other New International Students	7

If you need help understanding this information, please contact ISSS.

F-1 Visa Students

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

To apply for the visa, make an appointment at your nearest American Embassy/Consulate. When you go to the visa interview, remember to take your original form I-20, your enclosed acceptance letter to Texas State, your financial support documents, and your passport. Review the Steps After Being Admitted here: <http://www.international.txstate.edu/prospective/afterapplying.html>

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

If there is an error on your I-20, notify ISSS immediately at i20request@txstate.edu. If the error is found to be one that will cause problems at your visa appointment or at entry into the US, you will be issued a corrected I-20, otherwise you may be advised to keep the I-20 and have it corrected at ISSS upon your arrival.

Transportation from the Airport

Texas State University does not provide transportation from the airport. We recommend arriving at the Austin or San Antonio airport and taking ground transportation such as a taxi or Super Shuttle from the airport to your residence. You can find more information about local airport transportation from here: <http://www.international.txstate.edu/prospective/afterapplying/travelling.html>

Complete Undergraduate Admissions "Next Steps"

Before you arrive, be sure that you review and complete all the "Next Steps" which Undergraduate Admissions lists on their website here:
<http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/international-admit.html>

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

****Mandatory for all Undergraduate Students**** All students should review the e-mails which come from Undergraduate Admissions/NSO staff which include information about how to sign up for NSO and allow you to pay the NSO fee online. Find the category that fits you on the NSO sign up page (<http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/orientation.html>), and sign up using the link for

international under your category. NSO is where you will meet with an Academic Advisor, and be registered for your classes.

The information given at NSO is not specific to international students, which is why it is important to attend **both** the mandatory NSO orientation, **and Pre-Arrival Session and Check-In** for International students, which is hosted by ISSS.

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

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

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

The information given at NSO is not specific to international students, which is why it is important to attend **both** the mandatory NSO orientation, **and Pre-Arrival Session and Check-In** for International students, which is hosted by ISSS.

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

Mandatory New Student Orientation (NSO) & Class Registration for Exchange Students ****Special note for Study Abroad Exchange Students.***

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

New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO)

New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO) is designed to set you up for success by providing you with helpful information and resources to enhance your academic experience at Texas State! NGSO is a two-part experience. The first part is the [NGSO Canvas course](#) with online resources and videos to help you succeed in grad school. The Canvas course is self-paced and will not count as course credit. You can register for the NGSO Canvas course [here](#). The second part is a Meet & Greet social event that happens every fall at the San Marcos or Round Rock campus. Students who begin their programs in the spring and summer are invited to attend the Meet & Greet the following fall semester. You can learn more about the Meet & Greet [here](#).

In addition to NGSO, the Graduate College offers support to international graduate students through a Canvas course and panel event entitled [“Academic Success for International Graduate Students”](#) (ASIGS). The self-paced, [ASIGS Canvas course](#) includes resources for academic success in the U.S. higher education system. You can register for the ASIGS Canvas course [here](#). At the panel event, you can hear from continuing international graduate students and graduate faculty who share tips about being successful in the U.S. higher education system. You can learn more about the panel event [here](#).

Advising and Class Registration

Graduate Students will not be able to register for classes until they have received Academic Advising from their Graduate Advisor. Your Graduate Advisor will tell you which classes you are able to register for and answer questions you may have about the program. Students are encouraged to e-mail the Graduate Advisor for their program prior to arriving in Texas in order to set up an advising appointment. Once advised, students must register for classes online through CatsWeb (Texas State Self-Service). **Class registration must be completed prior to the date indicated on the following website:** <http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/registration.html>

International Student Immigration Check-In

A week before the semester begins, ISSS will host a mandatory check-in for all new international students. Your attendance at one of the immigration check-in sessions is required as stated on your I-20. During the immigration check-in, you will present ISSS with your passport, I-94, visa, and signed I-20.

See Immigration Check-in dates here:

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

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

Paying your Tuition

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

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

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

1. Provide a copy of your Texas State University acceptance letter to your government advisor.
2. Confirm with government advisor that you are eligible to receive a scholarship to attend Texas State University.
3. Verify that ISSS (Thornton International House, Room 205) has a copy of your valid Financial Guarantee Letter provided by your governmental sponsor.

Bacterial Meningitis Immunization Documentation

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

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

Health Insurance Requirements

All International students on non-immigrant F and J visas are required by university policy to have health insurance coverage while enrolled in classes at Texas State University.

- International students will be required to purchase the student health insurance plan endorsed by the university
- Students will have to purchase the health insurance directly from the health insurance plan
- Only students with employer or government sponsored health insurance plans will be considered for insurance waivers

Detailed information on how to purchase the health insurance or submit documents to request an insurance waiver will be sent to international students by ISSS. This information is available on ISSS website: <http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/Health-insurance-.html>

International students will be able to purchase the health insurance online during Open Enrollment periods. The health insurance may be purchased on an annual basis or by semester. The health insurance plan must be purchased, or an insurance waiver approved, prior to the start of classes. Students who do not comply with this requirement will have a "Hold" placed on their student account. The "Hold" will be removed only after they purchase the student health insurance plan endorsed by the university. To have a "Hold" removed, students must email their proof of enrollment in health insurance to intlhealth@txstate.edu. Health insurance holds will be removed by 5:00 p.m. the next business day.

Should you have any questions about the international student health insurance requirement, you may contact ISSS at intlhealth@txstate.edu.

Third Party Government Sponsored Students: If you currently receive health insurance by a government sponsorship/scholarship, who will fund your education in the United States, you can submit a waiver here: <https://txstateintl.myahpcare.com/waiver>

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

On-campus Housing Information

Texas State University has a housing policy that requires new first year students under the age of 20 (by September 1 for fall admission or January 1 for spring admission) with fewer than 30 credit hours to live in on-campus university housing. All students who graduated from high school within the preceding 12 months of the semester of their admission are also required to live on campus.

Availability in our on-campus housing options are limited for students that do not fall under the housing policy. Please visit our [Housing & Residential Life website](#) to learn more about on-campus options.

Off-Campus Living Information

Off-Campus Housing Options (Finding an apartment not owned by Texas State University)

a) **Find your own apartment using the [Off-Campus Housing Marketplace](#); this is an apartment web search engine.**

- Most of the apartments on this website are individual leases, which means:
 - Each roommate signs their own lease for a room/bathroom in the apartment, and you share the common space
 - Apartment complex usually finds your roommates for you
 - Apartment is usually furnished, and often provides internet and/or cable
- Use the Marketplace to identify apartments that are within walking distance, or on the Texas State Bobcat Tram/Shuttle, to get to campus.
- Use the Marketplace to identify apartments that are within walking distance/shuttle bus route to a grocery store (HEB Grocery Store or Wal Mart are options in San Marcos)
- Look at the amenities provided at the apartment and see if they are offering all the amenities you need, or would you be paying extra for some items you would not use.

Before signing a lease:

- Know your budget, and find a place you can afford
- Research the property online, reviewing current reviews.
- Make sure a property is completely built and open with their Certificate of Occupancy.
- Know the property start and end dates.
 - Many individual leases start mid-August and end late July; these dates are generally not flexible, and you cannot move-in early/stay later.
 - Many of the individual leases are for 11.5 months, but you pay the full 12 installments
- Read the lease in its entirety and make an appointment with the [Attorney for Students](#) so they can review it with you; your student fees pay for this service.
- Put down a security deposit to ensure timely move out bills/refund, when you move out.
- Ask what amenities are included and if they use a “Utility Sharing Service” to ensure water and electricity are billed to each individual resident.
- Check the apartment for broken appliances, cleanliness, and make sure you fill out the inventory sheet thoroughly and indicate any problems.

Check out our housing link here:

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

Activate Your Texas State Email and Net ID

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

Finding On-Campus Jobs

F-1 students can only work on campus and for regular wage positions. The best way to find an on-campus job is to create a profile and begin searching Jobs4Cats before the semester starts. You can learn how to use Jobs4Cats here: [On-Campus Employment : International Student and Scholar Services \(ISSS\) : Texas State University \(txst.edu\)](#).

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

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

Talk to other New International Students

ISSS has created a Facebook page so be sure to follow and like ISSS Facebook page. Here you will get the most up-to-date reminders about immigration changes, international events, workshops, and more: <https://www.facebook.com/txstISSS>
Also follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/txst_ISSS