**Questions from Students International Office Pre-Arrival Webinar Meeting 07.24.2015:**

**Topics:**

* Net ID set up
* Scheduling Advisor Meetings
* Finding Housing
* Health Insurance Requirement
* Transportation from

**Social Integration**

* **Does Texas State-International Office have Facebook group for Fall 2015?**

Yes, International Office has a Facebook Group called [Fall 2015 International Student Orientation](https://www.facebook.com/events/894547350583872/). New international students, please joint this group and get connected to other new students.

**Temporary Housing**

* **Does Texas State provide temporary places to live on-campus?**

Texas State provides temporary housing ONLY for students who will be living in a Residence Hall during their first year of studies. After students have signed up for the residence hall online they can contact reslife@txstate.edu to sign up for Break Housing to live in during orientation. It costs $20 a night.

If you are going to live off-campus but haven’t had your apartment yet or for some reasons the room is not available during orientation, you may stay in a **Hotel**/**Motel**. However this is not ideal because most hotels are not located within walking distance from the campus and are expensive. Be sure to call hotels (or check their website) in advance for room rates, availability, reservations, distance to the Texas State University, and bus route information. Indicate that you are a Texas State Student. Rates for some local hotels/motels are shown below. Costs are seasonal and subject to change. For the full list of hotels (cheap, a 5 star, family-friendly), you can check [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com). This website has information on six types of hotels: three star hotels, cheap hotels, pool hotels, pet friendly hotels, spa hotels, and free breakfast hotels.

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| **Hotel/Motel** | **Address** | **Phone #** | **Weekday Rates** **(1 person)** | **Weekend Rates** **(1 person)** |
| **Red Roof Inn** | 817 IH 35 North | 512-754-8899 | $49.99 | $69.99 |
| **Best Budget Inn** | 903 IH 35 North | 512-392-3990 | $39.99 | $49.99 |
| **Best Western** | 917 IH 35 North | 512-754-7557 | $69.95 | $89.95 |
| **Executive Inn & Suites** | 930 IH 35 North | 512-754-7557 | $39.99 | $79.99 |
| **Days Inn** | 1005 IH 35 North | 512-353-5050 | $64.95 | $109.95 |
| **River Inn** | 1433 IH 35 North | 512-353-7770 | $64.99 | $89.99 |
| **Comfort Inn** | 1611 IH 35 North | 512-396-5665 | $69.99 | $89.99 |
| **Ramada Limited** | 1701 IH 35 North | 512-395-8000 | $55.00+ | $90.00+ |
| **Econo Lodge** | 811 S. Guadalupe | 512-353-5300 | $44.99-$49.99 | $84.99 |

**Note:** You may consider staying at **The Crystal River Inn** (326 W Hopkins St, San Marcos, TX, phone: 844-247-8657) which is located near Texas State University (0.6 mi/09 km, or 15 min walking). Price for one night is approximately $125. They also offer airport shuttle service. More information at [**http://www.reservation-desk.com/hotel**](http://www.reservation-desk.com/hotel)**.**

**Apartment Locator**

If you need help finding a good apartment, you might use services of apartment locator companies. Apartment locatorswill be able to show you apartments in the area that meet your criteria. They are paid by the apartment which you choose to stay at after you sign your lease, and do not require any money from you. There are many apartment locators in the area. Below are listed some of them.

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| **Apartment Locator Company** | **Website** | **Contact Info** |
| **Hot Sports** | [www.hotspotslocating.com/](http://www.hotspotslocating.com/)  | **512-468-7769** |
| **Apartments To Go** | [www.apartmentstogo.com/](http://www.apartmentstogo.com/)  | **512-353-3733** |
| **Vance J. Elliot Realty** | [www.vancejelliottrealty.com/](http://www.vancejelliottrealty.com/)  | **512-353-3002** |
| **Great Locations** | [www.mygreatlocations.com/](http://www.mygreatlocations.com/) | **512-878-2233** |
| **Apartment Experts** | www.apartmentexperts.com | **512-805-0123** |

* **Is there housing available for international students at the Round Rock campus in TRP Graduate Program?**

Texas State University Round Rock Campus does not provide student housing. You will need to make your own housing arrangements. Below is a list of some apartment locator services in South Austin/Round Rock that may assist you with finding an affordable housing for you.

* [American Apartment Locating](http://www.apartmentlocating.com/)
* [Apartment Finders](http://www.ausapt.com/)
* [Apartment Guide](http://www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Texas/Austin/)
* [Apartment Specialists](http://www.austin-apartments-texas.com/)
* [Habitat Hunters](http://www.habitathunters.com/)
* [Trulia](http://www.trulia.com/for_rent/Austin%2CTX/map_v)
* [UMove Free Austin Apts.](http://www.umovefree.com/City/austin-apartments-tx)
* [Apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com/round-rock-tx/)
* [Hotsportslocating](http://www.hotspotslocating.com/)

**Tuition Payment**

* **Do international students pay tuition per semester or for the whole academic year?**

All students pay their tuition per semester.

* **What are deadlines to pay tuition fees for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016?**

For Fall 2015, payment deadline is **August 20th, 2015, 5:00 p.m**. The advanced class registration period is March 23, 2015 – August 6th, 2015.

* **Is there late fee penalty added if tuition fee payment is done after the due date?**

If international student register for classes after August 7th, then Late Registration Fee will apply. Please see info below or check out the [Student Business Services](http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/students/dates.html)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Late Registration** | **Payment Due Date** | **Late Registration Fee** |
| August 7th, 2015 – August 20th, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. August 20th, 2015 | $ 25 |
| August 22nd, 2015 – September 1st, 2015 | 5:00 p.m., September 1st, 2015 | $ 100 |
| September 2nd, 2015 – September 9th, 2015 (Requires Dean approval) | 5:00 p.m., September 9th, 2015 | $ 200 (Non-Refundable) |

* **Can international students pay tuition fees in installments?**

Yes, international students can pay tuition in three installments. Below please see the Fall 2015 Payment Plan Deadlines and you can find this information on the [Student Business Services](http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/students/dates.html) website.

**Fall 2015 Payment Plan Deadlines**

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| --- | --- |
| 1st installment | Due upon enrollment |
| 2nd installment | 5:00 p.m. ,Friday, October 2nd  |
| 3rd installment  | 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 6th  |

Note: A $25 late payment fee will be assessed if payments are not made by the deadline.

**Health Insurance**

* **The health insurance card, do international students fill in the address with current San Marcos housing/apartment address?**

Yes, students have to enter their current housing address in Texas.

* **Do international students’ dependents have to take health insurance through Blue Shields also or can they go with other insurers?**

Dependents are not required to purchase insurance, but Insurance coverage for dependents can go with other health insurance plans; however, it is also available at Texas State and may be purchased at the same time as purchase of the student coverage.

* **Are international students required to have a health insurance?**

All international students on non-immigrant visas are required by Texas State University policy to have health insurance coverage while at Texas State.

* **What options do international students have in regards to health insurance?**

International students have two options.

Option 1: **Purchase the Blue Cross Blue Shield Student Health Insurance plan at Texas State University**

Option 2: **Request a waiver** by submitting proof that they have health insurance coverage purchased from their country or from other health provides.

* **Do I need to purchase the health insurance plan every semester?**

Yes, international students must either purchase the plan or submit a waiver for each semester that they are enrolled at Texas State.  Students will receive an e-mail with instructions each semester.  The e-mail will go to the student’s Texas State e-mail address.  The e-mail will have a web link for students to use to either purchase the plan or submit an online waiver.  The first e-mail will be sent out at the start of the open enrollment period.

If a student has not received their e-mail by the first day of open enrollment, they should e-mail the Student Health Center at healthcenter@txstate.edu or call the Student Health Center at 512-245-2161, option 5.

* **What are the enrollment dates and cost for Blue Cross Blue Shield Student Health Insurance Plan?**

At the Student Health Center website, under the [Insurance – International Students](http://www.healthcenter.txstate.edu/international.html), you can find information on cost and enrollment dates for purchasing Health Insurance Plan at Texas State University. Below is the summary for [2015-2016 Academic Year Health Insurance](http://www.healthcenter.txstate.edu/international.html) Plan

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester | Open Enrollment Begins | Insurance Coverage Dates | Cost |
| Fall 2015 | July 15, 2015 | 8/23/15 – 1/16/16 | $807 |
| Spring 2016 | December 1, 2016 | 1/17/16 – 5/30/16 | $741 |
| Summer 2016 | May 1, 2016 | 5/31/16 – 8/22/16 | $462 |
| Summer II 2016 (new students only) | June 15, 2016 | 7/9/16 – 8/22/16 | $247 |

* **Who can I contact if I have questions regarding the health insurance plan?**

For questions or additional information about the health insurance plan, please call Academic Health Plans at 855-850-4298.

* **What documents do I need to submit with an online waiver request?**

Students submitting an online waiver request will be asked to attach a copy of their health insurance plan.  A waiver request must be completed each semester.

**Waiver Deadlines for 2015-2016**

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| --- | --- |
| **Semester** | **Deadline to submit waiver request** |
| Fall 2015 | Monday August 24, 2015 at 5pm |
| Spring 2016 | Tuesday January 19, 2016 at 5 pm |
| Summer 2016 | Monday June 6, 2016 at 5 pm |
| Summer II 2016 (new students only) | Tuesday July 5, 2016 at 5 pm |

* **The health insurance card, do international students fill in the address with current San Marcos housing/apartment address?**

Yes, students have to enter their current housing address in Texas.

* **Do international students’ dependents have to take health insurance through Blue Shields also or can they go with other insurers?**

Insurance coverage for dependents can go with other health insurance plans; however, it is also available at Texas State and may be purchased at the same time as purchase of the student coverage.

To enroll or get more information about Texas State Health Insurance Plan 2015-2016, visit the insurance company website at [txstate.myahpcare.com](http://txstate.myahpcare.com/).

 For questions call Academic Health Plans at 855-850-4298.

* **What are the Texas State Health Insurance benefits?**

Please check the Student Health Center website for [the Student Health Center – International Students](http://www.healthcenter.txstate.edu/international.html) or click [here](http://www.healthcenter.txstate.edu/international/contentParagraph/0/content_files/file/document/_TX%20STATE%20International_r81.pdf) for an overview of the student health insurance plan benefits.

**International Student Orientation and Check-in**

* **Do all international students need to attend International Student Orientation in San Marcos on August 18th, even though they have all classes in Round Rock Campus?**

Although International Student Orientation is not Mandatory, international students are encouraged to attend it since it information we discuss during the orientation is important for your successful I academic and social integration into the campus life. Besides, you will have opportunity to socialize with other new and current students.

* **Can international students check-in with the International Office during International Student Orientation?**

Yes, international students can check in during the Orientation. If you arrive earlier, we encourage you to have early check in. If you cannot attend early check in or orientation, you will need to report to the International Office at one of the following dates as well.

* Tuesday, August 11      | 2:00PM-4:00PM
* Wednesday, August 12 | 2:00PM-4:00PM
* Thursday, August 13     | 2:00PM-4:00PM
* Monday, August 17       | 2:00PM-4:00PM
* Tuesday, August 18      | 2:00PM-4:00PM

**Parking during Orientation**

* **Is there a parking area on campus for international students during International Student Orientation?**

**International Students can park**  at [Edward Gary Street Garage](http://www.maps.txstate.edu/driving_maps/jckellam_driving/contentParagraph/0/document/Map-to-JCK-via-Moon.pdf). It is located on the corner of University Drive and Edward Gary Street. Directions from IH 35 to the Edward Gary Street Garage are below:

**Directions from IH 35 to the Edward Gary Street Garage and Visitor Center**

**From IH 35 in San Marcos Texas:**

* Take exit 206-Aquarena Springs Drive/Loop 82
	+ If exiting IH 35 from the south / San Antonio, turn left onto Aquarena Springs Drive
	+ If exiting IH 35 from the north / Austin, turn right onto Aquarena Springs Drive
* Proceed on Aquarena Springs Drive ~2 miles to University Drive
	+ You will cross over railroad tracks
	+ Pass Bobcat Stadium
	+ Cross over the San Marcos River
	+ Sessom Drive is located immediately passed the San Marcos River
* Proceed straight through the intersection with Sessom. You are now on University Drive.
* Follow University Drive as it bears to the right.
	+ You will see the Theatre Center on your right (a red circular building).
* Turn right onto Edward Gary and take the entrance on your left into the Edward Gary Street Garage
* **What are the prices for parking the car in the Parking Garage Areas?**

**Below are the rates for Pay-to-Park Garages, including the Edward Gary Street Garage. This information you can find on** [**Transportation Services – Parking Services**](http://www.parking.txstate.edu/Pay-to-Park-Garages.html)**.**

**Pay-to-Park Garages**

 **Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week**

**Rates\***

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| --- | --- |
| 0 min - 1 hr | $3.00 |
| 1 hr - 2 hrs | $6.00 |
| 2 hrs - 3 hrs | $8.00 |
| 3 hrs - 4 hrs | $10.00 |
| 4 hrs- 5 hrs | $12.00 |
| 5 hrs- 6 hrs | $14.00 |

\*Must exit the garage within 15 mins of payment

**Graduate Assistantship**

* **Is the graduate assistantship offer deduction in tuition fees or will be paid to international students by wages?**

Graduate assistants work 20 hours per week and are paid monthly. At the Human Resources Website, you can find information about [Student Employee Pay Schedule](http://www.hr.txstate.edu/univpayplan/student.html). Graduate Assistantship provides a student with a [tuition waiver](http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/students/waivers-exemptions/contentParagraph/01/answer_files/file/REQUEST%20FOR%20EXEMPTION-GRA%20%20TA%20Revised%20June%202015.pdf) for resident tuition. So, instead of paying out-of-state tuition, graduate assistant will pay in-state tuition.