**Questions from Students International Office Pre-Arrival Webinar Meeting 07.31.2015:**

Topics:

* Housing Options
* Paying your Tuition Bill
* Accessing Immigration Assessment
* Transportation Option in San Marcos, University TRAM, CARTS, & Uber

**International Student Orientation and Check-in:**

* **Must all international students check-in at San Marcos campus, even though they have all their classes in Round Rock?**

For now, all international students have to come to San Marcos campus for Check-In and Orientation.

**Immigration Assessment Test:**

* **What is the immigration assessment test about?**

The United States has laws and regulations governing non-immigrant (temporary) visa holders. These regulations may sometimes be confusing for international students. Therefore, the International Office at Texas State has created the power point presentation for international students with the major legal information that you should know in order to maintain your legal status. The online assessment test is designed to evaluate your knowledge about legal and immigration information related to F-1 visa status.

* **Is the immigration assessment test compulsory for students?**

Yes, it is. All new international students are required by International Office to take the immigration assessment test. However, it is an open book test and it shouldn’t be difficult to pass it.

**Academic Advising**

* **Why can’t I talk to my academic undergraduate advisor over the phone?**

As for now, undergraduate students before beginning their first semester at Texas State are required to meet with academic advisors on campus during new student orientation which is held on August 18th.

**Tuition Billing for Exchange Students**

* **Is the tuition billing for exchange students the same as for the international students?**

In most cases, the exchange students tuition fees is paid to their home country institution. However, they will have to pay for housing and meals at Texas State. They are also required to purchase the Blue Cross Blue Shield Student Health Insurance plan at Texas State University. The cost for health insurance is the same as for the international students.Please check Q&A from our previous Webinar Meeting for more information about health insurance for international students.

**Health Insurance**

* **Should I register for the Blue Cross Student Health Insurance Plan before semester starts or it would be automatically added to my tuition bill?**

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Student Health Insurance plan has to be purchased prior the beginning of every semester. Since fall 2015, it is not automatically added to your tuition bill. Please check Q&A from our previous Webinar Meeting for more information about health insurance.

**Scholarships**

* **How can I find scholarships for international students at Texas State?**

There are a limited number of scholarships or grants that are available specifically for international students. International students have several options on how to find scholarships at Texas State University.

**Option One: Check the Financial Aid & Scholarship** website for the list of [Scholarships](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships.html) and click at the category that best represents you (freshman, transfer, continuing, or graduate scholarships).

**Option Two:** Check the specific [College and Department Scholarships](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships/cnd.html). Some scholarships are awarded by a specific college or academic department. These scholarships may require a different application than the [Texas State Scholarship Application](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/forms/2013-2014/GSA.pdf)(for [continuing](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships/continuing.html) students) or the scholarship application available via ApplyTexas at[www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org/) (for [freshman](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships/freshman.html) and [transfer](http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships/transfer.html) students). You may also contact the appropriate dean and/or chair’s office for further information.

* **Could you please tell me about scholarships availability for international students at Texas State?**

Below are a few on-**campus scholarships** that the International Office found for international students. You can find this information also on the International Office website under the tab “Current F-1 Students”.

* **Good Neighbor Scholarship**

Open to students from the following countries that are in the Western Hemisphere. [Download the application here](https://gato-edit.its.txstate.edu/international-office/current/information/contentParagraph/016/answer_files/file/GNS.pdf)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Argentina | Bahamas | Barbados | Belize (British Honduras) |
| Boliva | Brazil | Canada | Chile | Colombia |
| Costa Rica | Dominica | Dominican Republic | Ecuador | El Salvador |
| Grenada | Guatemala | Guyana | Haiti | Honduras |
| Jamaica | Mexico | Nicaragua | Panama | Paraguay |
| Peru | Saint Kitts & Nevis | St. Lucia | St. Vincent & the Grenadines | Suriname |
| Trinidad and Tobago | Uruguay | Venezuela |   |   |

* [**Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG) for F-1 Students**](http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/scholarships.html)

The purpose of the TPEG is to assist students with demonstrated financial need. The TPEG is available to non-immigrant students in F-1 status at Texas State. Most awards will range from $250 - $2,000 per semester. **First year students are not eligible for this grant**.

**Important Note: The grant is not an academic competitive scholarship. Consequently, it does not provide a waiver of non-resident tuition**.

* [**H-LSAMP Scholars Program**](http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/scholarships.html) **(Houston-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Program)**

Undergraduate research program for students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers a Texas State H-LSAMP Scholar will receive typically $ 3000 per long semester Click here for more information: [http://hlsamp.cose.txstate.edu/about/what-is-h-lsamp.htm](http://hlsamp.cose.txstate.edu/about/what-is-h-lsamp.html)

* [**Tuition Assistance for Mexican Students**](http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/scholarships.html)

State law allows Mexico citizens with documented financial need to waive non-resident tuition and pay the same tuition as Texas residents when enrolling at Texas State University-San Marcos. To be eligible for this waiver, a person must have met all the university admission requirements and have been fully admitted. A student must enroll full time (12 hours for undergraduates, 9 hours for graduates) and must be in good academic standing to receive this waiver.

([TAMS Application in English](http://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/international-office/Forms-and-Handouts/Scholarship-Apps/TAMS--English-/TAMS%20%28English%29.pdf) / [TAMS Application in Spanish](http://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/international-office/Forms-and-Handouts/Scholarship-Apps/TAMS--Spanish-/TAMS%20%28Spanish%29.pdf))

* **The Associated Student Government ASG scholarship** has been awarded to

international students in the past. ASG will likely send an e-mail about the scholarship to the whole student body. However, you have to complete at least one semester to qualify for this scholarship.

* **Do you know about any financial aid programs, besides the academic institution, that help international students to fund their studies?**

U.S. Government Financial aid, such as **FASFA** is not available to international students, as this is a government sponsorship.

Financial assistance to study in the United States is very limited, especially at the undergraduate level. Most financial aid is awarded on a competitive basis, and application deadlines are often full academic year or more prior to the award date. Sources of funding, besides academic institutions, may include: private foundations, U.S. government and foreign governments, corporations, research institutes, and bi-national agencies.

International students might check the following programs for financial aid:

* [**The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program**](http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/scholarships.html)

Provides support for up to three years of formal graduate-level study leading to a masters or doctoral degree.[www.fordifp.net/](http://www.fordifp.net/)

* [**Pan American Round Tables of Texas / Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Committee**](http://www.international.txstate.edu/current/scholarships.html)

A $2,500 grant that assists female students from Pan American Countries: <http://www.partt.org/scholarships_details.html>

The Pan American Countries are:
3 North American members (Canada, USA, Mexico);
19 Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Aruba, Bermuda, Cuba, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, Virgin Islands);
7 Central America Nations (Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua);
12 South American members (Argentina, Chile, Guyana, Suriname, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brasil, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela)

* **Here are some websites that can also help you to find financial aid**:

[www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org)

[www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)[www.iefa.org](http://www.iefa.org)

[www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)

[www.pricetonreview.com](http://www.pricetonreview.com)

[www.ugeducation.ucia.edu/src/](http://www.ugeducation.ucia.edu/src/)