



The University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Part III: 2020-2021 Exchange Program Fact Sheet

Setting

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is home to over 5,000 international students, and the rich diversity of our campus is essential to our success as a learning community. The University of Texas School of Law (Texas Law) has established agreements with 33 partner institutions from 19 different countries that allow law students from these universities to attend Texas Law as an exchange student.

Exchange students are fully integrated into university life and have full access to all the services that UT offers. Exchange students take courses at the Law School, integrated with both J.D. and LL.M. students.

Texas Law is ranked among the [top 16](#) national law schools and among the top 5 public law schools in the nation. Additionally, we have an unbeatable set of [14 clinics](#), [16 programs and centers](#), [13 student-run journals](#), and [35 student organizations](#) that round out law students' legal education.

History

Texas Law began as The University of Texas at Austin's Department of Law when the University was founded in 1883. The Law School started with two professors and 52 students in the basement of the University's old Main Building. The Law School has since grown to more than 1,200 students and offers a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and a Master of Laws (LL.M.).

Contacts

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Websites and Videos

UT: utexas.edu

Texas Law: law.utexas.edu

Incoming Exchange Students: links.utexas.edu/xmfuxc

ISSS: global.utexas.edu/issc/students/exchange/apply

Videos: Watch videos about [UT](#), [Texas Law](#), and [Austin](#).

Important Dates

Fall 2020	Spring 2021
<i>August 14 and 17</i> New Exchange Student Orientation	<i>January 14-15 and 19-22</i> New Exchange Student Orientation
<i>August 26</i> Classes begin	<i>January 18</i> Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday
<i>November 25-28</i> Thanksgiving holiday	<i>January 25</i> Classes begin
<i>December 7</i> Last class day	<i>March 15-19</i> Spring break
<i>December 9-12, 14-18</i> Fall semester final examinations	<i>April 30</i> Last class day
	<i>May 5-8, 10-14</i> Spring semester final exams

Other important dates: [Law School Academic Calendar](#)

For Spring 2021, the mandatory week-long New Exchange Student Orientation begins on **January 14**. Although optional, we recommend you also attend the [New International Student Orientation](#) through ISSS. Furthermore, we advise you to arrive in Austin in early January to get settled in and clear your registration bars, including the New Student Check-In through ISSS and medical clearance requirements for international students through UHS. **You will not be able to register for classes until you clear these and any other bars on your students.**

Exchange students are advised not to purchase their return tickets home until have registered for classes and know their final exam schedule. **You must be here for final examinations.**

Nomination Deadlines

Spring 2021 semester: **October 1**

Fall 2021 semester and full academic year (fall and spring semesters): **March 1**

Nomination Procedure

Partner university exchange coordinators must submit nominations for Spring 2021 OR for Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 at utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37NZSB2CmnELmF7.

Application Deadline

Spring 2021 semester: Opens on **October 1** and closes on **October 31**

Fall 2021 semester and full academic year (fall and spring semesters): Opens on **March 1** and closes on **March 31**

Duration of Study

We accept students who wish to study one semester (fall **or** spring) or two consecutive semesters (fall **and** spring). However, the duration of study will depend on the exchange agreement between Texas Law and the partner university.

Level of Study

Exchange students at Texas Law are considered graduate-level students. They may take courses outside of the Law School; however, these courses must be related to the course of study offered in the School of Law and must be either graduate-level courses or undergraduate language courses (a three-credit language course counts as a one-credit law course). Even though the grade will transfer only as credit/no credit, students must earn a C or better, and the graduate-level course cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. The Law School requires exchange students to take a minimum of 10 **law** credits per Texas Law and ISSS requirements.

Application & Registration Procedures

We only accept nominations sent by the exchange coordinator at one of our partner universities. Nominations must be submitted via our [online form](#). The incoming exchange coordinator at Texas law will then send the current Exchange Program Guidebook to the nominated student(s) and copy the exchange at the partner institution. After the student creates their UT EID (University of Texas Electronic Identity), the Law School will admit and email the student a PDF of their official admit letter (**the student does not need the printed original of the admit letter to obtain their visa**). Access to [myIO](#) (an ISSS portal for exchange students to process their immigration documents and manage their immigration related data) will become available on **February 1** for fall exchange and on **October 1** for spring exchange **after** the student has been admitted in the law school's admissions and enrollment management system and the student receives their official admit letter via email. ISSS will send the Form DS-2019 to the exchange student by airmail. If you want to get your documents faster, you can use [ISSS's express shipping via FedEx or DHL](#), but there is an extra expense for students.

For fall exchange, the Office of Graduate & International Programs will register exchange students for classes during Exchange Orientation. For spring exchange, exchange students will register themselves for during Exchange Orientation.

Virtual Admissions Information Sessions

We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming virtual admissions information sessions. Admissions sessions are offered each Thursday. You will need a computer or mobile device and an internet connection to access virtual sessions. You must also download the Zoom app. [Register for an upcoming virtual session](#). Note that all times are Central Time.

Look Around Virtual Tour

Take a 360 look at some of our beloved campus spots on this [virtual tour](#). Click "Learn More" to listen to our audio guide. Do not click "Virtual Session" or "Apply Online."

Language of Instruction

English is the medium of instruction at Texas Law.

Language Requirement

The Law School curriculum is rigorous and demands a strong command of English. Although we do not require it, we suggest exchange students have a TOEFL score or equivalent of 100.

Since U.S. law school is **very** participatory – with many classes requiring rigorous oral participation throughout the lecture period – it would behoove incoming students to have an even higher level of English and be prepared to speak in every class. Since this is different than most other law schools around the world, this difference needs to be stressed to nominees from the beginning of the application period. Some professors even count participation into part of the grade. This means that students have to complete their reading (sometimes 100+ pages per class meeting per week) and be able to speak competently about it. What may help is for students to take the 5- or 10-week summer [Academic English Program](#) at UT (or elsewhere) the summer before joining us if possible. This will allow them the opportunity to start thinking, writing, listening, and speaking in English all day. Many of our LL.M. students take this to prepare for their degree here, and their TOEFL requirement is 101 to be admitted into the degree program. Alternatively, nominees should be advised to take a Legal English class at their home university the semester before starting their exchange.

Another difficulty civil law students have is reading cases instead of having a firm code of law to follow. Some classes require 5-10 cases to be read per class meeting, and students have to analyze and interpret the law through these (sometimes unclear) decisions. Legal English is a skill in itself, so getting used to the vocabulary is important. Therefore, we recommend a few books to help them prepare for law school in the U.S. and suggest some landmark Supreme Court cases to read to build familiarity with the Legal English language.

[Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience: By Students, for Students / Edition 3](#)

[Law School Basics](#)

Texas Law's Dean Ward Farnsworth: [The Legal Analyst: A Toolkit for Thinking about the Law](#)
[Groundbreaking U.S. Supreme Court Cases](#)

We also have a [Writing Center](#) in the School of Law, which our exchange students are encouraged to take advantage of. If written English is an issue for them, the Writing Center can help edit the papers and get feedback about clarity.

Accommodation for Non-Native English Speakers

Non-native English-speaking exchange students receive extended time on exams. Student Affairs will send an email to eligible exchange students toward the end of the semester with instructions on extended time on exams.

Academic English Program

Although separate from the Law School, the English Language Center at Texas Global offers a summer academic English program to help fall and yearlong exchange students focus on graduate-level English speaking and writing. Please visit the [English Language Center](#) for more information.

Immigration

Exchange students are issued a Form DS-2019 from ISSS that allows them to apply for a J-1 student visa at a U.S. consulate. The Form DS-2019 is issued for the duration of their academic study period, usually one or two semesters. Exchange students enroll in a non-degree academic program, according to the terms of exchange agreements between The University of Texas at Austin and their home universities. Please visit [Immigration Requirements for Exchange Students](#) for more information.

Off-Campus Housing

Should you need help in determining where to live off campus, the Graduate School and the Graduate Coordinator Network did a survey of [where students live](#). The summary offers a brief description of Austin's various neighborhoods as well as an idea of what is nearby. Visit [Texas Global](#) for more information. View a [Guide to Austin Housing](#) for information on private residences for rent near UT.

We recommend LL.M. students live as close as possible to the Law School. The Law School address is 727 East Dean Keeton St, Austin, Texas 78705. Download the [CapMetro app](#) to know where your bus is and map your route. UT students, faculty, and staff ride all Capital Metro services for free when they swipe their valid IDs.

Consider joining the [Texas Law Housing-Living in Austin](#) Facebook group. Its purpose is to assist Texas Law students find/lease/sublease housing.

Other Requirements

Exchange students **will not be able to register for classes** until they have completed the [New Student Check-In](#) through ISSS and [medical clearance requirements for international students](#) through UHS.

For visa questions (including the Form DS-2019, or myIO, the New Student Check-In), please contact ISSS at exchangeadvisor@austin.utexas.edu.

For questions about medical clearance requirements for international students, please contact UHS at imm@mail.uhs.utexas.edu.

Grading System

Law students receive alphabetical grades. They are based on a 4.3-point scale for most classes. A few classes are credit/no credit. Some pass/fail courses exist, but letter grade courses cannot be changed to Pass/Fail. Courses taken outside of Law School must be related to a course of study offered at the law school and must be either graduate-level courses or undergraduate language courses. Even though the grade will transfer only as credit/no credit, student must earn a C or better, and the graduate-level courses cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. The Law School requires exchange students to take a minimum of 10 **law** credits to be a full-time student and meet visa requirements.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Points
A+	4.30
A	4.0
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.0
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.0
D	1.70
F	1.30

Attendance

We have noticed that some exchange students do not take mandatory attendance into account even though we emphasize this during Exchange Orientation at the beginning of the semester. Many professors will mark grades lower if the students miss over a certain number of courses.

Since most classes are graded purely on the final exam, students will have to gauge their understanding throughout the semester based on their understanding of the readings and class period. We warn students during orientation that US law school final exams are not a 2-week cram session. Instead, students have to study all semester, building their “outline” (course study guide) from the first week, going over this every week to ensure understanding. Additionally, students have to reach out to their professors and go to office hours should they have any questions about the topic being covered each week. We encourage this during orientation as well. Professors will not know if a student is struggling if they do not reach out. Professors here are very open to helping students and giving one-on-one time, but the student has to make the initial effort.

Credits

Required to be full-time student:

- 10 credit hours minimum
- 16 credit hours maximum

All exchange students are required to take Introduction to U.S. Law for 2 credits in the fall semester **or** U.S. Constitutional Law for 2 credits in the spring semester to build a strong foundation for their studies at Texas Law.

Transcripts

You can expect to receive your transcript for the fall semester in late January and your transcript for the spring semester in late June, after professors have turned in final grades. Unofficial transcripts are sent to the student and their exchange coordinator at their home university once they are finalized. They are sent securely through UTBox in compliance with FERPA and GDPR. Students may download an unofficial transcript at no cost [here](#). They may purchase an official transcript for \$20 [here](#).

Classes

Each class ranges from 1-6 credit hours. The interactive course schedule is available at law.utexas.edu/courses/catalog/.

Clinics

The following clinics accept exchange students:

- Capital Punishment Clinic (Prerequisite: Students are required to take concurrently the Capital Punishment course.)
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Entrepreneurship & Community Development Clinic
- Environmental Clinic
- Human Rights Clinic
- Immigration Clinic
- Transnational Worker Rights Clinic

Clinic students must pay a \$100 fee. All clinics require [an application](#). Fall and spring exchange students may apply to clinics after they are admitted to the Law School. You will receive an email from

IncomingExchange@law.utexas.edu letting you know the exact date to apply. Please visit Texas Law Clinics for more information. Email questions to IncomingExchange@law.utexas.edu.

Please note, space in clinics is limited, and the application process is competitive. Additionally, clinics are a lot of work, and students are required to put in approximately 170 hours per semester (12 hours per week). Therefore, if you are accepted into a clinic, be 100% sure you will be able to keep up with the demanding workload in addition to your other coursework. It reflects poorly on the Exchange Program when students drop clinics after having been accepted into the course.

Health Insurance

Exchange students must have health insurance that meets both U.S. Department of State and University of Texas requirements while studying at the University. All reciprocal exchange students in J-1 status are automatically enrolled in the UT Student Health Insurance Plan at registration. **It is not possible to waive this requirement.** The cost of the insurance plan is included in your fees bill. Please visit [Insurance Requirements for Exchange Students](#) for more information.

Students are covered under the UT Health Insurance Plan for the month of August, and this fee will show on their fees bill as “Supplemental Insurance.” For immediate medical attention, students can visit [University Health Services](#) without charge until they receive their health insurance card. Students are sent their health insurance card once it has been issued by BlueCross BlueShield after the first week of classes. Students also have access to the [UT Counseling and Mental Health Center](#).

Fees Bill

Exchange students must pay fees bill (e.g., \$10 student ID card fee, \$125 International Student and Scholar Services fee, and UT Student Health Insurance fee plus 5% International Insurance Administrative fee, etc.) by **5 pm on January 22, 2021. Otherwise, they will be dropped from their classes.** Additionally, at the end of the semester, all additional fees must be paid so that the Student Affairs Office will release exchange student transcripts to the exchange coordinator at Texas Law, who will then forward the transcript to the student. These additional fees can include library late charges, the \$30 Extegrity Exam4 Software fee (you will be given an opportunity to opt out via email), visiting UT University Health Services, etc.

Scholarships

The University of Texas School of Law does not offer scholarships to exchange students.

Estimated Budget Per Semester

Books & Supplies	\$998
Room & Board	\$7,024
Transportation	\$760
Personal & Miscellaneous	\$2,015
Health Insurance	\$1,586.82 + 5% (\$79.34) International Insurance Administrative fee
Total Estimated Costs	\$12,463.16

Transportation

- [Capital Metro](#): Download the [CapMetro app](#) to know where your bus is and map your route. UT students, faculty, and staff ride all Capital Metro services for free when they swipe their valid IDs.
- [Car2Go](#): Car sharing in Austin
- [E-Bus](#): The E-bus provides a safe alternative to driving to and from Austin's entertainment district during weekend evenings (Thursday-Saturday, 8:30 pm-3:00 am)
- [Mega Bus](#): Bus from Austin to Dallas and from Dallas to Austin
- [Orange Bike Project](#): UT bike rental program
- Ride-share companies: [Lyft](#), [RideAustin](#), [Uber](#)
- [UT Night Rides](#): Provides Lyft rides away from main campus to your home. Please note that locations served will mirror certain current UT Shuttle routes. 7 days a week from 11 pm to 4 am
- [SURE Walk](#): Provides safe walks and rides home. 7 days a week from 8:30 pm-2 am.
- [UT Shuttle Bus](#): Schedule available on-line

The City of Austin

Austin is the best place to live in the United States, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and is all about great choices when it comes to quality of life. We are known as the Live Music Capital of the World for good reason. Austin's entertainment districts are home to more than 407 live music venues. Whether it is Tex-Mex or BBQ, sushi or fusion cuisine, Austin does not disappoint. *Travel + Leisure* named Austin as one of "America's Best Cities for Foodies," and our food truck scene always takes a different spin than the expected. With more than 300 sunny days each year, Austinites appreciate the outdoors. Kayak or paddleboard on Lady Bird Lake. Cycle on the [Barton Creek Greenbelt](#). Or head out to [Hamilton Pool](#) or [Barton Springs](#) for a quick dip in spectacular surroundings. From lively performances at the [ZACH Theatre](#) or the [Long Center](#) to galleries and studios showcasing local artists, Austin's creative side is thriving. Austin's largest annual events include [SXSW Music, Film and Interactive Conferences & Festivals](#) (March), [Austin City Limits Music Festival](#) (October), [Austin Film Festival](#) (October), and [F1 Grand Prix](#) (October).