

# ESL WELCOME GUIDE



The University of Texas at Austin  
International Office

# WELCOME

Welcome to ESL (English as a Second Language) Services at The University of Texas at Austin. This welcome guide contains information that will be useful prior to your arrival in Austin. Whether you will be traveling from your home country or another location in the United States, please read this guide carefully and take advantage of the information contained in it.

In addition to this guide, you should have also received the following:

- ESL Services acceptance letter
- Tuition bill
- Health insurance waiver
- Immigration Form I-20 or DS-2019 (if an F-1 or J-1 student)

If you did not receive any of these items, please contact ESL Services immediately.

The faculty and staff of ESL Services look forward to having you study with us. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask us for help.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [esl@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:esl@austin.utexas.edu)  
Phone: (512) 471-2480  
Fax: (512) 475-6810  
Website: [world.utexas.edu/esl](http://world.utexas.edu/esl)

## MAILING ADDRESS

ESL Services, International Office  
The University of Texas at Austin  
PO Box A  
Austin, TX 78713-8901

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# AUSTIN & THE UNIVERSITY

## AUSTIN

Austin, the capital of the state of Texas, is situated on the banks of the Colorado River in the part of central Texas known as the Hill Country. In 1836, Austin was named and chosen as the capital in honor of the "Father of Texas," Stephen F. Austin.

## AUSTIN QUICK FACTS

- Eleventh largest city in the United States
- Population of approximately 950,000 within the 600 square kilometers (232 square miles) city limits
- 68 square kilometers (17,000 acres) of greenspace
- 220 parks
- 150 live music venues, known as the "Live Music Capital of the World"
- Temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in the summer, and some winter days below freezing
- Austin is in the Central Time Zone

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The University of Texas at Austin is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the people of Texas and the world. As an enduring symbol of the spirit of Texas - big, ambitious and bold - the university drives economic and social progress and serves as a leading center of knowledge and creativity.

## UNIVERSITY QUICK FACTS

- Founded in 1883
- One of the largest public universities in the United States
- 21,000 faculty and staff
- 18 colleges and schools
- More than 51,000 students from all 50 states and over 118 countries.
- For more information about the university, visit: [www.utexas.edu/about](http://www.utexas.edu/about)







# PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

## 1. READ ALL ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

Your acceptance letter contains two important appointments for your English Placement Test and Registration. Please be on time to both appointments and bring all required documents to registration. The required documents are listed on your acceptance letter.

## 2. REVIEW IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS/ PAY SEVIS FEE RECEIPT

Verify that all of the information on your I-20/DS-2019 is correct. Use the info on your I-20/DS-2019 to pay the SEVIS fee receipt (Form I-901) online at:

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

## 3. APPLY FOR VISA

Apply for the F-1/J-1 visa at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your home country. (See “Applying for a Visa” section on page 5 for more information.)

## 4. PURCHASE HEALTH INSURANCE

Make plans to purchase health insurance coverage with ESL Services once you arrive in the US, or have your current health insurance provider complete the enclosed waiver form. All students in F or J visa status with The University of Texas at Austin are required to have health insurance. (See “Health Matters” section on page 8 for more information.)

## 5. PREPARE FOR INITIAL EXPENSES

Make financial arrangements to cover the cost of tuition, books, living expenses, and recreation. It is recommended to bring the cost of tuition, books, and the first three month’s living expenses when you first arrive in the US. (See “Finances” section on page 7 for more information.)



## 6. ARRANGE HOUSING

Arrange for your housing needs. Although ESL Services is unable to assist you in arranging housing, this guide provides an overview of the many housing options in Austin. (See “Housing” section on page 13 for more information.)

## 7. ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION

Arrange for transportation from the Austin airport to your hotel or apartment. (See “Arrival” section on page 16 for more information.)



# IMMIGRATION MATTERS

## STUDENTS WHO CURRENTLY RESIDE OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

**F-1 VISA:** Most students who enroll in a full-time ESL program enter the US on an F-1 student visa. A Form I-20 is issued by ESL Services after you have submitted the completed application and required supporting documents. Use the information on the Form I-20 to pay the SEVIS fee receipt (Form I-901) at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). The I-20 and SEVIS fee receipt must be presented at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your home country when you apply for your student visa. You must also have your unexpired passport and evidence of financial support for the duration of your study.

## QUICK FACT

Dependents (spouse or children) of an F-1 visa holder can accompany the student on F-2 dependent visas and may enroll in part-time ESL study. F-2s are not permitted to study full-time or enroll in a degree program. Please submit a part-time ESL application for the F-2 before you arrive to ensure space availability!

**J-1 VISA:** Some students enter the US 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 from a



sponsoring organization. Dependents of a J-1 visa holder are classified as J-2 and may study ESL on a part-time or full-time basis, or may enroll in a degree program.

If you are entering the US as an F-1 or J-1, you are not permitted to enter the US earlier than 30-days before the program start date stated on your I-20/DS-2019. If your visa is delayed and you cannot arrive on time to begin your admitted semester, please contact ESL Services to see about deferring your admission to a future semester.

### **STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE U.S. ON AN F-1 VISA (F-1 TRANSFER STUDENTS)**

If you are already in the US studying at another US institution and would like to attend ESL Services, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) permits a transfer of your immigration status to ESL Services provided that you are in valid F-1 status.

- Inform your current school about your intent to transfer to ESL Services before the end of your current program.
- Provide your current school with the ESL Services Transfer-In Form (issued at time of admission).
- Make sure your current school completes and signs the Transfer-In Form and emails or faxes the form back to ESL Services.
- Submit Proof of Financial Support to ESL Services.
- Once your I-20 is released from your

current school to ESL Services, we will issue you a transfer pending I-20.

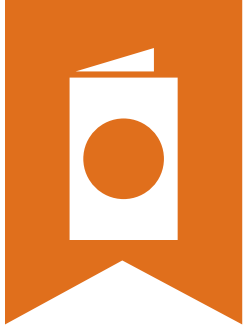
- If you plan to travel outside the US during any break periods, make sure to obtain your UT ESL I-20 before re-entering the US.
- If you changed your status in the US to F-1 and do not have a F-1 visa stamp in your passport, you must use the ESL Services I-20 to apply for a new visa.

### **STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES ON ANOTHER TYPE OF VISA (F-2, J-2, H-1)**

If you are in a status other than F-1 or J-1 and would like to study full-time, please contact ESL Services to determine your eligibility. In general, F-2 visa holders cannot study full-time. For individuals interested in changing their status within the US, the change MUST be submitted to USCIS prior to the expiration of your current status, and 2-4 months before the start of the semester if you are in a status that does not permit full-time enrollment. ESL Services can advise you on the filing process.

## **NOTE**

Failure to complete the transfer process within 15 days of the program start date results in a violation of your immigration status. Furthermore, you may not work on campus until your immigration transfer is processed. If you are out of status, discuss your options with your current international student advisor or with an immigration advisor at the International Office at The University of Texas at Austin.



# APPLYING FOR A VISA

Once you have all the required documentation, it is best to apply for the visa as soon as possible to ensure that there is sufficient time for processing. You will need your SEVIS ID and UT School Code, both of which are listed on the I-20/DS-2019, to make an appointment for your visa interview. Consult the US Embassy or Consulate nearest to you to find out their current visa processing times: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Usually, the US Embassy does not allow you to apply for the visa earlier than 6 months before the program start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019.

If you have specific questions about obtaining your F-1/J-1 visa, contact the US Embassy or Consulate where you will apply: [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

As a person applying for an F-1 or J-1 visa, you must prove that you do not intend to immigrate to the United States. Under US law, all student visa applicants are viewed by the US Consular Officer as “intending immigrants” until the officer is convinced otherwise. You will need to show strong ties to your home country or place of residence to secure a student visa. Proof of strong ties to your country may include family, property ownership, financial statements, employment, or letters from family or friends.

You should be able to verify the financial information shown on your Form I-20/DS-

## DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY

- Form I-20 or DS-2019
- SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt
- A passport valid for at least 6 months
- The intention to stay in the US temporarily only for pursuing a full-course of study
- Proof of a residence outside of the US that you will return to after completing your studies
- Proof of the ability to finance your education and living expenses while living in the US
- Completed visa application form

2019. This may be done with your personal bank statement or a statement of financial guarantee and letter of support from a sponsor confirming their willingness to support your education program. A sponsor may be your employer, a family member, or the government of your home country.

Our students have varying reasons for studying English; some students study English to prepare for undergraduate or graduate degrees in the US, others study for business or pleasure. During the visa interview, you should be able to explain confidently your purpose for studying English in the US.





# ARRIVAL INFORMATION

## WELCOME TO AUSTIN!

We hope you have a safe flight and smooth arrival! The local airport, Austin Bergstrom International Airport (AUS), is small and easy to navigate. The airport staff is friendly and eager to help you. There is an information desk in the Arrivals area of the airport that will assist you with any of your questions.

If you arrive on a Saturday or Sunday, you will find that the university and most government offices are closed. However, most retail stores will be open over the weekend. If you arrive on a weekday (Monday through Friday), we invite you to visit us in the International Office (INT) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



## TRANSPORTATION

The airport is located approximately 24 kilometers (15 miles) from the campus. Unfortunately, we are not able to make arrangements to meet you at the airport. Please see the transportation options below to get you to your destination.

## TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FROM THE AIRPORT

- **Bus:** Capitol Metro's Route 100 Airport Flyer departs AUS every 30 minutes. The cost is \$1.25. This bus stops at 2 locations on campus. The trip from the airport to campus takes approximately 30 minutes. Schedule and route map can be found at: [www.capmetro.org/schedules](http://www.capmetro.org/schedules)
- **SuperShuttle:** This is a shared-ride van service. The approximate fare from the airport to the campus area is \$17 for first person and \$10 for each additional person. Reservations are recommended but not required. Make reservations by phone at 800-258-3826 or online at: [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)
- **Taxi or Ride Share Service:** The fare from the airport to campus is approximately \$30-\$40.



# FINANCES

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is recommended that you bring with you enough money for the cost of tuition, books, and the first 3 months of rent.

A bank draft or cashier's check is a convenient way to bring money with you. The draft or check should be in US dollars, made payable to yourself and then deposited in a local bank when you arrive. Remember, the funds will not be available for your use until the draft or check "clears," which may take 15-30 days after deposit. Therefore, you should bring the amount of your tuition plus approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 in traveler's checks for your initial living expenses. You may also wish to bring some US currency, but we do not recommend carrying large amounts of cash. See this link regarding banking options in Austin:

[world.utexas.edu/iss/life/bank](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/life/bank)

## TUITION PAYMENT

You can pay your tuition with Visa/Mastercard, cashier's check, money order, or wire transfer when you arrive for your scheduled registration. Please email [esl@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:esl@austin.utexas.edu) to get more details about how to process a wire transfer. Wire transfers should be processed after obtaining your student visa, but before travelling to the US.

NOTE: Sponsored students must have their financial guarantee when they arrive for registration, in order to not pay tuition and fees.

## ESTIMATED EXPENSE PLANNER

Minimum Annual Living Expenses:

Estimated \$1,460 per month

\*Add additional expenses if you are bringing your spouse and/or child:

Estimated \$730 per month for spouse &

\$320 per month for each child

For tuition and fee estimates, please check the ESL Dates and Costs page: [world.utexas.edu/esl/apply/dates-and-costs](http://world.utexas.edu/esl/apply/dates-and-costs)

My estimated expenses:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tuition and Books

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Living Expenses  
(Housing/Food)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Social Activities

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



# HEALTH MATTERS

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Health care can be very expensive in the US; therefore, health insurance is required for all students in F or J visa status with The University of Texas at Austin. All students are automatically enrolled in the UT Health Insurance Plan at the time of registration. The cost of the policy is included in the student's tuition bill.

If you already own health insurance, you may be eligible to waive out of the UT Health Insurance. To waive the UT Health Insurance plan, you must complete an insurance waiver form and submit it at the time of your ESL registration appointment. The waiver form is included in the student admission materials.

To waive out of the UT Health Insurance, your policy must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:

- Major medical coverage: \$100,000 per accident or illness
- Repatriation of remains: \$25,000
- Medical evacuation: \$50,000
- Deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness per year

If you have any questions about student health insurance, please visit the link below or contact ESL Services.

[world.utexas.edu/iss/insurance](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/insurance)

## TB SCREENING

All new students are required to complete TB (tuberculosis) screening. Screenings are conducted by University Health Services at no cost to you. More information will be provided at registration. If you are transferring from another US university and completed TB screening there, please be sure to bring a copy of your test results with you to your registration appointment.





# REGISTRATION WEEK

During registration week, you will have several steps to complete before you can receive your class schedule. Throughout the week of registration, there will also be various activities that will help you become more familiar with Austin, The University of Texas, and your classmates. We cannot guarantee space availability for students who do not attend their scheduled placement test and registration appointment.

## 1. PLACEMENT TEST

Your first step will be to complete your placement test. You will find your placement test appointment at the top of your ESL admission letter.

The test will consist of a writing assessment and a computer based multiple-choice exam with sections in grammar, reading, and listening. The placement test takes about 3 hours. The scores from this assessment will be used to determine the course level that will be best for you.

## 2. REGISTRATION

You will next attend your registration appointment. Your appointment can be found at the top of your admission letter. During registration, you will have an oral interview, confirm your program choice, pay your tuition, purchase health insurance or show your health insurance waiver, and meet with an immigration advisor to show your immigration documents and review immigration policies and regulations.

## 3. ORIENTATION

Last you will attend orientation at the end of registration week. You will receive important information about life in Austin, the resources available to you at The University of Texas, the ESL Services program and policies, and advice on how to complete your ESL program successfully. **Once you complete orientation, you will receive your class schedule.**

## 4. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

There will be various activities for you to participate in during the week of registration as part of your ESL program. Some of these activities, such as the ESL welcome social, will give you a fun way to meet many new students from all over the world. Others are designed to show you how to get around the university and Austin. Our campus walking tour will show you where many of your classes will be as well as where to find libraries, computer labs, food, and much more on campus. You will also have an opportunity to join a chartered bus tour of Austin that will show you some of Austin's most beautiful and historical features. A highlight of this tour is the stop at the highest point in Austin: Mount Bonnell. From the top of Mount Bonnell you will be able to see some of the most breathtaking views Austin has to offer. All of these activities will be listed in the registration guide you will receive at registration. Be sure to try them all!





# ESL SERVICES PROGRAM POLICIES

## PLACEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Students are placed in ESL classes based on our placement test, which consists of an oral interview, a writing sample, and a multiple-choice exam on listening, structure, and reading.

## ATTENDANCE

- Attendance in all classes is required of all students. All absences are counted; none are excused.
- Students who miss the first week of classes will be dropped from the program. For students on F-1 visas or ESL-issued J-1 visas, this may result in the loss of legal immigration status.
- Arriving to class late will count as a partial absence.
- 90% attendance overall is required to receive a program certificate.
- 75% attendance overall is required to maintain F-1/J-1 immigration status.
- At midterm, students with less than 50% overall attendance may be dismissed from the program.
- At the end of the semester, students with less than 75% attendance overall may not be allowed to continue in the program the next semester. In rare cases, the Director of ESL Services may grant readmission; however, an application for reinstatement of immigration status will be required for F-1/J-1 students, and the students may be placed on academic probation.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

- Students are expected to (a) attend all classes on time, (b) be respectful of teachers and classmates, (c) participate in all classroom activities, and (d) do all homework assignments. Violation of these standards of conduct may result in being dismissed from the program and/or not being allowed to continue in a subsequent semester.
- Students are expected to speak only English in the classroom and are strongly encouraged to speak only English with their classmates at all times.
- Students must buy textbooks during the first week of classes and bring them to class daily. Books must be in new or “like-new” condition. Beginning with the second week of classes, students who do not have their textbooks will not be allowed to attend class.

## GRADING

Students receive grades of A, B, C, D, or F. Grades are based on completion of student learning outcomes, as measured by homework, quizzes, tests, and other assignments. At the end of the semester, we will review final grades for all students who plan to continue their studies with us; any students with final grades of D or F will be required to conference with an administrator, and may be dismissed or placed on academic probation the next semester, without advancement to the next level.



# INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS

A number of opportunities to learn about other cultures as well as American culture will be open to you during your studies at the University. Various organizations and clubs will offer chances to speak with native speakers, learn about Texas, or exchange traditions with a large international community. You will also have a chance to connect with others who share similar interests or cultures through the dozens of student organizations on campus. More information about PALS, Language Circles, the Friendship Program, and Texas Excursions can be found at: [world.utexas.edu/iss/programs](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/programs)

## ESL SOCIALS

ESL Socials hosts weekly activities for current ESL students. Some of the activities you will see include homework help hours, discussion hours, and parties that share different aspects of American culture. The ESL Socials team is dedicated to providing fun ways for our students to practice their English and learn outside of the classroom.

## PALS

The PALS (Partnership to Advance Language Study and Cultural Exchange) program offers the opportunity to “Go Global” without ever leaving campus. International and American students are matched and provided with opportunities for cultural exchange and to practice conversation skills. PALS hosts several social events each month and is a great way to meet new people and learn about other cultures. Visit [utpals.weebly.com](http://utpals.weebly.com)

## LANGUAGE CIRCLES

Language Circles are designed to provide international students with opportunities to practice their conversational English or other languages and to learn more about American culture. Language Circles, groups with one native speaker and 1-4 participants, meet once a week for 1 hour: [utpals.weebly.com/language-circles](http://utpals.weebly.com/language-circles)



## FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

The Friendship Program offers International students the opportunity to meet people who live in Austin, share their culture with others, and learn about life in the United States. The “student” may be a single person, a couple, or a family. The “host” may also be a single person, a couple, or a family. The exchange of traditions, customs, and lifestyles can be an exciting learning opportunity!

[world.utexas.edu/iss/programs/friends](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/programs/friends)

## TEXAS EXCURSIONS

International Student and Scholar Services organizes monthly bus trips to a variety of locations and events around Texas. These trips provide an opportunity for students to experience the different cities and sites of Texas in a group setting with other ESL and university students.

For more information on any of the above programs:

[world.utexas.edu/iss/programs/excursions](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/programs/excursions)



## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout campus there are many different student-run groups that help connect students to the University community. They provide a great place for people of similar interests or cultures to meet and share their experiences and friendship. Below are some examples of just a few of the cultural groups on campus. To find more, please visit:

[utexas.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations](http://utexas.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations)

Arab Students Association  
Armenian Cultural Association  
Chinese Student Association  
Hong Kong Students Association  
Indian Cultural Association  
Indian Student Association  
Indonesian Student Association  
Japanese Association

Korean Students Association  
Persian Students Society  
Taiwanese Student Association  
Thai Association of Austin  
Turkish University Students Association  
Vietnamese Students Association



# HOUSING

There are many options for housing in the Austin area, such as dormitories, apartments (furnished or unfurnished), and cooperative houses. Each of these types of housing will have different living space, costs, and food service availability. **You are responsible for making your own housing arrangements.**

## SHORT-TERM (TEMPORARY) HOUSING

There is no temporary housing available on campus. You may plan to stay in one of the facilities below until you find permanent housing. Ask if they offer a UT Austin discount.

### MOTELS

(Listed in order of proximity to the UT Austin campus)

#### Rodeway Inn

2900 N. IH 35 / (512) 477-6395

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

#### Days Inn: University

3105 N. IH 35 / (512) 478-1631

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

#### Doubletree Suites

303 W. 15th St. / (512) 478-7000

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

#### La Quinta Capitol

300 E. 11th St. / (512) 476-1166

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

#### Extended Stay

600 Guadalupe St. / (512) 457-9994

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

## NOTE

Private dormitories may also offer short-term housing at a daily rate.

## YOUTH HOSTELS

### American Youth Hostel

2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd.

(512) 444-2294

[hiusa.org/hostels/texas/austin/](http://hiusa.org/hostels/texas/austin/)

### Drifter Jack's Hostel

2602 Guadalupe St.

(512) 243-8410

[drifterjackshostel.com](http://drifterjackshostel.com)

## LONG-TERM HOUSING & PRIVATE DORMITORIES

The following is a short list of popular private dormitories close to campus. Note: payment for the entire semester is usually due at the time the contract is signed. For a complete list of private dormitories, visit: [www.austindorms.com](http://www.austindorms.com)

### Dobie Center

2021 Guadalupe St. / (888) 523-0890

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

### The Castilian

2323 San Antonio St. / (512) 478-9811

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

### University Towers

801 W. 24th St. / (512) 472-5846

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

### Abbey House

408 W. 17th St. / (512) 474-2036

[www.abbey-house.com](http://www.abbey-house.com)

### For Women Only:

#### Hardin House

2206 Rio Grande St. / (512) 472-6717

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



## COOPERATIVE HOUSING (CO-OPS)

Co-ops are democratically-run residences, in which residents share cooking and cleaning responsibilities. The entire house board makes decisions about house policies and rules. Co-ops can be less expensive than other housing options, and they provide opportunities to meet a variety of people.

### College Houses

(512) 476-5678

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

### UT Inter-Cooperative Council

(512) 476-1957

[www.iccaustin.coop](http://www.iccaustin.coop)

## PRIVATE APARTMENTS

Most students live in privately owned apartments, many of which are within walking or bicycle distance of campus. The UT Shuttle and Austin city bus systems serve a large number of students who live farther away from campus.

You can rent apartments that are furnished or unfurnished. Furnished apartments will be more expensive than unfurnished ones. If you rent an unfurnished apartment, you will need to buy basic furniture, such as a bed, dresser, night stand, couch and desk. Most apartments will come with a refrigerator/freezer, dishwasher, and stove.

If you plan to live in a private apartment, you will need enough money when you arrive to pay for the first and last month's rent and utility deposits. Apartments are usually rented in person, but apartment locator services may assist you before you arrive. More Austin apartment locators can be found by using your favorite internet search engine.

## POPULAR PRIVATE APARTMENTS NEAR THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

### The Block

(512) 472-2562

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

### Quarters

(512) 531-0123

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

### 26 West

(512) 477-4300

<http://26-west.com>

### Rio West

(512) 236-1903

<http://rioweststudentliving.com>

### 2400 Nueces

(512) 651-1139

[www.2400nuecesapartments.com](http://www.2400nuecesapartments.com)





## APARTMENT LOCATING SERVICES

### Apartment Finders Service

(512) 322-9556

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

### Properties One

(512) 836-0727

[www.prop1.com](http://www.prop1.com)

### Habitat Hunters

(512) 482-8651

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

### A+ Properties

(512) 222-5383

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

### Simply International

(512) 943-2175

[simplyinternational.com](http://simplyinternational.com)

## ADDITIONAL HOUSING RESOURCES

Find other housing resources from the links below, which also include important questions to ask when looking for off-campus housing in our Housing Resources:

[world.utexas.edu/iss/life/housing](http://world.utexas.edu/iss/life/housing)

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

[austin.craigslist.org](http://austin.craigslist.org)

[www.statesman.com/s/classifieds](http://www.statesman.com/s/classifieds)



# PARKING & TRANSPORTATION



Parking a car at The University of Texas at Austin can be difficult and costly. Generally, parking becomes more challenging and expensive the closer to campus you are. During registration week, if you plan to drive to campus, you may park at a few parking garages located close to the International Office for an hourly fee. You may also park at the meters along the street for a fee.

Most students ride the bus to get to campus. There are also several “Park and Ride” lots where you can park your car and take the bus to campus. Once you have completed registration, you may get a UT photo ID card, which allows you to ride the buses for free. Unfortunately, it is not possible to get a UT ID prior to registration. If you plan to take the bus to campus during registration week, be sure to bring money for the bus fare, until you can get your UT ID.

## RESOURCES

CITY BUS ROUTES:  
[www.capmetro.org/plan](http://www.capmetro.org/plan)

UT SHUTTLE BUS ROUTES:  
[parking.utexas.edu/transportation/shuttle](http://parking.utexas.edu/transportation/shuttle)

PARKING ON CAMPUS:  
[www.utexas.edu/parking](http://www.utexas.edu/parking)

CAR SHARE SERVICES:  
[austin.car2go.com](http://austin.car2go.com)  
[zipcar.com/utexas](http://zipcar.com/utexas)

BICYCLE SHARE SERVICE:  
[austin.bcycle.com](http://austin.bcycle.com)





# PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHILDCARE

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public school that children attend is determined by the location of their home in Austin. Exceptions are based on individual circumstances. Note that immunization records are required to enroll children in Texas public schools. School transcripts are also helpful (though not required) for placement of children into appropriate grade levels. For details regarding the public school schedule for registration and classes, you may contact:

### AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Records Department  
111 West 6th Street  
Austin, TX 78703  
[www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org)

## CHILD CARE

The University of Texas at Austin provides childcare for UT students, faculty, and staff through the University Child Care: [childcenter.utexas.edu](http://childcenter.utexas.edu). This is not a free service. There is often a long waiting list for placement, which is based on the date of application.

In the meantime, there are numerous qualified childcare facilities in the Austin area. In this section, we provide information to help you make your childcare decisions.

A licensed childcare facility must be a well-managed, accountable organization with adequate supervision that provides a safe and healthy environment and activities geared toward specific age groups.







## **FIVE STEPS FOR CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE**

### **1. LOOK**

Visit several different child care homes or centers. Think about your first impressions and take notes. Always visit a home or center more than once and stay as long as possible to get a good feel for what the care will be like for your child. After starting care, continue to visit from time to time and talk with the owner if you have any concerns. If you are not welcome to visit at any time, you may want to find a different provider.

### **2. LISTEN**

What does the child care setting sound like? Are the children happy and involved? Do the caregivers'/teachers' voices sound cheerful and patient? If the facility is too quiet, it may mean there are not enough activities available. If it is too noisy, it may mean there is a lack of control.

### **3. COUNT**

Count the number of children and caregivers/teachers who care for them in each group. The fewer the number of children for each adult, the more attention your child will receive. Especially for babies and younger children, it is important to have a small child to staff ratio that meets or exceeds minimum standards.

### **4. ASK**

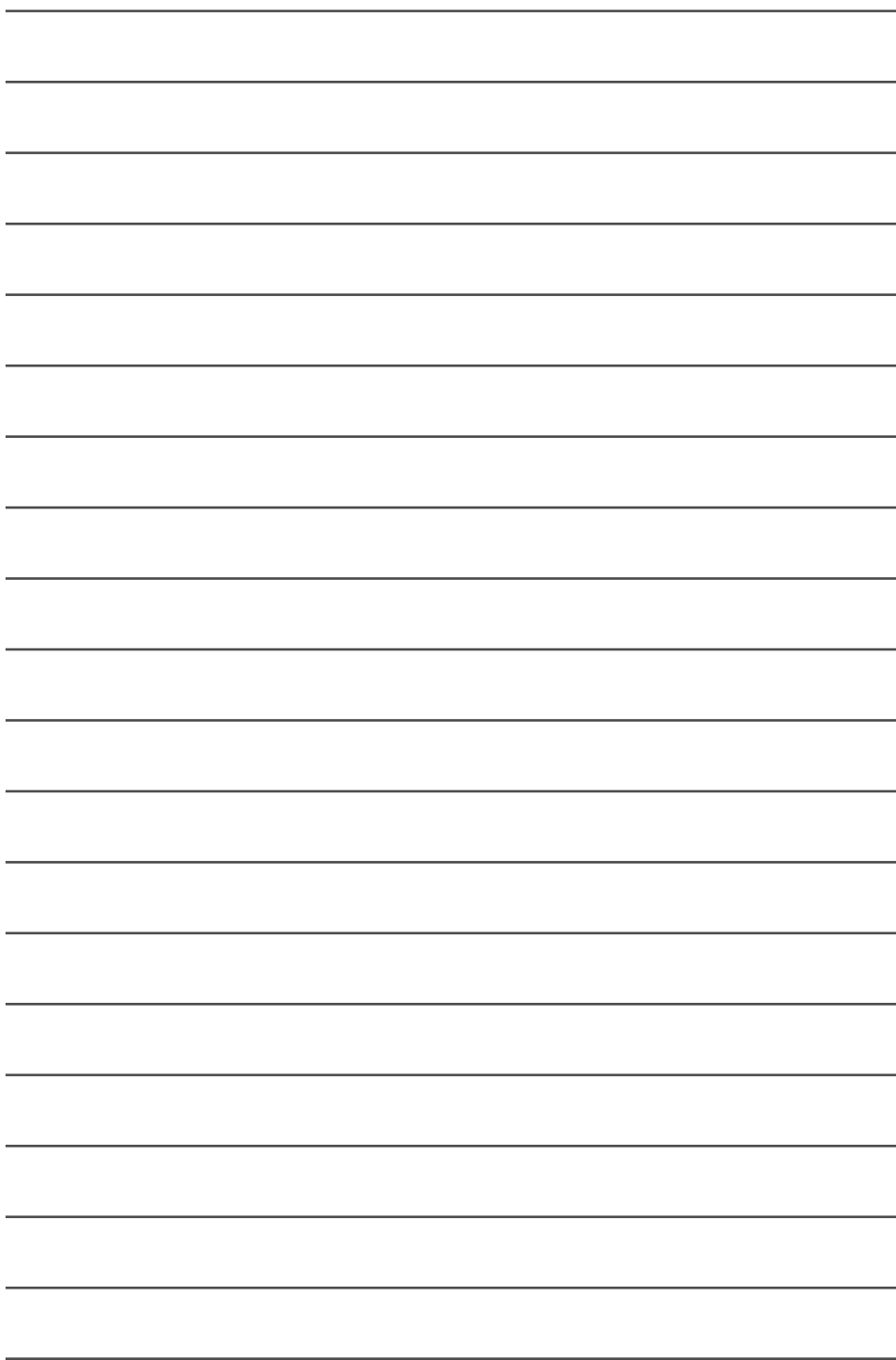
Quality care providers and teachers should be happy to answer your questions about their child care background and experience. It is important for you to know that the adults who will care for your children have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide the attention they will need. Also, ask about any special training they have and whether the program is accredited.

### **5. BE INFORMED**

Is your provider involved in efforts to improve the quality of child care in your community? How can you get involved?

To find out if there have been any valid complaints and/or other pertinent information about any of the programs you are considering, call the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) at (800) 862-5252 or visit their website at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us). Contact your local licensing office. Information provided by [www.GetChildCareNOW.com](http://www.GetChildCareNOW.com)





# ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE SERVICES

## PHYSICAL LOCATION

2400 Nueces Street  
Austin, Texas 78705

## STANDARD MAIL

ESL Services, International Office  
The University of Texas at Austin  
PO Box A  
Austin, TX 78713-8901

## CONTACT

esl@austin.utexas.edu  
Phone: (512) 471-2480  
Fax: (512) 475-6810

[world.utexas.edu/esl](http://world.utexas.edu/esl)

 UTInternationalOffice

    @WorldandUT



The University of Texas at Austin  
**International Office**