INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET
Please read this form carefully before completing the International Student Reply Form

CONTACTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS)

Check-In

Any Texas A&M University student who is not a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident is considered to be an international student. All international students are required to attend the International Student Check-In with ISS. The purpose of the International Student Check-In is to confirm that students have arrived in the U.S. and are complying with federal regulations. Prior to their arrival, all international students are blocked from course registration. Students must attend Check-In in order to have the registration hold removed. Visit International Student Services’ website at https://iss.tamu.edu/checkin_orientation/orientation_main.asp for more information.

Online Orientation

All international students are REQUIRED to complete an Online Orientation before they can schedule a Check-In appointment. In order to verify that you completed the Online Orientation, you must review all sections, pass the quiz at the end of each section that has a quiz, and receive a confirmation e-mail verifying your completion of the Online Orientation. Registration for the Online Orientation is available on the Online Orientation webpage at https://iss.tamu.edu/checkin_orientation/orientation.asp.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

All international graduate students whose native language is not English must fulfill an English proficiency requirement, through either English Proficiency Verification or English Proficiency Certification. This proficiency requirement should be met early in a student's program, and it must be completed before scheduling either the final examination for the master's degree or the preliminary examination for the doctoral degree.

There are two levels of English Proficiency Status for graduate students: English Proficiency Verified and English Proficiency Certified. English Proficiency Certification is required by the State of Texas before a graduate student is eligible to serve as a graduate teaching assistant, or any other position considered to be a teaching position (e.g., instructor, lecturer, etc.). All other students must be at least English Proficiency Verified, through either the TOEFL or IELTS test.

See the Texas A&M English Language Institute website for more details: http://eli.tamu.edu/tamustudents/proficiency.php#gradaute
APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

International students may attend the university with many types of U.S. visas. The two most common ones are student F and J visas. To obtain an F-1 or J-1 student visa, a student needs to have a form I-20 (for F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (for J-1 visa).

While some sponsoring agencies issue DS-2019 forms themselves, Texas A&M can issue both of these documents. In order for Texas A&M to issue an DS-2019 or I-20 form to attend Texas A&M, a student must submit documentation to International Student Services.

Once a new student, who is located outside the United States, has the I-20 or DS-2019, he/she can apply for a student visa at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. For further information concerning the process of applying for visas, see http://iss.tamu.edu/immigration/visastudent.asp.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

International Student Services offers an interactive program for all international students, family members of international students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M University: the International Student Conference (ISC). This program includes additional information that is not presented in the Online Orientation and is applicable to all international students. The ISC will feature concurrent sessions and a resource fair! All international students (current and new), family members of international students, as well as all faculty and staff members are strongly encouraged to attend this event each Fall and Spring semester. See https://iss.tamu.edu/events/isc.asp for details.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There are many international student clubs and associations at Texas A&M. See http://iss.tamu.edu/living/clubs.asp for information on specific organizations and how to get involved.