WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

A guide for students preparing to join us at Baylor University International Study Center

isc.baylor.edu
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On behalf of President Linda A. Livingstone, it is my pleasure to offer you admission to Baylor University. My colleagues and I commend you on the academic accomplishments that have earned you a spot in the new class.

When you become a Baylor student you will join an academic community grounded in Christian faith and rich with a heritage that reaches back to our founding in 1845. Additionally, you’ll become part of the Baylor family, a worldwide network of Bears who share your college experience.

Your goBAYLOR account will continue to be a vital source of information and next steps until the day you set foot on campus. Please access your goBAYLOR account often at baylor.edu/gobaylor for more information on what is required of you.

If you have questions as you complete these next steps, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Jessica King Gereghty
Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions

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Useful websites:
isc.baylor.edu
facebook.com/BaylorISC
baylor.edu/gobaylor

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Obtaining Your U.S. Student Visa

Once you have been accepted in a program, provided the required financial documents and paid your deposit, Baylor will issue a Form I-20 from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You can then apply for a visa to study in the U.S.

What are the steps to come to the U.S.?
1. Receive your I-20 from Baylor. Review it carefully.
2. Pay the SEVIS fee online at fmjfee.com.
3. Complete the form DS-160 to begin your visa process.
4. Schedule and prepare for your visa interview. You will need to gather several supporting documents.
5. Attend your visa interview at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy.
6. Wait for your F-1 entry visa. Contact the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your country for more information about the procedure for applying for a student visa.

What is a Visa?

A U.S. visa is a passport-sized sticker in your passport. It is used for entry into the U.S. and can only be obtained from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate outside the U.S. The visa indicates what status you have upon entry to the U.S., as well as the date of issuance and expiration (date by which you can use your visa to enter the U.S.).

What Type of Visa Do I Need to Become an Academic Student in the U.S.?

Most non-US citizens who wish to study in the United States will seek an F-1 (non-immigrant) student visa, but there are other visa types that are sometimes authorized for those who study in the U.S. The F-1, or Student Visa, is the most common for those who wish to engage in academic studies in the United States. It is for people who want to study at an accredited USA university or to study English at a university or intensive English language institute.

What Do I Need to Know About Immigration Status?

All Baylor students who are neither citizens nor permanent residents of the United States are categorized as international students, regardless of their visa classification by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Department of State.

It is the responsibility of each international student to become familiar with the regulations which apply to his/her visa status. Students should consult the International Student Services Office if questions or problems regarding immigration matters arise. The U.S. immigration regulations bring great restrictions and consequences for non-immigrants who do not enter the U.S. in lawful status (illegal persons), and who do not maintain their lawful status. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that you enter the U.S. with the proper F-1 visa and documentation and remain in legal status for the duration of your time at Baylor. The various aspects of maintaining status are defined in the following sections.

Definition of Status: The conditions for receiving an F-1 visa once you enter the U.S. for F-1 students, D/S “duration of status” is marked on your passport. Status is maintained by following the rules for F-1 students.

U.S. Laws and Regulations: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulates the activities of nonimmigrants in the U.S., including international students. One of the duties of the ISS Office is to advise international students on how to remain in compliance with immigration rules and regulations, that is, how to remain “in status”.

F-1 Student Status: The most common student immigration status, the F-1, is obtained based on a Form I-20 issued by the college or university upon admission. An F-1 student is admitted to the U.S. for attending a SPECIFIC school, and must take a full course load every semester (Fall and Spring); at least 12 credits per semester.

Immigrant or Permanent Resident: some students hold an immigrant status, technically referred to as a permanent resident. This status, indicated by the ownership of a “green card,” allows the person to remain in the country permanently and is the first step toward acquiring citizenship.

Are There Study Program Requirements for an F-1 Visa?

An F-1 student must register for a minimum of 12 semester hours and they must be enrolled every semester that they are in the U.S. (Fall and Spring). F-1 students who have completed both a fall and spring semester consecutively at Baylor are eligible for a vacation, typically taken during the summer.

When Should I Apply for a Visa?

It is best to apply early for the visa to make sure that there is sufficient time for visa processing. We recommend that all students apply for their visa as soon as they have all the required documentation. Notify us directly once your visa status is known. Please tell your Student Enrollment Advisor when you have made an appointment, and notify them of the outcome of that appointment.

What is an I-94?

When you enter the U.S., an immigration inspector (CBP Officer) determines how long you may stay in the U.S. A paperless electronic Form I-94 is created by the CBP Officer when you are admitted by air or sea travel. You will be able to print out a paper copy later, if you need it, at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html. If you enter the U.S. by land from Canada or Mexico, you will be issued a paper I-94. DO NOT LOSE IT.

What Should I Do When I Arrive at Baylor?

During the first two weeks after your arrival at Baylor, come to the ISS Office and bring with you your current passport, your passport with your F-1 visa (if different from your current passport), and your I-20. We will copy your documents and issue you a new I-20 that shows that you are an active student at Baylor. Afterwards, put your passport, I-20, and any other important documents in a safe place. Do not carry them with you unless you travel.

You must check-in with the DSO in person within the first 30 days of every semester you are enrolled.

Please visit: baylor.edu/globalengagement/index.php?id=925454 for more information
You can read the full visa guidance at: baylor.edu/globalengagement/index.php?id=925132
The standard U.S. current is 110 volts, 60 cycles alternating current (A.C.). Appliances running on 220 – 240 volts will not work in the U.S. If you plan to bring any electrical items, bring a voltage adaptor that converts into the U.S. voltage of 110 V and uses a U.S. electrical plug (www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/). These items may vary in cost, depending on what is needed for an adapter. We recommend certain household items, such as a hair dryer, electric toothbrush and other items that need to be plugged in, be bought after you arrive. These items vary in price, starting around $25. For cell phones, tablets/iPads, and other handheld electronics, you are able to purchase a USB wall charger with multiple ports for as little as $15.

Note also that the U.S. uses 2 or 3-prong electrical plugs that might be different from your country.

WHAT TO BRING TO BAYLOR

PACKING CHECKLIST, RECOMMENDATIONS AND TOP TIPS.

Prepare well in advance. Last-minute packing will only add more stress to your travels, so plan ahead!

In Your Carry-On Bag
- Passport and visa
- Immigration documents (your I-20)
- Documentation of financial support
- Letter of admission from Baylor and information regarding financial aid
- U.S. Currency and Credit Cards. Bring enough money to open a bank account (at least $200) and to cover your initial school supplies, dorm furnishings, and expenses.
- Medications to last 2 months (in original prescription bottles) – your medical insurance will most likely not cover these items, so make sure you have these.
- List of allergies
- Proof of health insurance
- Immunization Record (Without immunization records, you may be held up at customs, and/or be returned to your country of origin.)
- A day’s worth of clothing – in case your luggage is delayed
- Valuable items such as a laptop, camera, phone, etc.
- U.S. adapter kit, to charge items once you arrive.

In Your Checked Luggage
- Casual Clothes: Students usually dress casually for class – so most of the clothes you should bring should be casual: jeans, t-shirt, sweatshirt, flip-flops, sneakers, etc. Bring clothes for warm AND cold weather.
- Formal Clothes: men should have at least one shirt and tie and dress pants, and women should have at least one nice dress or suit.
- A warm coat and light jacket or sweater
- Cultural Items – consider bringing traditional clothes, national arts, and crafts to share with your fellow students.
- Toiletries – most toiletry brands are readily available in the United States, so you will be able to purchase those items here.
- Personal items such as photos, music, books, magazines, etc.
- 2 pairs of glasses or extra contact lenses if you wear them, along with their prescriptions
- 110-115, 60-cycle AC electrical adapter plug
Getting to Waco Before Arrival Date (August 19, 2019)
If you arrive August 17-19, Baylor can come get you at the Waco Regional Airport (ACT) or bus station. But we have to know when you will arrive, so please go to the Arrival Information webpage about registering for transportation from the Waco Regional Airport or bus station. There is no pick-up from other airports, located in Texas, only Waco Regional Airport. If you arrive on Saturday or Sunday, you must plan to stay in a local hotel at your own expense until Monday, August 19th move-in day.

If you arrive after 5 PM on Monday, August 19, you will need to get a hotel room. Baylor can pick you up only at the following hotels:

- **La Quinta Inn & Suites**
  www.wyndhamhotels.com
  +1.254.796.2929; 911 South 10th Street
- **Hotel Indigo**
  www.ihg.com
  +1.254.754.7000; 211 Clay Avenue
- **Courtyard by Marriott**
  www.marriott.com
  +1.254.752.3388; 101 Washington Avenue

Please register to be picked up from your hotel at the link below:
www.baylor.edu/globalengagement/index.php?id=925454

Sign-ups for transportation to Hotels from the Waco Regional Airport or Bus Station and then to Baylor campus on the report date will be sent to you from our International Study Center.

Arrival to Waco On the Arrival Date (August 19, 2019)
On August 19 2019, we will have transportation from the Waco Regional Airport and Bus Station to the Baylor campus. Beginning in July, you will be able to arrange university transportation if you need a ride from the Waco Airport or Bus Station (we only pick-up from the Waco Regional Airport, not Dallas, Austin or Houston).

If you have questions, please contact your Center Director, Cornell Menking at cmenking@studygroup.com

For information about international passengers and luggage entering through U.S. Customs and Border Protection, visit www.cbp.gov.

Important Passport Information
Your passport is the basic international document which identifies you as a citizen of your country. The spelling of your name given in your passport should be used for all records while you are in the United States. The name spelling on your visa will be used on your I-20 record. If you need to extend the validity of your passport, contact your nearest consulate or embassy for instruction and procedures. ISS can provide you with a letter of recommendation stating that you are a registered student, if such a document is required by your government. Always keep a copy of your passport in a safe place, and use the copy to provide documentation if you send it in for renewal.

Life in Waco
Baylor is located in Waco, Texas, a mid-size city in Central Texas. Baylor attracts students from all 50 states and more than 89 countries and is centrally located to many of Texas’ largest cities.

Baylor is an hour and a half from Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin and about three hours from San Antonio and Houston. Baylor’s campus sits on 1,000 acres full of trees, green spaces and beautiful buildings. Our campus is also in walking distance of Cameron Park, a 416-acre park that is one of the largest municipal parks in the country. It’s beautiful cliffs and lush wooded areas sit on the Brazos River, the longest river in Texas.

Average Temperatures:
**Annual High Temperatures:**
77.7 degrees°F / 25.5 degrees°C
**Annual Low Temperature:**
55.3 degrees°F / 13 degrees°C
**Average Temperature:**
66.5 degrees°F / 19.25 degrees°C

Top Tip
Make sure to have all of your immunizations, 10 days prior to arrival. If you are unable to get your immunizations, you do risk being sent back to your home country, after arriving on campus.
Welcome Weekend
Welcome Weekend is our office’s new International Student Orientation that runs from August 19 and 20. A detailed schedule will be given to you when you arrive on August 19. Please note that there will be several required events on the schedule including the required Immigration Session.

When you arrive, you will be greeted by Dr. Cornell Menking, Center Director, and the CGE Ambassadors who are current Baylor students, both U.S. and International, whose job is to welcome international students and scholars to campus, accompanying you on cultural trips, and help you during your time at Baylor.

Move-In
For those who will be living in Baylor housing, you may move in to your residence on the Arrival Date, August 19, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. (If you arrive after 5:00 pm, you will not be able to get your Student ID which is required for move in, so you will need to make hotel arrangements for that evening and move in the next day.) If you receive an email saying that you have to move in on August 21 or later, you may disregard that email. International students are permitted to move in on August 19.

Life at Baylor
Being a part of the Baylor family is far more than going to classes and meeting academic requirements. You can take part in more than 330 student organizations, including academic and professional clubs, traditional Greek sororities and fraternities, honor societies, musical groups, and religious and service organizations. On-campus resources such as campus events, dining halls, libraries, and classrooms are all within reach, making it easy to be involved in your Baylor community.

Baylor is the largest private institution represented in the powerful Big 12 Conference. You can share in the excitement of athletic events ranging from football, basketball, baseball, softball and acrobatics and tumbling to golf, tennis, track and field, soccer, volleyball, cross country and equestrian. If you are an athlete, you can try out for one of Baylor’s 19 intercollegiate teams, representing a range of sports and competing at the NCAA Division I level. Students of faith receive spiritual nourishment at worship services and sacred spaces on-campus.

ORIENTATION AND TIPS FOR SETTLING IN
What you can expect when you get here.

Top Tip
Until you get an American mobile number, WhatsApp or WeChat are convenient ways to talk and see your friends and family back home.

WORKING ON CAMPUS
Are you creative, ambitious, and looking to get involved on campus?

Consider applying for a Marketing Student Worker position with the Baylor’s International Study Center. Student workers gain valuable experience in marketing, communications, and leadership while earning money in the process. This flexible part-time position can be completed around a student’s academic schedule and serves as a great resume builder.

For more information on a Student Worker position, please reach out to Dr. Cornell Menking, Center Director at Baylor University.
Before you depart, please make sure you:

- Complete your online visa application, schedule your visa interview and pay your SEVIS fee. Please see pages about applying for your visa for more information.

- Attend your visa interview and obtain a visa.

- Send your flight information to Cornell Menking at cmenking@studygroup.com. This information is due 10 days before the program start date. Find the Flight Arrival Form in the back of this document.

- Book an arrival hotel, if you will be arriving before August 19, as you will not be able to move onto campus before then.

- Please register to be picked up from your hotel at the link below: www.baylor.edu/globalengagement/index.php?id=925454

- Complete the Immunization Compliance Form on your goBAYLOR account.

  If you arrive on campus, without your immunizations, and also your immunization forms, there is a greater chance that you will be sent to your home country. You will be responsible for all fee associated from coming to campus without your immunizations.

- Complete the Residence Hall Contract through Cornell Menking, your ISC Director. You will receive a “MyHousing” link through him, or directly from the university. This link can be sent after your deposit is made to the university.

- Submit your academic documents (transcripts). During the application process, you provided scans of your original or official academic documents. To finalize the process and confirm your admission, you must submit the following items on or before arrival.
  - Academic documents (transcripts) that have been certified and stamped by the appropriate authority at the issuing institution must be submitted to the university in the original sealed envelope. If the envelope has been previously opened, the documents are no longer considered official and will not be accepted. For more information please refer to the Pre-Arrival email from Dr Menking.
  - Original completion certificates (degree or secondary school test results).
  - Official translations of all academic documents which were not issued in English.

- Bring your immunization records, original secondary academic transcripts, original high school leaving examination results or diploma, any previous college transcripts, official English versions of all documents, and payment receipts to orientation.

- First semester tuition and fees are due 1 month prior to the semester start date or immediately upon receipt of a visa.

Please use your official name (name on your passport and what you used to apply to Baylor) on all forms and correspondence with the Baylor.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2019 Dates
Arrival / Move-In: August 19
Welcome Weekend / Orientation: August 19–20
Immigration Sessions: August 19–20
First Day of Classes: August 26
Labor Day (No Classes): September 2
Fall Break (No Classes): October 25–27
Last Day of Classes: December 9

All information and online forms can be found on your goBAYLOR account:
International Flight Arrival Form
Immunization Form
Housing
GET INVOLVED!

Why not join our social network
facebook.com/baylorisc
#baylorisc
#YouAreWelcomeHere

We can’t wait to welcome you.