Frequently Asked Questions
New International Students in the U.S.
Fall 2020

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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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| **How can I contact an International Advisor from the Office of International Education (OIE)?** | **Answer**

International Student Advisors are working remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic and recent Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) guidance, our staff is receiving an extremely high volume of emails before the start of the fall 2020 semester. To help us assist you as timely as possible, please include all your questions and related documents in one email if you need assistance. You can contact us by email at international@uta.edu.

If you would like to make an appointment to speak with an Advisor, please follow these instructions: https://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=services&service=advising.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| **If OIE Advisors are working remotely, how can I request/receive documents?** | **Answer**

During this time all document requests should be submitted through email to international@uta.edu.

International Student forms can be found here: https://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=forms.

Completed forms should be attached as a pdf to the email. Please include your name and student ID in the subject line. Document processing time may be longer than usual due to Covid-19 and inquiries related to recent SEVP guidance, so please submit your requests as early as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| **Do I need to submit immigration documents to the Office of International Education?** | **Answer**

Yes. The Office of International Education will send new international students an email prior to orientation with instructions on to submit the following required documentation:
- Your current I-20 as soon as you have it. We must have it within 30 days from the start date of your program at UTA, which is September 25, 2020 for the fall semester.
- Copy of passport ID page
- Copy of visa page
- Copy of entry stamp to U.S. or I-94 record. You can access your I-94 here: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/recent-search](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/recent-search)
- Emergency Contact Form- Please complete this form (your emergency contact must be a parent, sibling, or spouse)
- Statement of Understanding- Please read, sign and submit with your immigration documents.

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>When can International Students legally arrive in the United States?</th>
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| Answer   | Entry to the U.S. as a new student is allowed no earlier than 30 days from the program start date on your I-20. Please read the following two links for more information.  
[https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/01/what-is-the-form-i-20](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/01/what-is-the-form-i-20)  

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>How do I get my UTA I-20?</th>
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</table>
| Answer   | A student's Form I-20 is a document issued to accepted students by Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools that indicates a student's primary purpose for coming to the United States.  
Your first UTA I-20 will be issued by the Office of Admissions. Once you have completed the entire application process, including submitting proof of funding, your I-20 will be issued by either Undergraduate or Graduate Admissions. You must receive your UTA I-20 by **September 26, 2020**.  
If you are a transfer student, you will have to make sure that your record has been released to UTA and that your new UTA I-20 has the same SEVIS number as any previous I-20 forms from previous schools.  
Ensure you submit the following documents to get your UTA I-20 issued:  
**Undergraduate Students:**  
School Transfer Notification For F-1 Transfer (**Only for Transfer Students**): [https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/internationalTransferForm.ashx?revision=7097d3b9-ea9a-4812-b4d4-9975bf14ada5](https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/internationalTransferForm.ashx?revision=7097d3b9-ea9a-4812-b4d4-9975bf14ada5)  
**Graduate Students:**  
Financial Statement Form: [https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/international-financial-forms/graduate-financial-statement.ashx?revision=d73e7de7-72a0-4a12-b299-04b200b6dd953](https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/international-financial-forms/graduate-financial-statement.ashx?revision=d73e7de7-72a0-4a12-b299-04b200b6dd953)  
School Transfer Notification For F-1 Transfer (**Only for Transfer Students**): [https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/international-graduate-transfer-notification.ashx?revision=0f9a21b3-dde4-4dd9-97c5-597213963be1](https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/admissions/_downloads/international-graduate-transfer-notification.ashx?revision=0f9a21b3-dde4-4dd9-97c5-597213963be1)  
You can submit the documents here: [https://www.uta.edu/admissions/forms/residency-upload-form](https://www.uta.edu/admissions/forms/residency-upload-form) |
Are International Students required to attend New Maverick Orientation?

Yes. All new international students are required to complete pre-arrival orientation modules and attend New Maverick Orientation. You may find information and register for International Student Orientation here: [https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/orientation/about/international](https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/orientation/about/international)

How do I get my Holds removed?

Your Holds and Tasks can be found in MyMav ([https://www.uta.edu/mymav/](https://www.uta.edu/mymav/)). They appear on your UTA Student Homepage on the right side under the ‘TO DO LIST’.

It is normal for new incoming international students to have any or all the following holds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hold</th>
<th>Removal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Student Office</strong></td>
<td>Removed after completing online pre-orientation modules and attending the international orientation, usually within 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advising</strong></td>
<td>Removed within 24 hours after you meet your academic advisor (for undergraduate students) or after you attend your department’s orientation (separate from the international orientation. Contact your department for more information on these.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Center</strong></td>
<td>One hold is for Tuberculosis (TB) testing, and one is for follow-up of the result. The first hold will be removed from your account within 24 hours after you get the TB test. The second will be removed after you get the result. Note: Only the first hold will stop you from registering for classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Domestic Address</strong></td>
<td>You will need to add the physical address you’re staying at in MyMav after you arrive in the U.S. It can be a temporary address if you haven’t identified where you’ll stay for the year, but make sure you do update MyMav after that has been determined. The hold will be taken off immediately after you add your domestic address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Domestic Phone</strong></td>
<td>You will need to list your U.S. phone number in MyMav after arriving. The hold will be taken off immediately after you do this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Degree Certificate not submitted/Official Transcripts not submitted</strong></td>
<td>If you see this hold, you will need to submit your official Degree Certificate/Transcripts to the Office of Records.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Holds</strong></td>
<td>If you have any other Holds besides these, you can click on the Hold in MyMav to see the name of the department that placed the Hold and how to get it removed.</td>
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How do I find my Academic Advisor?

**Graduate students** should contact the advisor in their college. Advisor contact information can be found here: [https://www.uta.edu/admissions/enroll/accepted-graduate](https://www.uta.edu/admissions/enroll/accepted-graduate)

**Undergraduate students** can schedule an appointment with the advisor in their major department. Advising offices by major, can be found here: [https://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/uac/advising-offices.php](https://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/uac/advising-offices.php)

All incoming freshmen should be seen by an advisor in the Division of Student Success. Request an advising appointment at uac@uta.edu.
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| Where can I find guidance about taking Online, Hybrid, and Face-to-Face courses? | On July 24, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) released updated guidance for F-1 students for the Fall 2020 semester. As noted in detail below, this guidance allows for more flexibility than the previous guidance released July 6.  

The University of Texas at Arlington’s Office of International Education has evaluated how this new SEVP guidance will apply to our F-1 student population and would like to share some important information about how this may impact your plans for Fall 2020 enrollment and attendance. The following is a summary of the SEVP guidance as we understand it today.  

**F-1 Students Residing in the U.S. for Fall 2020**  
For F-1 students residing within the U.S., UTA’s academic plan for Fall 2020 comes under SEVP’s broad category of “hybrid”, meaning that UTA will offer a mixture of face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses (https://www.uta.edu/news/news-releases/2020/06/26/fall-classes). It is important that students remember this if questioned by a U.S. Consulate or airport official.  

The University’s definition of face-to-face and hybrid courses, along with research, thesis, or dissertation courses, meet the SEVP requirements of an “on-campus course.”  

The updated SEVP guidance allows enrollment in more than one online course. Continuing and transfer F-1 students may enroll full time in online courses for Fall 2020 and maintain their F-1 status. However, new F-1 students must enroll in at least one face-to-face or hybrid model course as a part of the minimum enrollment requirement.  

If the Coronavirus pandemic results in UTA returning to being online only during the Fall 2020 semester, all F-1 students within the U.S. will be able to maintain their F-1 status.  

**Full-Time Enrollment**  
All students maintaining F-1 status, whether in the U.S. or residing outside the U.S., must enroll full time unless the student has a “Less Than Full-Course Waiver” approved by an International Education Advisor. There are no changes in the requirements for full-time enrollment.  

**Additional Resources**  
The Office of International Education is committed to helping our students stay safe and continue their education while complying with immigration regulations. For additional information and resources, please consider visiting these official UTA websites:  

- Office of International Education: https://www.uta.edu/oie/  
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Fall Guidance Updates: https://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=forms&form=fall2020enrollment  
- Information for new international students: https://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=newstudents
Is Health Insurance Required for International Students? Can I waive UTA Health Insurance?

The University of Texas Board Of Regents has passed Regents Rule 50402 (https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/50402-student-health-insurance-requirements), which now requires all international students to have medical insurance compliant with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The UT Student Health Insurance Plan (UT SHIP, https://uta.myahpcare.com/benefits) meets the new requirements. Enrollment in UT SHIP is automatic each semester and the insurance premium is automatically charged to your tuition and fee account when you register for classes, unless you submit a health insurance waiver: http://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=forms&form=HealthInsuranceWaiver.

New incoming international students can sign up for UT SHIP during their orientation. For continuing students, no action is required to be enrolled in UT SHIP except to ensure that your contact email and mailing address are always current in MyMav: http://www.uta.edu/mymav.

Waiving UTA Health Insurance: The UT System has established criteria in which an international student can request to waive the student health insurance plan by providing alternate health insurance coverage. In order to be approved for a waiver, your alternate health coverage must meet or exceed the requirements as set by the System regulation and be PPACA compliant.

The Fall 2020 Online Waiver period is July 15 to September 11. More information about waiving UTA health insurance can be found here: https://uta.myahpcare.com/waiver and at the Office of International Education's Health Insurance Information page: https://www.uta.edu/oie/?page=forms&form=HealthInsuranceWaiver.

For more information on the UT student health insurance plan, please visit the Insurance page on our website. The following links provide helpful information on understanding health insurance in the United States:
- Common Health Insurance Terms: https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/index.html
- Getting the Most from Your Health Insurance Plan: http://www.bcbstx.com/getting_started/making_insurance_work/getting_the_most.html?WT.svl=FIND

Are International Students required to be screened for Tuberculosis (TB)?

New international students planning to attend a hybrid or on-campus course must complete TB screening prior to registering for classes at UTA. (The requirement that all incoming international students complete TB screening has been modified during the coronavirus pandemic.)

UTA Health Services accepts both T-Spot and Quantiferon Gold blood tests completed in the United States within the last 12 months. Mantoux/PPD/Tuberculin (TB) skin test results are not accepted. If you have not completed TB screening in the United States within the last 12 months, you will need to get tested in the health center or other clinic in the United States.

An appointment is required for TB screening with UTA Health Services. To schedule an appointment, call 817-272-2771 and speak with a staff member to confirm appointment availability. Messages cannot be left to schedule an appointment.

Once an appointment is confirmed with UTA Health Services, visit https://mavcare.uta.edu to access the TB Outreach Packet. These forms must be completed before the TB screening appointment. Log in
using your Net ID and Password (same username and password used when checking UTA email), click on Forms, and then complete the TB Outreach Packet.

*Please eat food and drink water before your TB screening appointment time.*

The cost of TB screening is $69. If your TB screening results are positive, you must receive a chest x-ray before being cleared for classes. The cost of the chest x-ray is $59. The UT System Student Health Insurance Plan (UT SHIP) will cover TB screening received on or after the coverage plan start date: http://www.uta.edu/healthservices/insurance/index.php

If you are planning to do your TB screening at another clinic in the United States, please have the following form filled out by the health care provider doing your screening:

**UTA Health Services TB Screening Form:** [http://www.uta.edu/healthservices_downloads/TB-Form.pdf](http://www.uta.edu/healthservices_downloads/TB-Form.pdf)

Submit the completed form to UTA Health Services by email to hsic@uta.edu or by fax to 817-272-3829. Once we receive your completed form, your holds will be removed before the end of the next business day.

**Mantoux/PPD/Tuberculin (TB) skin test results are not accepted.**

If you have already completed TB screening in the United States within the last 12 months, please submit your documentation to the health center by email to hsic@uta.edu or by fax to 817-272-3829. To be accepted, your documentation needs to be signed and stamped by the United States clinic you received the test from and must include the lab report.

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB bacteria are spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. As a result, two TB-related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

For more information on TB, including signs, symptoms and how it spreads, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm).

**CONTACTING THE IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

Questions? Please call 817-272-2771 to speak with a nurse or send an email to hsic@uta.edu.

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<th>Question</th>
<th>Are International Students required to be vaccinated against bacterial Meningitis?</th>
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| Answer | Incoming students who are new to the institution and students returning after an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under age 22 on the first day of the term are required to submit documentation of immunization against bacterial meningitis. Incoming international students are encouraged to receive their vaccination in their home country in order to meet the deadline for providing documentation of vaccination. All documents must be submitted in English. Students who fail to meet this requirement may be dropped from courses or prevented from subsequent enrollment. The deadline to submit your meningitis vaccination/exemption are:  
  - For Fall 2020, the deadline is August 14, 2020.  
  - For Spring 2021, the deadline is January 7, 2021. |
Texas state law mandates that the following students be vaccinated against the bacterial meningitis:

- First-time college students
- Students transferring from another institution
- Students who are re-enrolling following an absence of at least one fall or spring semester
- Students previously or currently enrolled exclusively in UT Arlington online courses who enroll in a UT Arlington in-seat course in subsequent sessions
- Individuals under age 22 who plan to audit a course

Please note that the meningitis vaccination is not required if you are taking online-only courses. However, you will be required to submit documentation of vaccination before attending on-campus courses and/or before moving into on-campus housing. If you are planning to live in University housing, please review information specific to housing contract requirements at [http://www.uta.edu/housing/applications/meningitis.php](http://www.uta.edu/housing/applications/meningitis.php).

**Submitting Your Meningitis Vaccination Record**

UTA Health Services cannot remove the meningitis vaccination hold as this process is administered by the UTA Office of Admissions, Records and Registration. If you receive your vaccination in the health center, we can provide a copy of your vaccination record, which you will then submit to the UTA Office of Admissions, Records and Registration. For the official UTA statement on the meningitis vaccination requirement as well as information on submitting your vaccination record and/or applicable exemptions, please visit [https://www.uta.edu/records/services/meningitis-requirement.php#MeniReq](https://www.uta.edu/records/services/meningitis-requirement.php#MeniReq).

**Where to Get the Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine**

- The bacterial meningitis vaccine is available in our immunization clinic for $130. An appointment is required. If you have private health insurance, you may be able to file a claim for reimbursement with your insurance provider. Please contact your insurance plan administrator for further guidance.
- Tarrant County Public Health has a limited supply of subsidized meningitis vaccine doses intended for low-income, uninsured students. Availability varies by clinic site and demand. Please contact a clinic in your area to determine whether subsidized meningitis vaccine is available. Visit [http://health.tarrantcounty.com/](http://health.tarrantcounty.com/) for a list of public health clinics or call 817-321-4700.
- Dallas County Health and Human Services also offers subsidized meningitis vaccine to students 19 and older. Supplies are limited. For more information, please call 214-819-2162 or visit [http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/immunizationhours.html](http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/immunizationhours.html) for a list of clinics and phone numbers.
- You can contact your primary care provider to determine if they offer the vaccine.

Bacterial meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress extremely quickly, within hours. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that causes meningitis can also infect the blood. Treatment for the disease is available, but severe health problems or disabilities are still possible. For more information on bacterial meningitis, including signs, symptoms and how it spreads, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html](https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html).

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Can International Students work ON CAMPUS?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>International students may work on campus only if the following conditions are met:</td>
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<td>• You work no more than 20 hours per week during required semesters of enrollment</td>
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<td>• The jobs must be categorized as “Non work-study” in the <a href="https://www.uta.edu/careers/employers/handshake/index.php">Handshake</a> student employee portal.</td>
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<p>| Question | Can International Students work OFF CAMPUS? |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Answer</strong></th>
<th>International students must have authorization to work off-campus!</th>
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<td>Legal off-campus employment includes Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT). For more information about OPT and CPT, please view the “Student Services” tab of the Office of International Education website: <a href="https://www.uta.edu/oie/">https://www.uta.edu/oie/</a></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Question</strong></th>
<th><strong>How do I pay Tuition and other fees?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Answer</strong></td>
<td>Information regarding your individual tuition rates and registration can be found in MyMav (<a href="https://www.uta.edu/oie/mymav.uta.edu">https://www.uta.edu/oie/mymav.uta.edu</a>). MyMav is also where you go to check admission status, register for classes, make payments, check grades, and more!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>You may find additional information regarding payment of tuition/fees in the following links:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Payment information (<a href="https://www.uta.edu/business-affairs/sfs/payment-info">https://www.uta.edu/business-affairs/sfs/payment-info</a>)</td>
</tr>
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<td>After registration, full payment of tuition, fees and health insurance can be paid by credit card, bank draft (payable to UTA), cash, or personal bank check.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An installment plan is available to all students. The installment plan requires payment of 33% of tuition and fees (plus $10) by the payment deadline, and two additional payments of 33%.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The exact cost of tuition cannot be known until you register for classes. Tuition can be estimated at <a href="http://www.uta.edu/fees">http://www.uta.edu/fees</a>. Currently, tuition and fees for an international student for one semester are approximately $13,181 for 12 semester hours of undergraduate course work and $11,833 for 9 semester hours of graduate coursework. This amount does not include the cost of UTA health insurance.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To cover immediate expenses such as tuition and fees, apartment deposit and rent, food and incidentals, bring at least $6,000 with you. This amount is a portion of the expenses listed on the I-20 or DS-2019 and is based on the installment plan described above. You may bring a check or money order from your home country bank to deposit in a bank in Arlington, but you will not be able to access the money until the check is processed, which may take up to one month. A bank in your home country may charge a check-processing fee for its own checks which are cashed abroad. This fee can be as high as $100, the cost of which will be charged back to you by UT Arlington or the U.S. bank where you decide to deposit the check. Bank drafts may be made payable to The University of Texas at Arlington. Money transfers from one U.S. bank to another can take 7 to 10 days to be processed.</td>
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<th><strong>Question</strong></th>
<th><strong>What is the deadline to arrive on campus?</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Answer</strong></td>
<td>If you cannot arrive at UTA by the date indicated on your immigration documents, you must request a late arrival letter from the Office of International Education (OIE) at least two (2) weeks before you leave for the U.S. To request this, please email <a href="mailto:international@uta.edu">international@uta.edu</a>. Requests should include the student’s full name, country of citizenship, and student ID number. Please also indicate if you are undergraduate or graduate, and your major. This information will help with timely processing of the letter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students under 22 years old who are arriving late are also responsible for completing the bacterial meningitis vaccination requirement by the deadline and will not be able to register for classes until after they have reported to the OIE (Swift Center).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undergraduate late arrivals for Fall 2020 must report to the OIE (Swift Center) no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, August 28, 2020. If you are unable to report to the UT Arlington campus by that date, please contact esnapp@uta.edu to defer your admission to another semester. The last day to register is August 31, 2020.

Graduate late arrivals for Spring must report to the OIE (Swift Center) no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, September 10, 2020. If you are unable to report to the UT Arlington campus on that date, contact graduate admissions at http://www.uta.edu/admissions/contact/ to defer your admission to another semester.