

# Texas Global

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## Overview

Texas Global is the central home for [international student and scholar services](#), [education abroad](#), [English as a second language instruction](#), [global risk and safety](#), and [cross-disciplinary international projects](#). For location, hours of operation, and contact information visit our [website](#).

## International Student and Scholar Services

International student and scholar advisors are available to assist international students with matters related to their immigration status, cross-cultural adjustment, orientation to the University, housing resources, employment eligibility, social security regulations, and personal problems or concerns. International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) also assists with student or scholar emergencies. More information about [ISSS office hours and services](#) is published by Texas Global.

## Immigration advising and compliance

International student advisors issue immigration documents, provide personalized advising on student visa rules and benefits, and process requests to facilitate international travel, employment authorization, and other activities subject to student visa regulations. ISSS also monitors student and university immigration compliance. For example, in accordance with immigration regulations, an international student who seeks to be enrolled for fewer than twelve hours as an undergraduate or fewer than nine hours as a graduate student is referred to ISSS. Withdrawal petitions for international students are referred to ISSS before the appropriate academic dean's office takes final action.

## Intercultural and social programming

ISSS offers several programs to help international students and scholars adjust to life and study in the United States including orientation programs, social hours, informational sessions, and intercultural events.

## Sponsored and exchange programs

ISSS provides customized services to sponsored students and their sponsoring agencies, including student immigration consultation, customized programming, and the facilitation of third-party billing. Additionally, ISSS provides advising and administrative support to inbound exchange students, including non-degree program application and admission coordination.

## Mandatory health insurance

Enrollment in the [Student Health Insurance Program](#) is mandatory for F-1 and J-1 international students. Insurance fees are included in the student's tuition bill each semester. A student who has an acceptable level of coverage under another insurance plan **may** be eligible for a [waiver](#) of insurance fees, as long as the completed waiver is submitted by the waiver deadline. Dependents in J-2 (exchange visitor) status are also required to have an acceptable level of coverage.

## English Language Center

Several kinds of classes in English for nonnative speakers are available through the English Language Center. More information about the English Language Center is published by [Texas Global](#).

## Classes for University undergraduate and international exchange students

The English Language Center offers several courses for undergraduate students who need English language support. Each five-hour course counts toward full-time enrollment, but the courses do not count toward The University of Texas at Austin's degree requirements. However, most exchange students may count the credits towards degree requirements in their home universities. Courses are available for English language improvement in reading, writing, grammar or listening/speaking. Students take a placement test after enrolling and are integrated into one of seven levels for each course. [More information](#) about English Language Center classes for undergraduate and international exchange students is published by the Texas Global.

## Classes for University graduate students

The English Language Center offers several courses for graduate students who would like to improve their English or are required by their departments to do so. Each three-semester-hour course counts toward full-time enrollment, but the courses do not count toward degree requirements. Courses are available in oral communication, academic writing, communication for international teaching assistants. [More information](#) about English Language Center classes for graduate students is published by Texas Global.

## Classes for everyone

The English Language Center offers two intensive English programs that are open to adult nonnative speakers of English. The *Academic English Program* (AEP) is a full-time academic program for prospective graduate students who have completed their first university degree and plan to pursue a master's or doctoral degree in the United States. English proficiency at the intermediate level or above is required for admission to the program. The *English Language Program* (ELP) provides both full-time and part-time instruction in general-purpose English for students at all levels of English proficiency, including prospective undergraduates and those interested in improving their communication skills. Both programs offer optional test preparation instruction for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and other admission tests. Discounts are available for part-time study by University students, staff members, and faculty members and University-affiliated family members. More information about these courses can be found [online](#).

## Education Abroad

Education Abroad provides information on educational opportunities in other countries, including study abroad, exchange, international internships, research abroad, and study abroad scholarships. Information sessions are offered throughout the year; students are strongly encouraged to attend a session before seeking staff assistance in selecting the program most appropriate to their needs and interests. Session topics, dates, and times can be found on the Education Abroad [website](#).

University programs available to students include reciprocal exchanges with foreign universities; affiliated studies through other organizations and institutions; faculty-led programs, including May Terms Abroad; internships and international study and research. Students pay a \$75 fee to defray the cost of processing applications and of tracking education abroad applicants and students who are abroad; the fee also encourages students to think carefully about the application to go abroad. The application fee is nonrefundable, regardless of whether the student is accepted by or enrolls in a program.

## Exchange Programs

Exchange programs allow The University of Texas at Austin's students to enroll at a partner university abroad while continuing to pay The University of Texas at Austin's tuition. These cost-effective programs integrate University students into the host university and provide access to courses applicable to the University's degree plans. Students in exchange programs register for a block of coursework in Education Abroad. Students pay a \$500 fee per semester to participate in an exchange. Faculty members in the appropriate academic departments review the student's work to identify equivalent University courses; Education Abroad staff convert grades from the foreign credit system used by the host institution into their University equivalents. Courses and grades are recorded as resident credit. All courses reported to The University of Texas at Austin on the official transcript from abroad must be represented in some way on the official University transcript.

## Affiliated Programs

Students register for affiliated studies (A S) when they participate in study abroad programs offered by organizations and institutions with which the University has an affiliation agreement. Students enrolled in affiliated studies pay a fee of \$600 per semester. Students who enroll in a part-time affiliated study program are considered part-time students by the University. Students who enroll in a full-time affiliated study program are considered full-time students by the University.

After a student takes part in a program offered under an affiliation agreement, University faculty members in the appropriate academic units review the student's work to identify the equivalent University courses. Courses and grades appear on the student's academic record, but they are not included in the University grade point average. A student must make a C- or better to earn credit in accordance with UT transfer credit policies. In some circumstances, affiliated studies credit is treated as resident credit; more information is given in the [General Requirements for Graduation](#) in the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

## Faculty-Led Programs

Academic units may offer courses taught abroad as a part of their regular curriculum. Students who take these courses follow normal registration procedures and are assessed normal tuition and fees. Additional fees are charged to cover program costs.

## International Study and Research

Students may register for international study and research (ISR) if they are conducting research or studying independently abroad. Enrollment requires the approval of the student's faculty sponsor, graduate advisor (for graduate students) or departmental undergraduate advisor (for undergraduates), and Education Abroad. The approval may cover up to four consecutive semesters and contiguous summer terms.

Students enrolled in international study and research pay a fee of \$600 a semester and are considered full-time students by the University.

Students who register for international study and research are not guaranteed credit for work completed abroad. Students must consult with the departmental undergraduate advisor or the graduate advisor and with the Office of Graduate Admissions to determine whether credit will be granted.

## Financial Assistance

Financial aid, including loans, scholarships, and grants, may be applied toward the cost of study abroad. If study abroad costs exceed the on-campus cost of attending the University, and if the student is eligible for additional aid, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will repackage the student's aid award based on the budget submitted by the Education

Abroad program coordinator, with one exception: students registered for international study and research abroad are not eligible to receive federal financial aid; however, they may use scholarships and grants awarded by the University and outside agencies.

Information about other funding opportunities for study abroad is available on the Education Abroad [website](#). The office administers the campus competition for a number of local and federal grants and scholarships, including the IIE Fulbright and the University's International Education Fee Scholarship (IEFS).

## Overseas Insurance

Ensuring that University of Texas at Austin students have adequate health and safety support while abroad is a primary goal of the University. All students taking part in [UT-sponsored international travel](#) are automatically enrolled in the UT Overseas Insurance plan through [On Call International](#) and are required pay associated fees for this coverage. This policy was established to ensure that all students are systematically and comprehensively covered by an international health insurance policy, an emergency services policy, and a general liability policy. The fee is non-refundable and is scaled to correspond to the length of international activity. Students are also encouraged to maintain their domestic health insurance coverage. The only exception is UT Austin students studying in their country of citizenship, who must [submit a formal request for exemption](#) from UT Austin Overseas Insurance. All students are also encouraged to maintain their domestic health insurance coverage; international students are **required** to maintain continuous coverage as long as their I-20 or DS-2019 is active, even if not physically in the United States.

## Health Clearances

Students participating in an official education abroad program that is 15 days or longer are required to obtain a medical exam from a healthcare provider, who will complete and submit the mandatory health clearance form on their behalf. Some programs shorter than 15 days may also require a health clearance. Students can confirm whether this policy applies to their program by contacting their program coordinator or program faculty leader. Additional information and required forms are available on the Texas Global Risk and Safety [Health Clearances website](#).

## Transfer Credit Policies for Coursework from international Institutions

Evaluation by the Office of Admissions of course credit earned at an international institution does not constitute approval of the credit for use toward a degree; such approval is solely within the jurisdiction of the student's academic dean. Policies governing the evaluation of transfer credit from international institutions include the following:

- Transfer credit is generally awarded for academic course credit earned from Ministry of Education–accredited institutions.
- Rules governing the assignment of transfer credit from United States institutions also apply to transfer credit from international institutions. These rules are given in [Transfer Application Review Process](#).
- To receive credit, the student must earn a grade that is comparable to a C- on the grading scale used at the University. The Office of Graduate Admissions (OGA) establishes grading scale equivalencies for international institutions.
- If the credit was not earned as part of a University-affiliated study abroad program, the symbol *CR* (credit) will appear on the student's University record instead of a letter grade.

- e. Transfer credit from a nonaffiliated study abroad (language and culture) program is not assigned a specific University course number. Instead, undesignated credit may be recorded, and the student's academic dean will determine the specific credit to be allowed for degree purposes on a substitution basis. Both current and previously enrolled University students who attend a nonaffiliated study abroad program may be required, at the discretion of the appropriate language department, to take an examination to earn credit for specific language courses.