

University of Texas at Arlington
English Language Institute
Fall 2006 & Spring 2007

GETTING STARTED IN ARLINGTON

A HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION FOR THE INTENSIVE ENGLISH STUDENT BEFORE ARRIVING IN AMERICA

Check the ELI out at: <http://iep.uta.edu>

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Part 1: Check List: Before You Leave Your Country

1. Arrange for Housing (Must Do)

You have the option of living on-campus or off-campus.

A. On-Campus Housing includes:

1. UTA Dorms
2. Centennial Court
3. UTA apartments

B. Off-Campus Housing includes:

1. Off campus apartments

	UTA Dorms Arlington & KC Halls /Others	Centennial Court	UTA Apartments	Off-Campus Apartments
General Cost	\$1560-\$2400 per semester (can make monthly installment payments of between \$246-\$344). Price for 2 people per room	\$354-\$741 per month. You must have a guarantor, a person with an address in America. If not, then you pay all the rent at one time.	\$410-\$951 per month + electric some apartments	\$350-\$700 per month + electric
Leases	Length of the semester	Length of the semester (You must ask for a one semester lease)	Length of the semester	6 months
Bedrooms	Private bedroom, with common living areas & Shared bedrooms /Shared Only	Private Bedroom, but common living areas.	Private	Private
Meal Plan	Mandatory/Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Meal plans range from \$1242.40-\$1227.40 per semester				
Responsible for Roommate Expenses	No	No	Yes	Yes
Responsible for Getting a Roommate	No	No	Yes	Yes
Do I have to move out at break?	Yes	No	No	No
Does it have furniture?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Special Rules	There is no cooking in the rooms in the dormitories.			
More Information	< http://www2.uta.edu/housing/ >	< http://www.campushousing.com/uta >	< http://www2.uta.edu/housing/ >	ELI has a list of apartments

How To Reserve A Room In UTA Dormitory Or Apartment

1. Student reviews the housing information on www.uta.edu/housing and notifies the ELI office what dormitory or apartment (s)he wants to stay in.
2. Get your student ID number from the ELI office. You need the ID number to apply on line.
3. Student must complete the deposit payment online. Please review the information how to make the payment online below.
4. The contract will be faxed to student for the signature.
5. When student arrives in UTA, (s)he will pick up the key from the housing office.

How to complete the deposit payment online:

1. visit www.uta.edu/housing
2. click on [Apply online & Other Online Forms](#) at the [Quick Links](#) section
3. click on [pay online](#)
4. complete [the Credit Card Authorization Form](#).
5. [submit](#) the payment

2. Arrange for Airport Pickup (Must Do If You Need E.L.I. Help)

You have three choices: 1) a family member or friend can pick you up at the airport, or 2) ELI can pick you up at the airport. If ELI picks you up, you need to complete the form and fax it to ELI office or send an email to ELI containing the necessary information. ELI needs a week's notice. 3) Super Shuttle bus. The airport has the phone number posted throughout the airport.

3. Get an International Driver's License (Suggested)

It is a good idea to get an International License if you plan to drive immediately after arriving in Texas. Texas honors an International License for 1 year, but be prepared to apply for a Texas Driver's License as soon as possible. With the International Driver's License, you must carry your passport with you. (Do not drive without some form of auto liability insurance.)

4. Get Recommendation Letters (Suggested)

For students who are planning to continue their studies in graduate school or undergraduate schools, it is advisable to get recommendation letters from your teachers and advisors in your university, and if you worked, to get recommendations from your employer.

5. Get dental work done and your vision checked. (Suggested)

As a student you will purchase health insurance. But, the health insurance does not cover regular and routine dental work. It does not cover glasses or contact lenses. Without insurance, dental and vision are expensive.

6. Get a major credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express) in your name. (Suggested)

In America, life is so much easier if you have good credit. A credit history is required for a cell phone, for renting nicer apartments (off campus), etc. Intensive English students do not qualify for student credit cards based upon their enrollment in the intensive English program.

Part 2: Checklist: Your Arrival in America

1. At the airport

If you have family, friends, or ELI picking you up at the airport, they will meet you at the baggage claim area. At the baggage claim area, baggage handlers will be there to help you with your luggage if you need or want help. It is customary to pay the baggage handlers \$1.50 per bag.

If no one is meeting you at the airport, the cheapest way to get from the airport to your final destination is Super Shuttle. Super Shuttle prices depend on your destination. To go to UTA from DFW Airport the price is \$34 for the first person. If a second person is in the party, his cost is \$8. (Prices may have changed since the printing of this guide.)

After you collect your luggage from the baggage area, go to one of the courtesy phones near the baggage area. Follow the directions on the phone to get Super Shuttle.

You must tell the customer representative 1) either the name of the hotel or the zip code of the place you are going and 2) the section and terminal where you are. (If you look above or beside the phone, you should see a sticker that tells your section number and terminal number. This is the number the customer representative wants.)

2. Housing

Temporary Housing

If you have made no housing arrangements or if you have come in after hours and the housing office is closed, the cheapest and closest motel to UTA is Park Inn International, 703 Bengel Dr. Tel. (817) 860-2323. Fax: (817) 795-5228. There are many inexpensive fast food restaurants within walking distance of this motel.

Permanent Housing

If you have waited until you arrived in Texas to make housing plans, you may find it difficult to find housing. Usually, all university housing and many off-campus apartments are full. If you have waited until your arrival in Texas, here is what to do:

- Check with the housing office in the University Center about vacancies.
- The ELI has a list of apartments near UTA. Call these apartment complexes to find out if there are any vacancies. If vacancies exist, you must go see the apartment. If you like it, then you sign a lease, but read the lease before you sign it.

3. Visit ELI office

Once you arrive in Texas, it is a good idea to check in with the main office of ELI, Hammond Hall 402. At that office, they can give you a detailed survival guide, or you can get it on the web at <<http://iep.uta.edu>> The secretaries can answer your questions and they may have the latest information on current events and activities.

Part 3: General Information

Weather

There is a saying in Texas, "If you don't like the weather, wait 24 hours." Texas weather is very changeable. Texas has 4 seasons. The summers get very hot, but everything is air conditioned for convenience and comfort. Most people wear shorts. The falls and springs are cool and rainy. An umbrella and sweater (one heavy and one light) is necessary. The winters can go from mild to very cold. Bring a heavy coat and gloves. It is recommended that when it gets cold to wear several layers of lighter, loose-fit clothing. This keeps you warmer than clothing that is one-layer and tight fitting.

Water

It is safe to drink water from the tap. Some people still prefer to buy bottled water from the supermarkets.

Money

Carrying Cash

Do not carry a lot of cash with you at any one time. If you must make a big purchase, use checks, credit cards, debit cards, or money order.

Tipping

Customary tips for waiters: 15-20%; taxi drivers 10-15%, bellmen or baggage handlers at the airport: \$1.50 per bag.

Sales Tax

When you purchase an item in America, this is the price of the item only. The cashier will add in the sales tax. In the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, sales tax ranges from 7.25 to 8.75 percent. If an item is 99 cents, you will pay around \$1.08 (this is the price + the sales tax).

Banks/Currency Exchange

Banking hours vary throughout the U.S., but most banks are open from 9 am to 3 PM, Monday through Friday. Some banks are now keeping the lobbies open until 5 p.m. with the drive-through open until 6 p.m. Saturday banking hours are usually only until 1 PM. Some airport tellers may extend their hours. Travelers checks are easily converted into cash and are accepted by most businesses without any problem. Therefore, it is recommended that you change your money into US dollar travelers checks before leaving your country.

Paying Bills

You need to use checks or buy money orders when you pay your rent and utilities (electric and telephone). Do not use cash. Do not send cash in the mail. When you pay your rent, be sure to get a receipt.

Shopping At Stores

You may pay for your purchases with cash, debit card, credit card, or check. If you plan to pay with check or a credit card, be prepared to show identification (your passport or your TX ID card or your TX driver's license.)

Also keep your receipt. If you have to return an item to the store, you must show the store the receipt.

Social Security

As of October 13, 2004, only students with F-1 visas who have a job or a written promise of a job on campus are eligible to receive a social security number. F-1 students who do not have a job or a promise of a job on campus are not eligible to receive a social security number.