

International & Out of State Student Pre Departure Guide - Neeley School of Business

For all incoming students
choosing TCU and the
Neeley School of Business
as their home for the next
two years

The logo for Texas Christian University (TCU), featuring the letters "TCU" in a bold, blue, serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

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Visa Process

1. Submit I-20 documents as outlined by admissions staff and TCU website
2. Receive I-20 from International Services Office
3. Sign-up for visa interview ASAP & keep MBA Admissions office posted on progress
4. Conduct successful visa interview
5. Update Admissions office and book flights to U.S.



Visa Interview Tips

- *Smile & maintain eye contact*
- *Answer the questions confidently and clearly*
- *Know what documents you have & where your finances are coming from*
- *Be confident in your program knowledge*
- *Know what you want to do once you graduate*
- *Dress Business Casual/Professional*
- *Show strong ties to home country (Consulate expects you to return post completion of education and practical training)*
- *Be aware that they expect you not to take up off or on-campus jobs besides your curriculum practical training*



Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>
July 19th	Earliest Date students can enter the U.S.	Fort Worth, TX
July 24th	Incoming student Meet & Greet	TBA at 6:00 pm
July 31st	FTMBA Orientation Opening Dinner	TCU Campus, TBD at 5:00 pm
August 1st - 13th	FTMBA START Orientation	Neeley School of Business at 8:00 am
August 15th	International Orientation with ISO	ISO office in BLUU
August 19th	First Day of Classes	Neeley School of Business



Housing in Fort Worth

On Campus

- Leibrock Village - <https://brite.edu/leibrock>
 - Contact Erin Houchin for more information erin.houchin@tcu.edu

Under 0.5 miles from campus

- GrandMarc at West Berry Place - <https://www.grandmarctcu.com/>
- Village East - <https://www.villageeasttcu.com/amenities>
- University House - <https://uhtcu.com/>
- McCart Apartments - <https://www.mccartapts.com/contact.html>
- Loft Vue Living - https://www.liveloftvue.com/?utm_source=GBP&utm_medium=organic

Between 0.5 miles and 1.5 miles from campus

- University Villas - <https://universityvillasdfw.com/>
- Casa Rana - <https://www.casaranatcu.com/contact-us>
- The Berkeley Apartments - <https://www.casaranatcu.com/contact-us>
- The Sasha at University - <https://www.thesashaatuniversity.com/>



Housing in Fort Worth cont.

Alum Connection

- TCU Executive MBA alum James Pederson owns multiple properties in the TCU and Greater Fort Worth Area
 - Email: jamesepederson@gmail.com - please only reach out as a confirmed incoming student

Over 1.5 miles from campus

- Madera at LeftBank - <https://maderaatleftbank.com/>
- 4000 Hulen - <https://www.4000hulen.com/>
- Marquis at Stonegate - <https://www.cwsapartments.com/apartments/tx/fort-worth/marquis-at-stonegate/>
- The Lofts at West 7th - https://www.theloftsatwest7th.com/?utm_knock=g
- Bexley at LeftBank - <https://www.bexleyleftbank.com/>
- Mag & May - https://www.magandmay.com/?utm_knock=gmb

Other Student Favorites

- TCU Announce - available with student email
- Zillow.com
- Purplepads.com - <http://www.purplepads.com/tcu-housing-residence-life/>
- purplehousing.com - rentals in the TCU area

Please do your research to find the housing option that works best for you and your needs. The student engagement office can help facilitate conversations, but they do not handle any lease agreements. Please reach out to first and second year students if you are looking for specific recommendations on all housing options listed or not.



Life at TCU - Essentials

Phones

- **Get a U.S. phone at the earliest**
 - **AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile are some U.S. cellular plan brand options**
- **Check the bandwidth & frequency of your phone if you buy a new phone from your home country before school begins**
- **U.S. plans can be expensive, consider joining a plan with your cohort members**
 - **Second year students will have the best/most up-to-date advice on this**
- **ConnectEd Mobile : Designed for international students**
 - **<https://www.connectedmobile.co/>**

Banking

- **Open a U.S. Bank Account**
- **Bank of America & Chase located on Berry Street close to campus**
 - **If feasible, take a secured credit card (generally requires a \$400 security deposit amount) - this will help you build the much needed credit history**
- **You do not need a social security number to open a bank account**
- **Good Resource for transferring money abroad: <https://wise.com/>**



Life at TCU - Essentials cont.

Transportation

- **Your need of a car will depend on how far you choose to live from campus**
- **Students also choose to bike to campus depending on where they live**
- **There is Rail into certain parts of Dallas and to the DFW airport**
 - <https://ridetrinitymetro.org/>
 - **Bus is not widely use nor will it bring you to class but could be useful for other places you may want to go**
- **Cars can be expensive**
 - **Account for buying cost**
 - **Budget \$200 a month for car maintenance costs, insurance, and gas**
- **Apply for a State ID/Driver's license**
 - **For identification, only international passports and U.S. ID's will be accepted/valid**
 - **Car insurance premiums decrease with an increase in the duration of your American Driver's license**

Getting a Driver's License

- **Complete online course and take online test**
- **Schedule driving test with the Department of Motor Vehicles**
- **You are able to drive in the U.S. for 90 days from the date of your arrival with your international driver's permit or license**



Life at TCU - Acclimating

- Take advantage of START workshop
- Be ready to try new foods
- Learn your surroundings
 - walking distance from TCU: Kroger Grocery, CVS/Walgreens Pharmacy, many dining options, Chase Bank, Bank of America, gyms, churches, TCU Bookstore
- There is a lot to do in Fort Worth, explore your interests online
 - www.fortworth.com
 - <https://www.visittheusa.com/destination/fort-worth>
 - <https://www.lifestorage.com/blog/moving/moving-to-fort-worth/>

Food Recommendations

Halal Fusionz -
Pakistani/Texas
Mexican Fusion
dishes - Dallas, TX

Tokyo Cafe - Sushi
& Japanese dishes
- Fort Worth

*Omi Korean Grill
& Bar - Korean
BBQ - Arlington,
TX*

Poblanos Piri Piri
- UK/Halal
Restaurant -
Irving, TX

*Blue Goose
Cantina - Mexican
dishes - Fort
Worth, TX*

Cafe Madrid -
Spanish style tapas
- Dallas, TX

Zeke's Fish n
Chips - Seafood &
British cuisine -
Fort Worth

**Joe T. Garcia's -
Texas-Mexican -
Fort Worth, TX**

Brix Barbeque -
Texas BBQ- Fort
Worth, TX

*Isla & Co -
Australian cuisine
- Dallas, TX*

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Uchi - Sushi -
Dallas, TX

A2B Indian
Vegetarian
Restaurant -
Indian/South
Indian - Frisco, TX

Express Kabob -
Afghan Cuisine -
Plano, TX

**Tommy's Burgers
- American
Burgers - Fort
Worth, TX**

Food Recommendations

Melt - Ice Cream!
- Fort Worth, TX

Spice - Thai food
- Fort Worth, TX

Zoli's Pizza -
Pizza & Italian
dishes - Fort
Worth, TX

Fred's Texas Cafe
- **Burgers - Fort
Worth, TX**

Nish!
*Mediterranean
Grill -
Mediterranean
dishes - Fort
Worth, TX*

**Nonna Tata -
Italian - Fort
Worth, TX**

**Szechuan -
Cantonese/Chine
se dishes - Fort
Worth, TX**

Coco Shrimp -
Hawaiian - Fort
Worth, TX

**Perle De Antilles
Caribbean Market
and Eatery -
Caribbean/Haitia
n dishes -
Arlington, TX**

Jamaican
Summers Eatery -
Jamaican dishes -
Burleson, TX

*Tinies - Mexican
dishes - Fort
Worth, TX*

The Colossal
Sandwich Shop -
Sandwiches -
Bedford, TX

*Pho District -
Vietnamese
cuisine - Fort
Worth, TX*

bb.q Chicken -
Korean Fried
Chieck & dishes -
Fort Worth, TX

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Academics

- *You will have a full load of 16.5 hours in the first semester with a GPA grading system*
- *Courses are taken during two 8 week terms with your entire cohort with team learning groups*
- *After START Workshop, your first 8 week term (8W1) will begin, followed by 8W2, and ended with a week long Business Simulation*
- *If you have a non-business background - familiarize yourself with the basics of accounting, finance, and statistics*
 - *You will be receiving all academic email instructions via the Director of Graduate Academic Programs, Olivia Williams or our Graduate Academic Advisor, Bianca Upshaw, regarding mandatory online pre-enrollment courses*
- *Extra-curricular activities are important and an integral part of personal development during the MBA experience*
- *Socializing and Networking are encouraged, important for securing internships/full-time roles, and will begin during your START orientation*
- *Your cohort will have a Slack channel for communication*



Attire

Business Professional

- **For Men: Suits, ties, dress shoes**
- **For Women: Suits, suit pants or skirts, dress shirts, blouses, closed-toed shoes**
 - **Suits: Basic black recommended for both men & women (grey & navy are options as well)**
 - **You will need business professional for START workshop, so please plan to bring and have 1-2 options ready**

Business Casual

- **For Men: shirts/polo shirts, trousers, sweaters**
- **For Women: formal dresses, pants, skirts, shirts/blouses, sweaters, cardigans**

Casual

- **Have summer and winter wear, it can get up to 115 degrees in the summer and down to 10 degrees or colder in the winter**
- **Sunglasses and SPF are a must**
- **Nice casual or business casual is normal for class-time wear**
- **Fort Worth has a traditional Western/cowboy fashion aesthetic, so you will see a lot of denim, boots, cowboy hats**

There are many shopping options in Fort Worth if you forget or decide you need something new



Life at TCU - Part-time Employment and Budgeting

All Full-time MBA students are required to opt out of Full-time employment when in the program

- During your first year, you are able to work on-campus in a limited capacity (5-10 hours a week)
- First semester is heavily loaded with very little time for other work
- Uninformed labor and illegal employment will result in deportation from the U.S. and loss of F-1 for international students
 - SSN is mandatory before beginning any kind of employment on or off campus
- Graduate Assistantship roles usually get paid around \$10-20 an hour

Expenses to keep in mind while in the program:

- Living expenses (rent, utilities, food, furniture, transportation, socializing, etc)
- Books & Case studies for class
- Health Insurance - students with dependents may opt out of university health insurance but must have their own coverage

Optional Expenses:

- Car maintenance & insurance
- MBA trips (domestic & international)

Money Savers:

- Free Access to Campus Recreation Center
- Free Student Access to all Athletic Events



Getting to TCU

Book flights arriving to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport or Dallas Lovefield Airport prior to START Workshop

- Send itinerary to s.b.buckner@tcu.edu and mbainfo@tcu.edu
- Secure lodging before arrival
- Be prepared to arrange your own transportation
 - <https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/dallas-dfw-dal/>
 - <https://www.uber.com/>
 - <https://www.lyft.com/>
 - For future trips without as much baggage, the TexRail will be an option
- International Students: bring your I-20 and F-1 visa
 - <https://internationalservices.tcu.edu/arrival/>



Contact Information - Student Ambassadors

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