

International MBA Student Pre-Departure Guide



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Visa Process

1. Sign-up for Visa interview ASAP & keep MBA Admissions office posted on progress
2. Visa Interview



Visa Interview

- Smile all the time & maintain eye contact
- Answer the questions confidently and clearly
- Know what documents you have
- Know where your finances are coming from
- Know what you want to do once you graduate
- 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 outside practical training



Housing – Under 0.5 miles

- Leibrock Village (TCU Graduate Housing) – brite.edu/leibrock or Contact Erin Houchin for more info – erin.houchin@tcu.edu
- Lowden Terrace Apartments (\$) <http://www.apartments.com>
- McCart Apartments (\$) <http://www.apartments.com>
- GrandMarc (\$\$\$) – <http://www.grandmarctcu.com/>
- Loft VUE (\$\$) – <http://www.liveloftvue.com/>
- Village East (\$\$) – <http://www.villageeasttcu.com/>
- University House (\$\$) [this is not TCU managed housing] – <http://uhtcu.com/>



Housing – Between 0.5 and 1.5 miles

- Liberty Loft Apartments (\$) – <https://www.liveatlibertylofts.com>
- WestCliff Park Apartments (\$) – <http://www.westcliffapartment.com/>
- The Berkeley Apartments (\$\$\$) – <http://www.theberkeleyapartments.com/>



Housing – More than 1.5 miles

- Overton Trails (\$\$) – <http://www.liveatovertontrails.com/>
- Villas on the Hill (\$\$) – <http://villasonthehilltx.com/>
- 4000 Hulen (\$) – <http://www.4000hulen.com/>
- The Henderson (\$\$) – <http://www.thehendersonapartments.com/>



Housing – Other Sources

TCU Announce:

<https://tcuannounce.tcu.edu/?sortString=Title&pageType=List&page=2&desc=True>

Other websites:

- Zillow.com (with a pin search for 76109/76110)
- PurplePads.com
- Purplehousing.com
- Awardhomes.com

***Also refer to comprehensive housing guide on MBAFYI page



Life at TCU – Essentials

Get a US phone number at the earliest- AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile

- If you plan to buy a new phone from your home country before the start of your new school, check the bandwidth and frequency of your phone, certain Asian made phones do not work in the American carrier's bandwidths.

Open a bank account – Bank of America and BB&T on Berry Street

- If feasible, take a secured credit card (generally requires a \$400 security deposit amount) – this will help you build the much needed credit history



Life at TCU – Essentials

OPTIONAL:

- Apply for a State ID / Driver's license – Other than US Identification cards, only international passport is accepted at many places as a valid ID, so it would be in your best interest to do this
- Car – Apart from the buying cost, please add an extra \$150/month to your budget towards maintenance / insurance of the car, and approximately \$30-\$40/month for fuel.



Life at TCU – Acclimating

- Take the I-START workshop seriously- The workshop focuses on making you aware about the resources at your disposal and cultural subtleties
- Be ready to try new foods- The campus is surrounded by restaurants for all kinds of tastes
- Within walking distance from the campus- TCU Bookstore, coffee shops, CVS/Walgreens Pharmacy, Kroger Grocery, and restaurants!



Life at TCU – Acclimating

- Polite greeting is a social norm in Ft. Worth (be willing to reciprocate)
- There is a lot to do in Ft. Worth, explore your interests online
(www.fortworth.com)





Life at TCU – Academics

- You will have a full load of 18 hours in the first semester with a GPA grading system
- Course is divided into modules involving a lot of teamwork
- After START workshop, there is a 3-week module followed by two 6-week modules and ends with 1 week of Integrative Project
- Non-Business background- Familiarize yourself with the basics of accounting, finance, and statistics. Take the **pre-enrollment modules** seriously. You should have received email instruction from Academic Program Director, Olivia Williams, regarding mandatory online pre-enrollment courses.





Life at TCU – Academics

- It is important to get involved in **extra-curricular activities** (these are an integral part of personal development during the MBA experience)
- **Socializing** is very important and helps in networking.



Life at TCU –Attire

Business Professional:

- For men: Suits, ties, dress shoes
- For women: Suits (pant suits / skirt suits), dress shirts / blouses, closed-toed shoes
- Suit - Basic black recommended for both men & women (other color options are dark shades of black, grey, or navy). Please plan to bring at least one suit with you from your home country as you will need it for START workshop, and you may not have enough time after arriving here to find a well-fitting suit



Life at TCU –Attire

Business Casual:

- For men: Shirts / polo shirts, trousers, sweaters
- For women: Formal dresses, pants, skirts, shirts / blouses, cardigans / sweaters
- Always carry a light sweater and/or jacket as it can get cold inside the buildings

***Have sunglasses and a hat! Summers are hot and winters are cold with 4-5 days of expected snowfall – have summer & winter wear.



Life at TCU – Driving

Get your driver's license

- Complete online course and take online test
- Schedule driving test
- If you buy a car, the insurance premium amount decreases with an increase in the duration of your American Driver's License

Public transportation is scarce

- Cabs/Uber/Lyft are easily available but vary in prices based on time of the day

***You would be able to drive in the US for 90 days from the date you arrive with an international driver's permit or your country's driver's license



Life at TCU – Part time employment

International students can only work on-campus in the first year

- **Uninformed labor and illegal employment will result in deportation from US**
- First semester is heavily loaded with very little time for work
- Takes away time from meeting with your teams and project work
- SSN is mandatory before beginning any kind of employment on or off campus (MBA Admissions Office/GCC and ISS departments will help with this)
- Usually get paid minimum wages (around \$16/hr for graduate students and around 14% tax)



Life at TCU – Budgeting

Mandatory Expenses:

- Living expenses (rent, utilities, food, furniture, transportation, social life, etc.)
- Books & Case Studies (some books can be as expensive as \$300)
- Health Insurance (the Aetna insurance provided by university requires a co-pay)
- Other medical expenses (the Aetna insurance provided by the school does not cover dental or vision)



Life at TCU – Budgeting

Optional Expenses:

- Car (maintenance & insurance)
- Career Fairs (NSHMBA, NBMBA, NAWMBA, NAAMBA)
- MBA educational domestic trips (New York, California, Omaha, Houston)
- MBA International Study Abroad trips (China, Italy, South Africa, Chile, Costa Rica)

***Note: As of right now all students field trips are suspended/on hold until further notice from the Provost's office.



Getting to TCU

- The MBA Office will try to make arrangement for airport pick-ups.
 - Book flights arriving to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or if during the week, later in the evening.
 - Send your itinerary to: mbainfo@tcu.edu
 - Be prepared to arrange your own transportation if no students are available to pick you up. Useful link <http://www.supershuttle.com/Locations/DallasDFW> or Uber/Lyft services
- Bring your I-20 and F1 Visa
- For Questions on I20 or Visa: Contact International Student Services <https://internationalservices.tcu.edu/arrival/>

