



The University of Texas at Austin

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Hook 'em Horns!! This is the slogan that every UT (The University of Texas at Austin) students are familiar with. You can see the horns symbol on shirt, souvenir, statue, bus stop, or even on our own hands. This is what represents honor and unity of all UT students. It is really great opportunity to be an exchange student here especially in pleasant place like Austin. The city grants you the warm welcome with nice and kind people. It never makes you feel disappointed about the quantity of the food you order. The squirrels will walk with you along the street. Even the car stops for you before you reach the edge of a road. Coming here is one of the memorable journeys in life. Do not forget to learn the differences between cultures and do not afraid of responding back when you hear the word "Hi, how are you?"



Before Coming

Courses

After the application process, you will later get an official acceptance letter and fact sheet that combine all necessary information for your semester at UT. It is necessary to follow the instructions carefully. Mostly, it is about documents that you are required to submit to the university. At the very early process, don't worry too much about courses to be registered. You may need to study about your future courses through UT website that contains historical course data. It is important to be flexible about your future courses since everything can be changed even after the semester begins. Normally, UT offers many courses with many sections in order to avoid time conflict among students.

Visa

As an exchange student, you are required to hold J1 type of visa. The university will send you DS-2019 - the very important document used in visa procedure. DS-2019 is required for making reservation for visa interview. However, this document probably arrives late.

Housing

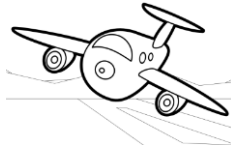
For housing, Google is the very first source to begin with. Later, you will receive more housing information from the program. There are dorms in campus, but it might not be available since, normally, you need to be in waitlist for a long time. Some off-campus apartments are quite close to campus such as the Castilian, 21Rio, and the Quarters. Most of them require you to lease for the whole six months or a year. In case you stay for only five months, you still need to pay for six months unless you can sublease it.



It is recommended to keep looking at various places sooner than later. At that time, I tried to contact many people for housing including StudyAbroadSupport.com, one of the housing sources suggested by the program. They act as an agent who break original one year lease contract from each apartment into six-month contract and sublease it to students. They also help you finding roommates, but it may not be that easy. They will tell you the apartment's availability and floor plan such as two bedrooms and one bathroom. I decided to stay at 21Rio with another friend. We were quite late about housing already, so we didn't have many options.

Though the rent is quite expensive, it was worth living there. 21Rio is located near the campus (only 2 blocks away). The apartment is fully furnished and 21Rio and StudyAbroadSupport staffs took care of us very well. There is a computer room down stair in which we can use printer for free except that we need to bring our own paper.

Upon the Arrival



I used UT super shuttle voucher, which was sent by the university for Airport pick-up. It is free and very convenient. It takes about 30 minutes from the airport to the campus. I would recommend you manage the trip to arrive at day time.

All exchange students need to attend the orientation before the semester begins. There will be academic advising for individuals regarding to the courses you decide to take. It is highly recommended that you read the course outline before making the decision because it tells almost everything about the course such as grade component, the level of workload, and any important issues about the course. More details about registration will be provided by the program.

Furthermore, you will need to do TB screening at UT health service before the semester starts and make a payment for the insurance and UT student ID card. Student ID card is very useful when you take the bus. Without it, you need to pay the fare for at least \$1 per trip.

Exploring the Campus

UT has almost everything for students. There are gymnasiums, libraries, football and basketball stadiums, health center, activity rooms, and cafeterias. These facilities are big and well managed in order to support all UT students. Generally, they are provided without charges except for some services such as printing, yoga class, basketball ticket, etc. You can visit the doctor at UT health center for free except for medicine expense and more serious treatment that UT insurance accounts for only deductible amount.

There are a lot of places to eat around the campus area in addition to the cafeteria. Many restaurants are located along the street across the campus. Not only American food, but plenty of Asian food such as Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Indian food are available. Finding Thai restaurant there may be easier than finding Thai people in Austin.



Studying at UT

As an exchange student, you are required to take at least 4 business courses. Studying at UT is quite hard, but it actually depends on the course you take. Therefore, as I emphasized earlier, it is important to study the course outline carefully. At UT, you need to always keep up with the class unlike studying in Thailand that most students won't study up until the period of exam. If the class has project and focuses on participation, it probably requires high responsibility and active learning. If there are frequent exams in one class, you need to keep catching up with the class content. However, some class may come in combination including quiz, assignment, exam, project, participation, and presentation.

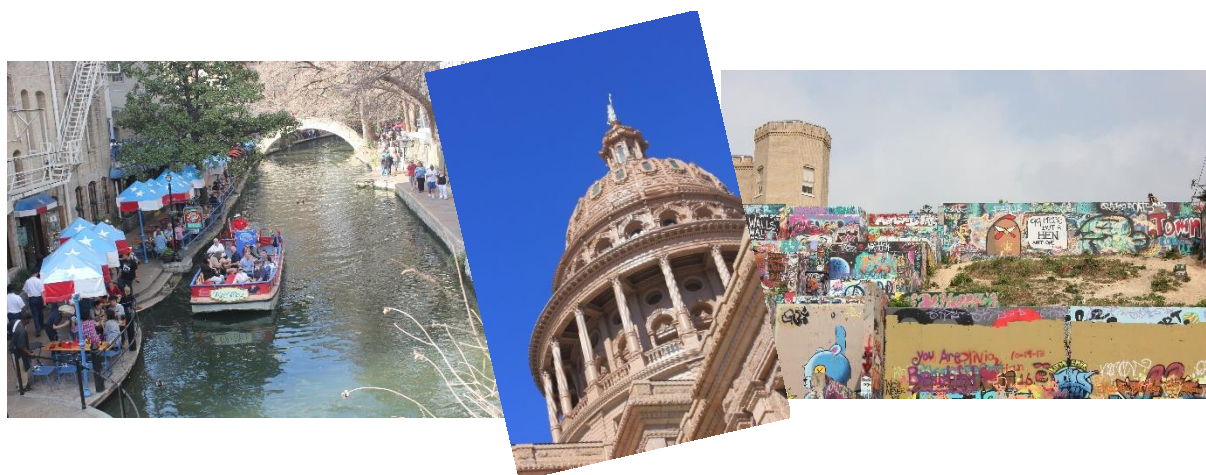
I would say that studying at UT is very great experience. In my opinion, UT education system is quite effective. The course outline is clear and useful for selecting the courses. The professors are very helpful and always have time to answer the questions. Some of them can even remember all students' name. The exam is generally related to the content that is focused. You may find the exam easy sometimes, but it rewards the person who always attends the class and studies hard enough. For some class, final exam is optional, which means that if you already satisfy with your grade, you don't need to take it. However, if you want to improve your grade, you still have the chance. What I like the most is that the professors let all students see the exam paper after scoring and open for the discussion. This makes you know your mistake and how to fix it. The grading system is fair, and the professors are quite open and will definitely listen to your voice.



Exploring Austin

Austin is the big city. The easiest way to go from place to place is by bus. Bus routes can be searched via Capital Metro website by entering the starting and destination point. Time schedule for the bus is reliable, so taking the bus is quite good idea to travel around Austin by yourself. However, to go far away out of town, you need to have car. That is why having friends that can drive really helps.

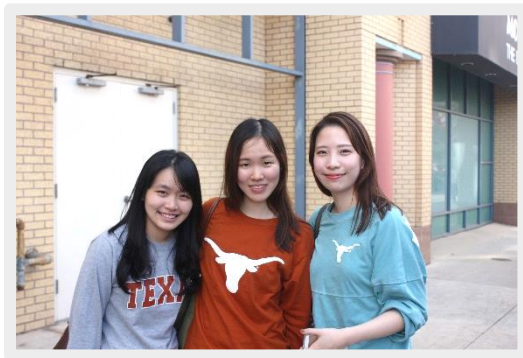
There is grocery called CVS near the campus that has almost everything. For the supermarket that has more stuff, you need to take the bus to get there. HEB is the popular grocery for food and consumer products that has many branches with reasonable price.



There are not many fancy tourist attractions in Austin, but some places are famous, and you should visit once you come such as San Antonio, Mount Bonnell, Barton Spring, Lady Bird Lake, and Zilker Park. Also, Texas BBQ is so famous that you should not miss. You will learn more about the places to go when you arrive.



Friends and Activities



Not so many Thai people will you find in Austin, so this is your opportunity to make international friends and share cultures. I believe that you can always make new friends there because Austin people are so friendly and nice. There are also other international students that can be your good friends. You may consider joining the clubs or campus activities to make more friends. Don't forget to join Thai association at Austin on Facebook page and introduce yourself since they can give you an advice and help you out while staying there.

I have a really good opportunity to meet new friends from various places of the world. We eat, play, go out, and share a lot of stories. I think I made the right decision to join the club that gathers international students together. Every week, there are socialized activities, which create the chance for us to meet and talk. When you have more friends, it is easier to go out and play. Never stick yourself with the textbook. It is once in a lifetime coming here, so it is better having fun and seizing the moment!



The University of Texas at Austin

Howdy Y'all! Welcome to Texas.

The University of Texas at Austin is in the capital city of Texas; however, it is not busy compared to Bangkok. When I first arrived during the winter break, the city was so quiet. There were not many cars on the roads and only few people walking around even in the daytime. But when spring semester started, there were more people especially in campus area as students came back from their vacation to go to school.



Before my semester in Austin started, there were several things to plan ahead. Some of the things were air tickets and accommodation. I arranged flight with daytime arrival and I recommend doing so since it takes some time to move in and you might need help. There were so many choices to choose from when I looked for where to live. Comments and rating were very helpful since I did not have a chance to see the real place that may not look like what I could see in photos. 'Study abroad support' which is an organization for international students helped me find a pleasant apartment, 21 Rio, near campus. It was convenient to go to school and get back home especially when I had evening class. However, it was a bit difficult to do grocery since my place was quite far from grocery store.

Planning for course registration was another crucial thing. Reading course syllabi was a must. Course syllabi provide detail of how the courses will be organized, lecture's topics, assignments and grading criteria. Some courses' grading weighs heavily on assignments and participation. Some courses grade solely on examination. Also, same course can have many sections taught by different professors which have different style of teaching. Exchange students are required to register for at least four business courses or twelve credits in order to maintain visa status; however look for five to six courses in case some courses are full.



At the University, there were many libraries and computer rooms for students to study for exams or to do their assignments. Also, there was a big gymnasium called Gregory Gym where students can go play sports or work out. Campus area was very big. There were a lot of buildings with similar

exteriors so without a map you would get lost and it would be too difficult to find specific place where you want to go.

Next, let's talk about Austin in general and places to visit. In my opinion, Austin is a nice city suitable for studying. It is neither too crowded nor busy. There are places you can go hang out with friends and enjoy your weekend. The Domain and San Marcos Outlet are



great places for shopping. Both shopping centers are so big that you probably need to spend at least a whole day there. There are numbers of shops selling clothes, shoes, bags, etc. from famous brands around the world. During holiday, you can travel to San Antonio to see the Alamo and have dinner at the River Walk. I went to San Antonio on a day trip arranged by International Office. The Office usually arranged trips to visit attractions in Austin and nearby cities.

Moreover, there are many kinds of food to try in Austin. There are lots of restaurants along Guadalupe St. serving Indian food, Mexican food, Korean food, Japanese food, Vietnamese food, Taiwanese food, Thai food, also, and etc. Some restaurants that I tried were Coco Café, Sushi Nichi, Plucker, Kerbey lane, and Chipotle. Amy's ice cream was one of my favorite places. The shop's famous ice cream flavor is Mexican vanilla. Furthermore, Texas is famous for its barbeque. I went to Rudy's BBQ which is an authentic barbeque restaurant located in a gas station.



Here are some tips or cautions for living in Texas, Austin. The weather when I was there was harsh. During my visit, temperature ranged from below zero, around minus four, to more than thirty degree Celsius. Also, the temperature changed very quickly, it had ever changed approximately twenty degree Celsius within one day. Prepare clothes for both warm and cold weather and look at weather forecast before going out. Another thing to mention is everything is bigger in Texas, especially the food portion. Usually one plate is big enough for two persons.

Finally, I would like to say that I had such a memorable experience during my stay in Austin. I learned to live in different culture and created friendship that will last forever. Thank you; BBA program, UT Austin, Thai Association at Austin(TAA) and everyone that make me have such a valuable time being an exchange student at Austin.