



**EDUCATION
INNOVATION
SERVICE
COMMUNITY**

My First 24 Hours in Dallas

My flight has officially landed in Dallas...

Now What?



Checkpoint 1: Immigration Custom & Border Protection - CBP



Look for the Non-U.S. Citizen/Visitors line
Have your documents ready:

1. I-20
2. SEVIS fee receipt
3. Passport and Visa
4. Financial Statement
5. Other supporting documents for your stay in United States (if applicable)
6. Custom Declaration Form

Tips: cellphone and camera usage is not permitted before passing through immigration

Questions to expect from the Immigration Officer



What is your country of origin?

Where is your destination?

Why are you here?

What are you studying?

Who's paying for you?

Where will you be living?



Once you are cleared, the officer will ask for your fingerprints and take your photo.

Tips: Immigration officers can be quite intimidating and demanding, stay calm and answer their questions to the best of your ability. Don't offer any additional information if not asked.

If you are asked for a Secondary Inspection



Reason for Secondary Information:

Information not verified on the CBP system or incomplete documentation.

Next Steps:

- Further inspection in a separate area of the airport arrivals.
- Form I-515A: Submit the form given to you at a local federal government agency within 30 days of entry
- In very rare cases, entry may be denied

Tips: If you are asked for a Secondary Inspection, please contact your local pickup arrangement. Duration of the inspection could vary from an hour to overnight, If you are given the Form I-515A, notify your DSO immediately after your entry

Checkpoint 2: Baggage Claim

- Look for your flight number from the monitor to find which carousel your baggage will be arriving on or listen to announcements made through the PA system.
- Retrieve your baggage



Tips: special sized baggage will be placed in the aisle nearest your carousel

Checkpoint 3: Customs



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Customs Declaration

19 CFR 122.27, 146.12, 146.13, 146.14, 146.15, 146.16, 31 CFR 5316

FORM APPROVED ONE NO. 105-0000

Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information only (ONE written declaration per family is required).

1. Family Name: AGRESTO, G Middle: A.

2. Birth date: Day 05 Month 08 Year 30

3. Number of Family members traveling with you: 0

4. (a) U.S. Street Address (hotel name/destination): _____
(b) City: _____ (c) State: _____

5. Passport issued by (country): USA

6. Passport number: _____

7. Country of Residence: USA

8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival: GERMANY, KUWAIT, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, U.K.

9. Airline/Flight No. or Vessel Name: AA 105 Date: 2010 Yes No

10. The primary purpose of this trip is business: Yes No

11. I am (We are) bringing:

(a) Fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, insects: Yes No

(b) meats, animals, animal/wildlife products: Yes No

(c) disease agents, cell cultures, mail: Yes No

(d) soil or have been on a farm/ranch/pasture: Yes No

12. I have (We have) been in close proximity of (such as touching or handling) livestock: Yes No

13. I am (We are) carrying currency or monetary instruments over \$10,000 U.S. or foreign equivalent: (see definition of monetary instruments on reverse) Yes No

14. I have (We have) commercial merchandise (articles for sale, samples used for soliciting orders, or goods that are not considered personal effects): Yes No

15. Residents — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise I/we have purchased or acquired abroad, (including gifts for someone else, but not items mailed to the U.S.) and airfare bringing to the U.S. is: \$ _____

Visitors — the total value of all articles that will remain in the U.S., including commercial merchandise is: \$ _____

Read the instructions on the back of this form. Space is provided to list all the items you must declare.

I HAVE READ THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND HAVE MADE A TRUTHFUL DECLARATION.

[Signature] Date (day/month/year): _____

For Official Use Only

CBP Form 6059B (10/07) collectSPACE



When you have retrieved all your luggage, stand in the exit line. This line leads to your final checkpoint, customs.

Have your blue Customs Declaration form in hand, ready to pass to the Customs Officer at the end of the line. The form will be provided during your flight.

Your clearance depends on the customs officer's discretion

Welcome to Dallas!

Is someone picking you up at the Arrival Gate?



There is no free Wi-Fi service at the arrival gate. Pay phones are located at either ends of the arrival hall. Only quarters (25c) are accepted.

Is someone picking you up outside?



If someone is picking you up outside, agree on a specific airline sign to stand under. Popular choices: Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, Air Canada, United Airlines

Tips for planning prior to arrival:

1. Have contact numbers copied down in case that person can't find you, is running late, or can't be there.
2. Make a backup plan before you arrive.

Transportation Options

If someone wants to pick you up closer to their homes, or cannot pick you up, consider taking :

SuperShuttle Express

- Shared ride service
- Quick and cost effective

Public Transportation

- DARTS (Orange and Red Line)
 - \$2.00/midday passes and \$6.00/day pass

You can find more information [here](#)

- TEXRail
 - Convenient way to visit Downtown Fort Worth
 - \$2.50/two-hour pass, \$5.00/day pass
- Trinity Railway Express commuter
 - Offers additional service from Dallas to Fort Worth and stops in between so you can visit and see even more of the Metroplex.
 - \$2.50/two-hour pass

You can find more information [here](#)

Other Options

- Uber/ Lyft
 - Usually cheaper than taxis
 - If you already have an uber/lyft app downloaded on your phone, and have an international wifi plan, uber/lyft can be used to call a taxi.
- Taxis
 - Convenient transportation to your destination
 - Find more information [here](#)

Please note: Depending on the route, you may either have transfer to another train or take a bus. Please make sure to use Google Maps if you will be using public transportation to reach TCSPP campus.

Other On-Ground Transportation



- Courtesy Cars and Vans
- Shared Ride
- Limousines
- Charter Buses
- Transportation Network Companies
- Rental Cars

You can find more information on these services [here](#)

Temporary Lodging: Hotels and Hostels

Not sure where to go? If you are landing in Dallas for the first time, don't have family or friends here to help, the first week may be daunting. The first thing you should consider finding temporary lodging for a week while you set out looking for a place to rent.

It is important to find a safe environment for you to relax and be in the neighborhood you want to. Treat it as a vacation!



Refer to *Living Guide for International Students* for best areas to consider living in



Choose and book hotel/hostel in that area



Fighting Jet Lag

- Unless it is physically impossible for you to stay away it will be very beneficial to stay awake during daylight hours ⁽¹⁾
- First because you have a lot to do as a new international student, and most places (i.e. banks, the school, cell phone companies) will only be open between 9am and 6pm, so sleeping can delay getting things done ⁽¹⁾
- Also, it will be healthier for you to get into a good sleep pattern now rather than when classes are starting, it takes about 1 week for circadian rhythms to adjust ⁽¹⁾

More Information can be found here:

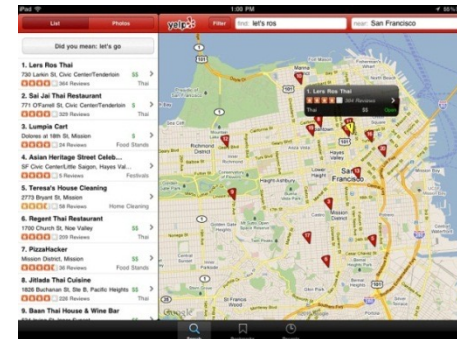
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/survival-guide-international-students-your-first-168-hours-united-states>

What about Food?

You're in a new area, settled down, checked in, but now you realize how hungry you are, but have no idea what to eat.

Solution: Yelp.com!

Everyone in Dallas uses Yelp as their guide to food and shops. Download the app on your smartphone before traveling, there is ample Wi-Fi in cafes and malls even if your hostel/hotel does not provide it.



Once you've settled down, gotten over jet lag, consider your next 48 hours...

- Log on CBP's website, <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html> to get your I-94 Admission Number and print it out for future use, ex. Social Security Number, Driver's License, travel...
- Secure all your important documents.
- Find out how to get to school and the campus.
- Get familiar with your surroundings.
- Find out how to purchase the ticket for transportation.
- Participate in the orientation and meet with your International Student Advisor

Cell Phone Information

CHOOSING A US-BASED CELL PHONE PLAN⁽¹⁾

There are basically 3 choices when it comes to cell phone plans:

1. Using an unlocked cell phone from home and buying a new SIM card that works in the US

The only possible difficulty is that if your cell phone was not unlocked or purchased as unlocked it will not (most likely) work in the US as international phones are locked

If your phone is unlocked-great- you can then purchase a US SIM card, for example: CampusSIMS (<https://campussims.com/>) is one option for purchases.

2. Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan

These plans are used by paying a fee each month upfront, a good part is that they do not require a contract, overall though they do generally cost more than contract plans but they do NOT require an SSN or Credit check both of which as an international student you will not have.

3. Buying a new phone and setting up a contract plan

These generally require an SSN or Credit Check, which can make it difficult when you are an international student and do not have either of these. Some companies will make exceptions for international students but it will require some time and discussion with the company. One company that tends to work well with international students is T-Mobile

More Information can be found here:

1. <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/survival-guide-international-students-your-first-168-hours-united-states>

Banking Information

- Check out the banks that are close to your campus or where you are living, this will make a big difference in where you choose to bank as you want to use a bank that is close and that has easy access to ATM's for when you want to get cash. ⁽¹⁾
- Most students choose to set up a checking account, once you decide on your bank look into the types of account, they offer and what the requirements are. ⁽¹⁾
- In general, you want to look for something that has a low to no monthly service fee, one that does not require a large minimum balance, and some form of transaction limit to safeguard your account if your card gets lost or stolen. ⁽¹⁾

More Information can be found here:

1. <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/survival-guide-international-students-your-first-168-hours-united-states>

Still have questions?

- If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your DSO, International Student Advisor

DSO Contact Information

- For other helpful information please visit the [International Programs and Services](#) website

Welcome to our Family of TESPP!