

# International Applicant Roadmap



1

## Step 1: Apply

Go to the program's website to apply  
There may be TOEFL and other requirements

## Step 2: Acceptance

Receive an unconditional acceptance to the program

2

## Apply for I-20

- Receive an email invite to join the ISO Gateway
- Upload documents, such as financial information, sponsor letters, etc.
- Submit your completed I-20 application

3

## I-20 Approval

- You will receive an I-20 Approved email to download the I-20
- Review the ISO Visa guide and gather documents

4

## F-1 Visa Process\*

- Complete the DS-160
- Schedule an appointment with the U.S Embassy/Consulate
- Visa approval and passport returned to you

## Prepare for TCU

- Sim card will be sent to you
- Activate card 1 week before
- Uber code sent to you upon arrival

5

## Arrival Day

- Day 1:
  - Take Uber from airport
  - Move in
  - Check in
- Day 2: Football 101
- Day 3: International orientation

6

## Social Security Number (SSN)\*

A social security number is required for all on-campus employment, including assistantships

- Receive offer of employment
- Request SSN support letter with International Studies Office
- Apply for SSN with SSA Office

7

## Career Center

- Use your social security card to get an I-9 from the TCU Career Center

## Start Work When:

1. Have Social Security Number
2. Have your F-1 or J-1 Visa
3. Department submits the EPAF paperwork

[At Home Country]

[At TCU]

@ Home

1

## APPLYING TO A PROGRAM

Visit the website of the program you are interested in applying to. Each program may have different requirements, ranging from GPA and prerequisite courses to English language proficiency and standardized tests, such as the GRE.

2

## GETTING ACCEPTED

You must receive an unconditional acceptance to your program. This means you have met all the undergraduate degree and admissions requirements. You cannot, for example, be accepted pending completion of a required prerequisite course.

3

## THE I-20

An I-20, or Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, is a federal document that is issued by TCU's designated school official (DSO). At TCU, the International Services Office (ISO) will send you an invitation no earlier than 6 months of your expected semester start date to access the ISO Gateway, your portal for all things international. Once invited to the ISO Gateway, you will be able to access the I-20 application form. Complete this form and submit it along with all required documents, such as financial documents and sponsor letters, to the ISO gateway.

4

## I-20 APPROVAL

Once your I-20 is approved, you will receive an email from TCU International Services to log back in to the ISO Gateway to download the initial I-20 along with important information regarding the next steps as well as the International Orientation. At this point, you should review your requested ISO F-1 or J-1 Visa guide and gather any required documents.

5

## F-1 VISA

To get your F-1 visa, you must submit a DS-160 application electronically. The DS-160 is the Online Nonimmigration Visa Application form for temporary travel to the United States. Once you submit your form electronically and payment is made, you will need to schedule an appointment with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate selected on the DS-160. Once your Visa is approved, your passport will be returned to you.

1

### PREPARING FOR TCU

Once you have your Visa, it is time to prepare to come to TCU. You will need a way to go from the airport to campus. You will be sent a sim card for your phone. You must activate this card one week before your travel date to ensure you have an active smartphone when you arrive to order an Uber ride. A discounted Uber code will also be sent to you.

2

### ARRIVAL DAY

Congratulations, you have made it to campus! On the first day, you will move in to your living quarters, such as apartment, and check-in on campus. The next day, you will attend our Football 101 camp, where you will learn about American football and the TCU Horned Frogs. On the third day, you will attend our International Orientation.

3

### WORK AT TCU TA, RA, GA & SSN

You will need a Social Security Number (SSN) if you will be working on campus. In order to obtain your SSN, you will need an offer of employment, support letter, and application with the Social Security Administration office. You will receive an offer of employment from your program. You will need to request a SSN support letter from the ISO. Once you have these documents, you can apply for your SSN at any local SSA office. There are two local offices located in Fort Worth. Please review the ISO's SSN webpage for full instructions.

Please note that the application process time varies. You cannot work until you obtain your SSN.

4

### THE I-9

The I-9 form is the Employment Eligibility Verification Form. It is used by TCU to verify the identity and employment authorization of new hires. Bring your Social Security Card to the TCU Career Center to complete your I-9 form and e-verify.

Updated 1/25

Note there may be some variation during arrival day. You will be contacted prior to arrival for the most up-to-date plans.