

International Student Services

Bill Taylor
Director



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

International Students

- Texas A&M definition:
 - Any student who is not a U.S. Citizen or U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident
- About 6,000 international students
- Over 130 countries



International Student Services (ISS)

- Mission:
 - Facilitate international students' admittance to the U.S.
 - Assist international students' transition to the U.S.
 - Promote interactions between the U.S. and international populations
 - Provide services necessary to meet the special needs of international students



About ISS



ISS Contact Information

- Final Location:
 - 110 Pavilion
 - 1226 TAMU
- Phones
 - Bill Taylor: 862-4008
 - Samantha Clement: 845-6309
 - Amanda Brinlee: 458-0761
- Emails
 - abrinlee@tamu.edu
 - sclement@tamu.edu



ISS - Who We Are

- 16 full-time staff + many student employees
- ISS Advisors are Designated School Officials (DSOs) and Alternative Responsible Officers (ARO)
 - the school must have dedicated employees for assisting and overseeing enrolled F-1 and J-1 students
 - Federal law requires DSOs and AROs to update and maintain student records in **SEVIS**
- In short, we serve as the **liaison** between international students, Texas A&M University, and the U.S. government.



ISS – Who We Serve

- ISS assists prospective, new, current, and former international students (about 10,000 total!)
- ISS serves the needs of international students at 10 different campuses throughout the State of Texas (TAMU College Station, TAMU Galveston, School of Law, Health Science Center, and McAllen Higher Education Center)



Texas A&M University at Galveston



ISS – What We Do

- Advocate & Liaison
 - U.S. Government
 - Example: Department of Homeland Security - includes SEVIS
 - Texas Government:
 - Example: Department of Public Safety - issues driver licenses
 - Bryan/College Station:
 - Example: Local police departments
 - University:
 - Example: Texas A&M University System – **Health Insurance Requirement**
- Special Programs
 - International Student Conference
 - International Aggie Welcome Party
 - International Spouses Forum
 - Dinner in a U.S. Home



Health Insurance



Health Insurance Requirements for International Students

- All international students enrolled at Texas A&M in F-1 or J-1 status are required to be covered under the Texas A&M University System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP) or have equivalent insurance coverage.
- SSHIP is automatically charged to each F-1 and J-1 international student's tuition and fee statement.
- International students in other immigration statuses are not subject to the Texas A&M University System requirement.
- International students in J-1 status are also required by the U.S. Department of State to maintain health insurance for themselves and their J-2 dependents. The SSHIP complies with the Department of State requirement. Failure to maintain health insurance is an immigration status violation for J-1 students.



Health Insurance

- Academic Health Plans – BlueCross BlueShield of Texas
- F-1 and J-1 international students automatically enrolled in and billed for TAMU System plan unless approved for waiver
 - Waivers granted only for qualifying employer-provided or sponsor-required coverage
 - Students must apply for waivers, each semester
 - Waiver system for August insurance coverage (new students) available July 15– September 7.
 - Waiver system for September through December coverage (new and returning students) available August 1 – September 7.
- Cost:
 - Fee for Fall: \$877
 - Fee for Spring and Summer: \$1755
 - August Premium for New Students - \$219.50
- Resources:
 - <http://iss.tamu.edu/Current-Students/Health-Insurance>
 - iss@tamu.edu



Terra Dotta Software



Terra Dotta Software

- ISS is in the process of moving ALL requests to a new online system – Terra Dotta Systems (TDS).
- During Fall 2018 semester, we implemented the following programs in Terra Dotta. These were available to students online but we still had students meet with ISS for assistance and to complete the processes:
 - New Student Check-In
 - Dependent Check-In
 - Verify Sponsor Information
- For Spring 2019:
 - The programs above can be fully completed online without requiring the student to visit ISS
 - New students do their ISS Check-In completely online
 - Current students with Dependent Check-In holds can do their Dependent Check-In completely online
 - ISS Check-In holds cannot be removed until the student completes the Check-In process through Terra Dotta
- Summer 2019/Fall 2019
 - Passport updates
 - New Student I-20/DS-2019 request



Terra Dotta Software

- ISS will continue to add updates regarding our Terra Dotta implementation at <http://iss.tamu.edu/Side-Menu/TerraDotta>

ISS - Terra Dotta

Printer friendly page 

Current Programs

● F-1/J-1 New Student Check-In

Any Texas A&M University student who is not a U.S. Citizen or U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident is considered to be an **international student**. All F-1 and J-1 international students are required to complete an online New Student Check-In with ISS through Terra Dotta. The purpose of the New Student Check-In is to confirm that F-1 and J-1 international students have arrived in the U.S. and are complying with federal regulations. Prior to their arrival, all international students are blocked from course registration. F-1 and J-1 students must complete the New Student Check-In through Terra Dotta in order to have the ISS Check-In registration hold removed. Visit the [ISS Registration Holds webpage](#) for information about how to have other common registration holds removed.

All **new F-1 and J-1 international students** are required to complete the **Check-In** process via ISS - TerraDotta. Access the [New Student Check-In program here](#) to apply and complete the process. If you are directed to a webpage that asks you how you will be logging in, you should select "I have a username and password." You will then log in with your Texas A&M University NetID and associated Password. Then, you will select the semester for which you are completing the New Student Check-In and click "Apply."

For additional resources applicable to new international students, please visit <http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students>.

● F-2/J-2 Dependent Check-in



Upcoming Opportunities!



Anticipated events for Fall 2019:

- SSN Day
- Travel Signature Days
- CPT and OPT workshops
- International Aggie Honor Series
- Ask ISS (for faculty and staff)
- **Contact ISS if you'd like us to present to your students, faculty, or staff!



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

AUGUST 22, 2019



ATM International Student Services
Texas A&M University

iss.tamu.edu/Events/ISC

SAVE THE DATES!



iss.tamu.edu/Events/International-Aggie-Party

**International Student Services
and
Aggie Honor System Office**

Presents

International Aggie Honor Series

Plagiarism

Cheating and Complicity

Additional Definitions

Finals Week Survival Guide



Find out more at
tx.ag/TAMUIAHS





DINNER IN A US HOME

An ideal setting for
an open exchange
of culture,
experiences,
customs, and
ideas.

Read more : tx.ag/USDinner

Register: tx.ag/HostDIAUSH



International Student Services
Texas A&M University

International Spouse Forum

presents

Coffee Conversation



First
Fridays
of the month

More
info at
tx.ag/ISFTAMU



English Language Proficiency Exam

Practice Session

INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Suzanne Droleskey

Sponsored by
Center for Teaching Excellence

Tuesday, August 6th

9am-11:30am

and

Tuesday, August 13th

9am-11:30am

Blocker Room 102

Staff and Faculty Launch Series

ASK ISS!

Come network with ISS advisors
and ask questions that you may
have about international student
immigration regulations and
processing topics.

Event is Bring-Your-Own-Lunch
Drinks and Cookies will be provided!

RSVP at <http://tx.ag/AskISS>

12 PM - 1PM
Second
Tuesday,
Every Month!



ATM

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT SERVICES



Questions?

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