International Student Handbook 2017 / 2018
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Welcome to Trinity!

Dear Trinity International Student:

Congratulations on your admission to Trinity University!

Planning your future at Trinity is an exciting and challenging process. We too have studied and lived abroad, so we know how you are feeling right now. The staff in the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Office is experienced with the special issues you will face living and studying in a new country, and we are happy to help you during your studies at Trinity University.

Some of the services provided by our office include:

- Advising on the visa application process and immigration issues
- An International Student Orientation program and International Student Orientation course
- International programming - a chance for you to share your culture and learn about the United States of America
- A liaison between foreign embassies and governments in the event of an emergency
- Students’ primary source of assistance and providing a home away from home

You have many arrangements to make in preparation for your upcoming adventure. We hope this handbook will help you and your family to understand what is ahead.

We are looking forward to meeting you and helping you to become part of our global Trinity Family.

Best wishes,

Bob Seese
Assistant Director

“Jessie” Qiu Jiang
International Student and Scholar Advisor

Dr. Bob Seese

Jessie (Qiu) Jiang
Assistant Director
Center for International Engagement, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/trinityisss
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Mailing Address: Trinity University, Box #100
One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX, USA 78212
Physical Office: Halsell Center, Room 330 (Third floor)

Meet the Trinity International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSS) Staff:

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During the summer you will be contacted by our Trinity International Student Orientation (ISO) Coordinators, who will send you helpful information and reminders, and who will answer any questions that you may have prior to arriving on campus. They look forward to meeting you in-person at the orientation in August!

You can discover more about our ISO Coordinators here:
https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students-0/iso
Prior to Arrival...

**Required Immigration Documents & Fees**

To enter the United States as an F-1 student, you must have the following documents:

- **Passport**: valid for at least 6 months beyond the end of your stay
- **I-20**: signed by a Designated School Official (DSO). (Your I-20 is mailed to you by ISSS after adequate proof of financial support is received, prior to your arrival.)
- **F-1 Visa**: please refer to: [http://tinyurl.com/gw7rlac](http://tinyurl.com/gw7rlac) for detailed information and procedures
- **Proof of financial support**: [https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/](https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/)

**Obtaining a Visa:**

**Type**: F-1 Student Visa

**Required Documents** in order to obtain an F-1 Visa:

- Signed I-20A-B, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Status Students
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Completed Application: Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant, Form DS-160
- Some applicants are required to complete the form DS-157
- Interview at the US embassy/Consulate
- Passport, valid for at least six months after proposed date of entry to the U.S.
- One 2x2 passport-style photograph

*Specific questions about the appointment should be directed to your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate!*

**Additional Documents:**

- Transcripts and Diploma
- Scores from standardized tests (i.e. TOEFL, SAT, etc.)
- Financial Evidence (i.e. tax documents, bank statements)
- Scholarship Award letter from Trinity University (if any)

For earlier entry into the U.S. please refer to [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/)
No Longer Planning to Attend Trinity University?

If your plans change and you will not be attending Trinity University, or if you have to defer your enrollment to a later date, it is imperative to immediately contact the Office of Admissions (admissions@trinity.edu) as well as the International Student and Scholar Services Office (isss@trinity.edu).

Please note that you will not be able to use the visa stamp you obtained to attend Trinity University to attend any other U.S. college or university.

**PLACEMENT EXAMS:**


Placement exams help place you in the correct course level in certain areas of study. Not all placement exams are required, especially if you already have college credit on your academic transcript in a relevant area.

The information below details when exams are taken and the website above provides information about who needs to take each exam.

**Prior to arriving at Trinity:**

- Math Placement Exam
- Chemistry Placement Exam

**During New Student Orientation (NSO):**

- Language Placement Exam
  (not for English as a second language!)

**After New Student Orientation (NSO):**

- Information Technology Skills Assessment
After Entry to the United States:

Your Electronic I-94 Record:

Complete and Print the I-94 electronic application at (https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home). Please safeguard this form as it contains the official record of your stay, the visa classification you are given, and the length of time you may stay.

Information for Transfer Students:

Transfer F-1 students: If you are currently in F-1 student status attending another institution in the United States and plan to transfer your SEVIS record to Trinity University, you will need to contact the international office at your current institution for the proper procedural information. Please ask one of your current immigration advisors to fill out a “Transfer Certification” form that must be completed by the “Transfer Out” institution.

The Trinity ISSS Transfer form can be accessed online at: https://inside.trinity.edu/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students#Applying

The Trinity University school code (including 3-digit suffix) for SEVIS is: SNA214F00441000.

More information for new international students can be found on the ISSS website at: https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students
ARRIVING IN SAN ANTONIO

If you arrive in San Antonio before the official arrival day, AUGUST 16, 2016, you will need to find your own accommodation. Residence halls are not open until the arrival day. A list of San Antonio hotels can be found here: http://new.trinity.edu/about-trinity/san-antonio/lodging. PARENTS and family: We have activities for you including a reception with the President and lunch with professors and CIE staff. Saturday, August 19 is a special parents/family orientation.

**Arrival Notification:** Knowing your arrival plans allows us to better prepare. If you will require pick-up from the airport, please fill out our Arrival Notification Form (http://tinyurl.com/j53te8f) at least two weeks prior to your arrival. This form will allow you to arrange for an airport pickup through the ISSS Office. This service is only offered for new international students arriving at the beginning of the school semester/year. Just fill out the arrival notification form with your flight information and we will arrange your pickup.

**Moving-in:** If you need to arrive in San Antonio earlier than your assigned residence hall move-in date, you will need to arrange a place to stay on your own, at your own expense. Residence Life information can be found online at: (http://new.trinity.edu/campus-life/residence-halls-dining). Please check in at the WITT Center when you arrive on campus. Visit Trinity University’s Interactive Campus Map (https://new.trinity.edu/sites/default/files/file_attachments/trinitycampus2013.pdf) for directions.

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International Student Orientation (ISO)

The first few days at Trinity University can be a truly exciting time. There will be many new students on campus like you, all dealing with feelings of anticipation mixed with some anxieties about how the first few months of study will go. During these first days, you may find yourself very busy getting organized and settling in. Your priorities may include letting your family at home know that you have arrived safely, becoming familiar with the campus, meeting new people, deciding on your academic program, and completing all administrative requirements so that your registration and enrollment are in order. Trinity’s orientation programs offer a perfect opportunity to attend campus social events planned specifically for new students, and to help ease the transition into Trinity campus life.

**International Parent/Family Orientation:**
On Saturday, August 19 Trinity holds a special orientation for parents and families. The in the morning both international and US parents/families will learn about student life issues and services for Trinity students. Then, international parents are invited to a lunch with Trinity professors and ISSS staff. After lunch ISSS staff conduct sessions about immigration issues and employment in the U.S. Registrar’s Office staff will address privacy of student records and grading policies.

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New Student Orientation (NSO)

New Student Orientation (NSO) is a week-long celebration of all things Trinity. It’s designed to make you feel right at home as a member of the newest class of Tigers. NSO combines information, logistics, and fun to prepare you for a successful first semester at Trinity University. All new incoming students participate in both required and optional events that enhance their social and academic development. ATTENDANCE AT NSO is MANDATORY for all new students.

For the latest ISO schedule, visit: https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students-0

For the latest NSO schedule, visit: https://new.trinity.edu/campus-life/first-year-tiger/orientation
2017 Reading TUgether:

*Poverty and Profit in the American City*

Reading TUgether is a University-wide common reading program in which the entire campus community, including students, parents, staff, faculty, and alumni, participate. Our book for summer 2017 is *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond. *Evicted* is a sociological study that reads like a novel. Desmond paints a vivid picture of the real lives of tenants and landlords in low-income neighborhoods in Milwaukee, and argues that we cannot understand poverty in 21st century American without grappling with the problem of access to affordable housing. *Evicted* was named one of the 10 best books of 2016 by the New York Times Book Review. Currently the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard, Desmond was awarded a MacArthur “Genius” grant in 2015.

**International Student Orientation Course**

**MANDATORY:** International Student Orientation (INTL 1100) is a one-credit course designed to help new international students successfully adjust to Trinity University life. The class is only offered in the fall and provides:

Two major emphases are:

**D-I-E-R: A tool to facilitate cross cultural learning and interaction** - You will learn how to apply this method while you are experiencing your first semester at Trinity. You will also make in-class and out of class presentations related to what you discover.

**Career Path Preparation** - You will meet and consult with Career Services Advisors about developing and following through with successful career goals while pursuing your academic studies at Trinity. You will also create your initial resume at Trinity.

**Other topics that are addressed include:**

- An overview of the U.S. higher education system;
- Cultural adjustment and culture shock;
- Health Insurance and Wellness;
- Residential issues;
- Review of laws and legal structures that affect immigration status and maintenance of your immigration status;
- SEVIS awareness;
- Career planning for international students;
- Filing U.S. Taxes;

Assignments may include readings, presentations, brief reports and essays, and interviews of students and staff members. This course is taught by the International Student & Scholar Services staff and is offered on a Pass/Fail basis. **Note: This course is mandatory for all incoming international students and you will be pre-registered for it!**

For more information, please visit: [https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students](https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/newtransfer-students)
Transportation Options

TU Shopping Shuttle:
A FREE service available on select Saturdays throughout the academic year, offering transportation that departs directly from the Trinity campus, and will take students to a nearby store. For the current TU Shopping Shuttle schedule, please visit: https://inside.trinity.edu/international-student-scholar-services/life-trinity/cultural-adjustment

B-Cycle:
A next-gen bike sharing system. BCycles are there when you want one and gone when you don’t. Just swipe your card, grab a bike, and get to where you’re going! https://sanantonio.bcycle.com

San Antonio Bikes:
Aims towards increasing the level of cycling and walking. Find bike path maps and more information here: http://www.sanantonio.gov/oep/Sabikes

VIA Bus Service:
The San Antonio public bus system http://www.viainfo.net

MegaBus:
Megabus.com is the first, low-cost, express bus service to offer city center-to-city center travel for as low as $1 via the Internet https://www.megabus.com/

Other San Antonio Transportation and Sightseeing options can be found here: http://visitsanantonio.com/Browse-Book/Transportation
Moving-In!

Suggestions for What to Bring

- Computer/laptop
- Plug/converter (if applicable)
- Spare glasses or contact lenses
- Adequate clothing (including your traditional national attire for special occasions). The fall semester will be warm for the most part: shorts, dresses and flip-flops/sandals are usually worn. However, the weather will cool down in November/December, so bring jeans, boots, and a coat.
- Pictures, artifacts, music and other comfort items that remind you of home
- Spices that are typically used in your food at home that might not be available here
- Any specialty items that might not be available here (i.e. special hair products, locally made items)
- Flags or other cultural items from your home country that you can give as gifts or use to decorate your room

Medicine and Prescriptions for Medication

Please note that when you enter the United States, you must declare medications you are carrying on customs forms. Certain drugs may not be brought into the country. If you take prescription medicine on a regular basis, bring a sufficient supply and a copy of the prescription, written in English. If you depend on eyeglasses, it is a good idea to bring an extra pair, if possible, and a copy of your eyeglass prescription, written in English. In order to get glasses or contact lenses in the United States, you must have a prescription from an optometrist or ophthalmologist. If you do not bring a prescription from home, you will have to make an appointment with an eye doctor here and pay for a visit in order to obtain a prescription.

Cell (Mobile) Phones:
The most common mobile system in the US is CDMA, not GSM. Trinity University international students who have cell phones typically subscribe to a local T-Mobile, Sprint, AT&T, Verizon or Cricket plan. The cost of establishing and maintaining a cell phone in the USA is quite high. If you do not have a credit history in the U.S., you may be required to pay a deposit when opening a mobile phone account.

How and Where to Ship your Belongings:

If you want to ship items from overseas, please keep in mind that all shipped items must be cleared through U.S. Customs at a U.S. port of entry. You can arrange to have a freight-forwarding company or customs broker take your baggage through the customs inspection and forward them to San Antonio, or you can take them through inspection yourself at the airport.

Prior to your arrival to Trinity, beginning in July, you can mail items to be held until your arrival in the Trinity mail center. The earliest students can ship their belongings to Trinity is July 1st. Before shipping, please email ISSS so that we can obtain the student’s mailbox number.

The address to which to ship would be:

ATTN: Your Full Name ← (Student’s name; no nicknames)
Trinity University
One Trinity Place
#________ ← (Student’s Mailbox#)
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200

Capacity: there is no limit to how much can be sent to Trinity
Pick-up: After arriving in August, with TrinityID Card ready, students can come to the Mail Center in the Prassel Parking Lot to pick up their packages.
Academic Advising and Class Registration

First Year International Students: Trinity University provides strong academic advising for all students and particularly supports a program for first-year students so they receive considerable attention and assistance from their faculty advisors. Trinity professors, staff, and resident assistants work collaboratively to guide students through orientation, class schedules, and program decisions.

In the summer preceding enrollment in the fall:

First-year students receive the names of their faculty academic advisor and their student mentors. The student should expect correspondence from the faculty advisor in July or early August. Students will register for courses once they arrive on campus and have met with their advisors, during New Student Orientation (NSO).

Important: Be prepared for your advising session by reviewing the course listing and creating a tentative schedule!

For more information, please visit: [http://new.trinity.edu/academics/academic-resources/advising](http://new.trinity.edu/academics/academic-resources/advising)

International Graduate Students: Graduate students’ advising is done by their departments.

Student Identification (ID) Number: Your student identification number is the unique seven-digit number that starts with the number 0. This number is important and is assigned to you at the time of admission to Trinity University. You will use this number on most official Trinity University documents, and it is also printed on your Trinity student ID (Tiger Card).

Course Registration: Students register for classes through the Trinity University “Tiger Paws” system ([https://tigerpaws.trinity.edu](https://tigerpaws.trinity.edu)). For specific information about the registration process in TigerPaws visit this link: [https://inside.trinity.edu/registrar/students-resources/registration-and-enrollment-information](https://inside.trinity.edu/registrar/students-resources/registration-and-enrollment-information)

Email Account: Your Trinity e-mail address is very important. You will receive all communication through this e-mail address before arrival and while at Trinity University. It will most likely follow this format: <firstinitial><lastname>@trinity.edu.

Please contact the Information Technology Services (ITS) Helpdesk, Phone +1-210-999-7345, Fax: +1-210-999-8845 or via e-mail [helpdesk@trinity.edu](mailto:helpdesk@trinity.edu) if you have any questions about account access.
Managing Your Money

It is very important that you carefully budget your finances to meet all your anticipated educational and personal expenses. The first few weeks can be the most expensive period because of the number of items that you may need to purchase including books and supplies. Be sure that you have sufficient funds available to address these initial expenses but do not carry large sums of cash with you. There are many safer options available and you are encouraged to contact your home country bank now for details about the following:

**Traveler’s Checks.** The money is immediately available if checks are in U.S. dollars and they can be replaced if lost or stolen. However, checks in large sums can be difficult to use. Checks in a foreign currency may be subject to exchange fees.

**Electronic Banking.** Cash is available immediately from Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). There may be a daily limit of $200 to $300 and fees may apply for using an ATM as well.

**International Credit Cards.** Money is available immediately however, not all U.S. stores and businesses accept international credit cards.

**Bank Checks/Drafts.** These are useful for large sums of money, but funds are not available for three days to three weeks after deposit depending on which bank is used.

**Wire Transfers.** This is the safest way to transfer money but an account at a U.S. bank must be opened first. There may be a fee for using this service.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO TRINITY UNIVERSITY**

Each student is legally responsible for expenses associated with enrollment at Trinity University. It is imperative that students meet payment expectations and deadlines to remain in good standing. University policy prohibits students from continued enrollment when an outstanding balance due exists on their student account. Student accounts are to be settled prior to the first day of class each semester either through payment in full or enrollment in a University payment plan.

Fall semester electronic billing statements are issued in July with a payment due date in early August and statements for spring semester are issued in December with a payment due date in early January. Specific due dates are established by the Student Financial Services office each academic year.

While it is quite common for parents or other third parties to pay the amount due on the student account, billing statements are issued directly to students as the primary recipient of educational services. Trinity utilizes an online system which provides students and authorized users the convenience of online, self-service access commonly referred to as the Student Account Suite. It is in the Student Account Suite that students, and others whom they establish as authorized users, are able to view billing statements and current account balances as well as submit payment.

In addition to accepting electronic payments through the Student Account Suite by check or credit card, Trinity also accepts payments by cash, check or money order at the Student Financial Services Office. All payments must be made in U.S. dollars drawn from a U.S. bank. To ensure that payments are posted properly, please include your Trinity ID number on your check or money order if you use either of these methods of payment. If you wish to pay by wire transfer, please contact the Student Financial Services Office at (210) 999-8898 or by e-mail at studentfinancialservices@trinity.edu for wire transfer information.
**Tiger Card:** All Trinity University students are issued a Trinity University identification card upon their arrival on campus (known as a “Tiger Card”). Besides being used to purchase food on campus with your meal plan, the card can be charged with **Tiger Bucks**, which is money that can be used to buy books at the University Bookstore, pay for copies at all university computer labs, and for laundry and vending machines located throughout the university. For a list of local restaurants and merchants who accept Tiger Bucks, visit: [https://inside.trinity.edu/tiger-card/campus-merchant-program](https://inside.trinity.edu/tiger-card/campus-merchant-program)

Tiger Bucks can be added on-campus at the Student Accounts office, at one of the three Transfer Value stations located on campus, or online at [http://web.trinity.edu/x62.xml](http://web.trinity.edu/x62.xml)

You may contact the TigerCard Office at: (210) 999-7825 or by email: TigerCardOffice@Trinity.edu

**Meal Plans:** Meal plan options can be viewed at [https://inside.trinity.edu/student-financial-services/tuition-fees/meal-plans](https://inside.trinity.edu/student-financial-services/tuition-fees/meal-plans).

Each meal plan contains a certain amount of “**Bonus Bucks**” which can be used to purchase food and drinks at various restaurants throughout the University.

**Taxes:** All internationals claiming a tax status of “Nonresident Alien” are required to file Form 8843. Included in this group are most internationals in F-1 status, and some international faculty or staff. In addition, all Nonresident Aliens who receive any type of income - including tuition reductions, scholarships, fellowships, grants, stipends, salaries, wages, interest, dividends, etc. from US sources may be required to file tax returns with federal, state, and local governments. Filing federal income tax forms is the personal responsibility of each international student and a scholar. Staff members of the Business Office and Center for International Engagement at Trinity University are not trained as IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers and therefore are not licensed or able to provide assistance.

The ISSS Office offers a Tax Preparation workshop in collaboration with H&R Block in the spring to answer any questions you may have about filing taxes.

For more information about taxes, please visit Tax Information on this link: [https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students#Tax](https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students#Tax)
On-Campus Housing

The Residential Life Office offers a developmental program tailored to the needs of the residents. Our mission is to share and promote the value of living on campus as an integral component of the Trinity educational experience, embracing the benefits of a caring, diverse, and dynamic community. Note: Trinity students are required to live on campus for the first 3 years.

Trinity University Provides:
· Extra-long twin beds
· Desks, chairs and bookshelves
· Dressers
· Microfridge ® (refrigerator/ freezer/microwave combination unit)
· Blinds or drapes
· Shower curtain or door
· Air Conditioning/Heat
· Carpeting (with the exception of Calvert 1st, Miller 1st and all of Murchison, North, and Witt-Winn)
· Closets
· Smoke detectors
· Ethernet cable and wireless internet
· Overhead ceiling lights

In on-campus housing you may not posses
Alcohol, empty alcohol containers, or illegal drugs;
Microwave, refrigerator, toaster, or any cooking appliance with an exposed heating element;
Halogen lamps, space heaters, and extension cords
Pets (except for fish);
Candles or incense;
Firearms, weapons, or fireworks;
Grills, charcoal, or combustible fuel;
Waterbed

Suggested/Popular Items to Bring:
· Computer/laptop
· Medicine and prescriptions
· Plug converter and international phone cards
· Spices/favorite snacks

Suggested items to purchase upon arrival:
· Alarm clock
· Television and stereo
· Reading and bedside lamps
· Pillows, blankets, and extra-long twin bed linens
· Towels
· Hair dryer
· Toiletries
· Posters, plants, pictures
· Coffee maker
· Laundry supplies, hangers, iron;
· Dry erase board
· Storage containers
· Surge protector
· Flashlight
· School supplies

Tips on rooming with an American Student:
If you know you’ll be sharing a room with an American student, visit this website to read tips prepared by fellow international students on living with an American Student: https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/file_attachments/3826/trinityu-rooming-american.pdf

Please contact the Residential Life Office about questions or comments related to campus housing at:

Witt Reception Center
One Trinity Place, #94
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200
Office: 210-999-7219 |Fax: 210-999-7251
reslife@trinity.edu
On and Off-Campus Employment

**On-Campus Employment for F-1 Status Students:** Students may work part-time, defined as up to 20 hours per week, in institutionally-funded positions (Please note that F-1 students do not qualify for federal work study positions) during the fall and spring semesters. Full-time employment, defined as more than 20 hours per week, is allowed during official university vacation periods and summer for enrolled and continuing students. No special permission to work on-campus is necessary, however a valid I-20 issued by Trinity University and a Social Security number issued by the Social Security Administration are required.

**Finding a Job On Campus:** Students interested in obtaining an institutional student position may check the Human Resources webpage for Institutional Student Worker Positions: [http://web.trinity.edu/x9621.xml](http://web.trinity.edu/x9621.xml). Students may also contact individual departments on campus to see if they are hiring, including the Coates Library, the University Bookstore, the Center for Learning and Technology (CLT), Aramark, and many more. Don’t be shy to visit a department on campus and ask if they are hiring!

Once you find a job and are hired, please take the following steps listed on the Human Resources Student Employment Website: [http://web.trinity.edu/x9613.xml](http://web.trinity.edu/x9613.xml) in order to complete all necessary paperwork and learn how to get paid.

**Obtaining Your Social Security Number:**
Once a student has an offer of employment, he/she must apply for a social security number in order to obtain a social security card. For more information on this process, please view the information on this form: [https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/fileAttachments/3536/socialsecuritynumber.pdf](https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/fileAttachments/3536/socialsecuritynumber.pdf).

The ISSS Office will offer rides to the local Social Security Administration throughout each semester.

**Off-Campus Employment:**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has strict regulations about off-campus employment of international students, which requires prior authorization through advisors in the International Student and Scholar Services Office at Trinity University. Off-campus employment, except for cases of severe economic hardship, must be in the student’s field of study. Family dependents of students holding F-1 visas are not allowed to work under any circumstances.

Please contact the International Student and Scholar Services Office for more information about off-campus employment and immigration regulations. You can also find more information here: [https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students#Employment](https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/international-students/current-students#Employment)
Student Services

Career Services: Career Services at Trinity is a comprehensive and centralized service that works with both students (first-year to seniors) and alumni. Our office specializes in assisting students to evaluate their interests and skills, to set goals, and to research majors and occupations in light of personal interests, skills, and career goals. For more information, please contact:
Career Services
Coates University Center - Suite 215
Office: 210-999-8321
careerservices@trinity.edu
Website: http://new.trinity.edu/campus-life/campus-services/career-services

Experiential Learning: Find Your Direction
Trinity University's Office of Experiential Learning seeks to expand learning outside of the classroom. By fostering challenging environments, engaging in reflective learning, and nurturing community engagement, the Office of Experiential Learning enhances students' impact on Trinity, San Antonio, and communities around the world.
Office of Experiential Learning
Coates University Center 215
phone: 210-999-8331
fax: 210-999-7493

Student Involvement: Get Involved!
We encourage students to explore involvement opportunities that connect to their interests and passions. Our initiatives, programs, and events offer opportunities for personal growth and development that complement the Trinity experience. Student Involvement’s mission is to develop student leaders and facilitate programs that contribute to a vibrant campus life. For more information, please contact:
Student Involvement
Coates University Center, West Wing, Suite 104
One Trinity Place
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200
Office: 210-999-7547
Fax: 210-999-7254
getinvolved@trinity.edu
Website: http://new.trinity.edu/student-involvement

Student Accessibility Services: Guided by both the office's mission and federal law, Student Accessibility Services for Students (SAS) is dedicated to guaranteeing that students with disabilities have equal access to all aspects of Trinity's campus by providing them reasonable accommodations. SAS policies and procedures explain to students the process to request specific accommodations and describe how they are implemented. For more information, please contact the SAS Office at:
Student Accessibility Services:
Halsell Center, Suite 201
One Trinity Place, #85
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200
Office: 210-999-7411
Fax: 210-999-7848
sas@trinity.edu
Website: https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/student-accessibility-services

Counseling Services: Trinity provides free counseling services to students to enhance the education of Trinity students by facilitating their personal and academic development. For more information, please contact:
Counseling Services
Halsell Center, Suite 201
One Trinity Place #85
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200
Office: 210-999-7411
Fax: 210-999-7848
Website: https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/counseling-services
Health Care and Insurance

The Mission of Trinity University Health Services is to provide nursing and medical care to enrolled students of Trinity University thereby enhancing the health of the Trinity community.

The Health Services nursing staff is available during walk-in-hours, 63 hours a week including Sunday, closed Saturday, to administer first aid, evaluate student illness and provide wellness services to assist our students in staying well. Most of our services are available to students without charge. The University Physician is available to students by appointment four days a week.

Health Records Requirement: Trinity students living on campus are REQUIRED to have a complete Health Record form on file. This includes a completed physical exam form as well as information regarding immunizations and health insurance coverage. Appropriate forms can be found online, here: [https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services/health-record](https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services/health-record)

Meningitis Vaccination Requirement: The Meningococcal Vaccine is required by Texas state law and must be administered at least 10 days before the first day of classes for all students under the age of 22. Plan to get this vaccine at home at least ten days before leaving for Trinity! If you do not submit proof of getting the vaccine or properly file an exemption you will not be permitted to register for or attend classes. More information on this vaccination is available online: [https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/file_attachments/24/trinityu-meningitis-vaccine-guidelines-oct-13.pdf](https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/file_attachments/24/trinityu-meningitis-vaccine-guidelines-oct-13.pdf)

Student Health Insurance: Trinity University requires all students, undergraduate and graduate, enrolled for nine or more semester hours or enrolled in a full-time graduate program to have current hospitalization and accident insurance. To comply with the mandatory health insurance requirement all students will be billed for annual coverage of the student health plan in July. If you have personal health insurance that meets the requirements for International Students, See Requirements here, [https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/file_attachments/27/trinityu-international-insurance-waiver.pdf](https://inside.trinity.edu/sites/inside.trinity.edu/files/file_attachments/27/trinityu-international-insurance-waiver.pdf), and don’t want the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) you must submit an online insurance waiver annually. The waiver is available beginning in July through the end of add/drop, approximately 1 week after classes begin. An approved waiver allows you to decline coverage and have the charge removed. Instructions will accompany your university bill.

Students who plan to be covered by the SHIP with United Healthcare should enroll through the online waiver. Once you have logged in you may select the Green button for Yes, I want the insurance. Doing this will allow the student to access benefits immediately when the term starts on August 10, 2017. If the waiver is not completed by the deadline you will be enrolled in the student health plan and the corresponding charge cannot be cancelled.

Link to the waiver form: [https://trinity.myahpcare.com/waiver](https://trinity.myahpcare.com/waiver)
Link to Trinity Student Health Insurance Webpage: [https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services/health-insurance](https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services/health-insurance)

Contact Trinity Health Services:
Elizabeth Rhea Health Services
Myrtle McFarlin Residence Hall
One Trinity Place, #80
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200
Office: 210-999-8111
Fax: 210-999-8378
HealthServices@trinity.edu
Website: [https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services](https://inside.trinity.edu/student-success/health-services)
We are delighted that your son or daughter is coming to Trinity University! Below are some resources that you may find helpful in keeping in touch with Trinity University.

Trinity's Parent-Family Page:
http://new.trinity.edu/current-parents-families

We invite you to subscribe to a listserv called ParentTalk. This listserv allows parents to exchange information, ask one another questions, share advice, etc. University staff will respond to questions and offer occasional updates.

To subscribe, simply send a blank e-mail to: join-ParentTalk@lyris.its.trinity.edu

Your subscription will generally be active within 24 to 48 hours. You will receive a confirmation when completed.

Parent Communication Website Link:

Send a Birthday Package through TU Campus Dining:

Parent’s Guide to Student Information and Confidentiality:
https://new.trinity.edu/sites/default/files/file_attachments/parental-access.pdf

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

How to Send Mail to Your Son/Daughter at Trinity: Trinity University will assign your son/daughter a mail box number for all mail and packages during their stay.

Address will be in the following format:
First Name Last Name
Trinity University
One Trinity Place, Box # <####>
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200, U.S.A.
USEFUL RESOURCES

Visiting San Antonio: For a complete listing of area events, activities, and lodging, please visit the San Antonio Convention & Visitor’s Bureau Website: http://visitsanantonio.com

Online Map of Trinity’s Campus: https://new.trinity.edu/about-trinity/campus/campus-map
Directions to Campus and Parking Information: https://new.trinity.edu/about-trinity/campus/directions-parking

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The Trinity University International Club (IC) is a recognized student organization that provides Trinity's international and American students with a place to engage in activities that explain, promote, and celebrate their interests in international issues, cultures, religions, and heritages. For more information, visit the IC website: https://inside.trinity.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/life-trinity/international-club

FRIENDS OF TRINITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (FTIS) Program

FTIS is a non-residential family program for international students enrolled at Trinity University. Local families in the community will volunteer to host holiday meals and sometimes cultural outings during the year. Students who sign up for the program will be invited to these events. FTIS attempts to match participating students for cultural exchange and friendship with local families for activities such as a Thanksgiving dinner.

Please apply for the FTIS program here: https://inside.trinity.edu/international-student-scholar-services/life-trinity/friends-trinity-international-students
International Engagement

**Mexico, the Americas, and Spain (MAS)** is a cultural program that draws on the rich Hispanic culture, and is supported by a critical mass of more than 30 faculty members across a spectrum of disciplines. This unique program seeks to train future leaders for involvement in the MAS world. It provides students with unparalleled opportunities for engagement with the language, life, and culture of Mexico, the Americas, and Spain.


**EAST: East Asian Studies at Trinity** is a multifaceted program that prepares students for life in the Pacific century. Through a combination of language training, in-country experiences, internships, and formal exchange programs, EAST grooms future leaders in business, government, science, and education to be comfortable and confident in the global environment.

[https://new.trinity.edu/academics/departments/east-east-asian-studies-trinity](https://new.trinity.edu/academics/departments/east-east-asian-studies-trinity)

**Study Abroad** is not about travel. It's really about encountering the world, and even more about discovering your own country and yourself. Studying Abroad is a process of going abroad, studying abroad, and returning from abroad, and the Trinity program is designed to support you at each step. Because the world is becoming increasingly interdependent and borderless due to technological advances and an integrated, global economy, Trinity University believes studying abroad is an important key to the future success of today's college student. Most students study abroad during the junior year, although a number of seniors also participate. Permission is required to study abroad for a semester before the junior year. Summer study may be pursued at any time.

[http://new.trinity.edu/academics/study-abroad](http://new.trinity.edu/academics/study-abroad)

**Transfer Credits** International students sometimes want to take a class in their home country during the summer break. Any course credits earned during the summer for transfer to Trinity must be approved in advance. All summer study outside of the U.S. must be approved through the Study Abroad office. The most relevant deadlines for Summer Study Abroad credits are in March. If this is a foreign university not previously approved for Trinity students, the student must submit it to a Credentials Evaluation Service for review. Information on Credentials Services can be found here: [http://iraa.trinity.edu/Documents/regr_docs/ForeignCredentialsEvaluation.pdf](http://iraa.trinity.edu/Documents/regr_docs/ForeignCredentialsEvaluation.pdf). Students will need to request a "Study Abroad" evaluation, and there is a fee involved. For more information, visit the Study Abroad website: [http://new.trinity.edu/academics/study-abroad/international-students-studying-abroad](http://new.trinity.edu/academics/study-abroad/international-students-studying-abroad)
Exploring San Antonio

San Antonio River Walk (also known as Paseo del Río) is a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath the streets of Downtown San Antonio, Texas. Lined by shops and restaurants, the River Walk is an important part of the city's urban fabric and a tourist attraction in its own right: (http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

The Alamo: More than 2.5 million people a year visit the 4.2 acre complex known worldwide as "The Alamo." For over 300 years, the Alamo has been a crossroads for Texas history: (http://www.thealamo.org)

SeaWorld San Antonio is a 250-acre marine mammal park, oceanarium, and animal theme park, located in the Westover Hills District of San Antonio, Texas. It is the largest of the three parks in the SeaWorld chain owned by SeaWorld Entertainment: (http://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/)

Six Flags Fiesta Texas is a theme park located on the northwest side of the city. The park is San Antonio’s largest and most popular themed attraction featuring dozens of thrill rides, shows, and activities. (https://www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas)

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park conserves the five missions of San Antonio. Visiting the missions is free! The Mission Trail is also great for walking and biking. The Mission Trail winds southward along a nine-mile stretch of the San Antonio River. (http://www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm)

San Antonio Botanical Garden’s mission is to connect with the plant world and understand the importance of plants in our lives. The garden features Formal and Display Gardens, the Lucille Halsell Conservatory, and the Texas Native Trail: (http://www.sabot.org)

The San Antonio Zoo and Japanese Tea Garden are located near Trinity’s campus and feature beautiful surroundings and an abundance of animals and nature (http://www.sazoo-aq.org)

The Shops at La Cantera is an upscale, open-air, regional shopping mall located in far northwest San Antonio: (http://www.theshopsatlacantera.com)
Departure Checklist

☐ Valid Passport

☐ Appropriate travel visa (except Canadians and Bermudians)
Do not enter using a B1/B2 visa

☐ Certificate of eligibility (Form I-20 for F-1 visa holders)

☐ Letter of acceptance from Trinity University

☐ SEVIS fee receipt

☐ Proof of financial support for your entire course of study. (Please carry a copy with you in case you are asked to present this information at the port of entry to the United States)

☐ Sufficient funds in U.S. dollars to cover settling-in costs for the first semester

☐ Medical records including physical exam, record of immunizations (in English), and evidence of adequate insurance coverage (if you or your dependents are already insured)

☐ Valid international driver’s license and certified English translation (if you plan to drive in the United States); If your country does not have a driver’s license reciprocity agreement* with the State of Texas and if you plan to drive, you must obtain a Texas driver’s license within 90 days of your arrival. You may also obtain an International Driving Permit* in your home country, before arriving in the U.S.  
*http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/movingtotexas.htm
*http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Foreign-Visitors-Driving.shtml

☐ Certified copies of your secondary and postsecondary transcripts

☐ Copies of important medical records, X-rays, and prescriptions. Have prescriptions written in English in generic terms

☐ Organize your finances: arrange to transfer funds to a U.S. bank and make sure you have funds for travel and expenses on arrival; consider buying traveler’s checks to cover costs during your first month in the United States; consider obtaining a credit card, if possible

☐ Funds set aside for purchasing a U.S. cell-phone and calling plan
• Trinity University was founded in 1869.
• Trinity University is located just north of downtown San Antonio on 117 acres that used to be a limestone quarry.
• Students must live on campus for their freshman, sophomore, and junior years.
• About 40 percent of Trinity students study abroad. These students have lived in over 35 different countries and on every continent but Antarctica.
• There are 98 different service, social, recreational, cultural, political, and religious groups on campus.
• There are only two times in your four years at Trinity University that you will be able to climb the Murchison Bell Tower on campus. The first time is during the New Student Orientation, when you meet the President at the top of the tower to shake hands. The second time is during the “Senior Disorientation” in the second semester of your last year at Trinity.
• It is a tradition to be thrown into the Miller Fountain located behind Northrup Hall on your birthday.
• At the end of fall semester, students are encouraged to attend the Christmas Vespers performance in the Chapel followed by an open house on Oakmont. The president and several of the vice presidents open their houses to the students and serve excellent refreshments in anticipation of the winter holidays.