

# WELCOME TO LUBBOCK, TEXAS



Here you will find some basic information for new Texas Tech University (TTU) international students, along with some advice from your fellow international graduate students.

You can always reach out to your home department with any questions or concerns.

## Temporary Housing

When you first arrive to Lubbock, you may not have arrangements for an apartment yet, or your apartment may not be available yet. Your home department may be able to provide you with some advice about your initial accommodations.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“The hotel I was living is WoodSpring Suites Lubbock South. I think it is the cheapest one. It is definitely pricier than Raider Pass. But it includes the heater bills and TV fees. So, I think it can be accepted. Also, there is a laundry room on the first floor. And it could be booked in Booking.com and it could be paid by the paper card in the front.”

## Transportation

Lubbock is spread out and public transportation is limited. We have a bus system ([CitiBus](#)) and Uber. You will find that many TTU students own a car and others use public transportation and/or a bicycle to commute to and from (and around) campus. TTU International Student Life can arrange for [free pick-up from the airport](#) when you first arrive.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“To and from campus? CitiBus is active on several routes near most apartment complexes around campus. One can track it with the DoubleMap app and join the bus between 7am and 6pm on business days. Between 6pm and 2am, TapRide is active from campus to some select apartment complexes on their app. Both are free (that is, you don’t have to pay before or after taking the ride).”

“If you do not have a car, just use the bus station in front of SUB (*the Student Union Building on the TTU campus*), the bus arrives every 30 minutes, the bus goes to COSTCO, Walmart, the mall, and other important places.”

“A bicycle works pretty well if you are close to campus, as far as Park East, Raiders Pass, etc. It almost never rains; the landscape is 100% flat and the sidewalks are good for bicycle. Just remember to always lock your bike in the campus and leave [it] inside your house at night.”

“As most university parking is reserved very fast, it is a good idea to plan to use a bus during the semester to commute to campus. So, I suggest checking the bus station close to an apartment where you want to make a lease contract.”

“If you plan to buy a new car from dealers, Costco Auto Program will save lots of money. Always check if there is a dealer offering discounts.”

## Phone

When you first arrive, you may wish to use Wi-Fi on your phone for immediate communication. The Lubbock airport has free Wi-Fi. Most students purchase a phone or sim card very soon after arrival.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“For used phone try to look at backmarket.com.”

“And before going to use Cricket I would suggest Tello. It's [cheaper] than any operator. It's only 10 dollars per month if you use someone's reference.”

“Do not work with T-Mobile, the quality is really low, Cricket has several options with very high quality.”

“If you are a person who uses data often, I suggest using Mint (for 15\$ you get 4gb data). Use a referral code from a friend and you could save a huge amount. Only downside is that you have to pay upfront for 3 months or for the whole year.”

## Banking

You will probably wish to set up a checking account soon after you arrive. This will allow you to secure a debit card which will be useful for making online purchases, among other things. This will also allow you to easily pay your tuition online and receive your payment via direct deposit (if you are hired as a Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, or other on-campus employment).

Some banks have options for student accounts with more flexible documentation requirements to set up an account. You will require official photo ID (e.g., your passport) and often other documents with your name and local address (e.g., apartment lease, phone bill, driver's license, etc.). Any checking account should be free, but most banks require some “seed money” (around \$50) to set up an account – this money will be put in your account for your use.

There is a [bank office in the Student Union Building](#) on campus that may be able to help you set up an account. You can visit any bank or call them to find out what documents will be required to set up an account.

## Permanent Housing

There are many apartment complexes and private homes for rent near the TTU campus. They vary widely in cost and accommodation (e.g., some are furnished, others are mostly bare; some monthly rent includes utilities, others do not). Many students choose to live with a roommate to reduce their monthly cost. Before you sign a lease (most require at least a one-year commitment), you may wish to have it reviewed for free by [TTU's student legal services](#). When you move into an apartment/house, be sure to take photos of any existing damage and make note of the condition of the apartment on the first day.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“I used to live in Heritage. It is one of the cheapest housings in entire Lubbock. \$470 per month for two persons, but it's not furnished. For furnishings I would suggest going for raiders pass or university Trails.

“After 6 months living here, I saved money for good furniture and got a U-Haul truck to pick it up. Pay attention to Facebook announcements, there are very good deals there, I got an office desk, a dust vacuum, a set of dishes and pots for free from a girl moving out of town. “

“Ulofts, for a two-bedroom apartment we pay \$580 per person with all utilities included (water, electricity and internet) and it is right across from campus.”

Raider Pass it is \$399 and I think it is the best choice in terms of everything including the distance between Raider Pass to the campus, safety, and price. But because of this price, lots of stuff are quite old. But staffs there are quite effectively and will response your request immediately.”

## Shopping

There are some limited shopping/food options on and very close to campus. Most students use public transportation or carpool with a friend to do their larger weekly grocery shopping.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“Sprouts has fresh products with low prices especially for vegetables, they have sales every Wednesday.”

“There’s an African Store on 34th St where you can get some supplies. Just for laughs: Try not to convert the cost of items to the equivalence in your local currency when buying items. If you do so, you might end up not buying anything :)”

“There is an Asian store at 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and Frankford. Amazon website sells plenty of international food.”

“If you are looking for halal meats, Gandhi bazar is a very good option. On the other hand, Walmart has cheaper rates mostly than any other shop.”

## Healthcare

All international students are required to have [health insurance through the university](#). Be aware that your coverage may not begin until well after you arrive. If you wish to have affordable health insurance in the interim before your university coverage begins, you may consider purchasing Travel Health Insurance. You are strongly encouraged to use [TTU’s Student Health Services](#) whenever possible. Do not visit the emergency room or call 911 for healthcare unless you are experiencing a true medical emergency.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“For Health Insurance, if you are TA/RA or fellowship, use ERS to save your money. Check the website for all the information, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hr/EmpBenefits/Insurance.php>. Meanwhile, if you have a dental emergency, look for a saving plan instead of the dental insurance and negotiate with the dentist about the coverage. The dental insurance usually has a waiting period of at least 3 months. Costco membership may save your money buying a saving plan.”

## Family

If you are coming to Lubbock with a spouse and/or children, there are some special considerations to keep in mind. If your spouse is on an F2 visa, they may be interested in affordable, part-time English language courses through [English in the Evenings](#). Your school-aged children will need to be enrolled in school.

### *Your colleagues said...*

“If you have kids, you should check <https://www.lubbockisd.org/> to find a school in your district to register your kids. If your kids need extra training for English as a second language, the Lubbock ISD (*independent school district*) will refer you to some school with an ESL teacher. You can find answers to your questions with contact Lubbock ISD.”

## Holidays

Be aware that many stores and restaurants are closed on and around the Christmas holiday (December 25) and the New Year Day (January 1). If you are newly arriving for the Spring semester, be sure to call/check online for any business's holiday hours.

## TTU Resources

- [Office of International Affairs](#). You are legally required to [check in with your counselor](#) before the first day of class.
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)

## THE COMMUNITY

The following students volunteered to be contacted with questions by new incoming international students.

- Zaur Kapanadze from Tbilisi, Georgia, [zaur.kapanadze@ttu.edu](mailto:zaur.kapanadze@ttu.edu)
- Pegah Abedi from Iran, [peabedi@ttu.edu](mailto:peabedi@ttu.edu)
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*November 2021*