



INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTER

2024

STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

Learn English in Music City!



TABLE CONTENTS

- Welcome
- Meet the Team
- Pre-arrival
- Arrival Day
- Starting your Journey
- Nashville, TN
- Safety and Security
- Contact Us

WELCOME NEW IEC STUDENT

Greetings!

We are thrilled to welcome you to Tennessee State University's family! Joining TSU means becoming part of a rich history of students who have received invaluable education since 1912. At TSU, we firmly believe that "Excellence is our Habit." You will be an important addition to our family, and we look forward to learning about you and your heritage.

Welcome to Your New Adventure in Nashville!

Discover the perfect blend of music, culture, and education in Music City. As you learn English, Nashville offers a vibrant and welcoming community. Immerse yourself in a rich tapestry of sounds, sights, and experiences that will enhance your language learning and open doors to new opportunities. Whether exploring iconic music venues or connecting with fellow students worldwide, your time here will be unforgettable. Welcome to the heart of Tennessee—where your future begins!



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Meet our Team



Dr. Jewell Winn
Executive Director for
International Affairs



Mark Brinkley
Director
International Education
and Global Learning



Mark Gunter
Director
International Student
& Scholar Services



Mabel Dumenyo
Assistant Director
International Student
& Scholar Services



Dr. Tammy Gregersen
Director
Intensive English Center



Vladimir Betancur
Assistant Director
Instructor
Intensive English Center



Linda Doctor
Coordinator of International
Programs / Assistant to the
OIA Executive Director



Jennifer Barton
Grants Management Specialist /
Student Support Liaison



Brandi Myers
Curriculum Coordinator
Instructor
Intensive English Center



Jordan Turner
Instructor
Intensive English Center



Janeth Garcia
Graduate Assistant



Isabela Lelis
Graduate Assistant



Patricia Chacon
Volunteer
Intensive English Center



Natalia Vanegas
Volunteer
Intensive English Center

Interview with the U.S. Embassy

Before the Interview

1. Pay the I-901 fee
2. Set up the appointment at the U.S. Embassy.
3. Get ready for your interview at the U.S. Embassy

Interview Day!

1. Be on time
2. Bring all the documents
 - a. **I-20**: the original signed form we sent you
 - b. **I-901**: a copy of your payment
 - c. Visa appointment confirmation
 - d. **Passport**: Make sure all information is complete and you have a valid passport
 - e. The **acceptance letter** we sent you
 - f. Documents of your financial ability to pay for your travel, tuition, and accommodation
 - g. Any other document to prove you plan to return to your country after your studies



Preparing for your arrival



BUY YOUR TICKET

To find better prices, book your flight to Nashville International Airport (BNA) as early as possible.



HEALTH / IMMUNIZATIONS

Ensure all required immunizations are up-to-date.

- Measles Mump Rubella (MMR) vaccine
- (2 doses)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine (2 doses)
- Hepatitis B (HBV) (can be waived)
- Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccine (Mandatory if you are going live on campus)

Common Insurance:

1. [Sevencorners](#)
2. [Isoa.org](#)
3. [Insubuy](#)

Students are required to obtain health insurance that complies with TSU requirements to cover their stay in the U.S.



HOUSING/ACCOMMODATIONS

You should secure TSU off-campus apartments or rooms before you arrive.

Apartment Websites:

- [Zillow](#)
- [rent.com](#)
- [apartmentfinder.com](#)
- [apartmentlist.com/tn/nashville](#)

Packing Tips:

- **Climate:** Nashville experiences all four seasons, so pack a mix of warm, cold, and rainproof clothing.
- **Essentials:** Bring personal items, medications, and specific cultural or dietary items.
- **Travel Documents:** When traveling to the U.S., carry your original documents, such as your passport and I-20, in your carry-on luggage.

First Day in the United States

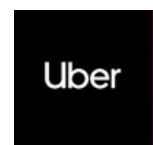
Airport Information

Nashville International Airport (BNA) is the closest airport to TSU. You can plan your travel to arrive here.



TRANSPORTATION UPON ARRIVAL

- Airport Buses: **18 (Public Transportation)**
- Taxi or Rideshare apps





CHECK-IN

Visit the Intensive English Center to check in and get your updated I-20.



PLACEMENT TEST

You will take your placement tests on the Tuesday, one week before classes start. These tests are crucial for determining the appropriate level for your classes.



ORIENTATION

Attend the mandatory international student orientation on the **Monday** before classes start. During the orientation, you will learn about campus resources, academic expectations, and immigration regulations and have the opportunity to meet the Intensive English Center staff and other international students.



Settling in

CELL PHONE SERVICES

Get a local SIM card from AT&T, Verizon, Mint, or T-Mobile for reliable communication.

DRIVER'S LICENSE/REAL ID

To get a driver's license in Tennessee as an F-1 student, you must be at least 18 and have a valid I-20, passport, visa, and either an SSN or a letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration. Bring proof of identity, legal presence, and Tennessee residency to a Driver Services Center. Pass the vision, knowledge, and road skills tests. After paying the fees, you'll receive a temporary license, with the permanent card mailed later. Please look at the [Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security](https://www.tn.gov/transportation-and-safety/tennessee-department-of-safety-and-homeland-security) website for details.



BANKING

You can open an account at a local bank, such as Bank of America, Regions, Chase, Wells Fargo, or local credit unions.



SHUTTLE / PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Available as a reloadable card or a smartphone app

Getting to Know Music City

Nashville, TN

Music City is home to professional soccer, football, and hockey teams. Explore our vibrant music scene, cheer for the Nashville SC, Titans, and Predators, and enjoy many cultural and recreational activities. Make Nashville your new home for both education and unforgettable adventures!

Celebrate Nashville



Nashville SC | Soccer



Titans | Football Team



Predators | Hockey Team



Downtown Nashville



Centennial Park



Campus Safety: **CALL US**

TSU Police Department: Provides 24/7 campus security services. Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures and contact information.

On Campus & Have an Emergency?
CALL 615-963-5171 (instead of calling 911)

We advise this to avoid any service delays. A certified, trained TSU police dispatcher will contact the necessary emergency services to assist you.

Personal Safety Tips

Understand emergency procedures: Familiarize yourself with emergency contacts, including local police, fire department, and medical services.

Stay informed: Stay updated with local news and understand any safety advisories or warnings (tornados or floods, for example) in your area.

Secure your belongings: Keep your passport, visa documents, and other important papers in a safe place, ideally in a locked drawer or safe.

Use reliable transportation: Instead of hitchhiking or accepting rides from strangers, use licensed taxis, ride-sharing services (like Uber or Lyft), or public transportation.

Be aware of your surroundings: Stay vigilant in public places, especially crowded areas or places with a reputation for crime. Avoid distractions like texting while walking alone.

Cultural sensitivity: Be aware of cultural differences that may affect safety perceptions or interactions with others. Respect local customs and laws.

Legal matters: Familiarize yourself with local laws and regulations to avoid unintentional violations.

Stay connected: Stay in touch with family and friends back home and establish a support network among international students or local contacts.



Contact Us

Intensive English Center



IEC@TNSTATE.EDU



(615) 963-6911



TNSTATE.EDU/IEC



**330 10TH AVE. N, SUITE 258
NASHVILLE, TN**



FOLLOW US!

