



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Intensive English Center

WELCOME GUIDE

FOR NEW STUDENTS

2025-2026



WWW.TNSTATE.EDU/IEC



AVON WILLIAMS CAMPUS



+1 615-638-3486 (WhatsApp)



IEC@TNSTATE.EDU



615-963-6911

WELCOME

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.

Discover the perfect blend of music, culture, and education in Music City. As you learn English at the Intensive English Center (IEC) at Tennessee State University, you'll be part of an academically rigorous program in a student-centered and supportive environment

And, if you still have questions after going through the Guide, I'm always here to answer them for you.

Once again, we are delighted that you are now part of the Tennessee State University Family!

Sincerely,

Vladimir S. Betancur

DIRECTOR



**TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Intensive English Center



Pre-Arrival

INTERVIEW WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY



Before the Interview

- Pay the fee I-901.com
- Set up the appointment at the [U.S Embassy.com](http://U.S.Embassy.com)
- Get ready for your interview at the U.S. Embassy

Interview Day!

- Be on time
- Bring all the documents
- I-20: Print the form we sent you and sign it
- I-901: a copy of your payment
- Print of your Visa appointment confirmation
- Passport: Make sure all information is complete and you have a valid passport
- The acceptance letter we sent you
- Documents of your financial ability to pay for your travel, tuition, and accommodation
- Any other document to prove you plan to return to your country after your studies



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)
- Tetanus - diphtheria (No older than 10 years)

F1 Students are required to obtain health insurance that complies with TSU requirements to cover their stay in the U.S

International Students Help Insurance options.

- SERVENCORNERS.COM
- ISOA.ORG
- INSUBUY.COM

Housing

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

Apartment Websites:



- ZILLOW.COM
- RENT.COM
- [FACEBOOK/MARKETPLACE](https://www.facebook.com/marketplace)
- APARTAMENTOS.COM

Arriving to the U.S

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: Route 18 (Public Transportation) (wego.com)
- Taxi
- Uber
- Lyft
- Indriver



The Intensive English Center is Located four blocks away from the Music City Center Station.

Starting your Language Journey

PLACEMENT TEST, REGISTRATION, AND ORIENTATION

CHECK-IN



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

330 10 th Avenue North, Suite 258, Nashville, TN 37203

PLACEMENT TEST



You will take your placement test on the Tuesday before classes start. This test is crucial for determining the appropriate level for your classes.

REGISTER YOUR CLASSES



After getting your placement results, make sure to register your classes and complete your payment the week before classes begin.

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 continued valid I-20, passport, visa. Bring these documents and 2 proof of residence in Tennessee 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 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. It requires passport, Visa, and at least \$500 for initial deposit.



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!



Downtown Nashville

Visit [Downtown.com](https://www.downtown.com)



Nashville SC | Soccer

visit [Nashville Sc.com](https://www.nashvillesc.com)



Titans | Football Team

visit [Titans Football Team.com](https://www.titans.com)



Centennial Park

visit [Centennial Park.com](https://www.centennialpark.com)



Titans | Football Team

visit [Predators.com](https://www.predators.com)



Celebrate Nashville

Visit [Celebratenashville.com](https://www.celebratenashville.com)



Safety and Security



Campus Safety:

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.



Safety



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.





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 iec@tnstate.edu

