International Student & Scholar
“Before You Arrive” Booklet
2015-2016

International Student and Scholar Office
Trinity Evangelical Divinity and Graduate School
Trinity College
Trinity International University
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Dear Trinity Student,

We are very excited that you are planning to be here on our campus. You are an integral part of our community, and we eagerly anticipate your perspective and presence among us as you pursue your education at Trinity International University.

Our students come from several countries and have consistently made a very significant contribution to our campus life. This is why we are delighted to welcome you to the fellowship of TC/TEDS/TGS. It is our hope that we may contribute to your and your family’s growth as a Christian during your Trinity experience. In a very tangible way, our fellowship here at TEDS/TGS illustrates the reality of Oneness in Christ that transcends national and cultural barriers. May you find this practically true during your time here on campus.

Upon arrival at TEDS/TGS, you may be faced with many new and different customs, complex procedures and unfamiliar rules and regulations. The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is a source of information and assistance for each international student. We attempt in every way possible to make the international students and scholars experience at Trinity a successful one. We encourage international students and scholars to address their questions to the ISSO so please feel free to come by, call or email us as much as you need to.

While we attempt to provide you with a thorough guide, this handbook will deal with some of the immediate issues you may face as you arrive and begin your journey at Trinity. As much as possible, please read through this handbook with your family and note the details contained in it.

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Coordinator of the International Student & Scholar Office  
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About Trinity International University

Trinity is comprised of three schools: Trinity College (TC), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS), and Trinity Graduate School (TGS).

Trinity College

Trinity College currently offers 30 majors and 23 minors. In addition, Trinity College provides the unique opportunity of participating dual degree programs. These programs allow a student to complete a dual degree in Bioethics, Intercultural Studies, or Non Profit leadership along with their bachelor’s degree.

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) is a learning community dedicated to the development of servant leaders for the global church, leaders who are spiritually, biblically, and theologically prepared to engage contemporary culture for the sake of Christ's kingdom. The Master of Divinity degree, which prepares pastors, teachers, and missionaries for a plethora of services. TEDS also offers a range of more focused Master of Arts programs in Counseling Ministries, Theological Studies, New Testament, Old Testament, Ministry and other disciplines. The school offers the Master of Theology (ThM) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degrees as well. Three academic PhD programs cover six departments: Educational Studies, Intercultural Studies, and Theological Studies (OT, NT, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology).
Trinity Graduate School

Trinity Graduate School, founded in 1997, seeks to train Christian leaders for the 21st century who will influence their professions, their culture, and their world for the cause of Christ. Cognizant of the cultural ebb and flow, we have designed programs that are deeply rooted in a biblically based and Christ-centered world-and-life view. Four master's degree programs are currently offered, and careful consideration is being given to expansion into other areas of crucial concert to our culture.

Traveling to the US:  As you prepare to come to Trinity, please plan your flight arrangements at least one month before leaving for the United States. A number of airlines offer special discount rates and so we encourage you to make inquiries early in order to obtain the lowest possible airfares. Please know, however, that if you buy tickets early they generally cannot be refunded or have the date changed and an additional fee is required. Also, please remember the dates of the New Student Orientation given in your I-20 Welcome Letter. This is very important for you to consider in your flight arrangements. It is best if you arrive two or more days before so that you can begin to recover from jetlag and feel rested.

The closest airport to Trinity International University is Chicago-O’Hare Airport (ORD). Please make your travel plans so that you will arrive at the O’Hare airport. The other airport in the Chicago area is the Chicago-Midway airport. This airport is very far from Trinity, and therefore will not be conducive to your arrival at Trinity.
Once you have booked your flight, please inform **Kate Reed** in the International Students and Scholars Office (email: isso@tiu.edu, or call 847-317-4064) as soon as possible about the date and time of your arrival at O’Hare International Airport. If you need us to provide you with transportation from O’Hare International Airport, please give us the following information.

*Please provide this information at least two weeks in advance if possible.*

- Your Arrival Date and Time.
- The airline that you will be arriving on and your flight number.
- How many passengers will be coming with you.
- How much luggage you will have.
- If you have arranged for alternative transportation, whether through friends or families. Please let us know this person’s contact information so we may coordinate your arrival at Trinity.

**Entering the US:** While aboard your flight, you will fill out a Customs Declaration Form. If you are bringing only personal belongings with you, you may simply write "personal effects" on the declaration sheet. Articles brought into the U.S. as gifts must be declared, since there is a duty on gift items.

Upon arriving in the US, everyone is required to undergo inspection by Immigration, Customs, and sometimes, Public Health officials. After you have been cleared through customs at your port-of-entry you should have the following documents in your possession:

1. Your passport (valid for at least 6 months past the end of your studies) which contains the F Visa Stamp given by the U.S. Embassy in your home country.

2. Your I-20 Certificate of Eligibility. The official at the port of entry will return this document to you. **Do not lose it because you will need it to leave and enter the U.S. after your initial entry. It is as important as your passport.** If there are any problems, please notify the International Students and Scholars Office immediately upon arrival at Trinity 847-317-4064.
Customs: Your luggage will be brought to the terminal, and you can pick it up after you have checked in with immigration. After you have found your luggage, you should line up for a customs inspector. After the inspector has cleared your luggage you may proceed to exit one of the exits (A or B) at the International Terminal (#5) if you have arrived on an international flight.

Luggage: If your luggage is lost or damaged in transit, immediately go to the claims desk of the airline on which you flew. They will locate your luggage for you and you should ask them to deliver the luggage to Trinity between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm when the luggage is found. Have them stop at the Security booth at the entrance. Ask Security to contact the International Students and Scholars Office (x4064); we will let you know when it arrives. If your luggage is damaged, go to the agent for your airline and show him/her the damage. The agent will inspect your luggage, give you forms to fill out and usually pay you for the damage or replace the damaged piece. Be sure to submit your claims before you leave the airport.

Hotels: If you arrive in the Chicagoland area and need to initially stay temporarily at a hotel in the area, the following hotels are in the area.

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (0.2 miles – walking distance across from Trinity) [http://www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)
2000 Lakeside Dr., Bannockburn
(847)-317-7300
Rates: $74/day
Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.

Homewood Suites (0.6 miles from Trinity) [http://homewoodsuites.com](http://homewoodsuites.com)
10 Westminster Way, Lincolnshire
(847)-945-9300
Rates: 1br, Mon-Wed. $109; 1br Thurs.-Sun. $74; 2br $149
Extended stay prices are also available.
Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.
Marriott Courtyard Lincolnshire (2.68 miles from Trinity) http://www.marriott.com
505 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire
(847)-634-9555
Rates: $74/Night
Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.

Hampton Inn & Suites Lincolnshire (3.96 miles from Trinity) http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com
1400 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire
(847)-478-1400
Rates: $139-$159 Sun.-Wed.; $79-$99 Thur.-Sat
10% off to Trinity Guests.
*Prices are subject to change

Transportation to Trinity: The ISSO will arrange for your pick up from the airport however if you prefer to arrange for your own transportation to Trinity’s campus, you can use one of the following methods.

Taxi
You may take a taxi from the airport to Trinity. American Taxi is the most inexpensive taxi service from O’Hare Airport and they offer a Trinity Rate. The taxi will take you directly to Trinity for about $40.00 plus $3.00 for every extra person. To obtain an American Taxi: after immigration, luggage pick up you will come out of the main doors to the Terminal lobby, go to any pay phone, deposit required fee (small U.S. coins) and dial 1-847- 566-3131. The dispatcher will tell you the number of the taxi that will pick you up and will instruct you to stand outside the terminal in front of a designated door (each door of the terminal has a number and a letter, i.e., A1 or B1). Go outside the Terminal doors and stand on the second island away from the doors where taxis are picking up. Look for an American Taxi (usually white with blue and red trim) with the number the dispatcher indicated (the numbers are on the front of the car) and when you see the taxi, indicate that you are the person who requested a taxi. Remember to ask for the Trinity rate and ask them to take you to Trinity, which is located on the Half Day Road exit off of I-94 north. After exiting, tell them to turn right on Half Day Road. The entrance to Trinity is the 2nd right turn at the blue sign.
By Train
From downtown Chicago, you may also take the Metra Railroad commuter train http://www.metrarail.com/, which will take you to the Deerfield area.

By Car
By car, the campus is at the Half Day Road (Illinois Route #22) exit on the Tri-State Tollway (Interstate 94). After exiting, turn right on Half Day Road and the entrance to Trinity is the 2nd right turn at the blue sign.

Renting A Car: If you need to rent a car when you arrive on campus, there are multiple car rental companies available that offer this service. However, one of the most convenient is Enterprise Car Rental because they offer a service to pick you up from campus/your home and their office is very close to Trinity. They are located at 1750 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 and their phone number is (847) 374-1527. Check their website http://www.enterprise.com/ for more details.

Check-In On Campus: As soon as you arrive on campus, please come by the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) located on the lower level of the Waybright Center to check in with Kate Reed with all of your Immigration documents to have them copied (passport, J-1/F-1 visa and I-94) and to be sure all documents are in order. Also, it is important for you to get your Student ID while you are on campus because you will need this to conduct business as you transition here at Trinity.

New Student Orientation: All International Students are required to attend the International Students Orientation and the General New Students Orientation. These sessions are extremely beneficial for our incoming students (whether you are a transfer student, never been in the US or an “experienced” American traveler) so that you can transition well to the US and to Trinity.
# MAINTAINING VISA STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>J- Exchange Visa</th>
<th>F-Visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a validated SEVIS record</td>
<td>Report to Kate Reed Designated School Official (DSO) within 30 days of your program start date</td>
<td>Report to Kate Reed, Designated School Official (DSO) within 30 days of your program start date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A valid passport.</td>
<td>A valid passport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A valid I-94 number. To retrieve your I-94 number, please visit</td>
<td>A valid I-94 number. To retrieve your I-94 number, please visit</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html</a></td>
<td><a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in appropriate activities</td>
<td>Enroll in a full time course load every semester as a student/ teach/conduct research as a professor or a scholar</td>
<td>Enroll in a full time course load every semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment as allowed by J-1 and F-1 regulations</td>
<td>An exchange visitor is subject to termination if he or she engages in unauthorized employment.</td>
<td>A student visa is subject to termination if he or she engages in unauthorized employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>All exchange visitor participants are required to maintain a valid health insurance. <strong>See Note 1 below</strong></td>
<td>All students are required to maintain a valid health insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report changes of address within 10 days of address change.</td>
<td>The Department of State treats very seriously the requirement to update the Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer with any address changes.</td>
<td>The Department of State treats very seriously the requirement to update the Designated School Official with any address changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Re-Entry Documents Needed</td>
<td>A valid passport, A valid visa, A valid DS-2019, signed by a Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer within 12 months of your return date to the United States.</td>
<td>A valid passport, Proof of finances, A valid visa, A valid I-20, signed by a DSO within 12 months of your return date to the United States.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note 1 - Health Insurance

Health insurance must be underwritten by an insurance corporation with an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or above, an Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-I" or above, a Standard and Poor's Claims Paying Ability rating of "A-" or above, or a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of B+ or above.

The following health insurance requirements as set out by the Department of State must be met:

- Medical benefits of at least $50,000 per accident or illness.
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of $7,500.
- Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of $10,000.
- A deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness.

Conclusion

We hope that this handbook has been helpful. Let us know if you have any suggestions on what to improve or to include so that future students will continue to benefit from this handbook. We hope your preparation and transition to the United States will go well, and we look forward to meeting you at Trinity!