

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

TICKETS

After receiving your visa and I-20, the next step is to buy your tickets. (Do note that there may be a delay in getting your admits and hence I20, in which case you might have to book flights before receiving both documents in hand to get the best deal). The ticket rates will indeed increase (fairly rapidly) as the dates come closer, so start looking out for deals as soon as you have decided to come here. Oh, and do ask for student discounts.

AIRPORTS

College Station has its airport but the flights that land there are usually very expensive. People generally plan their flights to the closest international airport- Houston and Austin (or if desperate, Dallas). Houston to College station is less than a 2-hour ride, and possibly the best means for this commute is:

- Ground shuttle (<https://www.groundshuttle.com/>) that moves between the Houston and Bryan-College Station (BCS).
- Hitch ride service (<https://www.ridehitch.com/>), but you'll need an international number to register and use their service.
- AggieExpressCab service (<https://aggieexpresscab.com/>) picks you up and drops you off at your home for around ~\$240, but this works best if you know others with who you can share a ride to BCS.
- Uber and Lyft services can also be used but will be on the expensive side.
- Others: You can also try looking at any of the TAMU Facebook Rideshare pages to see if you can get a much cheaper ride, but it's riskier as it's not certified and you won't know the driver.

DOCUMENTS AND LUGGAGE

Always keep all your immigration documents in your hand/cabin bags. Airlines generally allow three bags for students traveling for the first time. However, some tickets might need you to buy a third bag. Also, see if all connecting flights have the same rules (they usually do, this is just to be safe). Do check if your bags are the right dimensions and below the weight limits.

There have been cases (although very rare), of students losing their bags. So do prepare for it in advance and try to keep a pair of clothes and necessities in your cabin bags.

PORT OF ENTRY

Depending on what you are carrying, you might have to declare a few items using the US customs declaration form (https://www.cbp.gov/travel/clearing-cbp/traveler-entry-form?language_content_entity=en). Be honest with your declarations in the forms, as concealing items can lead to penalties. Make sure you have no fruits, vegetables, or anything raw with you. Spices and pickles can be declared as non-perishable and dehydrated items. (Do pack and seal them right.)