Welcome to Lamar University!

Home to over 15,000 students, Lamar University, located near Houston in Beaumont, TX, is among the fastest growing Texas colleges and universities, and is a member of The Texas State University System. LU offers more than 100 programs of study leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, providing exchange students the opportunity to take a variety of courses across many majors.

Beaumont enjoys a lush, subtropical climate that encourages year-round activity on land, lake, and gulf. Although you CAN grab your cowboy hat and boots and go out for a night of country line dancing, this is not the hilly, dry Texas of your imagination. Miles of beautiful coastline rim the greater Beaumont area that brims with unique shops, Parkdale Mall, plenty of museums to explore everything from art to energy, and live entertainment at the Crockett Street district and other venues.

You can meet alligators in the wild, kayak the Neches River, train for the Gusher Marathon, indulge in gumbo, étouffée, boudin, and the tastes of Southeast Texas at festivals throughout the year, or watch the exciting Houston Astros play baseball. You’ll never find yourself without something to experience in Southeast Texas. Louisiana, our neighbor to the east, offers opportunities to experience French and Cajun culture and visit the beautiful city of New Orleans.

Contact Us

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Application Procedure

Inbound exchange students will need to complete and submit the following items to Dr. Jeff Palis. Most of these documents are part of the Exchange Application Packet provided to you by your home International Office.

- Lamar University Exchange Application
- Home university transcript (in English)
- Essay of educational intent
- Course preference list
- SEVIS Data Form
- Financial Documentation
- Immunization Form

In order to apply for an exchange visitor visa, you will need a DS-2019 form issued to you by the International Student Services Office at Lamar University. To initiate this process, please complete the SEVIS Data Form and provide a bank statement showing you have sufficient funds to pay educational and living expenses for the duration of your exchange program. The SEVIS Data Form and the original bank statement should be mailed with your application to the Office of Global Studies and Study Abroad.

All exchange students whose first language is not English and who have not studied exclusively in English must submit official TOEFL or IELTS scores to Lamar University. Those scores are TOEFL 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based) or IELTS 6.5.

Application Deadlines
- Fall Semester – May 1st
- Spring Semester – November 1st

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory. Exchange students are encouraged to purchase the Lamar University insurance plan managed by Academic Health Plans (AHP). The current policy cost is $768 per semester. More information about the plan can be found online: https://lamar.myahpcare.com/

Students who prefer to purchase a different insurance plan must have that plan approved during the waiver period (https://lamar.myahpcare.com/waiver). The Fall waiver period is August 1st until the first day of class. The Spring waiver period is January 1st until the first day of class. Insurance plan regulations are very strict. Your alternative plan may not be approved. The AHP plan is very good and worth the expense.

Immunizations

All new students under age 22 who attend on-campus classes must receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis. New international students must also complete the university’s tuberculosis (TB) testing policy. The Lamar University immunization policy can be found online at https://www.lamar.edu/students/student-engagement/student-health-center/immunizations.html

You must complete your immunizations before registering for class!
Course Registration

After you have been accepted to Lamar University, the Office of Study Abroad will contact you about your semester course registration. The course preference list you submitted along with your other application materials will help us plan your schedule. Undergraduate exchange students must enroll for at least 12 credit hours per semester. Graduate exchange students must enroll for at least 9 credits at the graduate-level, or 12 total credits if they are taking a mix of undergraduate and graduate classes. You may take an “elective” outside of your field of study, but the majority of courses in your schedule must be in your academic major area. The Office of Study Abroad handles all changes to your course schedule. You can request changes through the first two days of class after the semester starts.

To view available courses, please go online to: [https://students.lamar.edu/registration/course-schedules.html](https://students.lamar.edu/registration/course-schedules.html)

Arrival Information

See the chart below for semester and arrival dates! You will arrive approximately 12-13 days before classes start. This early arrival gives you time to recover from your travel before the mandatory international student orientation begins. Residence halls also open for new students 12-13 days before classes start so you’ll be able to move right into your dorm room upon arrival to campus. Lamar University offers a free airport pick-up service for new international students arriving at Houston or Beaumont airports. Arrangements for pick-up should be made prior to arrival in the US.

Please fill out the Airport Pickup Form and email to [airportpickups@lamar.edu](mailto:airportpickups@lamar.edu) to schedule your pick-up. 

[https://international.lamar.edu/files/documents/Airport%20Pickup%20Form%2011-2016.pdf](https://international.lamar.edu/files/documents/Airport%20Pickup%20Form%2011-2016.pdf)

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is a large airport served by many international carriers. The airport is located about 90 minutes from campus (if traffic isn’t too bad!). If you fly into the Jack Brooks Regional Airport in Nederland, you can get to campus in 10 minutes, but this is a very small airport with limited flights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Fall Term 2017</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival Date</td>
<td>August 15th – 16th (approx.)</td>
<td>January 2nd – 3rd (approx.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>August 17th – 18th (approx.)</td>
<td>January 4th – 5th (approx.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Classes</td>
<td>August 28th (approx.)</td>
<td>January 16th (approx.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breaks</td>
<td>November 23rd – 24th</td>
<td>March 12th – 16th (approx.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Dates</td>
<td>Second week of December (approx.)</td>
<td>First week of May (approx.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Departure Date</td>
<td>By the 3rd week of December</td>
<td>By the 2nd week of May</td>
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Housing

Exchange students will live on campus in the apartment-style residence halls. There are five residence halls on campus and students will live in the two-bedroom, one-bathroom units. Each student is provided with their own private, locked bedroom as well as a wide range of services, programs, and community amenities. Every unit comes with a mini-refrigerator, microwave, computer desk, wireless internet, and cable television ready rooms. The Office of Study Abroad often has sheets, bedding, and pillows available for you to use upon arrival – don’t

Cardinals Beyond Borders & Global Lamar

The Cardinals Beyond Borders program is a great way to get involved as a new student on campus at Lamar University. It is a buddy program that pairs up international and domestic students. Each week throughout the semester we meet to engage in a variety of events and activities including: Movie Night, Game Night, Bowling, Cajun and International Food Night, and more. For information on how to apply go to:

http://www.lamar.edu/study-abroad/student-information/cardinals-beyond-borders.html

Global Lamar is the name of our group that gets together every fall to march in the university’s Homecoming Parade. “Global Lamar” represents our ever-growing population of U.S. study abroad students, international students and scholars, and professors and staff members around campus who support our international initiatives. It’s a fun way to take part in a famous American college tradition: the Homecoming Parade!

Local Transportation

Lamar University’s campus is a pedestrian friendly space and students are able to walk across campus easily. There is an on/off campus bus which operates on campus and within a two-mile radius of campus on weekdays. On the weekends, the shuttle bus operates trips to Wal-Mart, where students can get groceries and a variety of other items. For more information, see the website:

http://universitypolice.lamar.edu/parking/index.html