



The University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Part III: 2021-2022 Exchange Program Fact Sheet

SETTING

The University of Texas School of Law

The University of Texas School of Law (Texas Law) has established agreements with 34 partner institutions from 20 different countries that allow law students from these universities to attend Texas Law as an exchange student. Exchange students are fully integrated into university life and have full access to all the services that The University of Texas at Austin (UT) offers. Exchange students take courses at the Law School, integrated with both J.D. and LL.M. students. UT is home to over 5,000 international students, and the rich diversity of our campus is essential to our success as a learning community.

Texas Law is ranked among the [top 16](#) national law schools and among the top 5 public law schools in the nation. Additionally, we have an unbeatable set of [14 clinics](#), [16 programs and centers](#), [13 student-run journals](#), and [35 student organizations](#) that round out law students' legal education.

The City of Austin

Austin is the best place to live in the United States, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and is all about great choices when it comes to quality of life. We are known as the Live Music Capital of the World for good reason. Austin's entertainment districts are home to more than 407 live music venues. Whether it is Tex-Mex or BBQ, sushi or fusion cuisine, Austin does not disappoint. *Travel + Leisure* named Austin as one of "America's Best Cities for Foodies," and our food truck scene always takes a different spin than the expected. With more than 300 sunny days each year, Austinites appreciate the outdoors. Kayak or paddleboard on Lady Bird Lake. Cycle on the [Barton Creek Greenbelt](#). Or head out to [Hamilton Pool](#) or [Barton Springs](#) for a quick dip in spectacular surroundings. From lively performances at the [ZACH Theatre](#) or the [Long Center](#) to galleries and studios showcasing local artists, Austin's creative side is thriving. Austin's largest annual events include [SXSW Music, Film and Interactive Conferences & Festivals](#) (March), [Austin City Limits Music Festival](#) (October), [Austin Film Festival](#) (October), and [F1 Grand Prix](#) (October).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESOURCES

Websites and Video

UT Austin website: utexas.edu

Texas Law website: law.utexas.edu

Incoming Exchange Program website: links.utexas.edu/xmfuxc

Incoming Exchange Program Video Presentation: utexas.box.com/s/2j52io3ezo00mes9qoj635y19vfx61n6

ISSS website: global.utexas.edu/issu/students/exchange/apply

Texas Law Virtual Tour: youtu.be/liDw5bYPQ-8

Important Dates

Fall 2021	Spring 2022
<i>August 16</i> New Exchange Student Orientation	<i>January 14</i> New Exchange Student Orientation
<i>August 25</i> Classes begin	<i>January 17</i> Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday
<i>November 24-26</i> Thanksgiving holiday	<i>January 26</i> Classes begin
<i>December 6</i> Last class day	<i>March 14-19</i> Spring break
<i>December 8-18</i> Fall semester final examinations	<i>May 2</i> Last class day
	<i>May 4-14</i> Spring semester final exams

Visit the [Law School Academic Calendar](#) for more important dates.

For Spring 2021, the mandatory week-long New Exchange Student Orientation begins on **August 25**. Although optional, we recommend you also attend the [New International Student Orientation](#) through ISSS. Furthermore, we advise you to arrive in Austin in early August to get settled in and clear your registration bars, including the New Student Check-In through ISSS and medical clearance requirements for international students through UHS. You will not be able to register for classes until you clear these and any other bars on your students. Exchange students are advised not to purchase their return tickets home until have registered for classes and know their final exam schedule. You must be here for final examinations.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Nomination Deadlines

Spring 2021 semester: **October 1**

Fall 2021 semester and full academic year (fall and spring semesters): **March 1**

Nomination Procedure

Partner university exchange coordinators must submit nominations for Fall 2021 OR for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 at utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hzAUNB0vkviF7g.

Application Deadline

Fall 2021 semester: Opens on **March 1** and closes on **March 31**

2021-2022 academic year (Fall 2021 and Spring 2021 semesters): Opens on **March 1** and closes on **March 31**

Duration of Study

We accept students who want to study one semester (fall or spring) or two consecutive semesters (fall and spring). However, the duration of study will depend on the exchange agreement between Texas Law and the partner university.

Level of Study

Exchange students at Texas Law are considered graduate-level students. They may take courses outside of the Law School; however, these courses must be related to the course of study offered in the School of Law and must be either graduate-level courses or undergraduate language courses (a three-credit language course counts as a one-credit law course). We recommend that exchange students wanting or needing to take a non-law course, consider a graduate-level business, history, or policy course. Even though the grade will transfer only as credit/no credit, students must earn a C or better, and the graduate-level course cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. The Law School requires exchange students to take a minimum of 10 law credits per Texas Law and ISSS requirements.

Application & Registration Procedures

We only accept nominations sent by the exchange coordinator at one of our partner universities. Nominations must be submitted via our [online form](#). The incoming exchange coordinator at Texas law will then send the current exchange program guidebook to the nominated student(s) and copy the exchange coordinator at the partner institution. After the student creates their UT EID (online account at UT Austin), the Law School will admit the student and email them a PDF of their official admit letter (the student does not need the printed original of the admit letter to obtain their visa). Access to [myIO](#) (ISSS portal for exchange students to process their immigration documents and manage their immigration related data) will become available on **March 1** for fall exchange and on **October 1** for spring exchange after the student has been admitted in the Law School's admissions and enrollment management system and the student receives their official admit letter via email. ISSS will send the Form DS-2019 to the exchange student by airmail. If you want to get your documents faster (3-5 business days), you can use request it through myIO, but there is an extra expense for students.

For fall exchange, the Office of Graduate & International Programs will register exchange students for classes during Exchange Orientation. For spring exchange, exchange students will register themselves for during Exchange Orientation.

Language of Instruction

English is the medium of instruction at Texas Law.

Language Requirement

The Law School curriculum is rigorous and demands a strong command of English. Although we do not require it, we suggest exchange students have a TOEFL iBT score or equivalent of 100.

Since U.S. law school is very participatory – with many classes requiring rigorous oral participation throughout the lecture period – it would behoove incoming students to have an even higher level of English and be prepared to speak in every class. Since this is different than most other law schools around the world, this difference needs to be stressed to nominees from the beginning of the application period. Some professors even count participation into part of the grade. This means that students must complete their reading (sometimes 100+ pages per class meeting per week) and be able to speak competently about it.

What may help is for students to take the 5- or 10-week summer [Academic English Program](#) at UT (or elsewhere) the summer before joining us if possible. This will allow them the opportunity to start thinking, writing, listening, and speaking in English all day. Many of our LL.M. students take this to prepare for their degree here, and their TOEFL requirement is 101 to be admitted into the degree program. Alternatively, nominees should be advised to take a Legal English class at their home university the semester before starting their exchange.

Another difficulty civil law students have is reading cases instead of having a firm code of law to follow. Some classes require 5-10 cases to be read per class meeting, and students must analyze and interpret the law through these (sometimes unclear) decisions. Legal English is a skill, so getting used to the vocabulary is important. Therefore, we recommend a few books to help them prepare for law school in the U.S. and suggest some landmark Supreme Court cases to read to build familiarity with the Legal English language.

- [Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience: By Students, for Students / Edition 3](#)
- [Law School Basics](#)
- [The Legal Analyst: A Toolkit for Thinking about the Law](#) (by Texas Law's Dean Ward Farnsworth)
- [Groundbreaking U.S. Supreme Court Cases](#)

We also have a [Writing Center](#) in the School of Law, which our exchange students are encouraged to take advantage of. If written English is an issue for them, the Writing Center can help edit the papers and get feedback about clarity.

Accommodation for Non-Native English Speakers

Non-native English-speaking exchange students receive extended time on exams. Student Affairs will send an email to eligible exchange students toward the end of the semester with instructions on extended time on exams.

Immigration Requirements

Exchange students are issued a Form DS-2019 from ISSS that allows them to apply for a J-1 student visa at a U.S. consulate. The Form DS-2019 is issued for the duration of their academic study period, usually one or two semesters. Exchange students enroll in a non-degree academic program, according to the terms of exchange agreements between The University of Texas at Austin and their home universities. Visit [Immigration Requirements for Exchange Students](#) for more information.

HOUSING

Off-Campus Housing

Should you need help in determining where to live off campus, the Graduate School and the Graduate Coordinator Network did a survey of [where students live](#). The summary offers a brief description of Austin's various neighborhoods as well as an idea of what is nearby. Visit [Texas Global](#) for more information. View a [Guide to Austin Housing](#) for information on private residences for rent near UT. Consider joining the [Texas Law Housing-Living in Austin](#) Facebook group. Its purpose is to assist Texas Law students find/lease/sublease housing. We recommend LL.M. students live as close as possible to the Law School. The Law School address is 727 East Dean Keeton St, Austin, Texas 78705. Download the [CapMetro app](#) to know where your bus is and map your route. UT students, faculty, and staff ride all Capital Metro services for free when they swipe their valid IDs.

Transportation

- [Capital Metro](#): Download the [CapMetro app](#) to know where your bus is and map your route. UT students, faculty, and staff ride all Capital Metro services for free when they swipe their valid IDs.

- [Car2Go](#): Car sharing in Austin
- [E-Bus](#): The E-bus provides a safe alternative to driving to and from Austin's entertainment district during weekend evenings (Thursday-Saturday, 8:30 pm-3:00 am)
- [Mega Bus](#): Bus from Austin to Dallas and from Dallas to Austin
- [Orange Bike Project](#): UT bike rental program
- Ride-share companies: [Lyft](#), [RideAustin](#), [Uber](#)
- [SURE Walk](#): Provides safe walks and rides home. 7 days a week from 8:30 pm-2 am.
- [UT Night Rides](#): Provides Lyft rides away from main campus to your home. Please note that locations served will mirror certain current UT Shuttle routes. 7 days a week from 11 pm to 4 am
- [UT Shuttle Bus](#): Schedule available on-line

CURRICULUM

Registration Bars

Exchange students will not be able to register for classes until they have completed the [New Student Check-In](#) through ISSS and [medical clearance requirements for international students](#) through UHS. For visa questions (including the Form DS-2019, or myIO, the New Student Check-In), please contact ISSS at exchangeadvisor@austin.utexas.edu. For questions about medical clearance requirements for international students, please contact UHS at imm@mail.uhs.utexas.edu.

Courses

Exchange students are required to take Constitutional Law for Foreign Lawyers to build a strong foundation for their studies at Texas Law. They are permitted to take the following course types: upper division, seminar, certain clinics, cross listed with another school, short course, professional skills, and experiential learning. They are not permitted to take the following course types: 1L-only required and courses with prerequisites. Each course ranges from 1-6 credit hours. Visit the [Interactive Course Schedule](#) for more information.

Clinics

The following clinics accept exchange students:

- Capital Punishment Clinic (Prerequisite: Students are required to take concurrently the Capital Punishment course.)
- Civil Rights Clinic
- Entrepreneurship & Community Development Clinic
- Environmental Clinic
- Human Rights Clinic
- Immigration Clinic
- Transnational Worker Rights Clinic

Clinic students must pay a \$100 fee. All clinics require an [application](#). Fall and spring exchange students may apply to clinics after they are admitted to the Law School. You will receive an email from IncomingExchange@law.utexas.edu letting you know the exact date to apply. Visit Texas Law Clinics for more information. Email questions to IncomingExchange@law.utexas.edu.

Space in clinics is limited, and the application process is competitive. Additionally, clinics are a lot of work, and students are required to put in approximately 170 hours per semester (12 hours per week). Therefore, if you are accepted into a clinic, be 100% sure you will be able to keep up with the demanding workload in addition to your other coursework. It reflects poorly on the Exchange Program when students drop clinics after having been accepted into the course.

Credits

Required to be full-time student:

- 10 credit hours minimum
- 16 credit hours maximum

Attendance

We have noticed that some exchange students do not take mandatory attendance into account even though we emphasize this during Exchange Orientation at the beginning of the semester. Many professors will mark grades lower if the students miss over a certain number of courses.

Since most classes are graded purely on the final exam, students will have to gauge their understanding throughout the semester based on their understanding of the readings and class period. We warn students during orientation that US law school final exams are not a 2-week cram session. Instead, students must study all semester, building their “outline” (course study guide) from the first week, going over this every week to ensure understanding. Additionally, students must reach out to their professors and go to office hours should they have any questions about the topic being covered each week. We encourage this during orientation as well. Professors will not know if a student is struggling if they do not reach out. Professors here are very open to helping students and giving one-on-one time, but the student must make the initial effort.

Disability Accommodations

Texas Law is committed to the full inclusion of students with disabilities in the law school community. In partnership with the University of Texas at Austin Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD), the Student Affairs Office (SAO) coordinates all disability accommodations at the law school. Visit [Disability Accommodations](#) for more information.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading System

Law students receive alphabetical grades. They are based on a 4.3-point scale for most classes. A few classes are credit/no credit. Some pass/fail courses exist, but letter grade courses cannot be changed to Pass/Fail. Courses taken outside of Law School must be related to a course of study offered at the Law School and must be either graduate-level courses or undergraduate language courses. Even though the grade will transfer only as credit/no credit, student must earn a C or better, and the graduate-level courses cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. The Law School requires exchange students to take a minimum of 10 law credits to be a full-time student and meet visa requirements.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Points
A+	4.30
A	4.0
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.0
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.0
D	1.70
F	1.30

Transcripts

You can expect to receive your transcript for the fall semester in late January and your transcript for the spring semester in late June, after professors have turned in final grades. Unofficial transcripts are sent to the student and their exchange coordinator at their home university once they are finalized. They are sent securely through UTBox in compliance with FERPA and GDPR. Students may [download](#) an unofficial transcript at no cost. They may [purchase](#) an official transcript for \$20.

EXPENSES

Estimated Budget Per Semester

Books & Supplies	\$998
Extegrity Exam4 Software	\$30
Health Insurance	\$1,274.50 + 5% (\$63.73) International Insurance Administrative fee
International Student & Scholar Services	\$125
Personal & Miscellaneous	\$2,015
Room & Board	\$7,024
Transportation	\$760
UT Student ID Card	\$10
Total Estimated Costs	\$12,300.23

Fees Bill

Exchange students must pay fees bill (e.g., \$10 UT Austin Student ID card fee, \$125 International Student and Scholar Services fee, and UT Student Health Insurance fee plus 5% International Insurance Administrative fee, etc.) by **5 pm on August 20, 2021**. Otherwise, they will be dropped from their classes. Additionally, at the end of the semester, all additional fees must be paid so that the Student Affairs Office will release exchange student transcripts to the exchange coordinator at Texas Law, who will then forward the transcript to the student. These additional fees can include library late charges, the \$30 Extegrity Exam4 Software fee (you will be given an opportunity to opt out via email), visiting UT University Health Services, etc.

Health Insurance

Exchange students must have health insurance that meets both U.S. Department of State and University of Texas requirements while studying at the University. All reciprocal exchange students in J-1 status are automatically enrolled in the UT Student Health Insurance Plan at registration. It is not possible to waive this requirement. The cost of the insurance plan is included in your fees bill. Visit [Insurance Requirements for Exchange Students](#) for more information.

Students are covered under the UT Health Insurance Plan for the month of August, and this fee will show on their fees bill as “Supplemental Insurance.” For immediate medical attention, students can visit [University Health Services](#) without charge until they receive their health insurance card. Students are sent their health insurance card once it has been issued by BlueCross BlueShield after the first week of classes. Students also have access to the [UT Counseling and Mental Health Center](#).