



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT GUIDE

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EDINBURG

1201 W. University Dr.
ESTAC 3.128
Edinburg, TX 78539
(956) 665-3572

BROWNSVILLE



One West University Blvd.
BMAIN 1.308
Brownsville, TX 78520
(956) 882-8955





Welcome

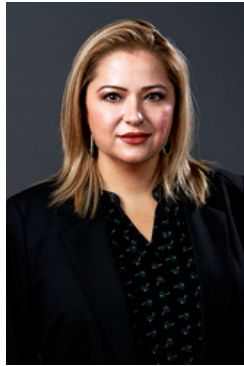
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is committed to student success. The Office of International Student Services is committed to providing transformative learning experiences that put students in contact with different peoples, cultures, and languages across the globe.

Samantha Lopez, Ed.D., PDSO, ARO

Director

samantha.lopez@utrgv.edu

Location: Edinburg & Brownsville



Nora Cruz Dole, MS, DSO, ARO

Associate Director

nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu

Location: Edinburg & Brownsville



Paloma Quintero, MPA, DSO, ARO

International Student Advisor

paloma.quintero01@utrgv.edu

Location: Edinburg



Jessica Alvarado, MS, DSO

International Student Advisor

jessica.alvarado01@utrgv.edu

Location: Edinburg



Blanca Nellie Leyva, DSO

International Student Advisor

blanca.leyva01@utrgv.edu

Location: Brownsville



Jessica Cantu, DSO

International Admissions Specialist

jessica.cantu@utrgv.edu

Location: Brownsville





APPLICATION PROCESS

The first step is to be nominated by your home university to attend UTRGV. The our International Student Advisor will be in contact with you to submit your application. International Student Services will review your application and before being approved for any program, you must submit all required documents. Please have ready digital copies of the following documents:

On the application form, you will be required to upload the following information so that we can work on your J-1 Visa:

- **Passport:** Must be **valid for more than six months** from the time the prospective student is scheduled to start classes in UTRGV.
- **Transcript of your Home University:** Must be in English.
- **Certificate of English Proficiency:** The Incoming Exchange Students whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Duolingo English Test or IELTS exam for admissions purposes if they do not meet an exemption. TOEFL, Duolingo or IELTS scores. The minimum scores for the tests are as follow: TOEFL 61 (IBT, IBT Home or IBT Paper edition, IBT MyBest Scores), TOEFL Essentials 6.5 (Essentials, MyBest Scores), Duolingo 95, and IELTS 6. The UTRGV school code for TOEFL is 7585. Prospective student must submit the results of his or her Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores **no older than two years**.
- **Proof of funding:** When reviewing of the proof of financial support, the IPS must pay special attention to the following:
 - **Language of the proof of funding** Must be in English in official letterhead and include a stamp. If the language is not in English, a translation to English is required. If the ISA has enough proficiency in the language of the account statement, the ISA can waive the translation. This waiver is at the ISA discretion.
 - **Scholarship letter:** Must be in English, in official letterhead, include the student name, the amount awarded, and the term of the award.
 - **Type of account:** The account must be a savings, checking or fixed-term investment account. **No Credit Card, real state, stock market or any other document must be accepted as proof of funding**
 - **Amount of funding:** A minimum of US\$2,500 per month for the duration of the stay. **The semester comprehends 5 months, the total minimum funding is \$12,500.** To evaluate the total funding, the ISA must review the currency of the funding. If the currency is different to US Dollars, the ISA must do the conversion using [XE currency converter](#) .
 - **If the funds are insufficient,** the ISA must contact the prospective student and cc the coordinator at the partner institution. If the amount equals or surpasses the minimum amount, the ISA might proceed.
 - **Course Selection:** Please review the course syllabus and class offerings here: <https://webapps.utrgv.edu/aa/dm/#/> Complete the course approvals form and get the approval from home institution to proceed with course registration.

Once you have completed the application process and you have received an acceptance letter from UTRGV International Student Services



Academic Information & Deadlines

NOMINATION DEADLINES

Fall Semester and full year: **April 1st**

Spring Semester: **October 1st**

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall Semester and full year: **May 1st**

Spring Semester: **November 1st**

Student Policies

The Student Policies Publication provides general information about the university and contains rules that affect undergraduate and graduate students (excluding medical school and podiatry). The Student Policies Publication should be used along with the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. In certain sections of the Student Policies Publication, an overview of the policy or procedure or general information may be provided along with a link to more detailed information on the University website or other policy documents.

Undergraduate Catalog

The UTRGV Undergraduate Catalog provides information about degrees offered by the departments within each college. The section for each college describes the degree requirements for all majors (including concentrations), minors, and certificates offered by the college. A list of undergraduate courses and a glossary of terms are also included.

Course Info and Profiles

Class Schedule

Colleges and Schools

Academic Calendar



HOUSING

The first concern for international students upon arrival is securing affordable housing. Living on campus is an excellent way for you to get connected, meet friends, and be involved. UTRGV Housing and Residence Life offers a wide array of housing options designed to meet your needs and provide an environment that supports your academic growth.

ABOUT OUR HOUSING OPTIONS

UTRGV Housing and Residence Life offers the following student housing options that allow you to meet people and get involved in a close-knit community that combines all the comforts of home with the excitement of the traditional college experience. Please make sure you choose wisely your housing option.

Residence Halls

At the UTRGV there are three resident halls:

Unity, Heritage, and Troxel – for you to choose from.

Casa Bella (Brownsville)

For more information on Residency or to submit an application, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/housing>

Renting/Leasing an Apartment Off-Campus

If you decide to rent an apartment or condominium, make sure you do the following:

- Look for an apartment that meets your budget and your needs. Ask as many questions as necessary when looking for one.
- Fill out an application for the apartment of your choice. Fill out only one application.
- Ask if there is an application fee.
- Ask if you are committed to renting it if you make an application.
- Once you decide to rent the apartment and your application is approved, you will have to pay a security deposit. This deposit is usually returned after you move out of the apartment if you paid your rent on time and left the apartment in the same condition.
- Be careful and read the contract (including small print) before signing it.
- Inspect the apartment and ensure it is not damaged and that all the appliances are working.
- Report any damage or broken items to your landlord. In most cases, the landlord is responsible for paying for and making the repairs.

For more information, please check for available places on the web.





FINANCES

Financial Arrangements

When you arrive in the United States, you may bring traveler's checks and some cash in U.S. dollars for convenience. Do not carry a large amount of cash and never display a large amount of paper money. You should have about \$100 in cash and the rest in traveler's checks. We suggest you bring at least \$2,000 because you will need money for initial expenses for hotel, food, apartment leasing, deposits for apartment utilities, and transportation, among others.

Checking Account at a Local Bank

International students are allowed to open a student checking account at local central banks. To open an account, you will need to present two forms of photo identification, such as a passport, school ID, or a driver's license from your home country. Some charge a small fee to your account every month; however, the fee is waived during the summer months in some banks. For more information on each bank's services, please contact your preferred financial institution.

Some Available Banks in the area

Chase
Wells Fargo Bank
Bank of America
IBC Bank
Capital One Bank
BBVA Compass Bank
Frost Bank
Plains Capital Bank
Lone Star National Bank.

Approximate Cost of Living

LIVING EXPENSES

COST

Housing	\$1,630/month
Meals	\$300/month
Books & Supplies	\$515/month
Transportation	\$460/month
Miscellaneous	\$490/month





PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

1. READ ALL ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

In the welcome package, you will find important information regarding the issuance of Form DS-2019. Please read the forms carefully and complete and submit all necessary documentation electronically via email at: international@utrgv.edu. It also contains information about the International visitor Orientation.

2. REVIEW IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Verify that all of your DS-2019 and SEVIS fee receipt information is correct. You can pay the SEVIS fee online at: www.fmjfee.com.

3. APPLY FOR A VISA

Apply for the J-1 visa at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your home country. (See "Applying for a Visa" section on page 5 for more information.)

4. PREPARE FOR INITIAL EXPENSES

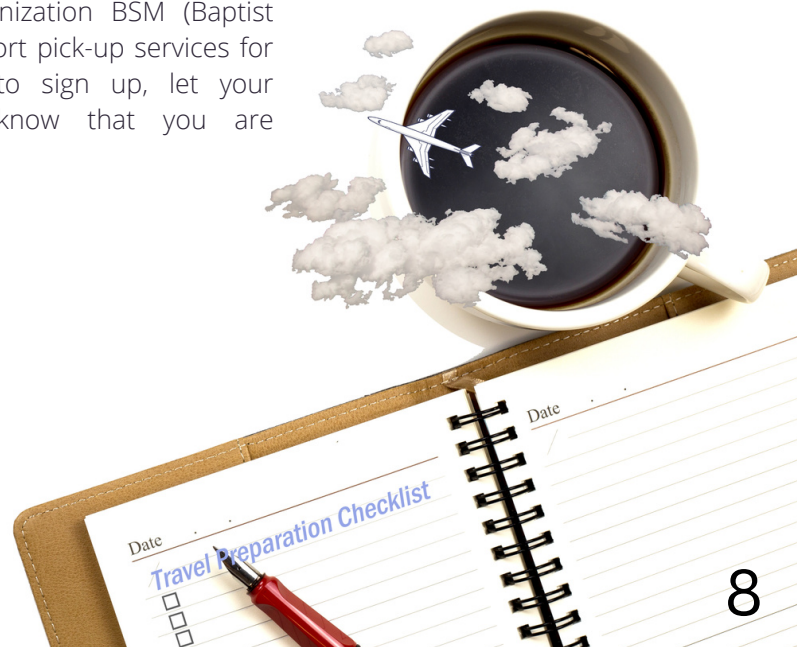
Make financial arrangements to cover the cost of tuition, books, living expenses, and recreation. It is recommended to bring the cost of tuition, books, and the first three month's living expenses when you first arrive in the US.

5. ARRANGE HOUSING

Arrange for your housing needs. Although our office cannot assist you in arranging to house, this guide provides an overview of the many housing options in the Rio Grande Valley.

6. ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION

Arrange for transportation from the airport to your hotel or apartment. The student organization BSM (Baptist Student Ministry) can provide airport pick-up services for free depending on availability, to sign up, let your International Student Advisor know that you are interested.





APPLYING FOR A VISA

Once you have all the required documentation, it is best to apply for the visa as soon as possible to ensure sufficient processing time. You will need your SEVIS ID and UTRGV School Code, listed on the DS-2019, to make an appointment for your visa interview. Consult the US Embassy or Consulate nearest to you to find out their current visa processing times: www.travel.state.gov

Usually, the US Embassy does not allow you to apply for the visa earlier than six months before the program start date listed on your DS-2019. If you have specific questions about obtaining your J-1 visa, contact the US Embassy or Consulate where you will apply: www.usembassy.gov.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN APPLYING FOR A J-1 VISA

As a person applying for an J-1 visa, you must prove that you do not intend to immigrate to the United States. Under US law, all student visa applicants are viewed by the US Consular Officer as "intending immigrants" until the officer is convinced otherwise. To secure a student visa, you will need to show strong ties to your home country or residence. Proof of strong ties to your country may include family, property ownership, financial statements, employment, or letters from family or friends.

You should be able to verify the financial information shown on your Form DS-2019. This may be done with your bank statement or a statement of financial guarantee and a letter of support from a sponsor confirming their willingness to support your education program. A sponsor may be your employer, a family member, or your home country's government.

Our students have varying reasons for studying English; some study English to prepare for undergraduate or graduate degrees in the US, and others study for business or pleasure. During the visa interview, you should be able to explain your purpose for learning English in the US confidently.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY

- Form DS-2019
- SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt
- A passport valid for at least 6 months
- The intention is to stay in the US temporarily only to pursue a full course of study
- Proof of a residence outside of the US that you will return to after completing your studies
- Proof of the ability to finance your education and living expenses while living in the US.
- The completed visa application form.





ARRIVAL IN BROWNSVILLE

Airports:

Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport

If you fly into Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport, you can take a taxi to the UTRGV Brownsville campus. The airport telephone number is 956-542-4373, and the website is <http://flybrownsville.com>.

Valley International Airport at Harlingen

There are different transportation options available from Harlingen. The airport telephone number is 956-430-8600, and the website is <http://flythevalley.com>.



ARRIVAL IN EDINBURG

Airports:

McAllen-Miller International Airport (MFE), a regional air transportation center serving the fourth fastest-growing metropolitan area in the United States. MFE is the closest airport, located only 20 minutes from campus. MFE has frequent daily flights to major airports in Dallas and Houston.

Harlingen's Valley International Airport is located about 40 minutes from the campus and is the Rio Grande Valley's leading airport in terms of passenger activity. Valley International Airport also has many daily flights to Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.

You will find that public transportation is minimal, and you will have to take a taxi to reach campus or arrange other transportation. Taxis are available at both airports, although a taxi from Valley International Airport will cost much more because of the distance involved.

HOW DO I GET TO UTRGV? AND HOW DO I GET AROUND EDINBURG?

If you arrive at McAllen International Airport, taxi services are available to take you to your first destination, whether to the university or a local hotel. Uber or Lyft are also a convenient option.

Taxi Service:

Let's Ride Taxi Harlingen (956) 392-3902
Guerra's Taxi Harlingen (956) 421-2343
City Taxi Brownsville (956) 544-3030
Valley Taxi Cabs (956) 541-3030
City Taxi Services (956) 630-2025
Yellow City Taxi (956) 631-8294

Call taxi services for rates

You can also call our office to arrange an airport pickup with our UTRGV students organizations (if available)



VAQUERO EXPRESS CAMPUS SHUTTLE

Parking & Transportation Services operates bus service on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses through the Vaquero Express Campus Shuttle. The two campuses and Harlingen are connected through the Vaquero Express Connector Shuttle. The system operates **Monday through Friday**.

You can Download our Transportation Guide for more information, schedules, and maps at <https://www.utrgv.edu/parking>.





PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE

Parking & Transportation Services operates Parking & Transportation Services has partnered with local transit providers to provide additional connectivity throughout the Valley for faculty, staff, and students.

Valley Metro

Valley Metro operates routes throughout the valley, including rural and urban areas. Students, faculty, and staff may ride on any Valley Metro route by showing their validated UTRGV ID Card upon boarding. For more information, visit their website at www.lrgvdc.org/valleymetro.

B Metro

B Metro operates routes within the city of Brownsville. Students may ride on any B Metro route by showing their validated UTRGV ID Card upon boarding. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.brownsvilletx.gov>.

Metro McAllen

Metro McAllen operates routes within the city of McAllen. The student fare is \$0.50 upon boarding. A regular adult fare is \$1. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net/metro.





RULES & REGULATIONS

J-1 Student Basic Guidelines

Students should be aware of the federal regulations governing their immigration status during and after completion of the study program. Violation of any of these regulations may result in the loss of immigration status. If you "fall out of status" for any reason, you will no longer be eligible for permission to study, work or other benefits afforded by the J-1 status. In some cases, you may be required to return to your home country.

Listed below are guidelines J-1 international visitors should follow to make sure their J-1 visa status remains valid. Although other situations not mentioned here may lead to the loss of status, following these guidelines will help you avoid unnecessary problems. Consult with an advisor at UTRGV International Student Services Office if you have questions about your visa status. at UTRGV International Student Services Office if you have questions about your visa status.

Keep your passport valid at all times

Contact your **home country's embassy in the U.S.** (link is external) for information about renewing your passport.

Maintain full-time enrollment

You must be enrolled in **full-time** each semester. For immigration purposes, in most cases, students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. Check your college (undergraduates) for minimum unit requirements.

Keep your DS-2019 valid at all times and understand your completion date

Your **DS-2019** is only valid as long as you are a continuing, full-time student. If you decide to leave early, your DS-2019 will be shortened to the last day of enrollment. You must notify ISS of your early completion in order to avoid overstaying.

Keep your local address updated

Keep your local residential address current in ASSIST. It must be updated within 10 days every time you move.

Get on-campus employment permission

Request work permission from your program sponsor before starting any on campus employment. For UTRGV-sponsored students, employment on campus is limited to part-time (20 hours per week) during the academic year, but can be full-time during vacation periods (winter and summer breaks).

Understand your grace period after completion

J-1/J-2s have a **30 day grace period** following the end of their program of study or Post-Completion Academic Training. J-1s may ONLY use the grace period for departure. Any Transfer or post-completion Academic Training request must be submitted BEFORE the end of the program of study or DS-2019 expiration.

Buy the required amount of health insurance coverage

You, and your J-2 dependents, must maintain **health insurance coverage** that meets J-1 federal guidelines for the entire length of your program, including post-completion Academic Training. The UTRGV Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) meets these requirements.

Get a travel endorsement for travel out of the United States and re-entry

Before any international travel, review the necessary travel documents and obtain a travel signature from ISS. Travel endorsements are valid for one year during the program of study, but ISS recommends obtaining a new signature every 10 months.



Do Not Commit a Visa Overstay

One of the most serious violations that can be committed is called a “visa overstay.” A visa overstay does not refer to staying in the United States beyond the expiration date on your U.S. visa stamp or sticker on your passport. Expired visas do not result in visa overstays. J-1 Visitors commit visa overstays by staying beyond the grace period at the end of their stay (e.g., 30 days for a J-1 Visitor) without obtaining an extension for the DS-2019

The penalties for a visa overstay are as follows:

- Your visa is automatically canceled on the first day of your violation. This means it may not be used for re-entry to the United States even if there is still time remaining before the expiration date.
- For the rest of your life, you may only apply for a new visa (of any kind) in your home country.
- Reinstatement to student status is very unlikely, if not impossible. This means you may have to leave the United States to gain new legal status. If you do not receive a new visa in your home country, you will not be returning to the United States.
- Anyone who accrues over 180 days of unlawful presence faces being banned from entering the US for three years – but this can stretch up to a 10-year ban from re-entering the United States when you depart from the United States. This may happen to an individual even if they are married to a U.S. citizen. This means no visa or entry into the U.S. for three years after voluntary departure or forced removal from the United States. If you remain on a visa overstay for more than one year, a 10-year bar from re-entering the United States will affect when you depart from the United States. This may happen to an individual even if they are married to a U.S. citizen. This means no visa or entry into the United States for ten years after voluntary departure or forced removal from the United States.

If you remain on a visa overstay for more than one year, a 10-year bar from re-entering the United States will affect when you depart from the United States. This may happen to an individual even if they are married to a U.S. citizen. This means no visa or entry into the United States for ten years after voluntary departure or forced removal from the United States.



Report All Changes in Address and Phone Numbers to the International Programs Advisor

You need to report all your address and phone number changes to the international student advisor within 10 days of the change.

Stay in Touch with International Student Advisor to Learn About Changes in U.S. Law

Federal regulations that govern your stay in the United States can change rapidly. To stay up-to-date regularly, visit <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/maintaining-status>.

Online courses

The Department of Homeland Security requires J-1 students to maintain an entire course of study. The course of study must lead to attaining a specific educational or professional objective. At UTRGV, a full course of study is defined as 12 credit hours for undergraduates.

J-1 students who are taking online or distance learning classes that do not require them to be physically present on campus for an exam, class meeting, or other purposes relating to the class can count only one online/distance learning class or three credits of online/distance learning per semester toward the full course of study requirement. The only exception is if the student takes a hybrid course. Hybrid courses blend face-to-face interaction such as in-class discussions, active group work, and live lectures with web-based educational technologies such as online course cartridges, assignments, discussion boards, and other web-assisted learning tools.

For more information, make an appointment with your International Student Services advisor.





MAINTAINING STATUS AND REIMSTATEMENT

- Keep your passport valid at all times. (6 months into the future)
- Attend the school that issued the DS-2019 form.
- Follow the appropriate procedures when transferring to a school other than the originally-authorized one.
- Follow the appropriate procedures to continue from one educational level to another at the same school.
- If you are a full-time student, carry an entire course of study and never drop classes without our advisor's approval during the regular semesters.
- Remember to come to International Student Services Office to have the DS-2019 form signed every year or before leaving the United States.
- Complete the program of study by the date given on the initial DS-2019 or obtain a program extension before the expiration date.
- Limit employment on campus to 20 hours per week while school is in session.
- Report any change of address to our office.
- Limit registration for (Web-based) classes to one three-credit-hour course per regular semester.





FINANCIAL AID

International Visitors are not eligible for Financial Aid. They can, however, apply for scholarships! To learn more about what scholarships are available through The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/ucentral/paying-for-college>.



MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE

All international visitors holding non-immigrant visas will be automatically charged for comprehensive health insurance every semester at registration. This charge may not be paid in installments.

A waiver may be obtained by accessing the web page: <https://utrgv.myahpcare.com/waiver>.

The deadlines to submit the waiver each semester is published on the same web page.

Students wishing to purchase health insurance may contact AHP directly at <https://utrgv.myahpcare.com>.

External medical insurance it's allowed, and it can be purchased prior arrival if you confirm it aligns with the waiver requirements to avoid the waiver to be denied.



J-1EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

Employment

International exchange students are permitted to work as described on the SEVIS Form DS-2019. On-campus employment is allowed, however, off-campus employment not related to the objectives of the Exchange Visitor's program is **not authorized**.





CAMPUS RESOURCES

V OneCard:

Students enrolled at UTRGV must have a V OneCard during their studies. To obtain your V OneCard, you must present a valid picture ID (Drivers License, Passport, or Military ID). There is no fee for the first student card during the first semester of enrollment. Replacement cards are available for \$12.00 each. The worn-out/faded ID card replacement fee is \$5.00; the card office manager will determine the condition. For additional information regarding the V OneCard, please visit the V OneCard Office located on the first floor of the Academic Services Building in Edinburg or the first floor of the Library in Brownsville.

Parking Permit:

All students who attend classes on campus and use the designated parking lots must obtain a parking permit from the UTRGV Police Department. Parking permits can be purchased online through ASSIST or in person.

Counseling Center:

The Counseling Center provides free and confidential counseling services to address mental health concerns and promote personal growth for currently enrolled UTRGV students. Counselors are available to listen and discuss issues without judgment. They also encourage problem-solving, educate about and connect students to other resources and assist students in developing healthier coping skills.

Counseling services are provided by either licensed mental health professionals or graduate-level interns under the supervision of a licensed counselor.

Feel free to contact the Edinburg office at (956) 665-2574 or the Brownsville office at (956)882-3897. Contact them via email: counseling@utrgv.edu.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Student Rights and Responsibility (SRR) guide and support students in addressing a broad spectrum of issues that may be barriers to their success. Using a student-centered lens, the members of the SRR team will:

- Act with Honesty, Integrity, and Respect toward all individuals who seek assistance or services.
- Promote and Support a community atmosphere that is conducive to academic success.
- Uphold the University expectations via the Student Code of Conduct by conducting impartial interventions, investigations, and adjudications to assist students in reaching their academic and personal goals.
- Respond promptly to all complaints and seek equitable resolutions
- Provide resources, education, and support that will proactively reduce risks to all members of the campus community
- Actively promote student rights. Please contact the Edinburg location at (956)665-5375 or the Brownsville location at (956)882-5141 or via email: srr@utrgv.edu.

Health Services:

The student health center provides health care needs to students or their well-being. The center offers low-cost medicines, supplies, and lab testing. Office visits are free, and immunizations are routinely provided as they are required for most educational programs offered by UTRGV.

Please call the Edinburg office at (956) 665-2511 or in Brownsville at (956) 882-3896. You can also contact them via email: healthservices@utrgv.edu

Student Pantry:

The UTRGV Student Food Pantry supports currently enrolled students experiencing hunger or food insecurity; you can enroll online or stop by the food pantry during distribution hours.

Please feel free to visit them in Brownsville at the Cortez Hall 239 or call: 956-882-7126. Edinburg location at the University Center 114 or call them at 956-665-3663, or via email: foodpantry@utrgv.edu.

Writing Center:

The Writing Center offers many services for international students, from grammatical to writing styles. Free services you can receive at the Writing Center include:

- One-on-one and small group consultations on writing in all disciplines and at all levels.
- Thirty-minute sessions on assignment clarification, invention, brainstorming, development, and organization.
- Thirty-minute sessions on purpose, audience, and genre.
- Tips for incorporating sources into your writing and for documenting sources effectively.
- Tips for using images, video clips, podcasts, and other media as a part of your writing project.
- Request individual or group coverage of particular topics such as Thesis Development, Academic Voice, Organizing Ideas, Paraphrasing, Documentation, APA, and Comma Usage.
- Skype and online writing consultations during the week, and the Online Weekend Writing Service on weekends.
- Use of computers and a printer. For more information about the Writing Center, please contact them at (956)665-2538 or (956)882-7065. You can also get them via email: wc@utrgv.edu. Their web page is <https://www.utrgv.edu/writingcenter/index.htm>.

University Recreation:

The Department of University Recreation (UREC) will meet the needs of a diverse university community by providing quality programs, services, and facilities that encourage the lifelong pursuit of active, healthy lifestyles. Gain the ultimate college experience while in a fitness program, playing intramurals, working out, or soaking up the sun by the pool! For more information, visit their web page at www.utrgv.edu/urec.

Baptist Student Ministry:

The Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) provides the most value-added social support and educational experience in an all-inclusive environment for students throughout their college years. Also, they provide airport pick-up services for free, to sign up, let your International Student Advisor know that you are interested. You can find more information about the Association at <https://www.facebook.com/bsm.utrgv>

Career Center:

The UTRGV Career Center assists undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni who seek help formulating and implementing career plans. Various programs and workshops are offered each semester to assist students in selecting a major or relating educational experiences to employment opportunities. Our office provides students with essential services to help them in their career endeavors. Whether finding a major, critiquing résumés, or preparing for an interview, we are here every step of the way.

Student Accessibility:

Student Accessibility Services exists to facilitate students' equal access to university programs and services, promote student learning and development, foster independence and self-advocacy, and provide leadership to the campus on disability issues.

Student Involvement:

Student Involvement is at the heart of student life and campus involvement at UTRGV. We offer opportunities to build life skills, challenge yourself, engage with people with diverse perspectives, cultivate a competitive edge, and connect to university resources.

University Library:

As a component of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, the University Library plays a critical role in the commitment of the University to academic excellence in a balanced program of teaching, research, and service. Its primary function is to provide educational support for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The Library facilitates scholarship by securing and providing access to resources and facilities to students, faculty, and the community. The Library actively assists academic and research programs by providing students with Library use instruction individually and in groups. The University Library serves as the chief information center on campus and plays a vital role as a regional information center.

Academic Advising:

From new student orientation to the day you walk across the stage, your Academic Advising Center is here to serve and believe in you. As an admitted undergraduate student, you will partner with us to build your overall understanding of UTRGV and learn how to succeed at the University of the 21st Century. Along the way, you'll work with us to discover new academic adventures and craft an educational experience unique to you!

Contact Us:



international@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/iass

**EDINBURG**

1201 W. University Dr.
ESTAC 3.128
Edinburg, TX 78539
(956) 665-2922

BROWNSVILLE

One West University Blvd.
BMAIN 1.308
Brownsville, TX 78520
(956) 882-7092





IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Natural Disaster Emergency:

As we enter the 2018 Hurricane season that runs from June 1st through November 30th, we would like to provide you with more information on how to face natural disaster emergencies. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with UTRGV's Hurricane Response Annex. The plan outlines the responsibilities and courses of action the UTRGV community will need to follow should a hurricane threaten the lower Texas Gulf Coast. You will also find essential details that can help you prepare how to protect you and your family, home, and personal belongings. When an emergency arises, you will receive an official notification from UTRGV via email or text when UTRGV campuses or sites need to be closed. If you have not registered to receive these notifications, please make sure to do so as soon as possible. It would help stay tuned to local television, radio news stations, and newspaper websites for updates. Your safety is our number one concern.

PLEASE NOTE: If a campus is closed, no one will be allowed onto that campus until the campus is inspected and declared safe. You will be advised when to return to campus via email and local media. For those students unable to find protected shelter with friends/relatives or other safe locations, please search for the nearest Red Cross Disaster Shelters. To ensure you are prepared for the peak of hurricane season or other emergencies, follow these steps: Have the emergency contact information for UTRGV Police Department. Once you dial UTRGV PD at (956) 882-4911, you will be connected to the appropriate International Student Services staff member. Store your documents (passport, visa, I-94, DS-2019) in a safe place where you can easily access them. Sign up for messaging alert systems for local emergency notifications. Use emergency preparedness resources. <http://www.utrgv.edu/iass/contact-us/emergency>.

Immigration-Related Emergency:

If you have an immigration-related emergency outside of ISS business hours, such as trouble at a port of entry, the immediate danger of being deported from the United States, arrest, or detention by a federal officer, please call the UTRGV Police Department at (956) 882-7777. Explain your situation, and you will be connected to the appropriate International Student Services staff member.

Do not call 911 for immigration-related emergencies!

Health and Safety Emergency:

If you have a personal injury or urgent and unexpected hospitalization, PLEASE call 911.

Examples of health & safety emergencies:

- Personal injury
- An urgent and unexpected hospitalization
- sexual assault
- Automobile accident
- Robbery
- Missing persons



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