

Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), Laredo, Texas, USA

- **Application:**

At first, as long as you get the Nomination from Viadrina's International Office, you will have to apply (pure formality) for an exchange semester at Texas A&M International University. You have to choose among the courses you have to take there. It might happen that the schedule will not be available online. In this case you can choose the courses from a semester which corresponds to your semester, but in last years. There is high probability that the courses are repeated. You will be enrolled for these courses as you arrive at Tamiu. Tamiu International Office will help you to do this. You have to take minimum 4, maximum 5 courses. Best solution is to take 5 courses, because if you are not satisfied with a course you can drop one course. Nevertheless you are allowed to transfer only 3 courses to Viadrina.

- **American Visa**

In one month you will receive DS 2019 (for J1 Visa - exchange students) or I-20 (for F1 Visa-full time students seeking degree in the USA) Form. The problem that might occur is that Texas A&M Int. University in 2006 was authorized to issue only I-20 Forms (for F1 Visas) and not DS 2019. It means though you are visiting this University as an exchange student you will have to apply for F1 Visa. If you received I-20 Form, you shall probably ask Mrs. Janet Garcia¹, to send you a letter where they ask US. Embassy to grant you F1 Visa.

The more detailed information on Visa procedures, please refer to US. Embassy web-site:

<http://www.us-botschaft.de/germany-ger/visa/index.html>

If you are an international student, and during an interview in the US. Embassy, you are asked a question: **“You are offered a job in an American company, will you agree to work there?”** Your answer should be: **No**. You are applying for a non-immigrant Visa, and interviewer wants to be sure that you are not going to stay any longer than it is allowed in the USA.

All the procedures how to apply for a Visa, is well-described on the above mentioned web-site.

- **Preparation for a flight.**

Please follow all the advices that are given to you in the brochure from Texas A&M.

Just one advice on Insurance.

¹ Mrs. Janet Garcia, the director of International Office at Texas A&M International University.

I think the best way is to buy insurance in the USA, in Texas. Why? It happened that I had a German Insurance and this insurance company is not known in the USA, at least in Laredo. It means that you go to a doctor, and he asks you to pay in full, because the insurance certificate you got is not valid for them. The only way out is to take receipt and later apply for reimbursement at your German Insurance Company.

So, buy your insurance in the USA.

- **Arrival and Living**

Please make sure that Tamiu's International Office is informed about your arrival, otherwise you will have to take a taxi to get to the campus.

The course of study well resembles school. It means you are obliged to attend all the courses and do your homework constantly.

Please acquire driver's license. USA is not Germany (everybody in States has a car), and Laredo is not Frankfurt/Oder (no trams, almost no busses) for sure. You will not have an opportunity to travel without a car. You even won't be able to go shopping without a car. The only help is your friends, who can take you to downtown to buy some necessary things. In the first week of your stay in Laredo, TAMIU International Office arranges shopping tours to well-known supermarkets; you can buy there some necessary things (towel, bed linen, etc).

- **Miscellaneous**

If it is your first visit to the USA, please, make some travel arrangements in advance. There is wonderful opportunity to travel on Thanksgiving, so buy airline tickets as long as you get there.