



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Chemistry



New Chemistry Graduate Student Information 2018

Admissions Requirements

To Do Before You Arrive:

- Send to the [Office of Admissions](#) official, final transcripts for *all* colleges or universities attended. *Note: it may take your school a few weeks to add the degree conferred & date. Ask before you order a transcript. You may choose to hand-deliver transcripts to the Office of Admissions when you arrive.*
- Request official GRE, TOEFL or IELTS scores sent by ETS or IELTS to the Office of Admissions if you have not already done so.
- TAMU Application fee is paid.
- [Bacterial Meningitis vaccination](#) *only if you will not be 22 on/before August 27, 2018. You can also do this once you arrive.*
- Update contact information in [Howdy](#).
- Start using/checking your @tamu email account.
- Set-up [Hartland Accounts for Refunds](#) (scholarships/fellowships, etc) after you receive the link from Hartland. They will email you. You may also access them via Howdy.
- International students – [complete online orientation](#) in order to access the ISS check-in schedule
- International students – [make check-in appointment](#) with ISS as soon as you know your arrival date in US. It is *imperative* you complete this task as soon as possible!

To Do After Arrival, Before Orientation:

- Show your diploma to the Office of Admissions *if you attended university outside the US.*
- Hand-deliver to the [Office of Admissions](#) official, final transcripts for all colleges or universities attended.
- [Tuberculosis Screen](#) – *international students only*
- Get [Aggie Card](#) (ID).
- International students - attend your [Check-In Appointment at ISS](#) and bring with you:
 - Original I-20/DS-2019
 - Passport with visa
 - [I-94](#)
 - Printed offer letter from Chemistry

Contacts

Chemistry Graduate Office

The Chemistry Graduate Office offers assistance and advice throughout your stay at Texas A&M University. Location: [Chemistry 114](#), (979) 845-5345

Dr. Christian Hilty, Graduate Advisor

Ms. Sandy Manning, Program Coordinator

Dr. Oleg Ozerov, Graduate Recruiting Coordinator

Ms. Valerie McLaughlin, Admissions and Recruiting Program Coordinator

Chemistry Business Office

The Chemistry Business Office handles human resources and payroll activities, provides purchasing assistance for laboratories, issues keys, can update your access to the building, etc. The business office is located in Chemistry 119.

Mrs. Julie Zercher oversees financial matters for graduate students, such as tuition, scholarships and fees. Chemistry 120X. (979) 845-0113

TAMU Email

After June 1, your @tamU email will be used exclusively for all communications from the Graduate Office. (Until then, we'll use the address you used on your application and your @tamU) Your email is your NetID you set up when you first logged in to the AIS/Howdy plus @email.tamu.edu. If you are rethinking your choice of NetID, [you can request a change of NetID, or you can create an email alias](#). You can also [forward your @tamU email](#) to another email box (Yahoo!, Gmail, etc).

You will be subscribed to the Chemistry All Grad listserv in August. Please do not ignore these emails!

Department of Chemistry Orientation

Chemistry's Orientation events take precedence over all other events!

Attendance is mandatory for all students August 13-20.

Attendance for the week of August 6-10 is mandatory for all incoming students whose first language is not English and who have a TOEFL speaking of less than 26. All other international students are strongly recommended to attend the events the week of August 6-10.

August 6-10

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Department of Chemistry are hosting English Language Sessions for students required to take the ELPE. These daily sessions are *mandatory* for all students

required to take the ELPE-Oral on August 11. For international students exempt from the ELPE, these sessions are strongly recommended as they will help not only with language, but teaching preparation.

August 13-17

- Departmental Welcome and Overview
- Departmental Check-In and HR meetings
- Research Advisor Presentations and Advising and Registration
- Social Events

August 20-24

- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Safety Training
- Student Counseling Services
- Placement Exams
- Teaching Assistant Training
- Course-Specific TA Training
- Social events

English Language Proficiency Certification

All international graduate students whose native language is not English must [meet minimum English standards](#) to be eligible to teach as a Graduate Assistant Teaching: TOEFL Speaking of at least 26, IELTS Speaking of at least 8.0, attending all 4-years of undergraduate education at a US university or college, or receiving a score of at least 80 on the University's ELPE-Oral exam. It is important to become English Verified before the start of the semester!

The University's Center for Teaching Excellence offers [online resources](#). Practice before you arrive in the US! The Chemistry Department in conjunction with the Center for Teaching Excellence will host *mandatory* English practice sessions the week of August 6 for all students required to take the ELPE test on August 11.

The ELPE-Oral test is on Saturday, August 11. The cost is \$45.00 and will be billed to your student account. The graduate office will register you – *do not register yourself!* There are [buses](#) on test day that go to the General Services Complex.

International Student Services Online Orientation & In-Person Check-In

ISS Online Orientation and in-person Check-In are mandatory for all international students! You must complete ISS Online Orientation *before* you can schedule a Check-In appointment. You must complete the Check-In appointment before Chemistry's orientation begins. Registration for Online Orientation is available here: <http://isstraining.tamu.edu/orientation/>

You can complete Online Orientation anytime, but you cannot schedule a Check-In appointment until you complete Online Orientation. Please register for an early check-in. Completing this early will help expedite you receiving your Social Security Card.

ISS recommends you plan for Check-In to take at least 1 hour and to arrive only at your appointed time.

Before your check-in appointment:

- Complete the [tuberculosis screening](#) or turn in proof of screening at Beutel Health Center. If you have your screening done elsewhere, be sure you have the correct test performed.
- Log in to Howdy Portal to update your local address and your emergency contact information.
- Turn in final, official transcripts to the Office of Admissions, Suite 1601, [General Services Complex](#). [Bus route 6](#) goes to the GSC from main campus.
- Show diploma to Office of Admissions, Suite 1601, [General Services Complex](#). [Bus route 6](#) goes to the GSC from main campus.
- While at the General Services Complex, go to Suite 2801 to get your AggieCard (ID card).

You must bring to your Check-In appointment:

- Original I-20/DS-2019
- Original Passport with visa
- I-94 (electronic or paper)
- Offer Letter (printed)

Department Check-In

Department of Chemistry Check-in consists of payroll and benefit (health, dental, life, vision, etc.) information. You must bring the following items with you to the Department Check-In:

International Students

- Passport
- I-94
- I-20
- Bank routing number and account number for paycheck

US Students

- ID: driver's license, passport, military ID, etc.
- Original Social Security Card
- Bank routing number and account number for paycheck

Department Placement Exams

During the second week of orientation, you will take three standardized exams to assess your knowledge in the areas chemistry important to the research advisor(s) whose research lab(s) you may be interested in joining. You will have the option of taking two more exams during the first 2 weeks of classes. You may take the exams in any order, but you may take an exam only once. The exam scores may favorably impact the selection of your research advisor. Any good undergraduate class should prepare you for the placement exams. The scores become part of your permanent student file.

- Biological Exam: Structure and Function of Proteins and Nucleic Acids
- Inorganic Exam: Fundamentals, Redox, Acid-Base and Solid-State Chemistry
- Organic Exam: Reactions and Theory of Reactions.
- Physical Exam: Kinetics, Thermodynamics, Quantum mechanics
- Analytical Exam: Data evaluation, Aqueous equilibrium chemistry including acids/bases, Electrochemistry, Spectroscopic methods, Analytical laboratory techniques, Separations

Course Advising/Registration

Faculty members will advise new students about course selection during each Faculty Presentations Session. They use your research interests, academic record and GRE scores as guidance for course selection. Information on how to register will be distributed during Orientation. *Do not register until told to do so.*

University New Student Conferences

The optional **International Student Conference**, held on Thursday, August 24, is a resource fair for new international students. The conference is free, but requires registration: <http://iss.tamu.edu/Events/ISC>

The date for the optional [New Grad Student Orientation](#) has not yet been released, but it is typically held during the week before school starts.

Financial information

For questions on Stipend, Taxes, Fellowships, etc. please visit Julie Zercher in Chemistry 120X.

Stipend

Your monthly stipend will be \$2,050 before taxes. As a Teaching Assistant, and later as a Research Assistant, you will be paid once a month on the first working day of the next month for work performed in the previous month. (Your first paycheck will be October 1 for the work performed August 27-Sept 28.) If you are not English Verified to serve as a TA, you will be a Grader. The Grader position is paid bi-weekly. This will be explained during the payroll session of orientation. **Note:** *If you received a scholarship or fellowship, that money will be deposited to your account once you are registered and you have set up your direct deposit.*

Tuition and Fees

The Department of Chemistry pays all tuition and mandatory fees assessed by the University. You are responsible for any extra fees such as parking, sports pass, ELPE fees, health insurance until the employer contribution begins after the 60-day wait period, etc. There is a \$100 property deposit fee (billed to your account) required of all students. This deposit will be refunded after graduation. Please see Julie Zercher in Chemistry 120X if you have any questions regarding fees or financial matters.

Student Financial Aid

If you need funding for the month or two after your arrival and before you receive your first paycheck, the Student Financial Aid office has information regarding short-term loans and other options. <https://financialaid.tamu.edu/>

Health & Wellness

Benefits-eligible students receive a monthly employer contribution toward their health care plan beginning the first of the month after their 60th day of employment. All graduate students employed by the Department of Chemistry as a Graduate Assistant Researcher (GAR), Graduate Assistant Teacher (GAT) and some fellowships are eligible for health insurance benefits.

International Student Health Insurance

All international students are automatically enrolled by the University in Gap Insurance. This insurance covers August, before you become an official employee. You will automatically be billed for the Gap Insurance. (It was \$165 in 2017.) In addition, during the 60-day period before insurance eligibility, international students will be auto-billed for System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP). The 2017 rate was \$158/month. Insurance will be explained in detail during Orientation. <http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students/Health-Insurance>

US Citizen/Permanent Resident Health Insurance

If you are on a parent's health plan, you may choose to stay on that plan for the first 60-days of employment. If you choose any TAMU health plan, you are responsible for the total amount for the first 60-days of employment. (The 2017 rate was \$158 per month.) After the 60-day period, if you choose the Graduate Student Plan, the department will cover the cost of your insurance.

Health Centers

All students can utilize [Beutel Health Center on campus](#). There are also 4 hospitals in the area, and a variety of quick clinics around town associated with hospitals or independently owned. When choosing a hospital, clinic or doctor, be sure to check with your insurance for the preferred vendor list.

Student Counseling Services

[Student Counseling Services](#) provides personal counseling, stress management and biofeedback training, couples counseling, crisis intervention, and a variety of other offerings. Your student service fee funds the Student Counseling Service.

Student Services @ [White Creek](#) ([Bus route 3](#), "Yell Practice")

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Appointments and help: (979) 845-4427

In case of crisis emergency after hours, call the Student Counseling Help Line: (979) 845-2700

Fitness & Wellness

There are plenty of gyms and fitness studios for cross-fit, yoga, Pilates, boxing, etc., around town, as well as 5K charity runs, the BCS Marathon, hiking, biking and watersports to lure you out of the lab.

Aggie Card/Student ID Card

Your student identification (ID) card or "Aggie Card" is essential not only for picture identification but allows you to utilize campus facilities such as the library and student recreational center, access your building after hours and on holidays, qualify for student-only discounts around town, etc..

The ID office is in Suite 2801 of the [General Services Complex](#) (GSC). The GSC can be accessed by car or on-campus shuttle [bus route 6](#) "12th Man." What you must bring with you when you go get your Student ID:

- Chemistry Offer Letter
- I-20 or DS -2019 (International Students)
- Passport, US drivers license, US military ID, etc.
- UIN

Transportation & Parking

Arriving in Texas

Transportation information for arriving to the Bryan/College Station area from Houston, Austin or Dallas can be found on the ISS website at <http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students/Arrival-Information#1-TransportationtotheBryan%2FCollegeStationArea> [Ground Shuttle](#) runs scheduled shuttles to and from Houston airports, Austin airport and the College Station airport. [Streamride](#) runs scheduled vans to and from Austin Bergstrom airport and College Station Airport.

Shuttle Bus Service on- and off-campus

Texas A&M University provides both [on-campus and off-campus shuttle bus services](#) that students, faculty and staff can use. A valid University ID is required to ride off-campus buses.

Driver License and Vehicle Registration

If you are establishing permanent residency in Texas, you should obtain a [Texas driver license](#) within 90 days of arriving in Texas. To register a vehicle in Texas, you must first have it inspected. Once you have completed the inspection, the vehicle is registered at the county tax office. You will need to bring the title of your car, safety inspection, proof of insurance, and ID when registering your vehicle. The fee varies depending on the vehicle. <http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/new-to-texas>

On-Campus Parking Permit

If you plan to purchase a parking pass for your car, motorcycle and/or scooter for the 2018-2019 academic year, visit <http://transport.tamu.edu/parking.aspx> to register online for your permit before July 5 at 5:00pm. The closest student parking areas to the Chemistry Building are [Lots 50](#) and [51](#), and the [Northside Parking Garage](#) (NSG). Frequently asked questions about parking permits are answered here: <http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/faqpermit.aspx>

Bicycles & Bike Share

Registering your bicycle is required and costs \$10. You can also choose to lease a bike or use bike share. Information regarding bicycles and bicycle programs on campus: <http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/services.aspx>

Ride Share

[Zimride](#) is a ride share and other alternative transportation website.

Car Share

[Zipcar](#) offers car share and rent-by-the-hour options.

Housing

Housing in Bryan-College Station is easily available, but start looking early for accommodations that meet your needs.

Off-Campus Student Services

Off-Campus Student Services is dedicated to providing programs and services to all students who live off campus and for adult (non-traditional) and graduate students attending Texas A&M University. Resources are made available to assist students in locating off campus housing, navigating leasing concerns, and connecting to the university. They publish yearly the [Off Campus Survival Manual](#), a go-to manual for off-campus living.

Aggie Search

[AggieSearch](#) room/roommate search is a free service from the Department of Student Life. Learn about housing availability and price, property locator services, or search for roommates.

Temporary Housing

The Department of Residence Life offers the [Aggie Hostel program](#), an on-campus short term housing option with a maximum stay of two nights.

Banking

There are many banking options available in Bryan-College Station, from large national banks such as Wells Fargo and Chase Bank to local banks such as Aggieworld Credit Union and Brenham National Bank. A search on Google will yield lots of choices. Be sure to research each bank's services as not all services and fees are equal.

Libraries

There are [five libraries](#) on the Texas A&M University campus. Chemistry specific information can be found at <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/chemistry?hs=a>. In addition, the Science Librarian, David Hubbard, holds office hours in the Chemistry Building once a week. The cities of Bryan and College Station share a [Library System](#).

Post Offices

There are three local [post offices](#): One on campus (near Sbisa dining hall, University Drive and College Main) which is open 9:00 am – 4:30 pm M-F, and one each in Bryan and College Station.

Police

The major responsibility for the safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff members at Texas A&M University rests with the [University Police Department](#). The University Police authority includes the 5,500 acre campus, more than 500 buildings owned by Texas A&M including Easterwood Airport and the Bush Presidential Library and Museum, up to the thresholds of the bars on University Drive, and the entire Century Square development. For emergencies on-campus, dial 9-911 from a campus phone or 911 from a cell phone.

[University Police Department](#) non-emergency number (979) 845-2345

[Bryan Police Department](#) non-emergency number (979) 361-3888

[College Station Police Department](#) non-emergency number (979) 764-3600

Places of Worship

There is a wide spectrum of worship opportunities available in the College Station and Bryan communities. An internet search, Yelp and Meet-Up will yield many choices. The on-campus prayer and meditation room is located in the northwest corner on the 5th floor of [Evans Library](#). [All Faiths Chapel](#) is usually available for reflection when not otherwise booked for events.

University Student Organizations

The University's *Department of Student Activities* hosts [student organizations for about everyone](#) – whether you're interested in Quidditch, knitting, online gaming, sports cars or spelunking, you'll find it [here](#).

RecSports

RecSports organizes [intramural leagues](#) each semester for teams and “free agents.” RecSports also organizes [Club Sports](#) for the more competitive athlete. The Chemistry grad students organize teams for various sports, from soccer to badminton.

Graduate Student Association of Chemistry (GSAC)

The Graduate Student Association of Chemistry (GSAC) represents the department's graduate student body. All graduate students are members; each division elects two representatives to serve on the GSAC Board. Beyond being a voice for the graduate students, GSAC helps with Graduate Visitation Weekend and organizes social events throughout the year. Request to join [GSAC's Facebook page](#) to keep up with their events.

Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU)

[Phi Lambda Upsilon](#) (PLU) is the National Chemical Honorary Society. Membership in PLU is by invitation only and is restricted to juniors, seniors, and graduate students with distinguished records of scholarship and research and that have demonstrated promise of leadership and success in the field of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Biochemistry.

WISE (Women in Science & Engineering)

WISE is an organization of graduate students, staff, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty at Texas A&M University. This group was created to address the specific problems that often face women in non-traditional fields.

NOBCChE

[NOBCChE](#), National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, stimulates interest and promotes awareness in chemistry, chemical engineering and related areas for under-represented students.

Organization for Cultural Diversity in Chemistry (OCDC)

[OCDC](#) consists of grad students, undergrad students, and postdocs of all races and nationalities. They value diversity of thought, background, ethnicity, and perspective and seek to promote and maintain a healthy department climate.

oSTEM

[oSTEM](#) (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is a national society dedicated to educating and fostering leadership for LGBTQ+ communities in STEM fields.

SACNAS

The [Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science](#) (SACNAS) is a non-excluding organization that provides support for Hispanics/Chicanos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and any other underrepresented minority students in science, engineering and technology fields.

American Chemical Society – TAMU Chapter

The Class of 2018

Megan Aardema	Calvin College
Austin Abbott	Florida State University
Brandy Adolph	Southeastern Louisiana University
Anita	IIT-Kanpur
Rahym Ashirov	Bilkent University
Gayle Bornovski	Brandeis
Kyle Burns	Western Washington University
Fan Chen	Beijing Institute Of Technology
Xinyuan "Cindy" Chen	Smith College
Hsu-Cheng Chiang	National Taiwan University
Brenna Collins	The Ohio State University
Sourajit Dey Baksi	IIT-Mumbai
Licheng Fan	University of Science and Technology China
Liqi Fan	Fudan University
Elisa Ferrara	College of Mount Saint Vincent
Brandon Frey	Millersville University
Zhi "Zachary" Geng	Wuhan University
John Gordon	University of Virginia
Joshua "Trae" Hampton	University of Dallas
Sarah Hancock	University of North Texas
Andrew "Andy" Hannaman	University of Texas at Austin
Philip Hopkins	Colorado State University-Pueblo
Md Sarowar Hossain	University of Dhaka
Jiandu Hu	Austin College
Junjie Huang	Lanzhou University
Joshua Kim	CUNY Hunter College
Dacheng Kuai	Texas A&M University
Ryan Kulow	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Smriti Kumar	IIT-Bombay
Sarah Lak	LUMS
Derek Leong	Truman State University
Chenxuan Li	Nanjing University
Elishua Litle	Brandeis
Guan-Wen Liu	National Cheng Kung University

Jixing Lyu	Nanjing University
Tianxiong Mi	Peking University
Noel Mireles	Texas State University
Vinh Nguyen	University of California, Los Angeles
Shelby Oney	University of Texas at Tyler
Ching Pang	National Taiwan University
Joshua Powell	University of Queensland
Chang Qi	Nankai University
Thomas Reyes	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Chesley Rowlett	Olivet Nazarene University
Pritam Roychowdhury	IIT-Kharagpur
Parker Schofield	Utah State University
Vishav Sharma	IIT Kanpur
Yan Sheng	Nanjing University
Nicholas Shuber	Georgia Southern University
Sreyashi Sinha	IIT-Kharagpur
Jesse Smith	Eastern Michigan University
Madeline Smotzer	The Ohio State University
Maxwell Sorensen	Washington University in St. Louis
He Sun	Southern University of Science and Technology
Shuli Tang	Zhejiang University
Zachary Tobin	University of Texas at Austin
James Vanjak	North Carolina State University
Thomas Walker	Liberty University
Katherine Wang	National Tsing Hua University
Kunyu Wang	Nankai University
Gabrielle Ware	Saint Edward's University
Aaron Wegener	Fort Lewis College
Jiun-Wei Wu	National Taiwan University
Tianhao Yan	Fudan University
Hanyuan Zhang	University of Wisconsin
Jiayun Zhao	Peking University
Benyu Zhou	Fudan University
Yun Zhu	Texas A&M University