

# **NORTH LAKE COLLEGE**

## **Additional Information for Prospective International Students**

Thank you for your interest in North Lake College. We have a growing international student population representing more than 80 countries. Choosing a college is an important decision, and there are many reasons why starting your education at a community college may be the best choice. Some of the benefits you will enjoy are:

- Small classes with instructors who make themselves available for help and guidance.
- Lower out-of-country tuition and fees that enable you to avoid the higher costs of other universities.
- Courses that are fully transferable to four-year colleges and universities as well as a variety of technical/occupational programs that apply to today's workplace.
- An opportunity to live in an exciting metropolitan area featuring many cultural, recreational and intellectual opportunities.

### **About North Lake College**

Opened in 1977, North Lake College occupies **276** wooded acres in the Las Colinas area of Irving. Approximately 6,000 students enroll at the College in each Fall and Spring semester. Fall semester begins in the last week of August and ends in mid-December. Spring semester begins in mid-January and ends in early May. In addition, two optional summer sessions are offered. North Lake's facilities include a performance hall, a covered natatorium and jogging trail, well-equipped laboratories, studios and learning centers. North Lake College is a member of the Dallas County Community College District, which serves over 50,000 college students on seven campuses throughout Dallas County.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **WHAT IS A STUDENT VISA?**

Students who are admitted to North Lake College will receive Form I-20, an immigration document, which is used to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. consulate overseas. This visa is granted to an individual whose purpose is to pursue a full course of study in the U.S., and, upon completion, return to the home country. I-20's for the F-1 visa will be issued only after all documents for admission have been submitted and evaluated by the International Student Advisor. Please refer to the International Admission Packet for more details on admission requirements. After obtaining the I-20, it is the responsibility of the student to arrange necessary immigration and travel arrangements. In order to remain in good standing with the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS), international students must enroll in and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours each regular semester. A SEVIS fee is required prior to consulate appointment.

#### **DOES NLC HAVE SUPPORT SERVICES?**

Yes, North Lake College is committed to helping you reach your academic goals. We offer a variety of services to help you reach your potential and be a successful student. The Student Resource Center provides computer facilities, Internet and E-mail access, and a variety of media including books, software and audiotapes to assist instruction. Free tutoring is available for many courses including English and Math. The Library provides students with books, periodicals, reference materials, and with quiet study rooms.

#### **ARE THERE ANY CLUBS OR ACTIVITIES AT NLC?**

Yes, in addition to your academic pursuits, you will find a variety of social, recreational and cultural activities offered by the College to help you enjoy your experience in the U.S.A.

## **WHAT KIND OF DEGREES ARE OFFERED AT NLC?**

Our college offers an Associate Degree in Arts and Sciences. This is a two-year degree that is transferable to a four-year college or university. This liberal arts degree is recognized throughout the higher education and the business community as equaling the completion of two years of college. In the United States, most Bachelor Degree Programs require two years of “basics” that include core courses such as English, Math, Science, History and Political Science etc. North Lake College offers all the “basics,” which are transferable to other colleges.

## **DOES NORTH LAKE COLLEGE HAVE AN INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM?**

No, North Lake College cannot issue 1-20's to students who wish to pursue an intensive ESL study program. In order to be admitted to our College, you must earn a score of 530 (197 on the computerized version) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). For more information about this exam, visit the TOEFL website <http://www.toefl.org> or contact the Educational Testing Service at (609) 771-7100 or 1-800-GO-TOEFL. Students who need to study English before beginning a degree program are encouraged to study at an Intensive English Program and transfer to North Lake College when they achieve the required TOEFL score. There are many programs to choose from, including the American Language and Culture Institute operated by Richland College and Brookhaven College IEP, both members of the DCCCD. For more information, visit the DCCCD website.

## **ENGLISH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN MY COUNTRY. DO I STILL NEED TO TAKE TOEFL?**

Very few students qualify for an exemption from TOEFL requirements (e.g. students from England, Canada, and Australia). There are many countries in which English is an official language or primary language of instruction; however, the majority of the people speak a language other than English in home. The TOEFL allows us to evaluate English proficiency, giving us an indication of how you will perform in a classroom with American students.

## **HOW MANY CLASSES MUST I TAKE EACH SEMESTER?**

All F-I students must start and complete 12 credits during the Fall and Spring semesters in order to remain in good standing with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The number of credits awarded per class varies, but in general, students enroll in at least 4 classes per semester. Summer session is optional unless summer is your first semester.

## **CAN I CHOOSE MY OWN CLASSES?**

Upon arrival, all new students take placement tests in reading, writing and math before registering for classes. After testing, an academic advisor will assist you in choosing classes at the appropriate skill level in accordance with your educational plan. For students who intend to transfer to a Bachelor's degree program, an advisor will help you locate guides to help you choose classes that will be accepted for transfer.

## **ARE THERE DORMITORIES OR HOSTELS AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?**

North Lake College does not operate any student housing. There are, however, a number of apartment complexes located within a 2-mile radius of the College. These apartments rent for approximately \$600-1000 per month, depending on the amenities offered. The cost of rent does not include utilities (e.g. electricity, phone). If you do not have friends or family in the Dallas/Irving area that can provide temporary lodging when you arrive, you will need to bring extra money with you to stay in a hotel until permanent accommodations are established.

## **HOW WILL I GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL?**

Since Irving has limited bus service, transportation is a major issue. If you choose an apartment along the bus route, it is possible to ride the bus to the College. Neighboring communities, such as Arlington, do not have bus service. Many students decide that driving their own car is the most efficient way to get to and from school. Although driving is a convenient way to get around, it is also expensive. You must obtain a license, purchase insurance, have the car inspected for safety; and pay a registration fee annually in addition to the cost of gasoline and maintenance.