

Houston

Center Profile



ELS Language Centers
University of St. Thomas
4200 Montrose Boulevard, Suite 120
Houston, Texas 77006-4696
Telephone: 1 (713) 521-2030
Fax: 1 (713) 521-0664
E-mail:

Host University Information

Visit www.stthom.edu or the ELS University directory www.usauniversityguide.org to learn more about the University of St. Thomas and other universities & colleges that accept ELS Intensive program completion in place of the TOEFL®.

Center Hours

8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)
 Closed on weekends and holidays

Surrounding Area Information

Average travel time (in minutes) from ELS Center:

Key Location Features

- Affiliated with Private University
- Complete Prep Program for TOEFL® iBT location
- Business English Program location
- Executive Programs location
- Apartment-style student residence option (walking-distance to ELS and the UST campus)
- Free access to UST's recreational and sports facilities
- ELS and UST are located in the Houston Museum district – a safe commercial and residential area
- Houston is the 4th largest city in the US and home of the world's largest medical center and is known for companies in aeronautics, petroleum and technology
- TOEFL® iBT, IELTS™, and TOEIC® testing center

Housing Options

Housing Options	Minutes	Method
Dorm Apartment:	5	By foot
Homestays:	20	By bus
Apartments:	5	By foot, bus or car

Area Attractions

- National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) Space Center Houston
- Gulf of Mexico beaches
- Weekend trips possible to San Antonio, New Orleans or Mexico

Local Places

Airport:	20 to 30	By bus or taxi
Bank:	1	By foot
Downtown Houston:	5	By bus
Post Office:	5	By foot
Restaurant(s):	2	By foot
Shopping Mall:	10	By bus
Sports Center:	5	By foot
Supermarket:	2	By bus
Light Rail:	2 to 5	By foot or bus

Climate

Houston has hot summers (June, July and August) and mild winters. Rain is common in early winter and early spring.

Average Temperatures (Celsius)

	Minimum	Maximum
Winter	7	17
Spring	16	26
Summer	23	33
Autumn	16	27

Nearby Cities/Attractions

Galveston, TX	1 hour	By bus or car
San Antonio, TX	4 hours	By bus or car
New Orleans, LA	7 hours	By bus or car

Local Transportation

There is public transportation in Houston in the form of buses and a new light rail service to downtown, which is adequate for students' needs. Cost is \$1.25 one direction (50% off with UST student ID card). Some routes are limited on the weekend and in the evening. Many of our students rent cars or share taxis and divide the expense. International students **can** obtain a Texas Driver's License by going to the appropriate state office and passing a written and a driving test. Ask the International Student Advisor for additional information.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in the ELS Center or any on-campus building. Smoking is permitted in designated outdoor areas only.

Housing Check-in and Departure

Students with confirmed ELS housing reservations should go directly to their assigned housing upon arrival (not to the ELS Center) on the Sunday before their course begins. Check-out is the Saturday after the program ends. Arrivals and departures on

dates/times other than those listed require special approval.

Please see "Check-in" instructions in the following sections for exact arrival details and times.

Student Residence / Dorm Apartment Richmont Square Apartments 1400 Richmond Avenue (4 blocks from ELS/Houston) Houston, TX

Males & females are placed in separate apartments although the building is mixed male & female. Americans and former ELS students also live in Richmont Square Apartments (<http://www.richmontsquare.com>)

Rooms (standard option): Doubles (2 person)

Shared rooms in two bedroom off-campus apartments. Shared bathrooms (2 per apartment). Each apartment has a furnished kitchen and there are 2 swimming pools, laundry rooms and a fitness center on site. Rooms include full-kitchen, dishwasher, cable TV, and high-speed internet access. Students clean their own rooms and apartment during their stay. Cleaning service on each arrival weekend.

Linens: Linens Not Included - Students may supply own or purchase from us for \$65.

Meals Included: None - Can purchase meals (with cash) in the University of St. Thomas cafeteria or prepare meals in the apartment.

Age Minimum: 18+ years old

Laundry Facilities: The complex has 5 self-service laundry rooms for a small fee.

Security: Gated complex with on-site security guards.

Check-In: 12 noon to 5:00 pm (Sunday) check-in
Students with confirmed housing must provide us with a time of arrival in order to have a guarantee check in. If your arrival time changes please call the Houston Resident Assistant at 1-713-443-4813.

Damage/Key Deposit: \$100 damage deposit

Checkout Time: 1:00 pm (Saturday)

Homestays

Rooms: Single (1 person)

Meals Included: 16 per week (daily continental breakfast & dinner)

Age Minimum: 12+ years old

Flight Information: Homestay students should notify their Host Families or ELS of their arrival times so that families will know to be home when they arrive.

Transportation to ELS: Host family students are responsible for their personal transportation. Most students will travel by bus.

Check-In: 8:00 am to 10:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

Students go directly to homestay address.

Checkout Time: 1:00 pm (Saturday)

Apartment Options in the Area

Contact ELS/Houston at hou@els.edu or ELS Central admissions for more details and assistance in booking private or family apartment options.

➔ **Airport Arrival Information**

ELS Language Centers recommends that students choose the ELS Airport Pickup Service for arrivals (booked through ELS Central Admissions), however other transportation options are also available.

Area Airports: George Bush Int'l (IAH) or Houston Hobby (HOU)

ELS Airport Pickup Service Provider Information:

Uptown Limousine Service

Tel: 1(713) 784-1655

Fax: 1(713) 629-8402

The driver will hold a sign with the student's name on it. Airport Pickup Meeting Locations are as follows: International and Domestic: Taxi-Limousine exit (look for ELS Language Centers sign or paper with name)

Other Transportation Options From the Airport:

Taxis from Houston Intercontinental (IAH) to the Center should cost approximately \$65 and take about 45 minutes. Taxis from Houston Hobby (HOU) - the closest airport - will cost under \$40 and take about 30 minutes.

Toll-free Emergency Phone Numbers

1-877-479-5863 for Arrival Weekend emergencies. For other emergencies requiring immediate attention outside of business hours, call the ELS Help Line at 1-800-435-7357 (1-800-HELP-ELS).

Recommended Hotels

If hotel accommodations are needed before the housing check-in date, we recommend the following hotels. Advance reservations are recommended. Prices are subject to change.

Four Points Sheraton 2828 Southwest Freeway	\$95 plus tax per night Tel: 1-713-942-2111
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Extended Stay America 2330 Southwest Freeway	\$79 per night Tel: 1-713-521-0060
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Crowne Plaze Hotel and Resort 2712 Southwest Freeway	\$89 plus tax per night Tel: 1-713-523-8448
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Center Arrival Information

New Students should report to the ELS Houston Center **by 8:30 am on the first Monday** of their program for registration, the ELS placement test and orientation. New students need to bring the following items:

- Passport (plus I-94 card & I-20 form - if applicable)
- Funds to pay tuition and housing and other relevant fees (or receipt showing pre-payment)
- Proof of medical insurance (or funds to purchase ELS insurance)
- Materials contained in the acceptance package