



Howdy! This is the final Newsletter you will receive before arrival to campus. Are you excited? Our team here at OISS can't wait to meet you! We have included some finalized tips for your pre-arrival to Houston and to Rice.

Notice for Late Arrivals

Please note that you are expected to arrive by the program start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019 and that attendance at international orientation is mandatory. If you are experiencing visa delays outside of your control and might not make it to Houston by your start date, you may request permission for late arrival from your department.



Check-in Reminder! (oiss.rice.edu/prearrivalinfo/)

You are required to check-in with our office after you arrive to the U.S. Please have photocopies of your immigration documents ready (I-20/DS-2019, passport biometric page, visa page, port of entry stamp, and printed I-94 from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home#section>). The recommended check-in times are on **August 9 and 10 at OISS**, located in Lovett Hall. If you are unable to have your immigration document photocopies ready by check-in, we can make copies for you at OISS. We will have over 500 incoming students checking in with our office, so be prepared to get cozy! :)



Helpful Orientation Tips!

- ⇒ When you first arrive for Orientation on Monday morning (August 13th), you will want to go to the Registration area to find your name tag. The name tags will be arranged in alphabetical order by **FIRST (GIVEN) NAME** and not by your surname/family name.
- ⇒ The Registration tables (name tags and orientation folders) and light refreshments will be near the end of Lovett Hall by Herzstein Hall.
- ⇒ You will have about 45 minutes (8:15 am - 9:00 am) to get your nametag, orientation folder, and light refreshments. You will then be directed to one of the two rooms where the OISS Graduate International Orientation will be hosted, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Your room assignment will depend on which handout you receive (yellow or blue)

Your Preliminary Orientation Itinerary

- ◆ 8:15 a.m. Registration & light refreshments
- ◆ 9 a.m. Orientation begins, multiple speakers
- ◆ 10(ish) a.m. Break for 20 minutes
- ◆ 10(ish)-12 Additional speakers
- ◆ 12:00 p.m. Lunch



MetroQ Cards

As a graduate international student at Rice, you are able to obtain a Metro "Q" card at the Cashier's Office on campus. The card will cost approximately \$50 and will be pre-loaded with \$500 worth of Metro credits to use for transportation provided by Metro. Houston is a large city and it is very helpful to have the MetroQ card for use of the public transportation system's buses and rails.

HOUSTON: Neighborhoods

Houston is a large city with over 2 million people. That said, it has many neighborhood areas that are very different from one another. You are encouraged to google the following areas (enter "Houston" into the search first) for more information:

- ◆ West University
- ◆ Museum District
- ◆ Montrose
- ◆ Midtown
- ◆ Downtown
- ◆ Uptown/Galleria
- ◆ The Heights
- ◆ Braeswood Place
- ◆ Meyerland

The map on the right is from mapurbane and provided as a reference only. Rice University is in the bottom right-hand area. :)

For more useful information, please see our page specifically designed for YOU at <http://oiss.rice.edu/gio/>!

If you have questions, please contact us at oiss@rice.edu or 713-348-6095.

Kindest regards,
OISS Team

