



Greetings! This is the second of three newsletters you will receive from OISS this summer. We hope you are enjoying your time before arriving to campus! The following are some useful tips for preparing your arrival to Rice.

Health Insurance - Enrollment is open!

All Rice-sponsored F-1 and J-1 students must enroll in either the Aetna or SAS plan during the Open Enrollment period (July 9, 2018 - August 31, 2018). Please visit <http://oiss.rice.edu/studenthealth/> to review the brochures and fliers for Aetna and SAS, then select your insurance option and enroll.



Notes:

- ◆ PhD students may be eligible for health Insurance subsidy. Please check here for more information: <https://graduate.rice.edu/healthinsurancefaq/> and <https://graduate.rice.edu/healthsubsidy/>.
- ◆ Students who enroll in the SAS plan are no longer required to apply for a waiver. OISS receives the enrollment confirmation directly from the SAS in about a week after your enrollment.

Houston Weather

The temperatures in Houston during July and August can be hot and humid [a high of 90-98 F (32-37 C)], but classrooms can be cold because of air-conditioning. This is true for the rooms we will be in for orientation. It is recommended to dress comfortably for hot weather and bring a sweater for indoors in case the A/C makes the room too cold. Also, it is recommended to bring or purchase an umbrella. Houston loves to have pop-up rain storms. :)





Campus Map

Check-in at OISS (light circle)

On one end of Lovett Hall (the iconic building shown on the first page of this Newsletter) is our office! The door will state "Entrance A" and you will go up the stairs to the second floor; our office is then located on the left-hand side. Students should report for here for **check-in**. *If you have already completed a check-in with OISS, please disregard.*

The preferred Check-in times are on Thursday (August 9th) and/or Friday (August 10th) from 9:30 am until 3 pm. If you cannot attend either one of these days, we will have additional times on Saturday morning, August 11th, and during the week of August 13th—17th. Check-in appointments normally take about one hour and no prior registration or sign-up is needed.

Orientation at Herzstein Hall (dark circle)

On the other end of Lovett Hall, you will find Herzstein Hall, which is where our Graduate International Orientation will take place. We will have registration tables and light refreshments in the Lovett-Herzstein cloister from 8:15 am until 9:00 am. The orientation will begin promptly at 9:00 am and will last until lunchtime (around 12:00 pm noon) each day. Remember, attendance on **BOTH** days of orientation, August 13th and 14th, are required!



Housing Information

On-campus housing information can be found on the Rice website at <http://campushousing.rice.edu/graduate-housing/>.

Off-campus apartment/room rates vary according to location, neighborhood, amenities provided, age, and condition of the complex. The average one bedroom unfurnished (without furniture, but with appliances) apartment near campus costs approximately \$650-\$1000 per month. An unfurnished two-bedroom apartment has an average cost of approximately \$600-\$950 per person. Utilities (gas, electricity and telephone) are usually charged separately and add approximately \$150 to your monthly costs. Students often prefer to share an apartment in order to save money.

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

