Welcome to Rice! We hope you are having a great summer and we look forward to seeing you soon. This is the first of three newsletters you will receive from OISS this summer. The following are some reminders with important information for planning to begin your journey at Rice.

Preparing for US Port of Entry

Initial F-1 students are permitted to arrive to the US on the “Earliest Admission Date” as it is listed on your Form I-20. If you are arriving from outside the US, please make sure you have the items below with you to show at the US Port of Entry. **Do NOT place in checked luggage but carry with you:**

- Passport (valid for 6+ months into the future upon entry)
- Valid visa for your status (exception for citizens of Canada)
- Original I-20 or DS-2019

**Additional tips:**

- Do NOT bring food with you
- Pack electronics in checked baggage if you do not want them to possibly be searched
- Make sure you have all original documents, not photocopies
- Do NOT leave the kiosk of the immigration officer upon entry into the USA until you check you received the proper visa admission status. Example for F-1

Transportation from Airport

The following are options for transportation to Rice from the airport:

- **Graduate Airport Pick up**—Arrival hospitality program offered to new international graduate students arriving for the Fall semester.
- **Super Shuttle**—estimated cost of $30
- **Taxi**—estimated cost of $60
- **ISAR (Indian Students at Rice) Airport Pick up Program**
- **RCSSC (Rice Chinese Students & Scholars Club) Airport Pick-Up Program**—send your name and flight information to Ricejieji@gmail.com
Check-In and Orientation

All new international graduate students are required to complete an immigration check-in with our office and attend our Graduate International Orientation (GIO).

The preferred Check-in times are:

⇒ Thursday, August 9, 9:30am—3:00pm
⇒ Friday, August 10, 9:30am—3:00pm

You will want to bring all immigration documents to the check-in session. In the next newsletter, you will have the opportunity to sign up for your preferred Check-in time.

Graduate International Orientation (GIO) will be held on Monday and Tuesday, August 13 and 14, from 8:15am until about 1:00pm. **Attendance both days are required.** (MBA students are not required to attend this orientation; more details will be included in the next newsletter.)

Health Insurance

You are required to enroll in one of the following health insurance plans:

- Aetna—Rice’s Student Health Insurance Plan
- SAS—Alternate Insurance Plan for Students

For more useful information, please see our website: [http://oiss.rice.edu/prearrivalinfo/](http://oiss.rice.edu/prearrivalinfo/)

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