JULY 2018 I-PREP NEWSLETTER

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

If you haven't made your hotel reservations yet, please do so ASAP: **The deadline to reserve a room is July 9th, 2018.**

Students can make hotel reservations here
Families can make hotel reservations here

- **Dates:** Check-in: Thursday, August 9th
  Check-out: Sunday, August 12th

  * After July 9th you will not be able to reserve a spot at the hotel for the I-PREP price.

PACKING TIPS

- Keep your I-20, passport, and money in your carry on bag for easy access!
- Put a change of clothes in your carry on bag in case your checked suitcase is lost/delayed.
  - Bring a few (small) reminders of home - pictures of family & friends.
- OISS will provide shuttles to Target (general store for clothing, bedding, electronics, and other supplies), cell phone providers, and Rice Village (shopping center within walking distance of Rice with restaurants and stores) on Saturday, so leave linens & other basics behind.
- Houston gets hot in the summer! The temperatures will be around 30°C, so pack accordingly.
  - Pack an umbrella, its not unusual for it to rain during the day.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

I-PREP Family Orientation: Friday, August 10th

There will be a special program for international family members on Friday, August 10th from 2:30-3:30pm in the Cohen House/Faculty Club. Family members will learn more about Rice, Rice’s support programs for international students, and ways family members can engage with Rice. Since students will be busy all day in trainings, we encourage family members to use the rest of the day to see the sites of Houston. [http://www.visithoustontexas.com/things-to-do/](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/things-to-do/)

Family Events during O-Week: There are special programs for families during O-Week. For more information, please visit [http://success.rice.edu/families/](http://success.rice.edu/families/) or email oweek@rice.edu for more information!

Families Weekend: Families are welcome back to campus on October 12-14, 2018.
For more information, please visit: [http://www.rufrice.edu/~events/famweek/](http://www.rufrice.edu/~events/famweek/)

Visiting Your Student: We encourage international families to get a U.S. Visitor Visa in case they want to visit their Rice student for fun or if an emergency occurs. Having secured the visa saves time when planning trips.
HEALTH INSURANCE:

All international students at Rice are required to enroll in the Rice Aetna Plan or the Rice Approved SAS Plan. Students can make their choice during the Open Enrollment Period on July 9 – August 31, 2018.

Please remember: Failure to properly enroll will cause a student to be automatically enrolled and charged for the Rice Aetna plan without the option for modifications. Please check the details here: https://oiss.rice.edu/studenthealth/. The coverage will be valid from August 15, 2018 to August 14, 2019. The purchased insurance plan will be valid for one year only, students should make sure that they enroll in Rice insurance plans before starting each academic year at Rice. OISS will purchase an interim insurance plan for you for the period of August 9 to August 14, 2018. You will be given your insurance ID card for this period upon your arrival.

August 9th - 14th, 2018

This interim insurance plan is an emergency insurance plan, not the full coverage plan. This policy does not cover:
- Pre-existing conditions, except charges resulting directly from an acute onset of pre-existing condition, subject to the limits set forth in the Schedule of Benefits and Limits.
- Routine medical examinations, including but not limited to vaccinations, immunizations, annual checkups, the issue of medical certificates and attestations, and examinations as to the suitability of employment, study or travel. We highly recommend you receive your required vaccinations before you travel to the US. If one or any of the required vaccinations is not available in your country, you will need to pay the full price in the US. We will provide more information about where/how to get vaccinations later when you arrive.
- In case of medical emergency, you are free to visit any provider you wish, however the plan does have an optional network called the First Health Healthcare Network in the USA. If you stay inside the network you will have 100% coverage after your deductible. You can locate a nearby provider by visiting https://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/network/.
- Claims will be paid depending on where you are located and where you seek treatment (in-network vs. out-of-network).

August 15th, 2018 - August 14th, 2019

Both Aetna and SAS are full coverage plans, including pre-existing conditions and vaccinations.
- If you are enrolled in Aetna, please visit https://studenthealthinsurance.rice.edu/aetna-benefits for the full benefits summary. You can find the useful phone numbers on the back of your Aetna ID card.
- If you are enrolled in SAS, please visit https://consolidatedhealthplan.com/group/719/home for the benefits summary. You can find useful phone numbers on the back of your SAS/CHP ID card.

Definitions

- **In-network**
  When you visit a provider that is part of the plan network your insurance bill is typically paid directly, without the need for an insurance claim form. This setup will depend on the particular provider you go to and so you will need to ask the provider before you seek treatment.

- **Out-of-network**
  When you visit a provider that is outside the network, you will need to pay for all services up front and then submit a claim form for reimbursement. If you are hospitalized for an emergency or planned hospitalization you will need to call the 24 hour emergency assistance number located on the back of your insurance ID card and they will assist you further with settling the hospital bills.

MEALS FOR STUDENTS DURING I-PREP

- The Hilton Hotel provides you with a complimentary hot breakfast each morning.
- Dinner will be provided on Thursday, August 9th and on Saturday, August 11th.
- Lunch will be provided on Friday, August 10th.
- On Friday, August 10, the venue and transportation to dinner will be provided but the cost is on your own. Please bring $12-20 in cash with you that day.
- For all other meals, you can use the hotel shuttle service and go to Rice Village, which has many different restaurants to choose from.