

I-PREP NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO REGISTER FOR THE I-PREP HOTEL!



Families can make hotel reservations *here*.
Students can make hotel reservations *here*.



If you haven't made your hotel reservations yet, please do so ASAP!
*The deadline to reserve a room is **July 16, 2019**.*

In addition to the \$195 program fee, prepare to pay the following costs when you arrive:

- Hotel room (paid at hotel)
- Transportation from airport to hotel
- Lunch on Saturday, August 17 (all other meals covered)

Hotel costs

\$139 + tax / day -- individual room

\$69.50 + tax / day -- shared room

- Family reservation: pay at Hilton check-out.
- Individual or shared student reservation: pay at Hilton check-in.

PACKING TIPS

- Keep your I-20, passport, and cash 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.
- On Saturday, 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). So, you may wish to leave linens & other such basics behind.
- Houston gets hot in the summer! The temperatures will be around 30° C, so pack accordingly.
- Pack an umbrella; it's not unusual for it to rain during the day.
- Bring a few (small) reminders of home — pictures of family & friends.



INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

I-PREP Family Orientation: Friday, August 16

There will be a special program for international family members on Friday, August 16 from 2:30-4:00pm in the Cohen House/Faculty Club.

Family members will learn more about Rice, Rice's support programs for internationals, and ways family members can engage with Rice. Because 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/>

IMPORTANT: we *highly encourage* families to get a US 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.



Families during O-Week (Aug 18-24):
visit *here* for info. on special programs!

Families Weekend (Sept 27-28):
visit *here* for specific details & registration info.

HEALTH INSURANCE

General Information

- All international students at Rice are required to enroll in the **Rice Aetna Plan** or the **Rice Approved SAS Plan**.
- Both are full coverage plans, including pre-existing conditions and vaccinations.
- Students can make their choice during the **Open Enrollment Period, July 9 - August 30, 2019**.
- The coverage will be valid for one year only: August 15, 2019 to July 31, 2020.
- Students should make sure that they enroll in Rice insurance plans before starting each academic year at Rice.
- **Failure to properly enroll** will cause a student to be automatically enrolled and charged for the Rice Aetna plan without the option for modifications.



Insurance Coverage Options

- For **Aetna** full benefits summary, visit *here*. You can find useful phone numbers on the back of your Aetna ID card.
- For **SAS** full benefits summary, visit *here*. You can find useful phone numbers on the back of your SAS/CHP ID card.



Definitions

"In-network"

- 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; so, you will need to ask the provider before you seek treatment.

"Out-of-network"

- 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. They will assist you further with settling the hospital bills.