WELCOME TO I-PREP 2019!

We can’t wait to meet you!

OISS staff and student leaders are busy planning for I-PREP and your arrival.

I-PREP is a mandatory check-in and orientation program for all new international undergraduate students. You will learn U.S. immigration regulations, complete the immigration check-in process, have time to shop for bedding, purchase a cell phone, set up a bank account, and meet tons of new friends.

I encourage you to check out http://oiss.rice.edu/iprep for updates, and feel free to email me with any questions! :)

-Jenny Brydon, OISS (jenny@rice.edu)

 Reserve Your Hotel Room Before July 16

Reasons to reserve Hilton through OISS link:

1. Exclusive rate includes 2 hot breakfast per room. Offer only valid until July 16.
2. Only students & families that reserve rooms through the Rice links will receive Rice and I-PREP related materials. These are very important!
3. Option to share a room with another I-PREP student and split the cost.
4. All transportation to and from I-PREP events will take place from the Hilton.

Any questions?
Contact Maria Carcuera, International Advisor mec3@rice.edu

RESERVE HERE:
- If you are a student and you want to reserve a single room or to be match with another I-PREP student of the same gender click here.
- If you are a student traveling with your family and want to share room with a member of your family click here.
- If you are a family members of an I-PREP student and want to reserve a room click here.

Hilton Houston Plaza / Medical Center
6633 Travis Street, Houston, TX 77030-1308, USA; TEL: +1-713-313-4000, FAX: +1-713-313-4660.

DATES
Thursday, August 15 - Sunday, August 18, 2019

RATES
$139 + tax per day - single room
$69.50 + tax per day - double room

For rates for dates outside August 15 - 18, 2019 and other hotel information please contact Hilton Reservations Coordinator at 713-313-4677.

PARENTS & FAMILY: PLEASE JOIN US!

International Parent & Family Orientation:
Friday, August 16, 2:15 - 3:15 pm
ENROLL IN HEALTH INSURANCE

All Rice F-1 and J-1 international students must purchase health insurance from one of the following providers:

Aetna (Rice's Student Health Insurance Plan)

- $2,482/year
- Step 1: Enroll online studenthealthinsurance.rice.edu
- Step 2: Pay via Rice student bill

OR

SAS (Rice's Approved Alternate Health Insurance Plan for Internationals)

- $1,513/year
- Step 1: Go to the SAS website to complete the SAS Insurance Enrollment Form
- Step 2: Submit your premium payment online

Rice International Undergraduate Student Checklist

Congratulations on already completing so much... admission, getting the I-20, etc.

Before You Arrive

- Use the SEVIS number (starts with an N) on your I-20 to pay the SEVIS fee.
- Make sure your passport is valid at least six months into the future at time of entry.
- Look at US Dept. of State website for information on the US visa process.
- If your visa is delayed -- email jenny@rice.edu if you do not see it being processed by August 1.
- Complete and submit your Health Service Form by June 1 to Student Health Services.
- Get the meningitis vaccine at least 10 days prior to arrival, per Texas law.
- Book your Hilton I-PREP Hotel reservation as directed on the I-PREP webpage.
- Check your Rice email for updates, announcements, and reminders.
- Review immigration documents for accuracy, then sign and date the I-20/DS-2019 at the bottom of page 1 in blue ink.
- Travel plans & dates: international students may not enter the US more than 30 days before the start date on the I-20 / DS-2019. I-PREP is mandatory and starts at 6pm on Thursday, August 15. Please arrive on time.
- Review Rice's Academic Calendar for holiday breaks and registration and payment deadlines.
- Check out the Rice new student checklist for information about O-Week and other "to-do's."
- Think about what to pack. There will be time to shop for bedding, toiletries, etc. during I-PREP. Bring something to remind you of home, any medicines you need, hot weather clothing, and an umbrella.
- Get ready for American culture! During O-Week, you will be playing games with a lot of references to American culture. Watch a few American movies to get up to date and browse these helpful websites:
  - https://harrisburg.psu.edu/international-student-support-services/guide-american-culture-etiquette
  - https://oiss.yale.edu/life-at-yale/cultural-adjustment-transition/us-culture
  - https://www.valpo.edu/international/living-in-the-u-s/u-s-culture/american-culture-culture-shock
  - https://isso.ucsf.edu/resources/living-in-the-us/us-culture

After You Arrive

- Flight delayed? Let Jenny know as soon as possible at jenny@rice.edu.
- Drink lots of water -- it's hot!
- When entering Customs at the airport you will be asked to present your immigration documents including your I-20 (F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (J-1 visa). Make sure to have the original in your carry-on luggage. Also, Customs and Border Protection (CPB) has the right to search your social media accounts. Keep this in mind before arriving in Houston.
- Attend Mandatory Immigration Check-in and I-PREP: Friday, August 16, 2019 in Rayzor Hall & Sewall Hall. For details, visit https://oiss.rice.edu/iprep.

Note: I-PREP is optional for anyone in visa status other than F-1/J-1. Any non F-1/J-1 visa holder interested in attending I-PREP will need to send an email to jenny@rice.edu by June 25 with their student ID and verification they wish to attend I-PREP and understand that they will be charged the one-time I-PREP fee of $195. Any non F-1/J-1 visa holder not attending I-PREP is still required to check in with OISS. For the check-in schedule, please go to: https://oiss.rice.edu/orientation