INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS AT RICE

2019
Office of International Students & Scholars
Public Use Version
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report serves as a resource about Rice’s 1) international degree-seeking students, 2) exchange and visiting students, and 3) international scholars (researchers, faculty members, short-term lecturers, and visiting research students). All non-immigrant visa-holding students and scholars must be tracked and reported, and receive special services through the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS).

A “snapshot” view was taken for this report (for students on 09/11/2019; for scholars on 07/01/2019), as the numbers are ever-changing throughout the year. The most recent International Education (IIE) Open Doors report published for 2017-2018 and NAFSA Public Policy page (Source: 2018 Open Doors Report, http://www.iie.org/opendoors and http://www.nafsa.org/eis) serve as primary references. Please note: This report does not include information regarding: 1) Rice Intensive English students and 2) Special international guests and international delegations.

In sum, Rice’s international community continues to grow (up 6.6% from last year overall). In the past year alone, the OISS offered services to an overall population of over 4000 internationals, a number that rises to almost 4700 during the spring when processing admissions immigration documents. Rice continues to see a significant rise in the number of international enrollees, the best and the brightest from around the globe choosing to pursue their studies at Rice. International degree-seeking students (not including exchange/visiting students) represent 25% of the overall student population, providing a vibrant and diverse student body. In addition, our international scholars are integral to furthering Rice’s research mission with global academic distinction.

FAST FACTS FOR RICE IN FALL 2019

- 1789  →  Degree-seeking international students
- 478  →  Undergraduate international students
- 1311  →  Graduate international students
- 25%  →  Percentage of total degree-seeking student population that is international
- 12%  →  Percentage of undergraduate population that is international
- 43%  →  Percentage of graduate population that is international
- 1030  →  Total number of international scholars at Rice in 2018-2019 academic year
- 610+  →  Incoming fall 2019 international students receiving admission immigration services to Rice throughout spring and summer 2019
- 4044  →  Total international population at Rice in fall 2019
ABOUT OISS

Rice University’s Office of International Students & Scholars' (OISS) mission is to enhance the experience of the international population (which includes all non-immigrant visa students, researchers and faculty) through serving as their chief liaison office for: immigration advising, cultural adaptation, immigration legal compliance, networking / public connections, and academic support, with university departments, government agencies, and community advocates.

The OISS staff is comprised of 11 staff members and is just as diverse as the international population that we serve. We come from 8 countries, including Brazil, Costa Rica, Finland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Serbia, and the United States, and speak 10 foreign languages including Finnish, French, Hungarian, Italian, Kazakh, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Spanish.

As seen below, the number of internationals OISS serves has doubled in the last 10 years. This growth along with the compounding effect of a significant rise in regulatory reporting required to maintain Rice’s F and J visa programs has had its challenges. OISS has addressed many of these challenges by creating workshops, group trainings, online tutorials, group advising, and various methods of communication to support our international population. While OISS has been resourceful in dealing with the challenges, every immigration case is unique and requires individual review and analysis. The U.S. government mandates many more transactions per international on a regular basis to meet compliance requirements, and periodically implements new reporting requirements that result in reporting spikes, as seen below.

**Percentage Growth Since 2009**
Office of International Students & Scholars

Do you have questions concerning this report?

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TOTAL INTERNATIONAL POPULATION

Who are the internationals at Rice University?

- The OISS is responsible for tracking, reporting, and providing services for over 4000 internationals at Rice. During admissions processing in the spring, this number rises to well over 4700.
- This is a **6.6% increase** from last year.

**Total International Population at Rice**

Total population = 4044

- Practical Training = 671 (17%)
- Research Scholars/Faculty = 1030 (25%)
- Dependents* = 354 (9%)
- Graduate Students = 1311 (32%)
- Undergrad Students = 478 (12%)
- Exchange & Visiting Students = 200 (5%)

**Population Growth**

- **RISE internationals not included in chart:**
  - Dependents on H-4, B-2, TD, L-2
  - Prospective incoming students = 610
  - Prospective research scholar/faculty prospects = 69
  - Processed scholars with governmental delays = 30

*Rice internationals not included in chart:

- Dependents on H-4, B-2, TD, L-2
- Prospective incoming students = 610
- Prospective research scholar/faculty prospects = 69
- Processed scholars with governmental delays = 30

**OISS provided services for over 4000 internationals in 2019.**
**Rice’s international community represents 98 countries/regions.**
Who are the internationals at Rice University? (continued)

- Rice continues to see a rise in all its international populations, the most significant in the last year being the international graduate students and visiting scholars.

- Rice students pursuing Optional Practical Training (OPT) upon completing their studies also continue to rise, as more students in STEM degrees engage in the STEM OPT 24-month extension. Students on OPT have almost tripled in the last 6 years.

*Note: OISS must continue to track, advise, and report employment compliance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for students on OPT for 12-42 months after they have graduated from Rice.*

![International Population Growth at Rice (2010-2019)](image)

*Student data from 09/11/2019
*Scholar data from 07/01/2019

**Increase summary:** Graduate students up 70% in last 10 years; Scholars up 63% in last 6 years, OPT up 267% in last 6 years
International Student Enrollment Trends at Rice University

- Overall international student population increased almost 7% from last year.
- The overall international student population at Rice rose by 14.5% in the last 5 years, and 61% in the last 10 years.


*Student data from 09/11/2019

Rice degree-seeking international students = 1789
What do international students contribute to the USA?

- International students contributed about **$39 billion** to the U.S. economy in 2017-2018.

- International education contributed over **$2.24 billion** to the Texas economy in 2017-2018.

- **A record 1,094,792 foreign students** studied in the U.S. in 2017-2018. This is a **1.5% increase** from the year before, and is the highest number in 35 years.

- Texas is ranked **third** (after California and New York) among all the states in the U.S.A. in numbers of international students with 84,348 students. This is a **0.9% decrease** from the previous year.

![International Student Enrollment in the U.S. Top 10 States](chart)

Over 84,000 international students studied in Texas in 2017-18, bringing in $2.24 billion to the state.
How International is Rice University?

- Rice not only continued to increase in **total** international student numbers, but also increased in the **percentage of the overall student body** that is international.

- **One in every four** students at Rice is an international student.

*Student data from 09/11/2019*

**International students make up 25% of the degree-seeking student population.**
### International Student Enrollment at Rice from 1989-2019

**A 30 year history**

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IS: International degree-seeking students (non-immigrants only)
IS%: Percentage of Rice student population that is, or was, international
* Totals do not include visiting/exchange international students
** Data collected on 09/11/2019

**International students make up 11.9% of the undergraduate student population.**

**International students make up 43.1% of the graduate student population.**
**What is Rice University’s student country diversity?**

- International students at Rice hail from **94** countries/regions.
- Underrepresented regions of the world at Rice are **Africa** and the **Middle East**, while **over 75%** of all Rice international students come from Asia.
- The focus on the importance of country diversity can be seen in the upward trend over the last 5 years.

**Number of Countries Represented by Students at Rice University (2008-2019)**

![Graph showing the number of countries represented by students at Rice University from 2008 to 2019.](image)

*Student data from 09/11/2019*

**International Population Regional Composition Changes (2010-2019)**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of student population from different regions from 2010 to 2019.](image)

*All six habitable continents of the world are represented at Rice.*
## ENROLLMENT BY REGIONS OF THE WORLD

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### Pie Chart

- **Europe**: 8%
- **Middle East**: 3%
- **Oceania**: 1%
- **Africa**: 2%
- **America**: 10%

**Asia**: 76%
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL Students:** 1789  
**TOTAL Scholars:** 1030

*Numbers as of 9/11/2019

*Totals:
- Enrolled non-immigrant degree-seeking students: 1789
- Graduate international students: 1311
- Undergraduate international students: 478
- Exchange & Visiting international students in 2019: 200
- New degree-seeking international students Fall 2019: 579
- International scholars (teaching/research) 2018-2019: 1030

**Did you know?**
- The international students make up 25% of the degree-seeking Rice student population.
- Rice international students and scholars represent 98 different countries/regions.
- 846 Rice students studied abroad in 2018-2019 (includes credit and non-credit programs).
Which countries/regions had the greatest representation in Fall 2019 at Rice?

Rice's International Undergraduate Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea, South</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student data from 09/11/2019

Ten years ago the top five countries/regions represented by students at Rice University were:

Graduates:
1. China
2. India
3. Mexico
4. Taiwan
5. South Korea

Undergraduates:
1. China
2. South Korea
3. Canada
4. India
5. Mexico

*Student data from 09/11/2019
Top 10 Countries/Regions in USA

- Nine of the top ten countries/regions represented in the USA are the same as Rice’s top countries/regions.
- Saudi Arabia made it to the top 10 countries represented in the US, but remains underrepresented at Rice.
- The same two continents represented in Rice’s top 10 countries/regions are the same top two continents represented in the USA overall.
- China, India and South Korea have been the top three countries of origin for the past ten years.

### Top 10 Countries Represented in USA (2017-2018)

- China
- India
- South Korea
- Saudi Arabia
- Canada
- Vietnam
- Taiwan
- Japan
- Mexico
- Brazil
Graduate vs. Undergraduate International Student Enrollment

- The overall **graduate** international student population **increased by 7.7%** from last year. **Total graduate internationals = 1311**
- The overall **undergraduate** international student population **increased by 5.1%** from last year. **Total undergraduate internationals = 478**

*Student data from 09/11/2019*
**Undergraduate International Student Snapshot**

- The undergraduate snapshot below illustrates the international undergraduate student enrollment over the past 10 years. It has increased by 41%.

**Undergraduate International Student Total Enrollment (2010 - 2019)**

*Student data from 09/11/2019*

**Percentage of Overall Undergraduates that are International (2010–2019)**

*International students make up almost 12% of the total undergraduate population. Total number of undergraduate international students = 478*
The undergraduate snapshot below illustrates the international undergraduate enrollment by education level and by major. Almost half of all international undergraduates study in one of the Engineering fields.

*Student data from 09/11/2019*
**Undergraduate International Student Snapshot (continued)**

- The undergraduate snapshot below illustrates the international undergraduate enrollment by region for this year, as well as our regional enrollment trends over the past 10 years.

![2018-2019 International Undergraduate Enrollment by Region](image)

*Student data from 09/11/2019*

**International Undergraduate Population Regional Composition Changes (2010-2019)**

*Student data from 09/11/2019*
**Graduate International Student Snapshot**

- The graduate snapshot below illustrates the increase in international graduates over the past 10 years by 70%. (Note: The graduate totals also factor in all MBA programs, including the professional and executive programs).

**Graduate International Student Total Enrollment (2010-2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>1139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student data from 09/11/2019

**Percentage of Overall Graduates that are International (2010-2019)**

- International students make up 43.1% of the graduate population.
- Total number of graduate international students = 1311
Graduate International Student Snapshot (continued)

- The graduate snapshot below illustrates the international graduate enrollment by education level, highlighting the steep growth that is occurring in the Masters level programs, an increase of 370% in the last 10 years.

- During this same time frame, PhD level international students have increased by 37%, while the MBA program has maintained a steady level of international students.

Graduate International Student by Degree Level (2010-2019)

MBAs
- 2010: 104
- 2011: 106
- 2012: 107
- 2013: 120
- 2014: 103
- 2015: 100
- 2016: 92
- 2017: 103
- 2018: 108
- 2019: 99

Masters(non-MBA)
- 2010: 89
- 2011: 127
- 2012: 162
- 2013: 224
- 2014: 293
- 2015: 303
- 2016: 367
- 2017: 383
- 2018: 376
- 2019: 418

PhDs
- 2010: 580
- 2011: 594
- 2012: 629
- 2013: 631
- 2014: 641
- 2015: 684
- 2016: 680
- 2017: 688
- 2018: 733
- 2019: 794

2019-2020 Graduate International Student Enrollment by Major

- Business Administration: 9%
- Social Sciences: 4%
- Humanities: 3%
- Music: 2%
- Architecture: 2%
- Natural Sciences: 19%
- Engineering: 54%
Graduate International Student Snapshot (continued)

- The graduate snapshot below illustrates the international graduate enrollment by region for this year, while the bottom chart reflects our regional enrollment trends over the past 10 years.

**2019-2020 Graduate International Student Enrollment by Region**

- Asia: 77%
- Americas: 8%
- Oceania: 1%
- Africa: 2%
- Middle East: 5%
- Europe: 7%

*Student data from 09/11/2019

**Graduate International Population Regional Composition Changes (2010-2019)**

- Oceania
- Africa
- Middle East
- America
- Europe
- Asia
Graduate International Student Snapshot (continued)

- Incorporated in the goals for the V2C2, regional and country diversity remains a priority. This chart illustrates the Schools’ country and regional representation. Clearly there is also a vast difference in the number of international students per school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of Origin</th>
<th>Total Int'l Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student data from 09/11/2019*
Demographics of International Students at Rice University

*Student data from 09/11/2019

**Undergraduate Internationals by Gender (Fall 2019)**
- Male: 53%
- Female: 47%

**Graduate Internationals by Gender (Fall 2019)**
- Male: 64%
- Female: 36%

**Undergraduate Internationals by Immigration Status (Fall 2019)**
- F-1: 93%
- J-1: 0%
- Other Visas: 7%

**Graduate Internationals by Immigration Status (Fall 2019)**
- F-1: 93%
- J-1: 3%
- Other Visas: 4%

**Primary Sources of International Student Funding (Fall 2019)**
- Rice University: 54.2%
- Personal/Family: 43.5%
- International Organization: 0.0%
- Government Funding Sources (US & Foreign): 1%
- Other: 0.6%
INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

- Researchers (junior and senior level)
- Faculty members
- One-time visitors (lecturers and consultants)
- Other foreign visitors conducting scholarly works (includes non-degree seeking research students)

- The Rice international scholar population has increased 12.9%, despite the increase in visa denials and governmental processing delays that have impacted our international scholars. The total number of international scholars processed by OISS for 2018-2019 was 1030.

- We have seen a 66% rise in international scholars in the last 10 years.

International Research Scholar/Faculty Population Growth at Rice (1999-2019)

Total number of international scholars at Rice during the 2018-2019 academic year = 1030
What is Rice University’s international scholar country diversity?

- Rice international scholars represent 69 countries/regions and 6 continents.
- As was the case with students, China is the leading country among those represented by international scholars at Rice.

Top 10 Countries Counts of Rice International Scholars (2018-2019)

- The top ten countries/regions represented by scholars in the USA are:
  1. China
  2. India
  3. South Korea
  4. Germany
  5. Canada
  6. France
  7. Japan
  8. Brazil
  9. Italy
  10. Spain

- International scholar numbers have almost tripled in the last 15 years.

Rice’s international scholar population has increased by 66% in the last 10 years.

The international scholar population in the US rose 0.5%, while at Rice it increased by 12.9%.
Demographics of International Scholars at Rice University

An increase has occurred in all visa categories for scholars. We attribute this to increased research, as well as more junior-level research opportunities.

2018-2019 International Scholars by Immigration Status
Demographics of International Scholars (continued)

Scholars by Gender

![Gender Breakdown]

- Male: 65%
- Female: 35%

Primary Scholar Function

- Research: 84%
- Teaching: 3%
- Other: 13%

Scholar Type Breakdown

- Scholars: 93%
- Short-term Visitors: 7%
International Scholar Specializations
(2018 - 2019)

- International scholars are represented in fields of study at Rice through conducting research, teaching, conducting workshops, and/or performing.
- In contrast to last fall, the percentages have increased slightly in non-STEM fields.

Humanities
Art & Art History
Hispanic & Classical Studies
History
Linguistics
Music
Philosophy
Religious Studies

Architecture

Other
Interdisciplinary Programs

Social Sciences
Anthropology
Economics
Political Science
Psychology
History

Natural Sciences
Biochemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Geology
Physics
Mathematics

Engineering
Bioengineering
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Computational & Applied Mathematics
Computer Science
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Materials Science and Nano Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Statistics

Business Administration