

# RICE WORLD

Fall 2020 Issue

Office of International Students and Scholars

<http://oiss.rice.edu> / [oiss@rice.edu](mailto:oiss@rice.edu)



## We Are All Houseplants

By Scott Pett

Fall 2020 is shaping up to be an incredibly demanding semester for everyone, but especially for international students and scholars.

Your days of worrying about research, grades, and acculturation in the US are now imbricated with the distressing and complex implications of a global pandemic.

You are adjusting to new routines and working to clarify your options. News alerts are often overwhelming, and your family is understandably concerned for your wellbeing.

You probably feel like there is little you can control, at the moment.

But there is one very important thing you still have power over: the capacity for **self-care**. During these difficult times, it's vital that we practice self-care in order to avoid burnout from stress, fatigue, and anxiety.

In short, self-care is the practice of tending to the needs of your body, mind, and emotions. As my friend Brittany tells me: we are all essentially houseplants. To thrive, we need sun, water, and love.

You can care for your body by stretching, resting, and eating whatever you feel it needs, be it celery or Starbucks.

You can care for your relationships by connecting with family and friends via email, text, WhatsApp, or Zoom (\*shudder\*). OISS will continue to have online gatherings during Fall 2020. You should join when you can!

You can care for your mind by reading a book your friend recommends, decluttering your work and home spaces, or (as I like to do) [watching a guy on YouTube restore old Hot Wheels](#).

You can care for your emotions by taking breaks from the news, while still staying informed and receiving updates. It's okay to feel sad or scared and to share those feelings with family, friends, a journal, or a therapist.

We might not know what the new norms will be after we recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, but practicing self-care will make us all more resilient, resourceful, and confident.

The Wellbeing and Counseling Center has a list of [45 little ways you can improve your quality of life](#). (My favorite is #22.)

I want to add one more little way that you can practice self-care: remember you're not alone.

We are all going through this together. And OISS is here to help you with immigration and cultural adjustments, in whatever ways we can.

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# Message from Dr. Adria Baker



Dear Rice International Students & Scholars,

Welcome back to Rice! We greet all of you - many of you who are: 1) here with us and living on the Rice campus, 2) many in Houston living off-campus, and 3) others who are abroad! What a year this has been!! Never have we encountered so many challenges that have impacted all of our international students and scholars for such a long time!

You have been resilient! Despite multiple challenges in flight cancellations, visa delays, global health concerns – you continue to stay focused on the prize of a great education and your bright future. You have helped us **keep hope alive** through your messages of encouragement and friendship! You have encouraged your friends, and worked in research and continued studies, despite the unique restrictions that currently face us. We found hope in amazing events we have shared together via Zoom, such as the inspiring Talent Show and fun games in the summer, and the “My World” virtual tours of your country, city or region.

While our meetings, trainings, events and office hours have shifted somewhat during this pandemic, our dedication to you has not. We remain committed to meeting, communicating, advising, supporting and helping you as we are able. The OISS staff will do all we can to make you feel welcome and grateful that you are a part of our community!

Please stay connected to us. *How?* Through our **updated emails, FAQ updates** at [OISS.rice.edu](https://oiss.rice.edu), and our Facebook page. You may **write** us at: [oiss@rice.edu](mailto:oiss@rice.edu); **Call** - 713-348-6095; or **Zoom Walk-in** - <https://oiss.rice.edu/virtualoffice>

We are absolutely thrilled to have you with us for the Fall 2020 semester, and we know it will be a great one, as we navigate through it together!

*Adria L. Baker*

**Adria L. Baker**, EdD, Executive Director, OISS  
Associate Vice Provost for International Education



Do you have any questions?  
Need an appointment with one of our knowledgeable advisors?  
Or do you plain miss us and want to say "Hi"?

Here is how you can get a hold of one of OISS members:



713-348-6095



[oiss@rice.edu](mailto:oiss@rice.edu)



Virtual Office Walk-in hours are  
Monday - Friday from 1 pm to 3 pm.  
To get the Zoom link, please visit  
<https://oiss.rice.edu/virtualoffice>  
(netID login required).

We may not have all the answers, but we can get you connected to the right person.

Also, check our **COVID-19 FAQs** for the latest information.

## Are you wondering about the new incoming international students' population?



OISS has been working tirelessly throughout the summer on collecting information and preparing immigration documents for newly admitted international students. Here are our admission numbers for the class entering in the Fall of 2020 as of July:

>438 anticipated new graduate students (PhD & masters combined)

>135 anticipated new undergraduate students

>52 anticipated new MBA students



>5 anticipated exchange visiting students

As our admission season is not over yet, and some of these numbers may grow, it is still a work in progress. We also anticipate 64 countries to be represented overall in all of the categories. Such wonderful, valued, beautiful diversity, we cannot wait to meet you all!

**JOIN OUR OISS**

It's a great way to see what the OISS is up to and to keep informed about event developments!

**FACEBOOK GROUP**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/riceoiss/>



## INTERNATIONAL LADIES NETWORKING LUNCHEAS ARE GOING VIRTUAL FOR 2020!

Please grab your lunch and join the OISS staff members for two virtual Fall 2020 International Ladies Networking Lunches via Zoom!! Dates are subject to change, but the lunches will tentatively take place 12:00–1:00 p.m. on

- 1) Tuesday, October 6th
- 2) Tuesday, November 3rd

For confirmed dates and more information, please see <http://oiss.rice.edu/international-ladies>.

All activities are subject to change, stay tuned to the OISS Announcement Listserv. You can subscribe at <https://mailman.rice.edu/mailman/listinfo/oiss-announce>.



## Advanced Immigration Seminar

Learn more about U.S. immigration options that may benefit you in the future. Don't miss this seminar full of helpful information. Topics will include visa categories beyond F and J visas, as well as information on immigration updates and changes that affect Rice's international students, faculty, researchers – and the departments that host them.

**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020

**Time:** 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm

**Who:** [Avalyn Langemeier](#) & [Philip Eichorn](#)

Immigration attorneys from [Foster, LLC, US & Global Immigration Services](#)

**What:** Current immigration updates and various visa categories / options.

Question & Answer opportunities at end of session, after the presentation.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://riceuniversity.zoom.us/j/93066615859?pwd=SER2ZCtKcVM4MFErWGtCMDNSUlhEdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 930 6661 5859

**Passcode:** 022357

*Please invited any and all in our Rice community that may benefit from this information.*



**FOSTER**  
US & Global Immigration Services

# U.S. TAXES:

## What You Need To Know

### HOW DOES THE AMERICAN TAX SYSTEM WORK?

All Americans and others residing in the U.S. must pay taxes to the state and/or federal government on their revenue or income. In the U.S., this process is completed through a government agency called the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

- o Taxes are paid when:
  - You earn income
  - You own a property
  - You buy goods and services
- o International students and scholars are subject to taxation for money made while in the United States.

### AM I REQUIRED TO FILE A TAX RETURN, EVEN IF I DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY INCOME?

Yes. Every international student, scholar, and their dependents (including spouses and children of all ages) are required to file a tax return as a condition of their visa if present in the U.S. during any portion of the previous calendar year, but not everyone will be required to pay taxes to the American government. However, all must complete Form 8843 and file it even if no income was received.

## HOW DO I FILE A TAX RETURN?

### 1 DETERMINE YOUR RESIDENCE STATUS.

In general, foreign nationals on F, J, M, or Q visas are considered "exempt individuals," which means you considered a non-resident for tax purposes for the first 5 years you are in the US as an international student or the first 2 years as a scholar. After this period you will be subject to the Substantial Presence Test, which is used to determine if you are to be considered a resident for tax purposes.

### 3 DETERMINE WHETHER YOU NEED AN ITIN.

Did you receive U.S.-based scholarship or fellowship income, but are not employed on or off campus and therefore you do not have a Social Security Number (SSN)? You may require an ITIN issued by the IRS in order to file taxes on this income. This identification is for federal tax reporting only and is not intended to serve any other purpose. An ITIN does not authorize work in the US or serve as a form of identification outside filing taxes.

### 5 GATHER THE DOCUMENTS YOU RECEIVED FROM YOUR INCOME SOURCES. THE MOST COMMON DOCUMENTS ARE:

#### W-2

A form issued annually by employers to report compensation income; should be mailed to you by January 31st

#### 1042-S

A form issued by your university to report scholarship & fellowship payments; should be mailed to you by March 15

#### 1099G

State income tax return received from the previous year.

#### 1099R/INT/DIV/MISC

Various forms to report retirement plans, interest earned on bank accounts, dividends and distributions on investments, and finally various other sources of income

### 6 FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT EACH REQUIRED FORM, MAKING SURE YOU FILL EACH OUT COMPLETELY WITH YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS.

### 7 DETERMINE WHETHER YOU OWE ADDITIONAL TAXES AND IF SO, WRITE A CHECK OR GET A MONEY ORDER FOR THE EXACT AMOUNT.

### 8 MAIL YOUR TAX FORMS, ALONG WITH COPIES OF YOUR W-2'S, 1099'S, AND 1042-S'S, AND A CHECK (IF YOU OWE ANYTHING).

## HOW DO I SUBMIT THESE FORMS?

#### DO IT YOURSELF:

THE FORMS ARE ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.IRS.GOV](http://WWW.IRS.GOV) WHERE YOU CAN PRINT, COMPLETE FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER AND SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE IRS FOR PROCESSING.

#### DO IT YOURSELF (WITH OUR HELP):

WE PROVIDE A WEB-BASED SOFTWARE PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (AT A LOW PRICE) AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. IT IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH TAX FORM PREPARATION. IT IS AVAILABLE TO RICE INTERNATIONALS WHO ARE CONSIDERED NON-RESIDENTS FOR TAX PURPOSES.

#### HIRE A TAX EXPERT:

CONTACT A CPA AT H&R BLOCK OFFICES IN RICE VILLAGE OR ANY CPA AGENT IN HOUSTON. ASK FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TAX SPECIALIST WHO CAN ASSIST YOU IN COMPLETING ALL OF YOUR FORMS (MAY COST BETWEEN \$50-\$500).

#### WHEN DO I NEED TO FILE MY TAX RETURN?

The tax deadline is usually the 15th of April, unless that day falls on a weekend, in which case the deadline is extended until the next weekday.

## TAKE THESE STEPS NOW TO MAKE THE 2021 TAX SEASON MUCH EASIER

You probably don't want to think about next year's taxes right now, but doing so can make the 2021 tax season much smoother. Here are a few steps you should take now to save yourself a headache later.

### 1 GET A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

If you have a job, apply for your Social Security Number as soon as possible! You are only eligible to apply for a Social Security Number while you are employed! Social Security Numbers are far easier to get than an ITIN. If you don't have a job, consider getting one!

### 2 GET AN INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ITIN)

Who needs to apply for an ITIN? Those who are not eligible for a SSN (who have not secured employment and do not plan to do so at this time) and need to file tax returns must apply for an ITIN.

Who is exempt from the ITIN?

- o Individuals who already have a SSN
- o Individuals who already have a valid ITIN (valid 5 years from date of issuance)
- o Individuals who only need to file IRS Form 8843

ITIN numbers are VERY complicated to obtain during tax season, if you don't plan ahead of time. If you know that you will need an ITIN due to a fellowship or a scholarship, we recommend you work with OISS to request your ITIN (for more details see the ITIN article in this newsletter and check out <http://oiss.rice.edu/itin>). If you choose to wait until tax season, book an appointment with the IRS Tax Payer Assistance Center in January. Another option is to obtain a Certified Copy of your passport from your government to mail that in along with the other documents to the IRS.

### 3 CHECK YOUR DEDUCTIONS WITH THE PAYROLL OFFICE

If you have a job, money will be deducted from your paycheck to cover your taxes. You may be able to lower your withholding amount depending on how you complete your form W-4 with Payroll. Ask Payroll to explain the amount that is being deducted for taxes, so that you are informed and better prepared for what to expect at tax filing time.

### 4 EXPLORE OUR TAX WEBSITE

<https://oiss.rice.edu/tax>

It is very informative on all things taxes and can help better explain the tax process.

### 5 ATTEND OUR TAX PREPARATION WORKSHOP IN THE SPRING

OISS holds a Tax preparation workshop each Spring with a tax expert who will guide you through the process and be available for questions.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

FROM 3:30-5:30

## *It's Time for Tea*

ALL DEPENDENTS ARE INVITED

SAVE THE DATE

## Cool, Calm, and Compliant

by Sandra Bloem-Curtis

These have been crazy times and keeping up with immigration compliance may seem like a difficult task. Here are just a few friendly reminders for F-1 and J-1 visa holders to make sure you are informed regarding your immigration requirements.

### Reporting requirements:

**Moving?** Report your new address in ESTHER within 10 days

**Change your phone number?** Update ESTHER with your new number within 10 days

**Changing majors? Adding a new major?** You will receive a new I-20 or DS-2019, if you haven't, please contact OISS.

**Traveling?** Be sure to get a travel endorsement on your I-20/DS-2019 before you leave and upload a copy of your new I-94 upon your return to the US to <http://bit.ly/oissdocs>

**Need to drop to part-time status?** There are limited circumstances that will allow you to receive permission to drop below hours. Please see an OISS advisor before you drop to discuss the particulars of your situation

**Need to take a leave of absence?** See an OISS advisor for the proper steps regarding your immigration status and Rice process.

**Completing your program early?** Notify OISS of your early departure for your SEVIS record to be properly closed out.

**Need to stay longer?** Request an extension from OISS *before* your immigration documents expire

**Online class limits for the Fall 2020 semester?** Due to the pandemic, F-1 and J-1 students have more flexibility this semester. While all F-1 and J-1 students must be full-time and making progress towards their degree, the in-person class requirements vary: *New* F-1 and J-1 students who have arrived in the USA must take at least one in-person 3-credit-hour course as part of their full-time coursework, while *continuing students* in F-1 and J-1 status may enroll in online coursework, if necessary, but is dependent upon the discretion of the academic department and program requirements. Students who remain abroad for the fall term may continue enrolled in all online coursework.

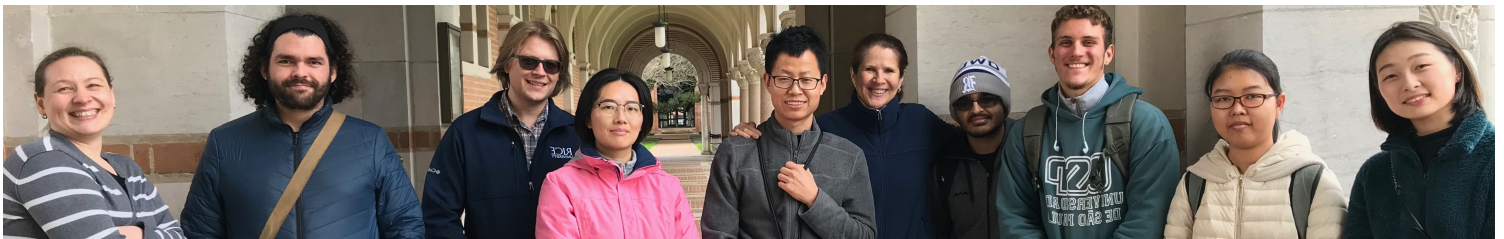
**Want to work?** See an OISS advisor regarding the proper work authorization you need for your particular circumstances, and ALWAYS get work authorization before you begin working. Remember, even unpaid internships still require proper authorization to maintain status

**What about old I-20s or DS-2019s? Can they be thrown away?** Don't throw away any old immigration documents!! Be sure to keep all current and former immigration documents in a safe place. You will need these records should you ever want to apply for immigration benefits in the future.

**Immigration benefits:** Immigration benefits such as work authorization, extensions, visa renewals, etc. are not an entitlement. Immigration benefits are options that you may be eligible to request, but there are no guarantees. Stay compliant, keep copies of all supporting documents, and stay tuned to immigration updates from OISS regarding trends and changes in immigration benefit requests.

**Ask before you act!** Immigration laws are written in a way that require authorization to be done in SEVIS prior to taking the action, so please see an OISS advisor *before* engaging in any activity that may impact your immigration status. The OISS website has information, handouts, procedures, and guidance for our most frequently asked questions – and the OISS staff is here to answer your questions. We are just an email ([oiss@rice.edu](mailto:oiss@rice.edu)) or phone call away (713-348-6095).

We are excited you are here and we hope these tips help keep you cool, calm, and compliant! :)





Office of International Students and Scholars

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS & SCHOLARS PRESENTS

# VIRTUAL ENGLISH & CULTURE CLASSES

CLASSES START IN OCTOBER!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON TO  
[HTTP://OISS.RICE.EDU/ENGLISH-CLASS](http://oiss.rice.edu/english-class)

## What is an I-515A and how to avoid it?

*By Agnes Vajtai*

Before anybody is getting really scared, let me start with it is not a secret code or another deadly virus. But, before anybody is getting very relaxed, it is not something fun either, and the OISS highly recommends avoiding it.



In seeking entry to the United States any international student, exchange visitor and dependent must show proper documentation at the port of entry, which is reviewed by the Customs and Border Protection officer to determine admissibility. It seems to be simple and trivial, yet many times students forget their I-20 or DS-2019 documents at home, pack them in their luggage, or the documents may be missing the required travel endorsement. Even though these scenarios are due to innocent human errors, unfortunately, they all have negative consequences which may involve additional questioning, long waiting in a separate room while the officer is checking your records, worrying about your luggage, missing connecting flights, stressing out whether you'll be able to enter at all, and even losing immigration status or denied entry to the US.

If you find yourself in this situation, it is always the discretion of the officer how to proceed who may deny you entry or may issue a Form I-515A to let you in. This is a document that can be provided to students seeking entry into the US without proper documentation. It allows a temporary stay, usually for 30 days, during which you will need to meet with an OISS advisor, and prove your legal status in the US by collecting and mailing additional documents to the agency. Your request then will be adjudicated, and upon favorable decision, your record will be updated with the correct admission status.

Is the I-515A a bad or a good thing? It certainly seems better than not being able to enter the US at all, and it certainly seems worse than entering smoothly. You may decide yourself, but in either case here are 3 simple steps to avoid this scary and cumbersome process:

- Always bring all of your original immigration documents with you when traveling
- Have your documents in your purse or carry on, and do not pack them in your checked luggage
- Make sure your I-20 or DS-2019 document is signed for travel before you leave the US

For more information please visit: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/01/what-form-i-515a>

Let's be prepared and safe travels to everyone!



## Unconventional programs in an unconventional time

*By Agnes Vajtai*

This year surprised the World with many challenges and the OISS was not excluded either. Responding to these challenges required quick adaptation and some truly unconventional wisdom, not only to handle the many immigration changes but also for providing cultural and hospitality programs, so our internationals could stay connected even during remote work arrangements and social distancing orders.

So what has the OISS done? As soon as the pandemic started and real travel stopped, we started to travel the world with the newly created "My World" virtual tour series and enjoyed breathtaking presentations, pictures and stories our internationals shared about their home country. Then, though still be bounded with our homes, we smelled, tasted and learned to make Brigadeiro, a true Brazilian sweet, via a virtual live cooking show; courtesy of 3 amazing self-made chefs, children of our colleague. OISS' traditional summer events were also switched from in-person visits of local places to virtual game nights and watch parties, online makeup and talent shows with lots of music, celebration and appreciation to one another. Similarly, advisors welcomed the newly arrived visitors and conducted mandatory check-ins via Zoom as well. Who knew working in immigration was never boring?

These events, although unusually executed, besides teaching us new skills brought deeper gratitude to all of us and to the community we serve, but most importantly helped our internationals stay connected and safe.



Know your health plan. The more you understand about your coverage, the more likely you'll be able to use it to your advantage. OISS broke it down for you; check it out on our website and below.

<https://oiss.rice.edu/covid19insurance>

### **If you have AETNA for students**

- Aetna will waive co-pays for all diagnostic testing related to COVID-19.
- Aetna is also waiving early refill limits on 30-day prescription maintenance medications for all members.
- Beginning immediately, CVS Pharmacy will waive charges for home delivery of prescription medications. With the CDC encouraging people at higher risk for COVID-19 complications to stay at home as much as possible, this is a convenient option to avoid coming to the pharmacy for refills or new prescriptions.
- Through Aetna's Healing Better program, members who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will receive a care package containing CVS items to help relieve symptoms. The package will also include personal and household cleaning supplies to help keep others in the home protected from potential exposure.
- Out of Pocket Maximum is \$6000 for an individual or \$12,000 for a family.

You are encouraged to use [TeleDoc](#) for non-emergency care, available at any hour of the day (24/7/365).

If you need to access your insurance ID card or details of your plan, visit [Aetna Student Health](#).

More information can be found at:

<https://www.aetna.com/individuals-families/member-rights-resources/covid...>

<https://www.aetna.com/individuals-families/member-rights-resources/need-...>



The CDC website provides great information about what to do if someone is exposed or has COVID-19: [https://](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sic...)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sic...](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sic...)

# HEALTH CARE

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## & COVID



### **If you have SAS for students**

- Wellfleet covers treatment based on the members specific plan benefits.
  - Wellfleet covers all member costs for all necessary COVID testing at in-network facilities, including emergency room, urgent care, and office visits.
- Wellfleet is covering COVID Testing and Treatment as follows:

#### **Testing**

- **Antigen test** (on-site rapid screening and in-lab test for active COVID-19 disease)
- **PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test** (in-lab test for active COVID-19 disease)
- **Antibody (serology) test** (in-lab test for immune response to late active or past COVID-19 disease)

Testing is covered under the following conditions:

- The test is medically necessary **AND**
  - The member meets CDC/state requirements for testing **AND**
  - An FDA approved test is utilized as ordered by a qualified provider ("Provider") **OR**
  - State regulations mandate coverage of testing without the above requirements being met.
- Wellfleet is covering testing for active disease as noted above, without co-pays, deductibles and co-insurance.

Wellfleet is covering testing for prior disease and immunity as noted above unless regulations state otherwise.

If requesting personal reimbursement, please supply a copy of the receipt.

**Treatment** - Wellfleet is waiving out-of-pocket costs for all COVID-19 treatment until further notice. Wellfleet will waive all co-pays, deductibles and co-insurance. Similar to a preventative visit, like your annual physical, you'll have no out-of-pocket costs for your treatment.

Wellfleet is covering medically necessary testing and treatment at 100% with no out of pocket costs to the student.

More information about the Coronavirus can be found at <https://wellfleetstudent.com/covid-19/>.

# OISS Letter Requests

by Irene Mendez


## WHAT ARE LETTER REQUESTS?

OISS can provide International Students and Scholars with Support Letters that can help facilitate different immigration scenarios.

## WHAT TYPE OF LETTERS CAN I REQUEST?

- Letter of Enrollment
- Visa Renewal Letter for Yourself
- Letter for dependent visa or dependent visa renewal (i.e. F-2, J-2, H-4, etc.)
- Letter of invitation for friend or family to visit you in the U.S.
- Special COVID-19 Visa Application Support Letter

## HOW CAN I REQUEST A LETTER?

1. Go to our website: [oiss.rice.edu](https://oiss.rice.edu)
2. On the main home page scroll down until you encounter this menu: 
3. Click on Letter Requests and follow the instructions to request your letter

Forms and Handouts

Frequently Asked Questions

Important Immigration Updates

Letter Requests

Schedule an Appointment

Submit a document to OISS

The Departure Form

## WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY LETTER?

After you submit your letter request, please allow for 2 business days to receive your letter. Please note that due to COVID-19, all letter request will be processed electronically, and you will receive an emailed copy of your letter once ready.

## I NEED A LETTER BUT IT'S NOT LISTED IN THE LETTER REQUEST FORM, CAN OISS STILL PROVIDE THIS LETTER?

Please email us at [oiss@rice.edu](mailto:oiss@rice.edu). We will review your request and determine if the letter you request can be provided by OISS.

## EMPLOYMENT INFO

### OPT “Priority Processing”

#### *Graduating in December?*

Stay tuned for information on Priority Processing, a special guarantee by OISS to ensure you’ll be able to submit your OPT application to USCIS as early as possible! This year USCIS has proposed an OPT application fee increase which you *may* be able to avoid by using Priority Processing!

By submitting the first part of your OPT application to OISS (i.e. OPT Student Form, OPT Faculty Advisor Form & I-765) by the Priority Processing deadline (to be confirmed via OISS-Announce emails), we guarantee your OPT I-20 will be ready to submit to USCIS at the earliest time when USCIS will allow you to send in your application. Please remember that you don’t need a job offer in order to apply for OPT!

For more information, please see <http://oiss.rice.edu/priorityprocessing/>.

Also check out <http://oiss.rice.edu/studentwork/> for the OPT materials.

### CPT and OPT Information

#### **F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**

[F-1 Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\) Tutorial](#)

[F-1 Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\) Form for Undergraduates](#)

[F-1 Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\) Form for Graduate Students](#)

[Online form for electronic CPT request submissions \(netID login required\)](#)

#### **F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

[F-1 Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) Tutorial](#)

[F-1 Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) Handout](#)

[Cover Letter Template for OPT Application](#)

[Tips on completing the I-765 for OPT application](#)

[Online form for electronic OPT request submissions](#)



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PANEL**  
**Thursday, September 10: 7-8pm CST**

Logos: Center for Career Development, RICE UNIVERSITY OISS, SA, RISSA, GSA, RICE UNIVERSITY KOREAN GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, RICE UNIVERSITY KOREAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Zoom meeting details will be sent out to all who RSVP via Handshake @ [ccd.rice.edu](mailto:ccd.rice.edu)

**CPT/OPT WORKSHOPS**

FALL 2020  
 VIA ZOOM

**Monday - August 31, 4pm**

**Tuesday - September 8, 9am**

**Wednesday - September 16, 2pm**

**Thursday - October 1, 11am**

**Friday - October 16, 1pm**

OISS Office of International Students and Scholars

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

# OISS 2020 SUMMER EVENTS

Online-based events have become the norm this past summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. OISS, famous for its summer events, organized fun-filled activities for the internationals to enjoy. Instead of taking the students and scholars to visit museums, the zoo, the downtown aquarium, NASA, OISS staff stepped up to the challenge and put up some exciting online events for all of us to enjoy! Hope y'all had fun!

## TRIVIA GAME, June 12



## LET'S COOK BRIGADEIRO, June 23



## JACKBOX GAME, June 26



By Marjorie Cerejo

## NETFLIX PARTY, July 2



## MAKEUP CLASS, July 10



## END OF SUMMER TALENT SHOW, July 24



OISS had a lot of fun from watching a movie together, learning how to make *brigadeiro*, playing Jackbox, doing a quick out the door makeup, answering the challenging questions from the trivia game to being delighted watching the students' performances.

The summer events ended on a high note, thanks for each student presentation, especially for Yujie Chen's who played a traditional Chinese instrument – *guzheng* – and won 1st place on the Talent Show!

Thank you for this summer! Looking forward to 2021!

## Are you receiving a scholarship or fellowship?

by Sandra Bloem-Curtis

Are you a Rice sponsored F-1 or J-1 student receiving a taxable scholarship, fellowship, or grant? Do you have the required SSN or ITIN needed to file your taxes?

If you are receiving funding, but do not yet have a tax identification number (SSN or ITIN), you may be eligible to apply for your ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) at OISS through a special provision in US tax law. We highly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to be prepared for tax season in April.

OISS will host ITIN Application Sessions in October to assist you with applying for your ITIN, so please stay tuned to OISS-Announce for dates and times and check out <http://oiss.rice.edu/itin> for details on how to apply.

ITINs can be VERY COMPLICATED to obtain during tax season, so applying early is essential to preventing delays in filing your required U.S. tax return.

By applying for your ITIN early, you will be able to file your taxes on time without the hassle of making an appointment with the IRS to apply for an ITIN during tax season.

By applying for your ITIN early, you will have an easier time completing your tax forms.

By applying for your ITIN early, you can file your taxes on time and have a better chance of receiving any tax refund you may be due.

For more information on tax filing obligations visit: <https://oiss.rice.edu/taxbasics>

### Answer Key for

#### Puzzle on pg. 14

- |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|
| 11. Blue Bell                          |
| 1. Comets.                             |
| 12. Armageddon                         |
| 2. France and Spain                    |
| 13. Beyoncé, Selena Gomez, Jamie Foxx. |
| 3. Dallas                              |
| 14. King Ranch                         |
| 4. Astros                              |
| 15. Friends                            |
| 5. Caddo Lake                          |
| 16. Houston                            |
| 6. Dr Pepper                           |
| 17. Armadillo                          |
| 7. Heisman                             |
| 18. NASA                               |
| 8. Flagship                            |
| 19. Austin                             |
| 9. Pecos                               |
| 20. Texas                              |
| 10. Lyndon B. Johnson                  |

Thank you to the AMAZING  
2020 UIO Advising Team!

<https://oiss.rice.edu/uiostaff>



## Find Words and Learn about Texas

Try to find as many words as you can. Words are written from left to right, from right to left, from top to bottom, from bottom to top or in any direction of a diagonal.

T	A	L	C	O	M	E	T	S	P	N	I	L	E	S
T	E	X	M	E	X	S	P	A	I	N	K	A	I	E
E	D	A	L	L	A	S	T	T	R	O	S	N	R	L
B	L	T	S	O	R	T	S	A	N	A	M	H	O	I
F	R	F	H	K	M	U	Z	W	N	N	U	G	C	N
R	S	R	O	C	A	D	D	O	L	A	K	E	K	A
A	A	I	U	U	D	R	P	E	P	P	E	R	E	G
N	X	E	S	J	I	H	E	I	S	M	A	N	T	O
C	E	N	T	F	L	A	G	S	H	I	P	B	S	M
E	T	D	O	R	L	B	E	L	S	O	C	E	P	E
N	O	S	N	H	O	J	B	N	O	D	N	Y	L	Z
B	L	U	E	B	E	L	L	T	Z	E	P	O	L	L
H	I	L	A	R	M	A	G	E	D	D	O	N	T	E
A	J	A	M	I	E	F	O	X	X	D	O	C	P	M
T	E	L	K	I	N	G	R	A	N	C	H	E	E	L

## Find the Words!

1. Name of the only basketball team in the country who won four back-to-back WNBA championships. 1997-2000.
2. Six nations have occupied the region now called Texas. Two of them were European, which ones?
3. In which Texas city were both the micro-chip and frozen margarita machine invented?
4. The Minute Maid stadium is home of the baseball team called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Name of the only natural lake in the state of Texas.
6. Name of a popular soda invented in Waco Texas, in 1885. (Still uses pure imperial cane sugar in its product.)
7. Name of the trophy named after the first full-time coach and athletic director at Rice University in Houston.
8. Name of a hotel in Galveston, which is the only hotel in North America built entirely over the water.
9. This Texas city held the world's first rodeo in 1883.

10. Who is the most recent US president to be born in Texas?
11. Name of a Texan creamery (ice cream) founded in 1907.
12. Name of the 1998 American science fiction disaster film that follows a group of deep-core drillers sent by NASA to stop a gigantic asteroid on a collision course with Earth. (Filmed in Texas!)
13. Names of 3 famous Texan singers.
14. Name of the first ranch in Texas, which is almost the size of Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio combined. It is also the nation's largest cattle company.
15. What does the word "Texas" mean? (Comes from the Hasinai Indian word *tejas* meaning \_\_\_\_.)
16. What was the first word spoken from the moon on July 20, 1969?
17. Which is the official Texas state mammal?
18. Name of the U.S. government agency that is responsible for science and technology related to air and space?
19. Capital of Texas, also considered the live music capital of the world.
20. Which one of the US states is the "Lone Star State"?

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- **Hayden Xu**, *Math Economics*

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