

## Alumni Global Programming: Frequently Asked Questions

*(All FAQs -- Full Version)*

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## Registration Overview

### What are the Global offerings for Rice Business alumni?

Alumni international immersion programming is offered for the MBA Class of 2021 only and will include several days in-country focused on the cultural context of business along with social activities throughout the week. The program will include hotel accommodations, in-country transportation, some meals, cultural activities and social/networking opportunities. Alumni global offerings will travel to Portugal, Argentina, Peru, and Germany.

### Who can register for the global trip?

This is a global trip offered to the Full-Time, Professional and Executive MBA Class of 2021 only, because they were not able to participate in a previously planned in-country global field experience.

### Can I bring a guest?

Yes, alumni are permitted to invite one (1) guest to accompany them on the trip for an additional program fee. The guest fee is \$2500. Guests must be over the age of 18 to be eligible.

### When can I register for the course?

Registration for the all Alumni Global Programs open on Friday, September 24, 2021. Please note the individual deadlines to register, as some programs have earlier deadlines than others.

Program Dates	Location	Registration Deadline	Deposit Due to Hold Seat	Final Payment Due	Deadline to Make Hotel Changes
March 26 - March 31	Lima, Peru	October 28, 2021	November 7, 2021	December 27, 2021	January 26, 2022
May 6 - May 11	Lisbon, Portugal	December 7, 2021	December 17, 2021	February 4, 2022	March 7, 2022
June 10-June 15	Berlin, Germany	January 3, 2022	January 13, 2022	March 4, 2022	April 4, 2022
October 21 - 26	Buenos Aires, Argentina	May 24, 2022	June 3, 2022	July 22, 2022	August 22, 2022

#### [What information is required to register?](#)

Alumni will register for Alumni Global Programs through the Alumni Global Landing Page on Rice Business, which will be available on September 24, 2021. To secure your space in the course, alumni and guests will be required to place a deposit, which is fully refundable, as well as your full name, basic contact information, MBA cohort, and NetID. If you plan to bring a guest, you will need to provide their full name, phone number and email address.

#### [Where can I learn about the details of the trip content and destination?](#)

Once registration is open, we will provide tentative full itineraries of each program. All trip details will be available on the Alumni Global Landing Page.

### General Questions

#### [Will there be an academic component to this trip?](#)

The trips are structured to follow the general “Doing Business In” elective model. These academic components will focus on general ‘Doing Business In’ these regions, while also addressing the specific themes relevant to each country.

#### [Will there be Rice Business staff or faculty on these trips?](#)

We fully anticipate having at least one faculty and staff (including potential Dean level leadership) on each trip.

#### [Am I eligible to enroll in more than one international trip?](#)

No, in order to maximize opportunity for all 2021 alumni to attend an international trip, alumni and guests can only select one trip to join.

#### [Are all of the trips similar across the different locations?](#)

Each global alumni trip is unique to the destination country. However, all trips will follow a similar structure and balance between academic and social/cultural engagements.

#### [Will we be able to bring guests?](#)

Yes. Alumni can invite one guest over the age of 18 years old for an additional program fee of \$2500.

#### [Can I extend my stay in the country for personal travel?](#)

Yes. Additionally, you have the opportunity to purchase a trip extension through Rice Business, which varies by each trip. Program extensions are 2 to 3 day additional tourism packages. Details about the tourism extension packages will be released once the registration deadline closes. Alumni cannot purchase an extension package without participating in the core program.

#### [How much money should I expect to spend?](#)

Alumni and guests are responsible for purchasing and booking their own flights, securing passports and visas if necessary. We will also offer an option to book additional nights in your room (pre or post) under our group rate, which would be a personal expense. That being said, the majority of in-country meals, all

accommodations, transportation and cultural and social activities will be included. We typically advise participants to anticipate spending ~\$300 in country on late night outings and tourist purchases.

#### Will I be responsible for booking my own flight?

Yes. For all Rice Business global courses, alumni and guests are responsible for booking and purchasing their own flights. Additionally, Rice Business will be unable to reimburse for any financial loss of canceled flights, regardless of the circumstance, so we highly recommend purchasing flight insurance to assist with the unknown issues or changes that could arise.

#### When can I book my flight?

Once you receive confirmation in the trip, you can purchase flights. We strongly recommend purchasing flight insurance. Additionally, we will inform alumni and guests of the arrival airport and offer recommended arrival and departure times.

#### Is a passport or visa required?

Below you will find important information regarding your passport and visa requirements. Visas are not required for U.S. passport holders to the trip locations; however, we encourage alumni and guests traveling with foreign passports to determine whether a visa is necessary.

Please confirm that your passport is valid for your international travel and meets the following minimum requirements:

- All travelers will need a passport valid for at least 6 months validity on your passport at all times.
- All travelers are required to have at least two free pages in the Visas section of your passport before travel.

If you do not have a valid passport, or your current passport will not meet these requirements, apply for a new passport as soon as possible! Follow this link to apply for/renew your US passport: [Click Here](#)

Typically, these locations do not require US Passport holders to apply for a tourist visa, but due to ever-changing laws, please research the tourist visa policies associated with your passport. Citizens of certain countries are required to obtain a visa prior to their travel. Due to the number of days in the country, you may need a tourist visa, not a student visa. Rice Business can provide supporting documents, such as proof of enrollment, hotel confirmations, etc., though only upon your timely request. For more information regarding visas, [VisaHQ](#) is an agency specializing in Visa management that indicates which citizens need Tourist Visas.

It is your responsibility to research the visa requirements and to obtain the required visas prior to your international travel.

Once you register, if we determine your passport nationality requires a visa, you will be contacted with supporting documents to apply for your tourist visa. Rice Business will not apply for or process visas on behalf of alumni.

## International Travel and Medical Insurance

### Will Rice Business provide international travel and medical insurance for alumni and guests?

Yes. Rice Business holds a group policy for all MBA alumni and guests traveling on alumni global trips, so you will not be responsible for purchasing international travel and medical insurance coverage. An overview of our international insurance policy can be found the Alumni Travel Resource page.

We also recommend alumni and guests purchase flight insurance as an extra level of protection, and if applicable, trip protection insurance for additional nights/activities outside of course itinerary.

In case of filing a claim with the group insurance policy, alumni and guests are responsible for filing and managing the claim with support of International SOS. Under no circumstances will Rice Business file claims on behalf of alumni and guests.

### Does my private insurance provide coverage?

Rice Business cannot advise about private insurance coverage. We encourage you to contact your provider directly to understand your eligibility, coverage and benefits if you have questions about you policy.

### Am I required to buy flight insurance?

Rice Business does not require that alumni and guests obtain flight insurance; however, we highly encourage alumni and guests obtain flight insurance, as Rice Business will not refund alumni and guests for financial loss due to cancelation or changes for any reason.

## COVID-19 Considerations

### Will we be required to be COVID vaccinated?

As the situation stands, Rice Business will not require the COVID vaccine for travel or a negative COVID test upon departure, but this could potentially be required for the entry into the destination country. That being said this policy could change, as we will always follow guidelines suggested or enforced by Rice University, International SOS and the CDC.

### Where can I learn more about COVID-19 in the country I'm traveling to?

For continuous and live updates from the U.S. Embassy and CDC about each country's COVID-19 mandates, please see the following:

- Argentina: [CDC](#) and [U.S. Embassy](#)
- Portugal: [CDC](#) and [U.S. Embassy](#)
- Germany: [CDC](#) and [U.S. Embassy](#)
- Peru: [CDC](#) and [U.S. Embassy](#)

As the program date approaches, Rice Business will contact alumni and guests via email with updated information and deadline reminders. With that being said, it is solely the alumni's responsibility to pay for and complete all necessary COVID-19 tests, Ministry of Health online registrations/surveys, and any other requirement in order to travel. If you are unable to enter the country because of negligence, Rice Business is unable to provide financial assistance, reimbursement for financial loss, or course credit.

### What are the current COVID-19 quarantine and testing requirements for entry to the destination country?

While most countries have different entry requirements, especially depending on the traveler's country of origin, almost all countries are requesting proof of a negative COVID-19 test conducted within 72 hours of boarding the plane. Arranging the appointment, paying for, and providing proper documentation to airlines/government officials is solely the traveler's responsibility.

### What happens if a participant travels without proof of testing?

Traveling without a negative COVID-19 test result can make the traveler subject to refusal of entry and/or mandatory testing at the cost of the passenger, as well as a mandatory quarantine until receiving the results of the test. Rice Business will not be held responsible for financial loss due to insufficient preparation or a positive COVID-19 PCR test before traveling.

### Will there be COVID-19 restrictions while traveling abroad?

While traveling abroad, Rice Business will follow all guidelines and mandates issued by the host country. Given the fluid nature of the pandemic, we cannot predict exact mandates these countries will enforce, but we believe they will not impede the trip outcomes and overall alumni satisfaction.

### What if the trip is canceled due to another COVID-19 outbreak?

Rice Business is committed to the Class of 2021 Global Experience and we will analyze options as the situation develops.

### What if there is a COVID-19 outbreak while we are in country and cannot return home on scheduled end date?

In the case of a COVID-19 outbreak that causes border closures or airline cancellations, we have crisis management protocols in place, including International SOS, and this is a reason Rice Business purchased a group policy for international travel and medical insurance. We also work with in-country partners who will be able to provide local assistance to secure necessities for alumni and guests. However, it will be the alumni's responsibility to coordinate filing claims and reimbursements via International SOS and the group insurance provider. Any additional expenses incurred outside of program costs will be the traveler's responsibility, as COVID-19 is now considered a known risk and this travel is optional by nature.

Details of the insurance policy coverage can be found on the Alumni Trip Resources Page.

### Do travelers need a negative COVID-19 test required before entry to their destination?

Some destinations require a negative PCR test within 72 hours of arrival to your destination. Arranging the appointment, paying for, and providing proper documentation to airlines/government officials is solely the alumni's responsibility. If a traveler is unable to enter the country because of negligence and is unable to travel, Rice Business is unable to provide financial assistance, reimbursement for financial loss or accommodation on a different alumni global offering.

## Other Health & Safety

### Is it safe to travel to the location where my Cohort Specific Elective is hosted?

Within Rice University, all Rice Business courses and/or trips abroad are registered through the Rice University Risk Management team. This allows Risk Management to actively update staff, faculty and alumni and guests on any concerns or issues related to the destinations of travel.

Additionally, all Rice University alumni and guests, staff and faculty are covered by International SOS, which is the world's largest medical and travel security services firm. International SOS specializes in medical assistance, travel security advice and information, emergency services, healthcare, evacuation and repatriation services. All Rice Business Global trips are also registered within the International SOS platform to ensure the most up-to-date information on any issues related to the destination at hand. ISOS also provides services to our alumni and guests in country if there were to be any events that take place while traveling.

Lastly, we work with full teams of individuals stationed directly in these cities abroad and have local Risk Management teams that we work with to provide the safest atmosphere possible for our alumni and guests. This team is also responsible for the safety of our alumni and guests and guarantee that alumni and guests will a) not be sent to an unsafe destination, b) provide real time updates on issues and concerns and c) work with Rice University to organize a back-up plan if necessary.

Given the guidance and access to the resources provided above, we promise our Rice alumni that we would never send a class to a dangerous population. All potential concerns for travel and/or areas nearby travel will be discussed up front and resources for those concerns will be provided.

Ultimately, if our alumni and guests have personal apprehensions for travel, medical concerns for travel are always taken into the highest considerations. Our alumni's safety and comfort is our highest priority.

### How do I find information for vaccines and immunizations before travel?

Please review the [Passport Health](#) site that reviews those that are recommended. This website also provides of great information in general about traveling internationally.

Check your routine vaccinations are up to date (polio; varicella; measles, mumps and rubella; tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, seasonal influenza). If you have specific questions or concerns, see a travel health practitioner 6 to 8 weeks before departure for destination-specific health preparations.

### What is International SOS – Global Assistance Service? How can I access it?

International SOS is free service that Rice provides for faculty, staff and alumni and guests who are traveling abroad on a university related trip. This has been extremely helpful in the past for alumni and guests who have emergencies while abroad, especially those that are medically related. Please note that International ISOS is not an insurance policy.

**Member ID number 11BYSG000011**

<https://www.internationalsos.com/member-zone>

Operating in over 70 countries, International SOS is the world's leading international healthcare, medical assistance and security services company organization with international operations. A global team of 11,000 employees led by 5,600 medical professionals and 200 security specialists provides health and

security support to enable its members to operate wherever they work or travel. Click the following [here](#) for an informative and interactive e-learning module which outlines membership services available to you.

**Services Include:**

**Medical Assistance Services:**

- 24-hour access to ISOS worldwide alarm centers staffed with multilingual coordinators
- Emergency and routine medical advice by ISOS physicians
- Medical and dental referrals
- Medical evacuation/repatriation
- Outpatient case management
- Arrange for inpatient admission and identify receiving physician
- Arrange ground transportation and accommodation for accompanying family members
- Assistance with documentation for insurance claim forms
- Repatriation of mortal remains

**Travel Assistance Services:**

- Legal referrals
- Emergency message transmission
- Lost document advice and assistance
- Compassionate visit/family travel assistance
- Return of minors

**Travel-Personal Time**

- Rice University members can purchase ISOS travel assistance services while traveling on vacation and receive a 20% discount.
- To learn more about this option go to the link to International SOS Travel Registration Website.

**Security Assistance Services:**

- 24-hour access to ISOS security specialists who provide up-to-date security and safety information.
- Access to security crisis center
- Coordination and transportation for security evacuations

**Additional Services:**

**For Countries with ISOS Clinics and/or Alarm Centers**

- Access to ISOS member-only clinics for primary and 24-hour emergency care
- Country-specific information
- In-country ISOS resources (staff and facilities)
- Direct 24-hour access to local alarm centers for medical information, referrals and appointments

**On-line Services:**

**Services via International SOS Online:**

- On-line Country Guides (English language)
- On-line Security Country Reports
- On-line Security City Guides
- Employee sign-up/registration for receipt of emailed medical and security Alerts and Situation Updates as they happen.



### **Steps To Take To Access and Navigate The International SOS Site**

- To access this site you must log into the International SOS site using your NetID and password.
- Once on the site go to personal travel locator.
- You will need to copy the auto-generated Member ID number 11BYSG000011 and then select Set Up New User name and password.
- You will need to create a unique User name and a strong user password
- Once your information is set up, create a name for your trip (e.g., country, month and year: i.e. Argentina 2022).
- Print and take your International SOS member card with you when you travel abroad.
- You may also add the flight information
- You can create a profile and/or enter travel itinerary information at <https://www.internationalsos.com/member-zone>
- Link to access information on the [International SOS Membership App](#)

### **How do I utilize International SOS if I'm in an emergency situation while traveling?**

We highly recommend alumni and guests download the International SOS app (can be found on the iOS App Store or Android Google Play Store) and create a profile, which includes the Rice University Member ID, your full name, contact information and emergency contact information. The app has features to assist you and the university during an emergency. Two key features include on the International SOS: a “tap to call” feature to connect with an International SOS representative and a location ‘pin drop’ allowing Rice administrations to see your location to provide assistance. Please note: you must allow the International SOS app to access location services in the settings of your phone.

Another way to access International SOS if you are abroad, and a medical or security situation arises, contact International SOS as soon as possible at +1 215-942-8478 (you may call collect) for immediate advice or referral to an appropriate healthcare facility or safe haven. Make sure you provide the operator with the Rice membership number.

### **Should I enroll in the U.S. Department of State's STEP (Safe Traveler Enrollment Program)?**

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you would like to create a travel notification, you can do so directly on the STEP website: <https://step.state.gov/>