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Welcome



RICE

Agenda

- Rice Teams
- The MBA Journey – Requirements
- Rice Account and Email
- I-20 Process
- OISS Portal
- Next Steps
- FAQ

The Rice Teams and Acronyms

- RAO – Recruiting and Admissions Office
- Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience
- CDO – Career Development Office
- OISS – Office of International Students and Scholars

MBA Next Steps & Requirements

Admitted Students Website

Student Application Portal

ADMISSIONS

Pay Deposit

Official Test Scores

Official Transcripts
and Evaluations

Attend Events

PROGRAM

Onboarding Checklists

Remove Holds

Attend Launch

VISA PROCESS

OISS Process



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MBA Visa Process Overview

Pay Deposit

Activate NetID and Email (starting when prompted – around March). Watch for two separate messages.

Create OISS Profile

Upload Documents (for I-20) - OISS starts processing I-20 around March

Attend Admitted Students Events (RAO – January - June)

Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience provides student life info (starting May/June)

Arrive on campus (7/1 onward) check in with OISS and Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience

Rice Account & Email

- ESTHER
 - Purpose: You will register* for your classes, pay your tuition, check your grades, fill out most of your course evaluations, etc.
- NetID and Email Activation
(helpdesk@rice.edu)
- Keep checking your application portal and email for updates
- RAO uses your application (personal) email to communicate
- OISS Portal invitations will be sent to your personal email address
- Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience uses your Rice email address

*You will be registered for your fall classes.

I-20 Process

- **Primary contact: OISS Team (oiss@rice.edu)**
- Pay your MBA deposit
- Starting in March, Rice record NetID and email created
- NetID created email sent
- Tech Pack* email sent (could be several days after NetID email)
- RAO sends admissions documents to OISS
- OISS starts sending invites to activate OISS Portal (from oiss@rice.edu) to personal emails
<https://oiss.rice.edu/oissportal>
- Upload necessary documents
- Documents verified, if all is well I-20 issued (starting in March/April) via email

*Deferred students might face delays

I-20 Process

- If a student intends to use a loan as proof of funding for the I-20, OISS requires confirmation of a fully approved loan (conditional loan approvals are not acceptable)
- Upon receiving your I-20 form, you can apply for your F-1 visa.
- **I-20 start date is scheduled for August 3, 2026.**
- Visa interviews
 - please give regular updates about your appointments to the OISS team and the Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience.

OISS and The OISS Portal

- Services: <https://oiss.rice.edu/>
- Portal: <https://oiss.rice.edu/oissportal>
- Review the list of necessary documents before you receive the portal activation email
- Activate portal account
- Upload documents
- OISS reviews documents (could take 2 weeks)
- Track progress on your OISS portal
- Once approved, I-20 will be emailed

OISS – Pre-Departure

- [Pre Arrival Information](#)
- Housing: <https://housing.rice.edu/graduate-housing>
- Complete your Immigration Check-in within 15 days of arrival in the U.S.
Make your travel plans accordingly.

Next Steps - RAO

- Confirm your address when prompted.
- Keep checking your application portal for events, updates and program notices, you can also see which official materials you'll need to provide.
- BEFORE you start your program, the RAO needs official copies of*:
 - Test Scores
 - Transcripts
 - Credential Evaluations:
 - [SpanTran: The Evaluation Company](#)
 - [Educational Credential Evaluators](#)
 - [World Education Services](#)
- RAO [Admitted Student Website & Events](#)
- You cannot start the program without providing your official materials.

Next Steps - Office of Academic Programs and Student Experience

- Program related questions
- RAO will start transitioning you to this team in late spring
- Complete your Pre-MBA courses (you'll need your NetID before you have access)
- Summer Scoop - Onboarding Newsletters (starts in June)
- B-Speak! – CDO initiative (profile and 10 hrs. of coaching)
- Onboarding Checklist – To-Do List
- International Student Launch (Orientation) – August 3-7
- Launch Week – Starts on August 10

Frequently Asked Questions

- Registering for classes
 - The registrar department will enroll you in your fall courses. The Rice MBA program is cohort-based and the classes that you will take during your first year have been determined by Rice Business.
- Can I miss Launch?
 - No. Launch is a requirement with academic content that will tie to your grades throughout the year.
- Travel Restrictions
 - Watch for frequently changing updates. F1 visa students often are exempt.

Frequently Asked Questions

- When can I enter the US?
 - F-1 students can enter the U.S. within a 30-day window leading up to I-20 start date.
- Transferring SEVIS
 - If a student is already in valid F-1 status in the U.S., the SEVIS record can be transferred, and a new I-20 can be issued without the student having to leave the country. However, the new academic program must begin within 5 months of the previous program's completion.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

