



Adria L. Baker, Ed.D., RO
Associate Vice Provost for International Education
Executive Director, Office of International Students & Scholars

Dear ARRUF member,

The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) is proud to introduce to you the International Friends at Rice (IFR), cross-cultural exchange friendship program between Rice's newly-arrived graduate international students and yourself. The OISS would be honored to have you join us. The goal is to meet with your international student friend about 3-4 times during the student's first six months at Rice.

As you know, our international students are a phenomenal group and they would greatly benefit from your support. Engaging in cross-cultural conversations can help internationals flourish at Rice, both academically and socially, and will have a lasting impact for years to come. One of our recent doctoral students had the following to say about his U.S. Friends at his graduation last May:

"They (U.S. Friend) listen to me, care for me, and support me for both my up and down times when pursuing PhD degree at Rice. It means a lot for me, a typical international student who has chosen to seek further development in U.S. grad schools. The point of contact, the friendship, and the support makes me stronger, and understand people and things around me better, and eventually makes me a better self."

We would love to have you, your family and/or friends in our international friendship group and share in the cross-cultural experience that enriches all of us at Rice.

Steps to join:

1. Submit a U.S. Friend Application online (refer to: <http://oiss.rice.edu/ifr/>)
2. Attend a 1-hour IFR Orientation session at OISS (see website for dates, or we can set up a special one just for your group, at a time that works for you)
3. Attend the Meet & Greet Dinner (September 18, 2018; 6-8:00pm)
4. Meet with your international graduate student(s) 3-4 times during the first six months at Rice University

Questions are always welcome! We look forward to having you become a part of the IFR program and join as a U.S. Friend for our incoming graduate international students.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adria L. Baker".

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