Cultural Differences that Impact the Research Group

Informal Lunch Discussions
Women Faculty – Science and Engineering
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Who are the internationals at Rice University?

The OISS is responsible for tracking, reporting, and providing services for 2000+ internationals at Rice.

The total international population is a 11.7% increase from last year.
The overall graduate international student population increased by 6.8% from last year. **Total graduate internationals = 767**

The overall undergraduate international student population increased significantly by 40% from last year. **Total undergraduate internationals = 285**

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**International Student Enrollment Trends at Rice**

![Graduate vs. Undergraduate International Student Enrollment (1986-2009)](chart)

- **Graduate**
- **Undergraduate**
The largest percent of international students at Rice University study in one of the Engineering fields, with Natural Science in second. Architecture, Music, and Business Administration remained almost the same as last year.
Differences Between Eastern and Western Culture

Slides adapted

The images were created by Yan Liu, a Chinese individual who was raised in Germany.

http://www.yangliudesign.com/

Blue --> Westerner
Red --> Asian
Opinion
Way of Life
View of Self
Handling of Problems
The Boss
Cultural Challenges

• Language challenges
• Food changes
• Personal space
• Religion
• Social norms
• Relationship boundaries
• Traditional social network

Kohls, L. Robert, *Interncultural Network/Systran Publications*
OISS Programs Attempt to Bridge Cultural Challenges

• SIR (Spouses of Internationals at Rice)
• Free English & Culture Classes
• VIP (Valuable International Perspectives)
• FISS (Friends of International Students & Scholars)
• IEW (International Education Week)
• Other Campus Cultural Events, i.e., Culture Fair

Other Considerations

• Language and Communication
• Business Norm Differences
• Immigration Laws (Benefits and Restrictions)
• DPS (Department of Public Safety)
• SSN (Social Security Number)
• Insurance (and for dependents)
• Housing
Cultural Differences that Impact the Research Group

Questions & Discussion

Thank you!