



RICE

NanoREIS: Research Experiences for International Students at Rice University

Undergraduate, graduate students, and post-docs from TeraNano PIRE partner institutions in Japan, or other countries, are welcome to apply to Rice University for unpaid, non-credit bearing, short-term research internships of 6 – 12 months in laboratories at Rice University. To be eligible, students must be able to **meet all immigration requirements** for [J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa \(graduate students or post-docs\)](#) or a [J-1 Internship Visa \(undergraduate students\)](#) and must be **fully funded** by home university, governmental scholarship/fellowship, personal funds or any combination thereof. Visiting international research students at Rice must show financial support of at least \$2,000 per month for the duration of time they will be at Rice. Immigration, required documentation, and minimum funding requirements are subject to change.

Application Submission & Deadline: The documents below must be submitted to Rice University at least four months prior to your preferred start date.

Housing Note: On-campus housing at Rice is only available from June 1 – July 31. Outside of these dates, students must rent housing through local landlords. See Other Costs (item 9) for more information.

Application Part 1: Submit the documents below to TeraNano PIRE Director, Prof. Junichiro Kono, via email at kono@rice.edu. He will review and determine if there is a suitable research internship placement at Rice University based on your academic background and research interests and host lab availability. If a research internship placement can be made, Rice University will then provide you with further information on the documentation required to apply for your J-1 visa and provide you with information on available housing resources (see Part 2).

1. **Statement of Interest:** Submit a 1-2 page statement of interest in English addressing the following:
 - a. What is your academic background and current research interest?
 - b. Why do you want to conduct a research internship in the U.S. and at Rice?
 - c. Which Rice University professors or laboratories would you like to work with? (if known)
 - d. What are your preferred start and end dates? Your start date must be at least 4 months from the date of application.
 - e. How will your internship be funded? For visa purposes, Rice University requires applicants show proof of financial support of at least \$2,000 per month (see item 7 below). Proof of funding can be shown through personal funds, scholarships/fellowships, or funding from your home university/laboratory.

2. **Current CV or Resume**

Application Part 2: If Prof. Kono determines that a suitable internship placement can be found for you, he will contact you to confirm and then forward your information to Michelle Robertson. She will then work with you on processing all documents required to begin the J-1 visa application process at Rice. You will need to submit the required documents below to her via email at mvb2@rice.edu.

3. **Scanned Copy of Photograph Page of your Passport**
4. **Undergraduates Only: Verification of Current Enrollment as a Degree-Seeking Student in Good Academic Standing:** Undergraduates (B1 – B4) must obtain a letter from their home university, typically from their registrar’s office, verifying that they are a currently-enrolled, degree-seeking student in good academic standing. This letter must be in English or translated into English.
5. **Proof of Financial Support:** Visiting international research students at Rice must show financial support of at least \$2,000 per month for the duration of time they will be at Rice. All applicants must be **fully funded** by home university, governmental scholarship/fellowship, other sponsor, personal funds or any combination thereof. Proof of financial support can be shown by providing any combination of the below that meets the minimum requirement of at least \$2,000 per month in financial support (e.g. for 12 week internship you must show proof of \$6,000 in funding).
 - a. Proof of financial support to be provided by home university or laboratory
 - b. Proof of financial support from governmental scholarship or other sponsor
 - c. Proof of individual financial support in the form a copy of your personal bank statement
 - d. Any combination of the above that meets the minimum required balance of at least \$2,000 per month for the duration of your internship.
6. **Verification of English Language Ability (Test Scores):** Visa regulations require that applicants provide proof of English language ability as follows.
 - a. TOEFL Score of at least 90 on the iBT (internet-based) TOEFL
OR
 - b. TOEFL score of at least 600 on the paper-based TOEFL
OR
 - c. TOEFL score of 250 on the computer-based TOEFL
OR
 - d. IELTS score of at least 7
OR
 - e. If you do not meet these minimum test requirements see the English Interview option below.
7. **Verification of English-language Ability (Interview):** Students who do not meet the minimum scores on the English-language ability tests must complete an English Proficiency Skype interview with the Rice Center for Written, Oral and Visual Communication (CWOVC).
 - a. **Request Interview:** Contact Michelle Robertson at mvb2@rice.edu to request an interview and include your Skype ID. Email her all required documentation above (items 1 – 7) at the same time. You may sign up for Skype for free at www.skype.com.
 - b. **Payment:** Prior to the interview, you must pay the \$30 USD interview fee to Rice University. Obtain an [International Postal Money Order](#) from your local post office for \$30 USD that is made payable to 'Rice University'. The address to send the money order to is:

Michelle Robertson
ATTN: NanoREIS
Rice University
6100 Main St., MS-378
Houston, TX 77005

We can also accept payment via wire transfer if you are not able to obtain an International Postal Money order in US dollars from your country. Contact Michelle for wire transfer instructions.

- c. **Interview:** At the time of your scheduled interview, you should login to Skype, and the interviewer from the CWOVC will contact you. The interview will last approximately 1 hour and will be a structured conversation designed to assess your spoken English language skills.
 - d. **Score:** After the interview, you will be notified via email whether you are deemed to have the minimum English-language proficiency required by Rice.
 - i. **Score - Proficient:** If deemed proficient by the CWOVC, we will continue with your application process and you will not need to complete any further steps regarding your English skills.
 - ii. **Score – Not Proficient → English Class Required:** If you are not deemed proficient, you may still apply to conduct research at Rice, but you will be required to enroll in an English conversation class at Rice.
 1. **Cost & Duration:** \$300 for a 12-week class that meets one hour per week. The cost cannot be pro-rated. If staying for less than 12 weeks you must still pay the full fee of \$300.
 2. **Attendance:** Required for the duration of your internship (e.g. attend class 8 times if your internship is 8 weeks).
 3. **Decline Internship:** You may opt to delay your internship at Rice and re-apply in the future.
8. **Receiving the DS-2019 Form:** Once all documentation and proof of English language ability has been received by Rice, it will be forwarded to the Office of International Students and Scholars who will process the J-1 visa request on your behalf. They will then issue a DS-2019 form that will be mailed to you. You will then need to use the information contained on this form to schedule your visa interview with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Once your J-1 visa has been issued, you can make your travel plans and should contact Michelle for assistance with planning your arrival at Rice.
9. **Other Costs:** Additional costs applicants should budget for include, but are not limited to, the following.
- a. **Visa Application Costs:** See the [U.S. Embassy in Japan's website](#), or the U.S. embassy in your country, for current visa application fees and an overview of the application process. If accepted for an internship at Rice, you will be applying for a J-1 Exchange (graduate students and post-docs) or a J-1 Intern (undergraduates) visa. You cannot begin the visa application process until after Rice University sends you a DS-2019 form but you can review this website to better understand the steps you will have to take.

- b. **SEVIS Fee:** In addition to the visa application fee, all J-1 visa holders must also pay a SEVIS fee. For more information see the [U.S. Embassy in Japan's website](#) or contact the U.S. embassy in your country.

- c. **Health Insurance:** All international students, scholars, and short-term researchers in the U.S. must provide proof of health, accident, and repatriation insurance that meets the minimum requirements set by the federal government. Rice University offers the Alternative Insurance Plan for short-term research scholars/interns. See <http://oiss.rice.edu/scholarhealthinsurance/> for an overview of health insurance requirements for J-1 scholars and see item 2 on this page for the link to the Alternative Insurance Plan. The minimum duration for coverage on this plan is 3 months.

- d. **Housing:** Housing costs in Houston have been rising, especially in the area surrounding Rice University. If you have shown proof of the minimum funding required by Rice, \$2,000 per month for the duration of your stay, you should have more than adequate funds available to cover housing and living costs. Individual costs will vary based on available housing, how often you eat out vs. cooking at home, and transportation costs if you are not within walking or biking distance of campus.
 - i. **Reserving Housing:** Please do not reserve housing in advance of confirmation of your internship placement. The information below is provided for information/planning purposes only. Once your internship has been approved, Michelle will contact applicants with updated information on housing.
 - ii. **On-campus housing** is only available at Rice from June 1 – July 31 and must be reserved at least 3 months in advance of arrival on a space-available basis. To apply see <http://campushousing.rice.edu/summerhousingnonricestudents/>.
 - iii. **Off-campus housing:** From August 1 to May 31 visiting research interns will need to find off-campus housing through independent landlords or hotels. Short-term, furnished housing options off-campus close to campus are very limited and typical rents range from \$1,00 - \$1,200 per month. See the [Rice Off-Campus Housing Listings](#) for current short-term rental availability. These listings are for individual landlords that are not affiliated with or endorsed/approved by Rice University. This website is provided as an informational resource for Rice students and visitors only.