

RICE MSA 2021-2022

New Student Guide



Message from Co-Presidents

Assalamu'alaikum everyone,

Our names are Alina Naqvi and Talha Arif, and we're your MSA co-presidents for this year!

There is no doubt that matriculating to Rice amidst yet another wave of the pandemic is daunting. However, the MSA is here for you, and our entire board is immensely excited for your arrival. After a majority-virtual year, we have so many plans to improve our organization. From Islam Immersion Week, inter-college events and Showdown, to our weekly lunches and Jummah prayers, we hope to cater events that appeal to all members and interests!

Finding some of our closest friends through the MSA has undoubtedly been one of our most meaningful experiences at Rice. As a result, we're determined to foster a more welcoming, loving community within the MSA, and we're here to help you gain the support network that an MSA should offer ALL of its members.

After a tumultuous year, we're looking forward to returning to a sense of normalcy; yet, some things are permanently different. Following the murder of George Floyd, the socioeconomic disparities COVID-19 plainly revealed to the nation, and a surge in anti-Asian hate, we knew the MSA needed to expand its goals. Rather than staying silent, the MSA needs to both advocate for and represent its members, and stand for all groups and populations. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was narrated to have said, "Whoever among you sees evil, let him change it with his hand. If he is unable to do so, then with his tongue. If he is unable to do so, then with his heart, and that is the weakest level of faith" (Sahih Muslim).

That's why one of our goals for this year is to work proactively with organizations both within Rice and across Houston to become stronger allies and uphold values of fairness and justice, whether through participating in movements and protests for our Palestinian and Uyghur brothers and sisters, highlighting and supporting marginalized communities within our Ummah, or organizing fundraisers to help others. We look to honestly reflect on our own shortcomings and continually determine ways to grow, and we hope you will join us in this mission.

We're already preparing for this semester—we look forward to introducing ourselves in person and welcoming you to an amazing, diverse organization with so much to offer!

Welcome to Rice!

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BOARD MEMBERS

"And verily this Ummah of yours is one Ummah and I am your Lord and Cherisher, therefore fear Me and no other." (Quran 23:52)

Presidents



Talha Arif, Co-President:

Salaam, I'm Talha - I'm one of the MSA Co-Presidents for this year! I'm a senior from Will Rice, majoring in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience and I'm pre-med. I live an hour outside Houston and one of my favorite things to do with friends is to explore the city finding new halal foods, so let me know if you ever need recommendations! I'm looking forward to leading the organization in a year of growth, increased community involvement, and fostering stronger ties within the MSA, InshaAllah!

Alina Naqvi, Co-President:

Salaam everyone! My name is Alina Naqvi and I am so excited to be one of your co-presidents this year :) One of my biggest goals for the year is to continue making the MSA more inclusive and welcoming towards everyone iA. I can't wait to see y'all's beautiful faces at in person events this year!!



Vice Presidents



Summer Shabana, Sisters' Vice President:

Salaam alaikum, everybody! I'm Summer and I'm your sisters' VP. I'm a junior at Baker studying bioengineering and biochemistry & cell biology on the pre-med track. This is my third year on the board, and I am super excited to continue with new initiatives, in-person events, and a stronger community iA. I look forward to being a resource for y'all, connecting our MSA with greater Houston, and celebrating our community within Rice.

Fayiz Faruk, Brothers' Vice President:

Assalamu Alaikum brothers and sisters! I'm Fayiz Faruk, a rising junior at Duncan studying Biochemistry and I will be your Male VP for next year. I'm from Princeton, NJ, and recently I've gotten into cooking! I'm excited to help the MSA grow/hold more events this year, and to finally meet everyone in-person!



The Board



Ambreen Younas, Secretary:

Assalamualaikum everybody. My name is Ambreen Younas and I'll be your secretary this year. I will also lead our Culture & Inclusion Committee. I am a junior from Lovett majoring in Psychology, minoring in Neuroscience, and I am also pre-med :D This will be my 2nd year on the board and I am thrilled to work with such an amazing group of people Alhamdullilah. As a board member, I will work tirelessly toward making the MSA a safe space for every single member!

Zaid Nathani, Treasurer:

Salam brothers and sisters! My name is Zaid Nathani and I'm a rising senior at Will Rice majoring in Kinesiology. The MSA has been an integral part of my experience at Rice and the memories I have made with you all are priceless. As your treasurer, I hope to work with the board to enhance our presence on campus, plan unique events for you, and find ways to give back to our community! I am very excited to find ways to make our MSA more inclusive and enjoyable!



The Board



Mahmoud Al-Madi, Jummah Coordinator:

I'm Mahmoud Al-Madi, and I'm one of the Jummah Coordinators in the MSA for the 3rd consecutive year! I love Jummahs because I think they're a great weekly social for all of us to come together for worship and to gain valuable lessons from the Khutbahs to adapt into our lives. I also help lead various initiatives in the religious events committee such as dialogues / discussions and tabling events on campus. I'm really excited to leverage this role to help foster a great community in the MSA.

Ramiro Ivan Cantu, Junior Jummah Coordinator

Salaamualaikum y'all! My name is Ramiro, I go by Ram, and I'm a sophomore at Wiess majoring in Biology. I am so excited to be your Junior Jummah coordinator this year! MSA has helped me meet so many great friends and helped me benefit from Jummah prayers every week. I am so glad I get to help and contribute towards setting up jummah and taraweeh prayers this year. My goal for this year is to support religious and social events in any way I can, helping others benefit from the MSA community.

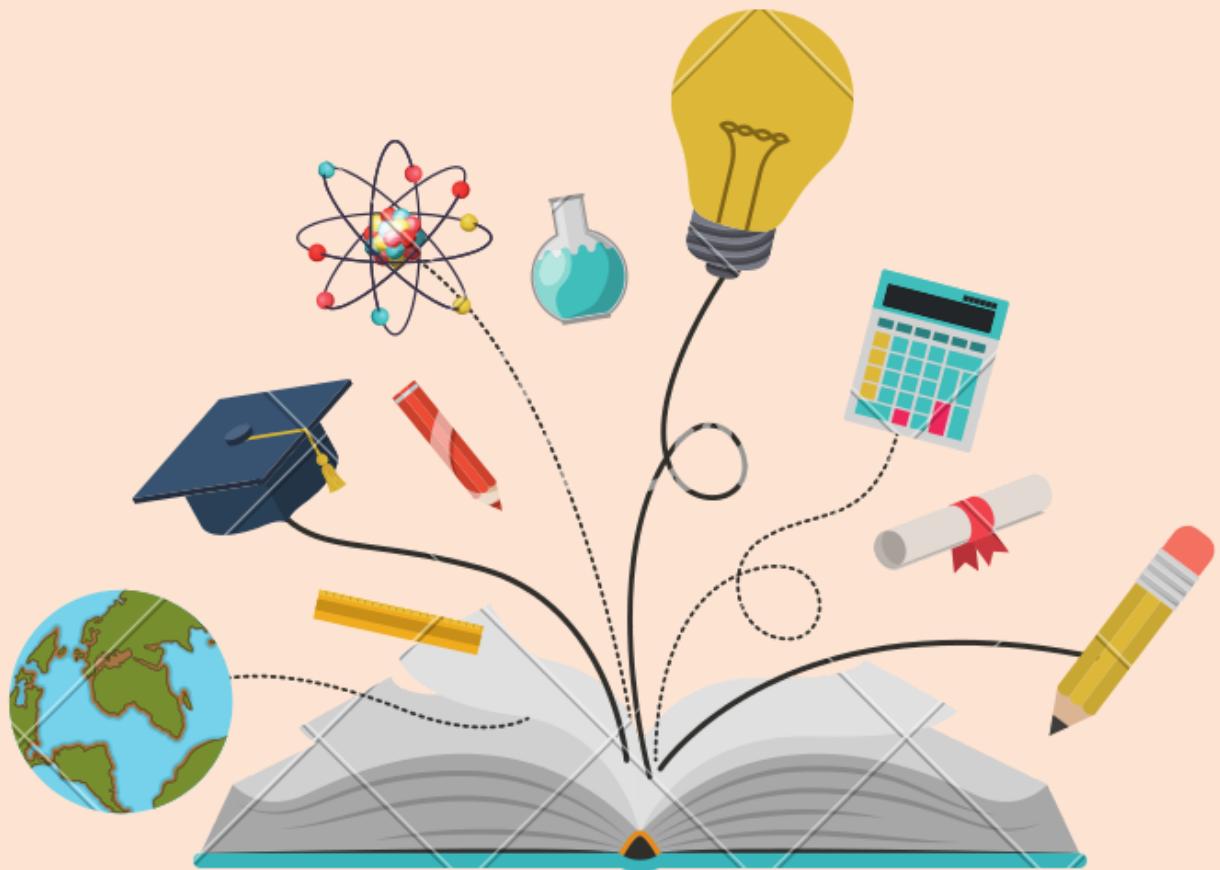


The Board



Adnan Lateef, Outreach Coordinator:

Salaam y'all! My name is Adnan Lateef and I will be the MSA Outreach Coordinator this year. I'm a rising Junior at Duncan and a pre-med psychology major! I have been involved in the MSA since my freshman year and it has served an integral role in my college journey. I have many goals for this year. Inshallah we hope to connect with other college MSAs for collaborative events. In addition, we hope to expand the Rice MSA community through alumni connections and speakers Inshallah. We hope to improve MSA engagement in local volunteering opportunities. Can't wait to see y'all in the MSA and around campus iA!



CAMPUS RESOURCES

"My Lord! Increase me with knowledge..."

(Quran 20:114)

Muslims Across Campus

PAAs

BAKER COLLEGE

Aaeisha Baharun '24 | aab23@rice.edu | Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Engineering Design minor, Environmental Studies minor, GHT minor

Fadeel Khan '23 | fk13@rice.edu | Bioengineering, Data Science minor, GHT minor; Pre-health

Huzaifah Shamim '22 | mhs6@rice.edu | Computer Science, Data Science minor; Pre-grad

DUNCAN COLLEGE

Zaku Cherif '22 | zyc1@rice.edu | Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Pre-grad

Fayiz Faruk '23 | ff11@rice.edu | Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Neuroscience minor; Pre-med

Deema Jihad '24 | dj28@rice.edu | English, Visual & Dramatic Arts - Studio art; Pre-med

HANSZEN COLLEGE

Syed Shams '22 | sss13@rice.edu | Biochemistry and Cell Biology, English; CCL certificate

JONES COLLEGE

Mahmoud Al-Madi '23 | mha6@rice.edu | Electrical & Computer Engineering

SID RICH COLLEGE

Hasham Dhakwala '22 | hd25@rice.edu | Asian Studies, Biochemistry and Cell Biology; Pre-med

Manaal Khan '23 | mk90@rice.edu | Computer Science, Data Science minor

WIESS COLLEGE

Leenah Abojaib '22 | la29@rice.edu | Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Spanish and Portuguese Studies; Pre-med

Ridwana Islam '23 | rfi1@rice.edu | Neuroscience; Pre-med

WILL RICE COLLEGE

Talha Arif '22 | tsa4@rice.edu | Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, BIOC minor; Pre-med

Zaid Nathani '22 | zin1@rice.edu | Kinesiology, Psychology; Pre-med

DFs

DIVERSITY FACILITATORS

Soha Rizvi '22 | Hanszen College | sar9@rice.edu

Ambreen Younas '23 | Lovett College | asy4@rice.edu

Alizay Azeem '23 | Wiess College | aza3@rice.edu

Warda Mohamed '23 | Jones College | wam2@rice.edu



Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)

- Exists to ensure all students feel comfortable, safe, and accepted at Rice.
 - **Catherine Clack:** OMA Director and Associate Dean of Undergraduates- clack@rice.edu
 - **William Edmond:** OMA Associate Director- whe1@rice.edu

Islam-Related Courses

Note: These classes are not offered every semester

- **Muslims in American Society** | Craig Considine | SOCI 364
- **The Life of the Prophet Muhammad** | David Cook | RELI 221
- **Quran and Commentary** | David Cook | RELI 223
- **Gender and Islam** | Rahnuma Shehabuddin | ASIA/RELI/SWGS 315
- **Major Issues in Contemporary Islam** | RELI 356
- **Golden Age of Islam** | Paula Sanders | HIST/MDEM 281
- **Introduction to Islamic Art and Architecture** | Farshid Emami | HART 221
- **Architecture and Literature in Islamic Cultures** | HART 385/587
- **First to third year Arabic** | Hossam Elsherbiny | ARAB 141, 263, 301



PRAYER ROOM INFO

"And establish prayer and give zakah and bow with those who bow [in worship and obedience]"

(Quran 2:43)

Prayer Room Directions

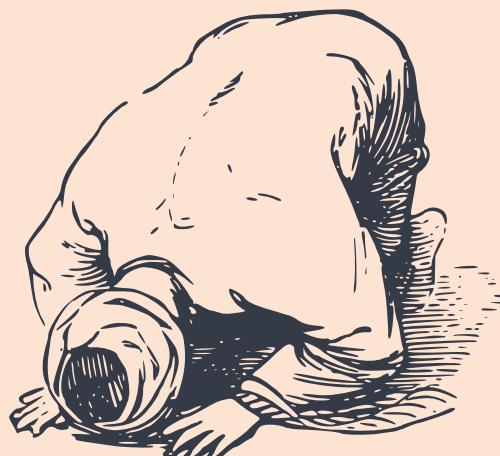
RMC Prayer Room

- Located to the right of the RMC Chapel
 - Starting from the front doors of the chapel, turn right and then turn left at the first walkway to your left. The prayer room door will be the first door on your right.
- If the Prayer Room door is locked on the outside, you can ask the RMC Information Desk to open it.

Kyle Morrow Room (KMR)

- Main Jummah prayer location
- Located on the third floor of Fondren library
 - After entering Fondren Library from the front entrance, turn left into the small area, and take the elevator on the left to the third floor. The KMR will be the first set of double doors on your left.

NOTE: With the current COVID-19 restrictions, Jummah prayers will be held in these prayer locations but be aware that this is subject to change.





CONTACT INFO

Contact Info & Social Media

- **Email-** msa@rice.edu
- **Facebook-** @ricemsa
- **Instagram-** @rice_msa
- **Website-** msa.rice.edu
- **MSA GroupMe-**
https://groupme.com/join_group/43232964/6SoMJD
- **Brothers GroupMe-**
https://groupme.com/join_group/43398680/AsaUjk
- **Sisters GroupMe-**
https://groupme.com/join_group/53414506/vNaDzEwb



"And help one another in goodness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and aggression."
(Quran 5:2)





HUNGRY?

FOOD OPTIONS

HALAL FOOD ON AND OFF CAMPUS

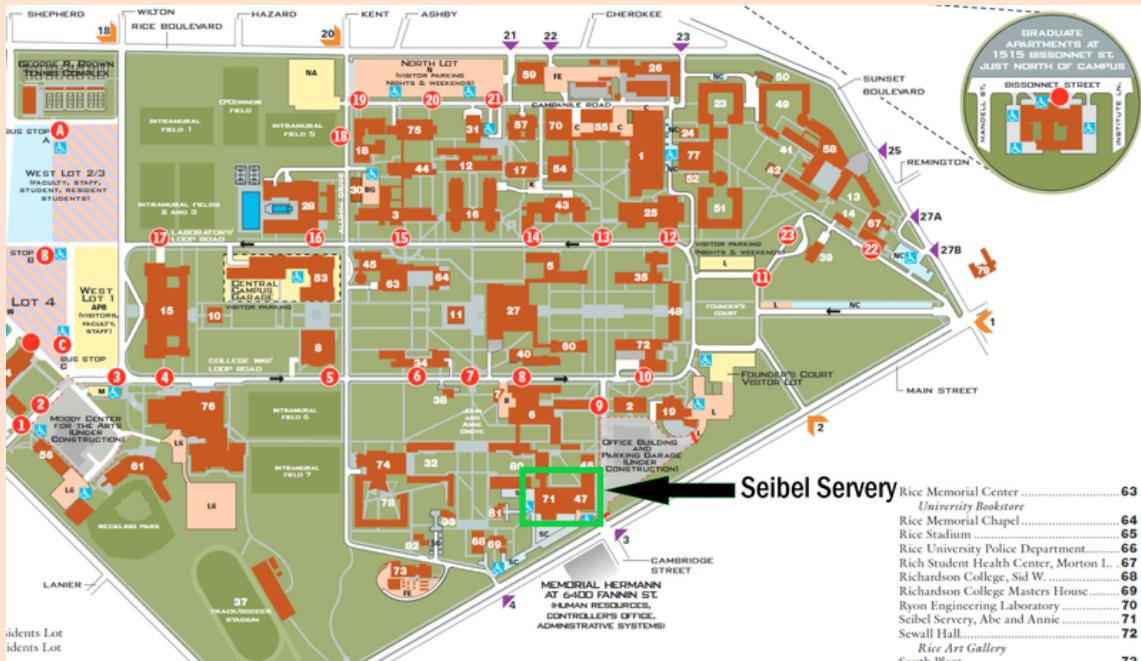
On Campus Options

SEIBEL SERVERY

- Located between Will Rice and Lovett
- Daily halal chicken options (grilled chicken and chicken salad always available)
- Variable halal options based on the day (halal pho, pizza, sandwiches, beef option, etc.)

WEST SERVERY

- Halal grilled chicken available on request



Off Campus Options

WALKING DISTANCE

*MBR = MSA Board Rating - Not biased at all :)

Pasha | Turkish | MBR: 7/10 \$\$

Halal Guys | American/Mediterranean | MBR: 6/10 \$

10 MINUTE DRIVES

M&M Grill | American/Mexican/Mediterranean | MBR: 8/10 \$

- Popular item: Loaded single burger

Abu Omar [Food Truck] | Mediterranean | MBR: 8/10 \$

- Popular item: Chicken shawarma arabi

Gyro Hut | Mediterranean | MBR: 9/10 \$

- Popular item: Mixed platter

Main Chick Hot Chicken (Food Truck) | American | MBR: 10/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Slaw slider

Russo's New York Pizzeria | Pizza | MBR: 10/10 \$\$

- ***Only Kirby Dr. location is halal***

- Popular item: Meat lovers pizza

Pepper Twins | Szechuan | MBR: 9/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Fried spicy chicken cubes



Note: Most of these can be found on Postmates / UberEats for food delivery. You may need to utilize these more during COVID-19.

Off Campus Options

20 MINUTE DRIVES

Aga's | Indo-Pak | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

- Popular item: Goat chops

888 Beijing | Chinese | MBR: 7/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Chicken lo-mein

Pinkerton's | American BBQ | MBR: 10/10 \$\$

- Note: Call to make sure halal meat available that day

Peri Peri | South African | MBR: 9/10 \$\$

- Popular item: 1/2 chicken breast

Phoenicia Specialty Foods | grocery - halal meat available to purchase | \$\$

Tourão Brazilian Churrasqueria | unlimited steak | MBR: 9/10 \$\$\$

- Note: Call beforehand to reserve a table for halal only

Thai Gourmet | Thai | MBR: 8/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Pad Kee Mao

Hillcroft: dozens of halal South Asian restaurants within 2 blocks of each other

30 MINUTE DRIVES

Bundu Khan | Indo-Pak | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

Bonsai Fusion Japanese Steakhouse | Japanese/Hibachi | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

- Note: Reserve a table beforehand



THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA

MASJIDS

Local Masjids

- River Oaks Islamic Center: 3110 Eastside Street
- Islamic Education Center: 2313 S Voss Road
- Al-Ghadeer: 9260 S Course Road

