

## University Of Houston

**Note: The information in this doc was prepared by many seniors and got edited every year. All the info can be used for a general outline. If forwarded, use this as a reference only!**

### **Internships :**

It is usually very competitive to score an internship for international students here, unless your resume stands out or unless you have a referral from someone in the company you're applying to. It also depends a lot on the location of your university

And you have to be very proactive early in your search...like if u apply for hundreds/thousand you will hear back from one or two...

Still there are any people doing internships from here.

### **Housing Options:**

Basically Indian students stay at one of these.

1. Scotland yard apartments : <http://scotlandyardapts.com/>
2. Holly hall apartments : 2111 holly Hall Apartments
3. stratford : <http://www.stratfordhouseapts.com/>

You can find the rent and other details on their website

### **Info On Selecting Universities:**

From where ever you got the admits ... i would recommend you guys go to the webpage and check about the professors and and their research interests.. and you can email them and clear your doubts to get a clear picture... then you can select a univ.. i am giving info about Uh and i don't have any idea about other univs ... some may lag behind uh in this major or may be well ahead .. sorry, i can't give you comparative info about majoring from different univs .. hope you guys understand.. in a similar way no senior can give you comparative info here.. all will give their personal experience ..you should do your own research too before coming to a conclusion

**FEE Details:**

You can usually wire transfer your fee to University's account. It will take about three days. For those who took loan from a bank in india , give your bank the following details and the amount of money to be transferred(Fee) .

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**  
Student Financial Services

**Sending payments instructions:****WIRE (international wires):**

For the account of University of Houston  
Bank of America  
ABA: 026009593  
Account number: 488014647877  
Swift code: BOFAUS3N  
(Need student ID #, and student name)

**ACH (domestic wires):**

For the account of University of Houston  
Bank of America  
ABA: 111000025  
Account number 488014647877  
(Need student ID #, and student name)

Address: Bank of America  
700 Louisiana, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
Houston, TX 77002

**Mail:**

Check payable to: University of Houston

**Mail to:**

University of Houston  
Welcome Center – Cashier Office, RM 114  
4800 Calhoun Rd  
Houston TX, 77204

(Make sure to write student # on front of the check)

**Immunization:**

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/courses-enrollment/policies/immunization/>

You don't have to take any immunization if you are 22 and above.

**Visa:**

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B163-qstuKNpeTgwckEtQy1FMDg&usp=sharing>

- You can't use scanned copy of I-20 for Visa Interview. You need the original I-20

**Sevis FEE:**

Be sure to Pay it Three Days Prior to the Visa Interview. As it takes times to get reflected in their system.

**Classes and Registration**

You can enroll for classes.

**Q When should we pay fees??**

You can come here and pay the fee on before the date mentioned in the site. (Yet to be updated for Fall term )

<http://www.uh.edu/financial/payment/billing-due-dates/>

**Payment Plans:**

You can choose various payment plans to pay the fee. Please have a look at the link below <http://www.uh.edu/financial/payment/plans/>

**What amount should we be bringing with us while coming to US?**

According to the Laws. you can bring your first full year fee and also those for living expenses. Again that is up to you.(students alone get this option i.e I-20 Amount) . If you are a regular traveller you are not supposed to bring more that \$10K

**Does immigration officer ask to show the proof of arrangements made for residence ?**

Well not Really.. Tell them that you are given temporary accommodation for few days by GISO. and a group of them together have taken an apartment and will move in.

**Fee Calculator:**

<http://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/>

**Some Info on Banks:**

You can open the Bank accounts here using I-20 and Passport

Banks:

1. Chase
2. Wells Fargo
3. Bank of America
4. Citi
5. TDECU

Always try to Open checking accounts in any banks here. There will be fee for few banks for maintaining an account with them. So Please check for all the conditions before opening a bank account.

**Chase:**

You will get free checking account if you show your i-20 and ask for college account.

That account is free until you graduate from University.

**Bank of America**

If your age is less than 23 yrs you will will get a free checking account. If ur age is above 23 you will be charged monthly fee if you don't maintain a minimum balance. Or if you don't have a direct deposit.

**TDECU**

This bank gives a free checking account until you are Student of UH. You will also get a UH debit card for free..

For further details refer the Bank sites.

**Info about power and control (We don't know when this part was written, things might have changed, we are not sure!)**

- Hello guys!! Many guys are asking about power and control major here...

My view is that Power and Control is not great here. All the power subjects except one are taught by one professor and the professor is burdened a lot. And the two power professors here are not tenured (they are instructional faculty). All the control subjects are also taught by one professor but this professor is great and awesome. He works at NASA too and has a lot of practical knowledge. I think for masters, you will get complete knowledge of control by taking his subjects. So, overall control part is good but the power part is not that great. Obviously, you guys will take some 4-5 courses outside your major. So, overall, I would suggest you guys research well before joining any major of any univ

Power profs are not tenured but the control system professor is tenured and he has vast knowledge and experience. If you guys are interested in control systems i would suggest, he will be the best.. and the nice part is that all his control courses are well structured and planned.

From where ever you got the admits ... i would recommend you guys go to the webpage and check about the professors and and their research interests.. and you can email them and clear your doubts to get a clear picture... then you can select a univ.. i am giving info about Uh and i dont have any idea about other univs ... some may lag behind uh in this major or may be well ahead .. sorry, i cant give you comparative info about majoring from different univs .. hope you guys understand.. in a similar way no senior can give you comparative info here.. all will give their personal experience .. you should do your own research too before coming to a conclusion

If your aim is to get a job, then doing thesis is not a good option for power major. You can take courses and build a solid skill set and aim for industry. Power industry is pretty much stable and hopefully not gonna change much rapidly so thesis is not required

**On-Campus Jobs:**

There are opportunities on campus. But getting one depends on your luck , reference from seniors and various other factors. . You are not supposed to work more than 20Hrs Per week. (F1 status Rule).

**Fee Structure :**

1) So If you received 500\$ scholarship every semester.

Usually if you receive 500\$ scholarship you are eligible for instate tuition fee waiver.

For instate fee, cost for each credit :\$465 , for example u wish to take 4 courses in each of your first two semesters so each semester will be  $3(\text{credit per course}) * 4(\text{number of courses}) = 12$  , this means 4 courses = total 12 credits . So your fee is  $465 * 12 = 5580$  , you will have insurance and other mandatory fee to be 1300 so on the whole per sem if you take 4 courses it's  $5580 + 1300 = 6880$

But u have scholarship of 500 so that will be deducted in this total so it's \$6,380 per sem for total fee . Let's say you take 4 in next semester too , So in one year it's  $6,380*2 = \$12,760$

And now in next semester you won't have instate , so if you wish to complete your masters by taking 4 courses in 3rd semester then it's 12 credits again but this time it's 955 per credit , so  $12*955 + 1300 = 12,760$

So it's totally  $12,760*2 = 25,520$ .

But if you wanna take only 3 courses in 3rd semester  $9(\text{number of credits})*955+1300= 9,895$

4th semester : 1 course =>  $3*955+1300=4165$

So this way total would be  $12,760(\text{first two semesters})+ 9,895(3\text{rd sem}) +4165(4\text{th semester}) =26,820$

2) if you didn't receive any scholarship with the admit the fee would be  $\$955(\text{fee per credit})*36(\text{ total number of required credits , this may vary from department to department}) + x(\text{number of semesters you would like to do here})*1300(\text{ insurance + mandatory fee})$

Similarly if you get a RA/TA/IA in a particular semester you can calculate according to 465\$ per credit.

#### **Links:**

[www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/](http://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/)

<http://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/>

#### **Packing List:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-xmG9WnwtBHZWpTc1B6NmtYQjQ/view?usp=sharing>

It is just an outline for you guys as a reference. it not needed that you have to strictly follow them.

Following is an extensive list. Buy stuff and bring them according to your convenience. Houston is a huge city and practically you will get everything in the list mentioned below. But initially with the conversion and to get used to dollar it will take a while. Some think it is better to spend in India rather here. So go by your comfortability factor.

Things to do before coming here:

DOCUMENTS/CASH/CREDIT CARD/CONTACTS/FEES etc

1. Transfer all your mobile contacts and make a HARD COPY of all the numbers in a pocket diary
2. Original documents need to be carried by you right from class 10 if possible. Carry all important certificates you deem are worth a mention. (Resume and SOP included)
3. Copy of all important documents from 10th standard to passport to driving licence to be left in safe custody of someone at home in INDIA
4. Sign around 10 blank papers and leave it in safe custody at home in INDIA

5. Scan ALL your documents and keep a soft copy in a pen drive/backup copy online in gmail (maybe)
6. Copy of all documents mentioned above to be carried by you for any emergency
7. Make a copy of your passport, visa, i20, and air ticket and put one copy each in all your suitcases so that in case any bag gets misplaced it's easy to spot for the airline ppl and reroute
8. Street address of the temporary accommodation you are going to be staying in at BUffalo to be noted down in a diary for quick reference in case person to receive doesn't come to the airport or any other emergency
9. Some important contact numbers of other contacts at Buffalo and the US to contact and inform of your arrival once you enter the US and finish your immigration and customs
10. If you already own a Driver's license in India please bring it along
11. If you have a Credit card in India carry it along, in case you run out of money at any point of your stay in the US you might as well use it
12. FEES: Traveler's cheques for the fees amount (if you are paying from your pocket) -find from seniors or a tuition fees estimator in the university website how much you will need to pay for this semester and bring \$500 extra because most often the estimator will not mention some category of fees
13. In case you are availing a bank loan, get a travelers cheque for the living expense alone (if you can convince the branch manager to give you for the entire year -better, if not atleast 6 months). For the tuition fees you can come here and get the wiring details of the university and pass it on to the bank and they will wire the amount to the university directly, saves you the trouble of taking a DD and carrying cash/travellers cheques
14. Bring cash of about \$1000. Split them into 100s and 50s and 20s for about 800 dollars. Get 10s for 100 dollars. Get 5s for about 70 dollars. 1s for about 10-15 dollars. Quarters(0.25 dollars) for about 5-10 dollars.

#### SUITCASES, LUGGAGE, Clothing, Shoes, Accessories

1. Check with your airline about the dimensions of the check in and carry on bags (their website will have this information, don't just go by what the travel agent says). If you don't find the information online call them and get the info.
2. Buy Samsonite/ American Tourister -AVOID VIP (VIP doesn't have an international warranty and service scheme). I would go with samsonite mainly because they are very reliable and international warranty-NO SARAVANA STORES/JAYACHANDRAN etc-DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS REPORTED ON TOO MANY OCCASIONS. WITCO-YES, SAMSONITE SHOWROOM-YES, LIFESTYLE-YES, VIVEKs-YES. MYlapore WITCO or ADYAR WITCO is the best choice to me. MYLAPORE WITCO IS ON KUTCHERI ROAD, near LUZ Corner. ADYAR WITCO is on SARDAR PATEL ROAD, above Sellers and diagonally opposite to Baskin and Robbins/Bata  
\*Tip. People from Hyderabad... Buy in Brand factory hyderabad. You'll have new year offers and you'll get a great deal!
3. You dont need to get a TSA lock. Dont lock your suitcase under any circumstance with any normal lock, only the TSA lock is permitted. (TSA stands for Travel Security Administration and they supply special locks to which they have the master keys and if you lock with a TSA lock they can open and check as your baggage is subject to checks at so many places after you actually check it in at Madras and you just cant do anything if you lock the suitcase with a normal lock and the security guys break the suitcase open) Just the belt around the suitcase will do. -TAKE HOME MESSAGE-DONT BUY THE TSA LOCK.
4. Backpack for daily use (bags are available from 15-20 dollars here, but in the beginning don't spend on things like this, other important things will need attention, so bring a backpack from india)

5. Buy a picnic pouch/travel pouch to carry your ticket and passport if you think that's convenient.
6. Buy a good leather belt from a good retail store.  
\*tip: Don't get from Koti in Hyderabad. Get from a good leather store or outlets.
7. Buy a medium jacket -something that you can wear for the rain and cold ( you will buy stuff here of course but this is till you buy that). I use the jacket I got in Woodlands till date and is quite excellent, so if you want to buy that-very good buy.  
\*tip: Totally upto you, I got mine from CTC Parklane Hyderabad.
8. Half Sleeve sweaters if you already have them you can bring them along (you will need layered clothing), Sweaters are better in India than here. Here they are not made of wool, rather of nylon and polyester fibres. So get Wollen sweaters -esp half sleeve from India. If you want to buy one, Yusuf Sait and Sons, Junoon Sait and Sons-Opposite Flower Bazaar police station (just off NSC Bose Road, Parrys).
9. Get a normal bedsheet for the summer, cos you cant use the comforter you buy here in summer, and in winter the comforter alone wont be enough. Pillow covers also can be brought from India. However Pillows can be brought here. :). Light weight Kambli/bed sheet can be brought from India.
10. Half a dozen Kercheifs (more than enough)
11. 2 dozen socks (cotton preferred), you'll be washing clothes once a week or once for two weeks, so plan accordingly.
12. Sports shoes (check out reebok showroom at besant nagar- I got a shoe for 1400 that is awesome and has lasted a year easily now; \*from hyderabad, get them from Abids. You have hollywood showroon, and great branded outlets to get shoes in abids). Shoes you buy here in the US are not very great unless you spend upwards of 40-50 dollars. So buy Sports shoes in India.
13. Regular leather shoes -formals-they are not all that costly but here the sizes and fits are not great, neither is the variety. So get one from there. \*also from abids, hyderabad
14. Shoe horn, spare laces \*spare laces are important, shoe store guy will sell you.
15. 2 neck ties
16. Blazer-Black or navy blue-get it stitched preferably at Raymond  
\* if you already have one get it. I'd suggest from Brand factory outlet at Parklane, Hyderabad
17. Formal shirts-3
18. Semiformal shirts (pref cotton)-4
19. T-shirts-4-6 (combi of neck and collared or as you please) \* dont get many of these, you'll get a lot of university tees here.
20. Jeans 3-4



21. Formal pants -3
22. Shorts and night pants-2-4
23. Umbrella-Buy a good one, that's fold-able to a one foot scale length.
24. Undergarments 18-24 sets as you wish and have space.
25. Bath towel-atleast 2 (your washing will be done only once in a fortnight so don't use same towel for two weeks)
26. Hand towels-2-3
27. DEFINITELY BRING ONE SET OF TRADITIONAL DRESS -EITHER DHOTI/KURTA as you please.
28. Bring Slippers/Sandals from India. They are cheaper and better from India. You will not use sandals till the winter ends, that's early to mid April.
29. Comb, toothbrush, toothpaste for the first week, soap(just one bar for the first week), parachute oil if you do use it, all other fancy items for hair styling available here.

FOOD ITEMS/UTENSILS (if you are joining a group of seniors, who have already been living here, then you might not need most of this stuff. Cross check with the seniors on what they need. THE LIST IS STRICTLY FOR A PERSON WHO IS GOING TO LIVE WITH FIRST TIMERS LIKE HIM, NOT MEANT FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL LIVE WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN LIVING AT THE UNIVERSITY)

1. Sambar Powder -2-3kg (all food items as per convenience and as per weight restriction)-If you always use home made sambar powder, bring that, Grand Sweets/Anand Bhavan rasam powder and sambar powder dont last as long as home made.
2. Rasam Powder-1-3kg
3. Appalam/Vadam/Vethal/Manathakkali/Sundakka (Available in grandweets or other places in Mylapore readymade). Can check and tell you about vethal and stuff if you are interested. Get murukulu and all kinds of eatables as much as you can in your space.
4. Pickles-If you are a pickle guy get as much as you can bring no harm. Have them packed in double/triple packets.\*Joshi's and a variety of other brands are available.
5. Tamarind/Tamarind paste -1-2 packets (check if it's available locally at 1 or 2 dollars a packet, if it's upwards of 3-4 dollars bring 5-6 packets of Tamarind paste to use for Sambar and Rasam. \*here you don't get good tamarind. Each of our room-mates have brought 2 packets and we have been using it for more than 4 months.
6. LG powder-Asafoteida
7. Kadugu-Mustard-100gms
8. Jeera-Cumin-100 gms
9. Garam Masala-100-200 gms
10. Krambu/Lavang-Cloves-10-15 gms
11. Elaichi/Yelakkai-Cardamom-10-15gms
12. Dhaniya podi/Coriander seeds powdered 2-3 kgs (powdered only, not whole seeds, powdered is used in all currys etc)
13. Chilli powder-200-300 gms
14. If you really have space and weight in your baggage-bring half a kg of rice, half a kg of toor dal (thuvaram paruppu), half kg sugar, half kg salt -ONLY IF YOU HAVE WEIGHT, so that you can start cooking as soon as you move in.

15. Cooker (5 litres or more)-Buy Stainless steel cooker \*I'd suggest get from Army canteen if you know someone/ Prestige/Hawkins outlets are also good.
  16. Spare gaskets for cooker -2, spare weights-2, spare safety valve-2- Preferable Prestige/premier/Hawkins-Prestige showroom located Alwarpet next to Anjaneyar temple.
  17. One non stick kadai -big enough to make curry/fry for 3-4 ppl
  18. One Calcutta kadai/iron kadai for sambar/rasam -big enough for 3-4 ppl
  19. Microwaveable coffee cups -2(available in Currihmbos, opposite Adyar Aavin or Parry's corner)  
\*if you have space, you can always get them at walmart here.\*
  20. Microwaveable Plates-1 (available same location) \*again, if you have space. Walmart's always there\*
  21. Normal plates (porcelain or stainless steel as per choice and convenience)
  22. Half a dozen-spoons
  23. Half a dozen-forks
  24. 3-4 steel ladles of different sizes.
  25. 1-jaali karandi to use for frying.
  26. 2 rice spoons.
  27. 2 vessels-(1 can be 1 litre vessel, another can be a little bigger at 3-4 litres) for multi purpose usage, sometimes doubles up as a cooking utensil if the kadas are in the sink and its exam time and its snowing outside and you have to cook!!
  28. 1 sauce pan to make noodles, boil water for tea/coffee
  29. If you are a coffee guy bring a coffee filter along with you-I am not a big fan of the way coffee is made here using paper filters, they have black coffee and not the way we have it. \* Bring instant coffee powder, again look at the space available.
  30. Tea filter
  31. 1-nonstick TAVA for making omlettes, chapathi, dosa , toasting bread
  32. DO NOT BRING KNIVES, **SCISSORS**
  33. Lids to cover for vessels
  34. Wooden ladles for non stick vessels
  35. Chapathi/Dosa turning ladles/ flat surface ones-Don't know what it's called in tamil/telugu
  36. If you have space and weight Small tiffin box, plastic or steel, bowl for breakfast cereals.
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1. Laptops-if you already have a laptop and plan on carrying that, remember to carry the converter for the charger AC plugin, here in the US the voltage is 110V
  2. Don't carry your mobile phones, unless it works the world over on all GSM frequencies. If you have a high end phone, I am quite sure IT WILL WORK in the US so bring it. If not we can arrange for a phone after you come here.
  3. Don't bring any other accessories like speakers, table lamps etc
  4. Don't buy ipods/cameras etc if you already don't own one now (advisable to buy here)
  5. If you own any ipod/mp3/camera definitely bring it along
  6. External Harddisks-Bring them at your own risk if you have a lot of movies and stuff (never know, but till now very few cases of security guys checking hard disks for pirated music and movies)

#### STATIONERY

1. Pens and pencils-bring like half a dozen each
  2. Rubbers and sharpeners
  3. Note books-4-6 notebooks (costly here)
  4. Check with seniors on books you need to carry from India cos books are several times expensive here in the US,
- 
1. Photos of ISHTA DEIVAM, GURUS etc

2. Vibhuthi, Kungumam/kumkum, sandanam/sandalwood etc
3. Advisable to bring a small lamp with 2-3 packets of cotton thiri
4. If you are very devout, might as well carry the mantras for Yajur Upakarma

**Please see to it that you attend one of the check in dates given by the ISSO office.**

In order to register for classes you have to do the following things:

1. Attend the Check-in (one of the above mentioned dates) and get ur hold released from your account.
2. Submit your Original degree certificate (if you have ) or Provisional degree certificate and Your consolidated marksheet. (Submit these to either your grad advisor or Graduate School Office )

Doing these will remove your holds on your myuh account. Thus you can register for Classes. The removing hold will take a minimum of one to two days. So doing them asap will always be better.

- Opening of bank account is gonna take max an hour so nothing to worry about

it. Again it is up to you guys to book and arrive in houston accordingly.

#### **Travel Tips:**

While you start your journey you will be excited will have an awesome experience. An advice is follow the sleep schedule according to the Houston time in the flight. I mean. When you board the Flight Sleep in the Flight based on the timing in Houston. This will help you avoid Jet Lag when u land here.

- While booking tickets if are allergic to some kinda food please let the flight attendants know in advance.
- Keep yourself hydrated during the Journey. Don't hesitate to ask for sodas (They don't call cool drink here ) or juices or water on board.

#### **Money to Bring Along:**

You can Apply for a forex card in India with Your Passport and Visa as a proof of travelling abroad.

**Possible ones:** Matrix , HDFC, AXIS, SBI.

You could possibly take a forex card which will be useful in future transfers from your parents. Wire transfer is gonna cost you a lot. Loading the money from India to a forex card is the best and cheaper way to get money here. The first month will be of higher expenses cuz you will be buying stuff for your apartment. You could load the money on your forex card and bring them here and draw the money and put the money in your local bank account.

If you are a chase customer then you can directly swipe your forex card and transfer the money to your bank account with zero charges. . (you will have loading charges though in india). Again it is up to you to bring how much you might need.

**Recommended way:** load more money in forex and bring less in the form of cash.

#### **Commuting to University of Houston:**

**From Scotland yard / Holly Hall:(** travel time roughly 45 min to 1 hour Provided you get busses as you get down)

Metro Bus: (Preferred route):

**Route 1** : Towards TMC : two busses. Bus # 60 Transit bus stop: Morsund@lamar fleming and get on Bus #4

**Route 2**: Towards Southeast Transit center : Bus # 60 and get down at Southeast transit center and get on to bus # 29 (towards Northline TC) or bus # 54( towards Downtown TC)

**Route 3**: Take metro rail @ reliant Park stn. Towards Northline/HCC and get down at TMC transit center and take Bus # 4.

### **From Stratford Apt:**

Single Bus #4 will take you to UH.

### **Information on Phones:**

If you need a number you have to take a separate line( Number is called line here). Which is generally gonna cost you more.

You can't take phones on contract because you won't have a social security number. (SSN).

Best one is to form a group of 5 or more and take a family Plan.

Let's consider a Person Arjun. Arjun has 5 friends, and arjun is taking 5 lines under him.

Its called as Arjun's family plan.

Line 1 ,Line 2 ,Line 3 ,Line 4 ,Line 5

Each line can have different. Feature like., India calling and so on.

The family plan will have a group Data pack (again depends on how much limit of data you guys want) For example the plan has 10 GB common data.

Each line will access data will be accumulated from the common data.

Each line can have different packs as needed.

I.e Line 1 and Line 5 can have unlimited india calling and line 3 can have unlimited London calling.

When bill is generated the charges will be based on the each individual line and their usage.

For the group data usage:

Out of the total 10 GB given each one can use howmuch ever they need.

But the total usage of all the lines cumulative should not exceed 10 GB.

### **General Advice:**

Hope you guys have done with visa and are ready for taking up a new life in US. Just wanted to give you few pointers which might be helpful for you.

1. Always give ppl the privacy and space.. Cuz here that's the most important thing that they look for.

2. Know your limits and behave with people around you.. Not all will like the way you behave neither you like it if they behave the way they want to.
  3. Learn to be emotionally strong. Don't let silly and small things pull you down.
  4. Learn to be independent. There is nothing in life that cannot be sloved. Be prepared to take and handle things on your own. No one will solve your problems but you.
  5. Always try to be helpful to others.. You have come all the way and you won't lose anything by helping them.
  6. Don't hesitate to ask questions if you dont know.. That really solves half of your troubles and things become easier.
  7. Never get into legal issues here as they are kinda strict and would have a bad effect on you.
  8. Network with ppl around you, who knows you might end up making the best and good friends or even family.
  9. Last but not the least , enjoy the beautiful days back india with your family, stop worrying about stuff and there are lot more days to worry about in the future..
- Gear up and get ready to face the challenge.

Looking forward to meet you guys @ UH. Welcome to the Coog family. Go coogs!

Also, I would like to add that, Indians think that we are mannered and cultured, but I found Americans to be more polite and mannered. They behave professionally and respect their own private space. For example, a colleague may behave very nice with you, but he may not want to share a lunch with you. This is a cultural thing. Sharing lunch and discussing private life is like for close friends.

Also never call elder people uncle and aunty. That's weird for them. Here, in an informal conversation, people call others with their names only irrespective of age. In an formal conversation too, you can address a person by name by adding prof or doctor or whatever his post is before his name. Safe case scenario is to use Sir or Maam for elders and buddy or friend for other students. Don't use bro and sis too.

And another thing, disabled people have rights here. It's not like India. For example, if you park in a disabled designated space, you would be fined heavily.

Another thing about Indians here is that they just live along with their regional friends and never socialize much with others. Living with regional people is Ok for food, etc. But, you should at least socialize outside the apartment.

And don't try to judge anyone here. I have seen people judging people of color. That's racism. Be clear what racism and sexism is.

You will see a cultural shift. If you are more of a socializing person and observe things in detail, this cultural change may come as a shock, especially if you are from a orthodox Indian family (I think many of you are) and if you don't know anything about US.

Conclusion might be, don't judge, don't be a racist and a sexist.

### **Things to be done after you Reach Houston:**

**\*\*Save or Star this Message Guys\*\***

Get Your Metro Q card from the Gas station and recharge it by \$10 roughly. (for those who stay close to Scotland/Holly Hally its available in Valero.)

This is used to travel in buses. just tap the card on the machine as soon as you get into the bus.

You will be charged \$1.25 for every journey and is valid for three hours in one direction.

You can get the Discounted card for students by having your passport and Cougar ID to the welcome center and fill up a form and get it signed at the welcome center.

Once the form is signed you can go to the metro office in Downtown and submit the card that u took initially and ur cougar ID and Passport and they will reprogramme the card and give the same.

The other way to get the discounted card is during your orientation. Metro guys come and give out forms to you and if you fill the same and give it back they will issue a card on your name at the welcome center after few days.

For Check in With ISSSO

1. Bring your Docs : I-20, Passport, and I-94 (if u dont have it will be printed)

After Check-In

1. Get your Degree verification hold removed by submitting your Provisional or whatever certificate which shows that u have completed your degree back in india to your grad advisor.
2. Once the holds are removed on your account Register for classs on <https://my.uh.edu/psp/paprd/?cmd=login>. (hope you guys know ur id and pwd)
3. Once you register for your classes. Go to the Cougar ID card office and get your Cougar ID card. (they need Passport for Verification)(they won't give an I card unless u register for classes)