



EDUCATION

# Miami Dade College is giving displaced students from Puerto Rico a big tuition break

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Miami Dade College on Wednesday morning offered in-state tuition to displaced college students from Puerto Rico following the devastating destruction to the island last week by Hurricane Maria.

The college will waive out of state fees, which are nearly double in-state tuition, for these incoming students said Lenore Rodicio, Miami Dade College’s vice president and provost for Academic & Student Affairs.

Because Puerto Rico has commonwealth status, these students are also U.S. citizens so some may already have federal aid packages that provide for them to go to colleges at home on the island. Miami Dade College will help them transition here, too, and consider scholarships and flexible payment plans.

“We will work with them as necessary,” Rodicio said. As a state institution, Miami Dade was given a permit to waive the out of state fees for the Puerto Rican students through an order by Gov. Rick Scott.

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After [#HurricaneMaria](#), MDC will offer in-state tuition to displaced college students from [#PuertoRico](#). For more info, please call 3052378888

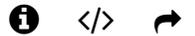
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Right now, the college wants to hear from affected students from Puerto Rico. The school is gathering contact information, such as name, phone number and email, so that once “higher ups” crystallize the tuition plan they can relay that information to the students.

Miami Dade’s mini term begins Monday, Oct. 2. These students could enroll for that term, which ends Dec. 22, Rodicio said. Options also include virtual online classes.



## Customs and Border Crew rescues Puerto Rican family who wrote HELP on roof

The crew of a US Customs and Border helicopter provided medical aid to three people who signaled for assistance by painting the word “help” on the roof of their home in Puerto Rico on September 24. The crew landed the Black Hawk helicopter on a mountain top and then trekked down a road that had been swept away by the landslide to reach the home. The video shows an aerial view of the roof with “HELP” painted on it, and crew stepping over fallen trees and underbrush before arriving and tending to the family.

US Customs and Border Protection via Storyful

“We are expecting a larger influx come the spring as they start to get back into their regular routine,” Rodicio said. “Many are involved in personal recovery efforts at home and education might not be top of mind now. But as time goes by, if the universities [in Puerto Rico] are still impacted in January we imagine we’ll see a large influx.

“We’ve always been a community’s college and always had a huge focus on being able to support the local community,” Rodicio added. “In Miami, Puerto Rico is near and dear to our hearts and due to our geographical location it only makes sense to provide such outreach and much needed aid to these individuals who suffered such extensive damage.”

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### **HOW TO GET HELP**

Miami Dade College asks that students from Puerto Rico who were displaced by Hurricane Maria call 305-237-8888. The institution is gathering contact information so that once the tuition offer is finalized officials can reach out to the students.