



April 6, 2022

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FALL 2022 - GUIDANCE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At this stage, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet provided updated guidance regarding online instruction beyond Spring 2022. [Current SEVP guidance](#) will expire after June 30, 2022. It is possible that SEVP will return to pre-pandemic guidance, which could affect how many online classes students are allowed to take per semester. We continue to monitor the situation closely and we will provide updates as they become available.

We understand students need to finalize their schedules for the fall and make decisions regarding registration, visa, travel and much more. In the absence of specific guidance and with the understanding that Rutgers will be operating predominantly in-person in the fall semester, we advise that you should plan to attend Rutgers in-person for the fall 2022 semester (unless enrolled in an official Rutgers program overseas) and follow the [pre-pandemic regulatory guidelines](#) to maintain your legal status.

As we receive news on any updates about government policies, and how they may affect your plans, we will notify international students via email, our [Alerts page](#), and the [COVID-related FAQs](#).

For the latest university wide COVID-19 information visit <http://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/>.

WHO NEEDS A NEW I-20/DS-2019 FOR FALL 2022?

- Continuing students with active SEVIS records - if you need a new travel signature, complete the [Travel Signature Request E-Form](#) on the RGlobal Portal.
- Students who started remotely in Spring 2022 and were issued I-20s/DS-2019s with a Spring 2022 start date - we will adjust your I-20/DS-2019 start date to the next semester. All Spring 2022 I-20s and DS-2019s will be updated by the end of April. You will receive an email when your new document is available.
- You will need a current I-20/DS-2019 to apply for a visa at a US Embassy or Consulate. I-20s can be signed and mailed electronically. If you are attending Rutgers in J-1 status, we will make special arrangements to mail your DS-2019 to you.

APPLYING FOR CPT

All students applying for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) must complete the Off-Campus Employment Workshop on [Canvas](#). F-1 students who plan to engage in CPT during the summer break should plan to submit a [CPT application](#) as soon as possible.

If you have questions about CPT, please take advantage of our Off-Campus Chat Sessions. A calendar of remaining Chat Sessions for the spring semester can be found on our [Practical Training](#) webpage.

APPLYING FOR OPT

While the USCIS deadline for post-completion OPT applications is 60 days following degree completion, it is recommended that students apply as early as possible to avoid potential delays. All students applying for post-completion OPT must complete the Post-Completion OPT Workshop on [Canvas](#). F-1 students who will be graduating in May and who plan to apply for post-completion OPT should plan to submit an [OPT application](#) as soon as possible.

Online OPT Application Alert: You MUST get a new OPT I-20 from Rutgers Global before you can submit your application to USCIS. Once you pay the online application fee, the I-765 is considered filed immediately and will result in a denial if you applied from outside the U.S. or without the OPT I-20.

If you have questions about your OPT application, we encourage you to utilize the following resources:

- [Off-Campus Employment Chat Sessions](#): Available twice a month and open for students to drop in and discuss their CPT/OPT questions with an International Student Adviser (ISA)

- [Remote Advising Appointments](#): Note that appointment availability is displayed up to 14 days in advance and no less than 12 hours from the time of booking. If you do not see any available appointments, please check again on the following day for new availability.
- Communicate with our advisers by email (ISSS-students@global.rutgers.edu)

FINAL SEMESTER?

Are you finishing your degree requirements this semester? If so, congratulations! Be sure to review our [Graduating Students](#) page for important guidance on your next steps. Please note that we do not recommend traveling outside the U.S. if you have already completed your degree requirements and plan to re-enter the U.S. in your current status. If you have questions about traveling during your grace period, please visit our [advising services](#) page and consult with an international student adviser.

SUMMER TRAVEL

As the spring semester comes to an end, we understand some of you may be considering either domestic or international travel. As always, we would like to advise all our students to be careful and alert during any travel – domestic and international – and be prepared to face extra scrutiny at visa issuing posts and at ports of entry. As always, follow all rules and regulations to [maintain your legal status in the U.S.](#) Visit the ISSS [Travel and Visa Information](#) page for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

Students graduating in May 2022 should also be aware that you must be physically present in the U.S. in order to apply for work authorization after graduation, called [Optional Practical Training](#). If you are not in the U.S. at the time of submitting your application, you cannot apply for OPT.

Before finalizing your travel plans, please review the following:

- [Universitywide COVID-19 Information](#)
- State of New Jersey's [travel recommendations](#)
- Additional information about travel recommendations is available on the ISSS website: [COVID-19 Related International Student FAQ](#)
- [CDC Frequently Asked Questions](#) for information about testing requirements for international travel.
- [CDC website](#) for COVID-19 travel recommendations by destination.

OBTAIN A TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON AN I-20 OR DS-2019 BEFORE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

If you are planning to travel internationally during the summer break, please exercise caution and review the [Travel and Visa Information webpage](#) for further detailed travel guidance, resources, and tips. The signature is valid for 12 months and confirms that the I-20 or DS-2019 owner is in valid legal status and eligible to return to the United States to resume their programs. For more information and recommendations for international travel, visit the ISSS website page on [Preparing for International Travel](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about traveling during the summer recess, please [contact an ISSS adviser](#).

STRESS RELIEF PROGRAMS

Afternoon Yoga | Friday, April 8th from 1-2 p.m. | Busch Student Center MPR

As a part of the [Graduate Student De-Stress and Appreciation Week](#), join Rutgers Global and the Graduate Student Association for an afternoon of restorative yoga. Whether or not you have prior experience, yoga is here to help you destress. This family friendly event welcomes graduate students, along with their spouses and children, to be part of the experience! Light refreshments will be provided.

Rutgers Student Health Virtual Workshops

Did you know that Rutgers Student Health offers virtual workshops on topics such as meditation and coping with stress? Check out their lineup of spring programs on their [Virtual Workshops & Resources](#) webpage.

RUTGERS GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Let's Learn ASL | Friday, April 15th from 4-5 p.m. | Graduate Student Lounge (CASC)

April 15th is National American Sign Language (ASL) Day! Spend the hour with the Rutgers ASL Club and Rutgers Global learning some basic sign language along with some travel-inspired words.

Culture Day | Friday, April 22nd from 4-5 p.m. | Coffeehouse (Livingston Student Center)

Help RU Global celebrate the diverse community we have at Rutgers! This week is an opportunity to learn from fellow students, through language, art, culture, and more. Attendees are welcome to share about their own heritage during the event.

Ice Cream Social | Friday, April 29th from 4-5 p.m. | 30 College Ave (Outside)

Celebrate the end of the semester and warmer weather with some ice cream.

SAVE THE DATE! Rutgers Global Graduation Celebration | Tuesday, May 3rd from 5-7 p.m. | Busch Student Center MPR

Join your Rutgers Global family as we celebrate our international students who will graduate this May! Bring your graduation cap for decorating, and all graduating students will receive a graduation stole. Registration is required. Invitations will be emailed to graduating students in mid-April.

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

<https://global.rutgers.edu/>

This periodic update from the Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office provides you with important information regarding your legal status, upcoming programs, and useful resources. Previous updates can be found on our [Email Notices page](#).

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers–Biomedical and Health Sciences. Most messages, however, apply only to F-1 and J-1 students. We label most messages to facilitate your identification of which messages may apply to you personally. All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers' visa sponsorships are required to know the information that is provided in these notices and to follow reminders and instructions that apply to their own situations.

This is NOT a subscription email list. These notices are sent periodically to an automatically-generated list. If you are a permanent resident or citizen of the U.S and should not be receiving these notices, please contact ISSS:

New Brunswick

848-932-7015

iss-students@global.rutgers.edu

RBHS

973-972-6138

iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu