



May 17, 2022

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ICE CONTINUES MARCH 2020 GUIDANCE FOR 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

[SEVP confirmed on April 18, 2022](#) that guidance originally issued in March 2020 for the COVID-19 emergency is extended for the 2022-2023 academic year.

What this Means for Continuing Students

Based on current guidance, continuing students who are in active SEVIS status, whether inside the U.S. or abroad, can continue to maintain their legal status and enroll in 100% online coursework or any combination of in-person and online study to [maintain legal status](#). Note that if you are in your final semester, you may be authorized to be less than full-time and maintain status if you do not require a full-time course load to complete degree requirements.

What this Means for New Students (Students admitted for Fall 2022 and students who started their programs outside the U.S. in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022)

Based on current guidance, new international students and students who started their programs in the Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semesters from overseas are eligible to apply for a visa and enter the U.S. to attend in-person classes. However, new students may not enroll in 100% online courses if they will be in the U.S. for the fall semester. Note that your F-1 status is not activated until you enter the U.S., and the F-1 regulations do not apply to new students whose F-1 status is not yet activated.

Note: Please note that Rutgers is operating in a primarily in-person mode and expects to continue to do so in the fall semester. The fall semester begins on September 6, 2022 and all students are expected to be in classes from the first day of the semester (in-person or remote, based on your academic schedule). New students should plan to be in the country in time to attend the International Student Orientation Program starting on Monday, August 29, 2022.

Please plan your travels accordingly. Check the [campus operating status page](#) for the latest updates.

SUMMER TRAVEL AND REMINDERS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

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. Remember to follow all rules and regulations to [maintain your legal status in the U.S.](#) and please visit the ISSS [Travel and Visa Information](#) page for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

Students graduating in May 2022 should review the information on our [Graduating Students](#) webpage, to understand your responsibilities, timelines, and options for remaining in the United States or planning for your departure. Please 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](#).

COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Students who enrolled from outside the U.S. for the Spring 2022 semester were granted an extension of the COVID vaccine requirement for the semester. This extension will expire on

September 6, 2022. If you are planning to come to the U.S. for the Fall 2022 semester, please make sure you submit your vaccination report through the [Rutgers Student Immunization Portal](#) as soon as possible. Students who are not compliant with the vaccine requirement will be blocked from accessing campus systems including registration.

SCAM ALERT

We have recently been made aware of a new scam targeting unsuspecting international students. In this scam, the student receives an email that appears to be from Rutgers Global, but it is sent from a phony email address (ias-global@global.rutgers.edu). Moreover, the email is made to look as though it was generated through Constant Contact, and the student is directed to submit financial documentation to Rutgers Global. Although Rutgers Global frequently utilizes Constant Contact in our communications, please be assured that Rutgers Global ISSS will never request proof of financial support via Constant Contact, and any student who receives suspicious emails appearing to be from Rutgers Global is advised to report them to ISSS at iss-students@global.rutgers.edu.

As is true anywhere in the world, there are people who attempt to take advantage of international students and scholars, but with a little knowledge you can learn how to identify a scam and avoid falling victim to the scheme. Please refer to the ISSS website for more [tips to avoid scams](#), as well as a list of helpful [resources](#) regarding scams and fraud.

Congratulations all May graduates, and we wish you all a safe and happy summer!

Best wishes,
Rutgers Global – ISSS

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