

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



NOVEMBER 17, 2022

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

If you are planning to travel internationally during the upcoming holidays, please exercise caution and review the [Travel and Visa Information webpage](#) for further detailed travel guidance, resources, and tips. The travel signature on the I-20 or DS-2019 is valid for 12 months (6 months for students on OPT) and confirms that the student is in valid legal status and eligible to return to the United States to resume their programs.

APPLYING FOR A TRAVEL SIGNATURE

1. Visit the [Travel Signature Request Procedure](#) page on our website.
Check your I-20 or DS-2019 to see when it was last signed for travel. If you have received a travel signature within 12 months of your anticipated return to the United States, you do not need a new signature at this time. Visit the travel signature page on our website for guidance on whether you need a new travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019.
2. Complete the [Travel Signature Request E-Form](#) on the RGlobal Portal.
3. **Your document will be ready within 5 business days.** We will email you an I-20 that has been digitally signed for travel. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has confirmed permanent acceptability of electronically-issued I-20s. J-1 students will require an original DS-2019 and will need to complete the [Document Mailing Request E-Form](#) on the RGlobal Portal. Be sure to safely keep all your previous I-20s/DS-2019s.
4. **Report International Travel.** It is important for ISSS to understand the current location and international travel of our students to best assist you in maintaining your F-1/J-1 status. Any time you have international travel planned (departing and/or entering the US), we ask that you report this to us via the **International Travel Plans e-form** in the

[RGlobal portal](#) (found under Travel & Location Information). This e-form is for informative purposes only, so you may submit it with recent international travel plans as needed in advance, at the time of travel, or after. It is separate from the existing [Travel Signature Request E-form](#) referenced above in Step 2.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Please note that domestic and international travel guidelines and policies are subject to change. We would like to advise all our students to be careful and alert during any travel and be prepared to face delays or 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 US](#). Visit the [Travel and Visa Information](#) page on the Rutgers Global website for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

Visa Applications and Renewals

Please plan well in advance if you need to apply for or renew your visa during your travel abroad. All individuals applying for a U.S. visa are screened before the issuance of a visa and visa processing can be subject to delays based on various reasons. For more information, review the [visa application information](#) on the Rutgers Global website as well as the [Department of State](#) website to review current wait times for U.S. visas.

Useful Resources:

travel.state.gov is the primary source of information regarding travel delays, alerts, and warnings. Please refer to:

- [Visa News](#)
- [Travel Alerts & Warnings](#)
- [Subscribe to Travel Alerts & Warnings](#)

Latest information about U.S. visa and entry restrictions related to COVID-19:

<https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry>

For further information, please review travel advisories available from the [CDC](#), and the country/countries outside of the US which you want to travel from or to, or even transit through.

When making travel plans for winter recess, please be reminded that all international students are expected to return to the US and resume in-person classes at the start of the spring semester. The first day of Spring 2023 will be Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2022

Throughout the week of November 14-18, please join us for a series of events celebrating the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide! For more information, visit <https://global.rutgers.edu/international-education-week>.

WORLD CUP VIEWING PARTY

Tuesday, Nov. 29

2pm - 5pm

Livingston Student Center - Gathering Lounge

Live from Qatar. Come watch the U.S.A. take on Iran in the first round/group stage match of the World Cup. Join other students and Rutgers Global staff and watch the final Group B match for Team U.S.A. Snacks will be provided. Click [here](#) for more information.

REMINDERS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS & OPT

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As F-1/J-1 students, it is your responsibility to know the rules and laws governing your legal status, including the regulations regarding off-campus internships or any off-campus employment. You don't need to wait until you have a job interview to find out what those rules are.

All our employment workshops are now offered online through the [RGlobal portal](#). Review the [CPT](#) and [OPT](#) webpages for important information about how to complete the workshops, and consider joining an upcoming Off-Campus Employment Chat session with an adviser and your peers (dates and times posted on the [Advising Services webpage](#)). More information about employment for international students can be found on the [Employment webpage](#).

Remember that all on-campus employment must also be reported to ISSS. Please refer to our webpage on [On-Campus Employment](#) for information about steps for F-1 and J-1 students to report on-campus employment. The [On-Campus Employment workshop](#) may also be accessed through the [RGlobal portal](#).

APPLYING FOR OPT

The USCIS deadline for post-completion OPT applications is 60 days following degree completion. All students applying for post-completion OPT must complete the Post-Completion OPT Workshop on the [RGlobal portal](#). F-1 students who will be completing their programs this fall and who plan to apply for post-completion OPT should plan to submit an [OPT application](#) as soon as possible.

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 advisors by email (iss-students@global.rutgers.edu)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-CENTERED COURSES IN SPRING 2023

Academic Coaching for International Students

(01:090:227)

This 1-credit, 7-week mini-course is offered for Pass/No Credit, and is open to students of all class years. For more information, please contact the Office of International Academic Support at ias-global@global.rutgers.edu.

Career Explorations in Arts and Sciences

(01:090:210:96)

This 1.5-credit course is graded, asynchronous, and open to upper class students only. For more course information, visit <http://go.rutgers.edu/4epaoe7u>.

Graduate ELL Program Studio Courses

The Graduate English Language Learners (Graduate ELL) program is offering an array of [Graduate ELL Program Studio courses](#) in Spring 2023. Courses are available in both the Graduate Writing Studio and Graduate Communication Studio. Studios offer both one-on-one consultations on writing and communication needs, as well as a sense of joining a supportive community wanting to improve its scholarly communication together. You can read more about what makes the ELL Studios distinctive [here](#). Sign up and secure your place for next semester!

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

Please be advised that Rutgers Global - ISSS will be closed, and virtual advising services will be unavailable on the following dates:

Thursday, Nov. 24 - Friday, Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Recess

Monday, Dec. 26 - Monday, Jan. 2: Winter Break

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (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