

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



OCTOBER 19, 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE PERMITS WAIVER OF IN-PERSON VISA INTERVIEW REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN F, M, & ACADEMIC J VISA APPLICANTS

The Department of State has authorized consular officers, in their discretion, to waive the visa interview requirement for certain F, M, and academic J visa applicants. This new policy will be effective through the end of 2021.

The interview waiver is only available to F, M, and academic J visa applicants who:

- Were previously issued any type of visa, and who have never been refused a visa unless such refusal was overcome or waived, and who have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility; or
- Are first-time F, M, and academic J visa applicants who are citizens or nationals of a country that participates in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), provided they have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility.

We encourage applicants to check the website of the relevant U.S. embassy or consulate to confirm the level of services currently offered and to find guidelines for applying for a visa without an interview. For more information visit [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov).

Review the [Rutgers Global Alerts](#) page for more information.

COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Thirty three (33) countries are still subject to COVID-19 travel restrictions. F, M, and academic J visa applicants are eligible for National Interest Exceptions (NIEs). For more information travel restrictions and NIE, please visit this U.S. government website: [clarified current travel restrictions and National Interest Exceptions](#)

For the latest COVID related information and updates, review the [COVID Related International Student FAQ](#).

BEWARE OF SCAMS

We have been made aware of scams targeting unsuspecting international students and scholars. These scams have become increasingly sophisticated, oftentimes with an apparently government phone number appearing on your caller ID, or the caller knowing a lot of your personal information. 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.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

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.

REMINDER ABOUT OPT APPLICATIONS

While the USCIS deadline for post-completion OPT applications is 60 days following degree completion, it can take 4-5 months for USCIS to process the applications. All students applying for post-completion OPT must complete the Post-Completion OPT Workshop on [Canvas](#). F-1 students who will be getting the October 2021 degree and who plan to apply for post-completion OPT should plan to submit an OPT application as soon as possible.

EXTENSION OF PROGRAM

If you will not complete your program before the end date on your I-20/DS-2019, you must request an extension of your program and receive an updated I-20/DS-2019 from ISSS. Please remember that any delay in completing program requirements must have been caused by compelling academic reasons (such as a change of major, change in research topic, or unexpected research problems) or medical reasons (documented by a licensed medical practitioner). Please review the [Extension of Program webpage](#) for more information about eligibility requirements and instructions.

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 offered online through [Canvas](#). If you are unable to access the Rutgers Global - ISSS Canvas page, you will need to first submit the [Online Workshop Access e-form via 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 ISSS [website](#).

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 [Canvas](#).

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

International students in F-1 and J-1 status may work on-campus at Rutgers while pursuing their studies. You will need some paperwork from ISSS before you can begin working on-campus. All international students must follow these steps before beginning any on-campus workshop:

- Review the detailed information and instructions on the ISSS [website](#)
- Complete the Staying in Legal Status Workshop on [CANVAS](#)
- Complete the On-Campus Employment Workshop on [CANVAS](#)
- Request the necessary forms/letters via the [RGlobal portal](#) before beginning on-campus employment

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT CHAT SESSIONS

ISSS is offering twice-monthly chat sessions on CPT and OPT via Zoom. This is an opportunity for students to drop in and discuss their CPT/OPT questions with an International Student Adviser (ISA), as well as connect with other students who are also interested in off-campus employment. The schedule of Fall 2021 chat sessions with direct links can be found on the [Advising Services webpage](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

SHOPPING SHUTTLE

Rutgers Global – ISSS arranges shopping shuttles to local stores throughout the semester so students can purchase groceries and other living essentials. You should sign up to reserve your spot on the shuttle; international students and scholars who have signed up will be given preference to ride on the shuttle. [Click here for more information and to sign up for the shuttle.](#)

ONE STOP WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

[The One Stop Weekly](#) – your source for official student information—is published every Tuesday during the semester by the [One Stop Student Services Center \(One Stop\) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#) and contains timely academic information. Students are responsible for knowing the information in these notices and taking appropriate action. The One Stop represents an integrated and coordinated cross-functional service in the areas of financial aid, student accounts, and registration, and can be reached using the [contact form](#) or in-person at [Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor Hall](#) located at 65 Davidson Road on Busch Campus.

SUCCESS.RUTGERS.EDU

[Success.rutgers.edu](#) is a new, centralized website dedicated to helping you find all the tools and resources to succeed. Resources are organized in four thematic areas: Success Essentials, Academic Support Services, Involvement & Community, and Experiential Learning & Career Preparation. The site is easily searchable and also includes important “How To” instructional videos and guides. If you can’t find something or need additional assistance, email student.success@rutgers.edu.

LET’S TELE TALK

A Community-Based Counseling service offered by Rutgers Student Health, [Let’s Tele Talk](#) provides easy access to informal, confidential consultations with CAPS counselors. Different sites are open on all campuses, for all students, and are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 848-932-7884 and choose option 2.

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