

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-
2026



LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS



"Despite a challenging political environment, new international student enrollment grew in 2025-2026, once again demonstrating Rutgers' enduring global appeal as a destination for education. In addition, we continued to see growing enrollment for our more than 100 study abroad programs."

Greetings,

I am pleased to share with you key highlights of Rutgers University's global engagement during the 2025-2026 academic year (August 2025-August 2026). This past year, we focused on deepening select international partnerships and research collaborations, and continued to connect with partners, prospective students, and alumni in India and South Korea, among other countries. Despite a challenging political environment, new international student enrollment grew in 2025-2026, once again demonstrating Rutgers' enduring global appeal as a destination for education. In addition, we continued to see growing enrollment for our more than 100 study abroad programs.

Rutgers Global strives to cultivate a culture that welcomes new international students and scholars and sets them up for success. We also provide access to global experiences for as many students as possible. And we coordinate global research partnerships for faculty to help them address the many global challenges that confront us today. Throughout these pages, you will find stories, photos, and data that spotlight some of the ways that we continue in our mission of "Jersey Roots, Global Reach."

I want to extend my gratitude to President William F. Tate IV and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Keena Arbuthnot, as well as the Chancellors and Provosts and their teams, our many campus partners, and talented students and scholars for their invaluable contributions to Rutgers University's international engagement. Together, we will continue to uphold Rutgers' legacy of excellence and innovation, making a positive impact on the world.

We look forward to engaging with you in the coming year.

Warm regards,

Eric (Rick) Garfunkel

Vice President for Global Affairs

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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STUDY ABROAD AND THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

HIGHLIGHTING FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD AT RUTGERS

Faculty-led study abroad programs are a cornerstone of Rutgers Global's mission to provide transformative international learning experiences. Each year, Rutgers faculty invest their expertise, creativity, and passion into developing programs that connect academic learning with real-world experiences across the globe. Rutgers Global-Study Abroad is proud to partner with faculty across the university to create meaningful global learning opportunities that inspire students, strengthen academic programs, and expand Rutgers' international engagement.



Rutgers students climb to the top of St. Paul's Cathedral in London with Professor Tom Fulton during the "Shakespeare in England" program



Dr. Alejandro Vagelli in Galapagos for the "Galapagos Archipelago" program



Dr. Rebecca Davis leads the "Romania's Revolution" program



Students in Taiwan on the "Meditation and Social Work" summer program with Professor Chien-Chung Huang



Rutgers students on the "Lifestyles of the Mediterranean" winter program with professors Nancy Goldberg, Joanne Hunt, and Labros Sidossis

**"We are deeply grateful for the faculty leaders whose dedication makes these experiences possible and whose commitment continues to shape the next generation of globally engaged citizens."
– Lauren Meregalli Ferrer, Director, Rutgers Global-Study Abroad**

Juan Alaya

Discovering Nature and Community in Puerto Rico,
The Rio Piedras Watershed | *Puerto Rico*

Carole Allamand

Learn French in Aix-en-Provence | *France*

Richard Alomar

Discovering Nature and Community in Puerto Rico,
The Rio Piedras Watershed | *Puerto Rico*

DuWayne Battle

Empowerment through Community Engagement
in the Yucatan | *Mexico*

Julie Blumfield

Global Health Practicum in Tanzania | *Tanzania*

Dan Cabanes

Field Study in Archaeology: Archaeological
Sciences & Neanderthals in Spain | *Spain*

Elsa Candelario

Compounding Disasters and Community Resilience
(Social Work) | *Puerto Rico*

Tracy Chang

Leading with Wisdom in the Age of AI in Taiwan |
Taiwan

Cleopatra Charles

NGOs and Community Power in Saint Lucia: A
Practical Student Experience in Advocacy and
Change, Saint Lucia | *Saint Lucia*

Jae Won Chung

Rutgers Ewha Study Abroad (RESA) | *South Korea*

Darren Clarke

Education, Culture & Change in South Africa |
South Africa – Celebrating 25 years!

Frederick Curry

Afro-Brazilian Dance and Music in Salvador,
Brazil | *Brazil*

Mary D'Ambrosio

Global Journalism in Italy | *Italy*

Rebecca Davis

Romania's [R]Evolution: Community Care for
Vulnerable Groups in Romania | *Romania*

Empowerment through Community Engagement in
the Yucatan | *Mexico*

Alex Dawson

WINTER IS COMING, SUMMER IS HERE: Write
Fantasy on the Emerald Island | *Ireland*

THERE & BACK AGAIN: Write Fantasy in
Tolkien's England | *United Kingdom*

Sara Saez Fajardo

Rutgers in Spain | *Spain*

Gary Farney

RU Archaeological Field School in Italy | *Italy*

Tom Fulton

Shakespeare in England | *United Kingdom*

Hae Chang Gea

Taiwan: Engineering Management in High-Tech
Industries | *Taiwan*

Nancy Goldberg

Lifestyles of the Mediterranean | *Greece*

Jack Harris

Castles, Communities, and Sustainability: Lessons
from Scotland for the 21st Century | *Scotland*

Chloe Hawkins

Tropical Environments and Society | *Costa Rica*

Chien-Chung Huang

Meditation and Social Work in Taiwan | *Taiwan*

Joanne Hunt

Lifestyles of the Mediterranean | *Greece*

Emilia Iwu

Global Health Practicum in Ghana | *Ghana*

Global Health Practicum in Tanzania | *Tanzania*

Aimee Labrie

THERE & BACK AGAIN: Write Fantasy in
Tolkien's England | *United Kingdom*

Richard Lathrop

Tropical Environments and Society | *Costa Rica*

Ben Lintner

Tropical Environments and Society | *Costa Rica*

Regina Marchi

Irish Media, Politics and Cultural Survival | *Ireland*

Karl Matthews

Food and Sustainability in Thailand | *Thailand*

Emily Merchant

Food and the Mediterranean Culture | *Greece*

Brian Murphy

Constitutions and the Founding of the American
Republic | *United Kingdom*

Paul O'Keefe

Learning from the Refugee Experience in East
Africa | *Kenya*

Brandon Park

Rutgers Ewha Study Abroad (RESA) | *South Korea*

Nrupali Patel

Rooted in Change: Immersive learning for Rural
Agro-Food Development in Southern India | *India*

Lilia Pavlovsky

British Collections and Archives | *United Kingdom*

Rafael Perez-Figueroa

Public Health Aspects of HIV Prevention and Care
| *United Kingdom*

Marie Radford

Rutgers- British Collections and Archives | *United Kingdom*

Victoria Ramenzoni

Primates, Ecology, and Conservation In Indonesia
| *Indonesia*

Timothy Raphael

Learning from the Refugee Experience in East
Africa | *Kenya*

Marjoris Regis

Afro-Brazilian Dance and Music in Salvador,
Brazil | *Brazil*

Keesha Roach

Global Health Practicum in Ghana | *Ghana*

Mark Robson

Human Health and the Metropolis: Tensions and
Transformations in Southeast Asia | *Thailand*

Carmela Scala

RU in Rome | *Italy*

Alex Dika Seggerman

Egyptian Art: Ancient, Islamic, and Modern |
Egypt

Labros Sidossis

Lifestyles of the Mediterranean | *Greece*

Lena Struwe

Tropical Environments and Society | *Costa Rica*

Alejandro Vagelli

Galapagos Archipelago: the development of
evolutionary thinking | *Ecuador*

An Exploration of Biodiversity of Patagonia,
Argentina | *Argentina*

Erin Vogel

Primates, Ecology, and Conservation In
Indonesia | *Indonesia*

Haruko Wakabayashi

Asia-Pacific Relations in Multi-Dimension
| *Japan*

Lihui Zhu

Intensive Mandarin in Beijing | *China*

Renee Calimba, a student who took the
"Tropical Environments and Society" program in Costa Rica





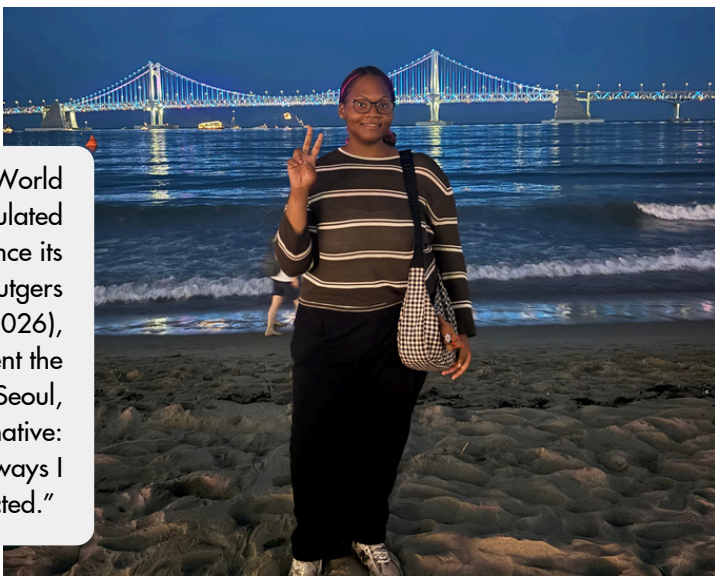
ANNUAL STUDY ABROAD FALL FAIR DRAWS IN 900+ RUTGERS STUDENTS

Both undergraduate and graduate students had the opportunity to explore the wide range of exceptional study abroad opportunities at Rutgers Global's annual Fall Fair in September. The interest in global education is at an all-time high at Rutgers, reflecting a growing enthusiasm for international experiences.

Students at the Study Abroad Fall Fair

PASSPORT TO THE WORLD INITIATIVE OPENS DOORS TO STUDY ABROAD

Rutgers Global-Study Abroad launched the Passport to the World initiative in 2022, designed to increase the number of matriculated Rutgers students with U.S. passports across all campuses. Since its inception, the program has awarded 656 passports to Rutgers students. Le'Nahjaa Bailey (Rutgers-New Brunswick, Class of 2026), received her first passport through the program and spent the summer of 2025 studying at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Bailey described the experience as transformative: "Engaging with another culture firsthand opened my eyes in ways I never expected."



Le'Nahjaa Bailey in South Korea



NEW FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN EGYPT A HIT

Rutgers Global offered a new faculty-led study abroad program this winter called Egyptian Art: Ancient, Islamic, and Modern. This short-term program took place between semesters in January 2026 and was led by Rutgers-Newark faculty member Professor Alex Seggerman as part of a course she taught in the fall. The on-campus course covered the history of art in Egypt, including ancient sphinxes, Coptic textiles, medieval Islamic mosques, modern urban developments, and the contemporary graffiti of the Arab Spring.

Students having fun and flexing in Egypt

STUDENTS ACROSS RUTGERS EARN GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS



Irit Wiseman, Karen Tantalean, Danny Carmona, Katelyn Watkins, and Ameerha Alli

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, Gilman Scholarships support students of limited financial means in pursuing study or internships abroad. Lauren Meregalli Ferrer, Director of Study Abroad at Rutgers Global, said "From internships in Prague and business programs in Mexico to language study in Spain, refugee studies in Kenya, and coursework at leading universities in Europe and Asia, these students are demonstrating the many ways global learning can complement and enhance a Rutgers education."

RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

- Rengui Lin** — London School of Economics (England)
- Irit Wiseman** — FU-BEST at Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
- Katelyn Watkins** — Rutgers in Spain
- Zarahi Vaca** — Rutgers-Kenya: Learning from the Refugee Experience in East Africa
- Karen Tantalean** — John Cabot University (Italy)
- Ameerha Alli** — Open Campus in the Americas (Various Locations in Latin America)
- Ryan Hart** — CELA Belize

RUTGERS-CAMDEN

- Lucas Liona** — CEA Internship Program in Prague (Czech Republic)
- Oscar Rios Barragan** — Doing Business in Mexico
- Christien Brown** - January in Paris (CIEE)
- Eva Chen** - Leading with Wisdom in the Age of AI, Taiwan
- Tia Franco** - Nursing Program in Romania

RUTGERS-NEWARK

- Danny Carmona** — Rutgers-Constitutions and the Founding of the American Republic



Global Ambassador Spotlight: Joie Jarilla

Joie Jarilla, who earned her degree in Information Technology and Informatics (ITI) from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information (SCI), built her academic path around web design and user experience. But it's her work beyond the classroom, particularly through her study abroad experience at Yonsei University in South Korea, that shaped her aspirations in powerful ways. As a student worker with the Rutgers Global Study Abroad office through a partnership with the Universities Study Abroad Consortium (USAC) and in her role as a Global Ambassador, she became a videographer extraordinaire and a key resource for students considering international education opportunities.



Graduating Senior Neha Temas Shares the Impact of her Study Abroad Program

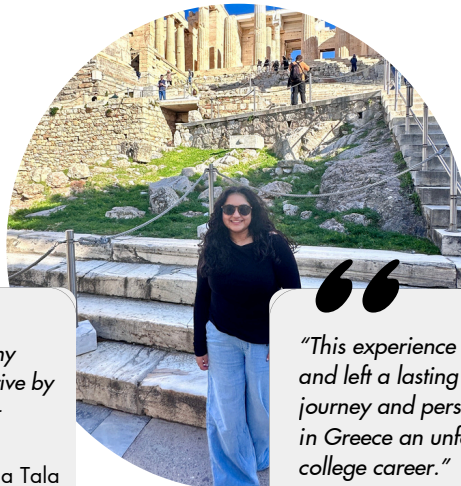
"I went to Tanzania on a Global Health Practicum in January of 2024, where I shadowed nurses and physicians in a variety of different hospital departments, got to know the nursing students at the University of Dodoma, executed nursing simulations with them, and helped train them. It was definitely a step out of my comfort zone, though, traveling with others whom I had just gotten to know for the first time. But I'm so glad that I did step out of my bubble, because 2024 Neha would have been really shocked at where I'm standing right now. She also would have been happy about the experience and all the ways that it's shaped me since."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

The **Rutgers University Humans of Study Abroad (#RUHoSA)** is a social media campaign that highlights our students studying abroad with vibrant photos and short essays each week.



“Studying abroad was a truly instrumental experience because it pushed me outside my comfort zone. It gave me a global perspective by allowing me to see outside the New Jersey-shaped box I was in and explore different customs, traditions, and lifestyles.” Kamilla Tala
John Cabot University

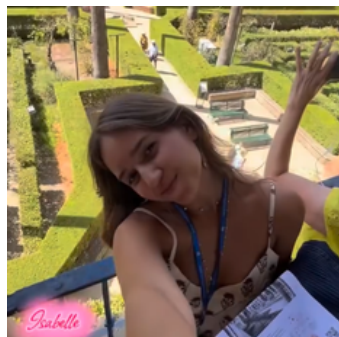


“This experience challenged me, inspired me, and left a lasting impact on both my academic journey and personal growth, making my time in Greece an unforgettable chapter of my college career.” Mahek Parekh
Winter: Lifestyles of the Mediterranean

OUR MEDIA TEAM SCHOLARS



Rutgers Global Media Team Scholars receive a scholarship to help offset the cost of their program by recording their experiences while studying abroad through short videos that we post to our Instagram and TikTok accounts. These videos offer Rutgers students a genuine glimpse into the day-to-day global education experience.



Fall 2025 Media Team Scholars:

Kilala Yamamoto (Belgium), at left; **Isabelle Feldman (Spain)**, at right; Sofia Pasqua (France); Lyla Torres (Costa Rica & Argentina); Diana Yu (China).

Spring 2026 Media Team Scholars:

Nickolas Geyfman (Hong Kong) at left; **Noara Chowdhury (Costa Rica & Argentina)**, at right; Jack Behrend (Italy); Emily Csatlós (Spain); Rohan Malik (United Kingdom); Zara Notani (Greece).

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Global Ambassadors are students who have returned from a study abroad program at Rutgers. They play a key role in connecting with other students, answering questions, sharing their experiences, and encouraging them to engage with Rutgers Global-Study Abroad.



Carys Neill,
Nutritional Science



Joselyn Sabillon,
Animal Science



Gabe Endres,
Biomedical Engineering



Bianca Martinez,
Biomedical Engineering



Eric Wenz, Economics

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

International Student Services, International Academic Support, International Faculty & Scholar Services



A WARM SCARLET WELCOME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Rutgers University proudly welcomed over 1,200 new international students in the fall of 2025 during its three-day International Student Orientation (ISO), held in late August at Jersey Mike's Arena and across campus. Nearly 150 parents and family members also attended, many of whom first connected with Rutgers through admitted student events and pre-departure programs hosted during the summer in India and China.

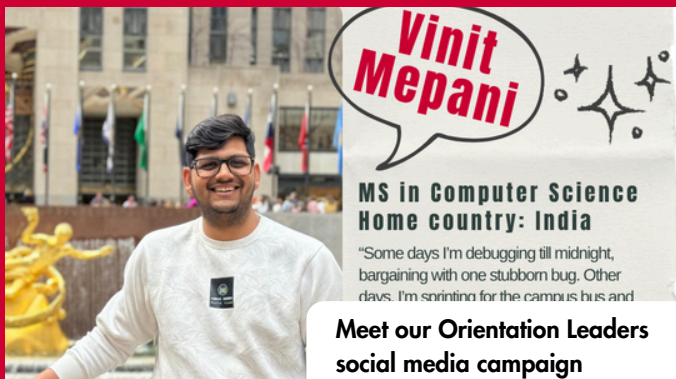
MEET OUR ORIENTATION LEADERS



Orientation Leaders Jiawei Shao and Hamida Paiman Win Awards: Jiawei (at right) was awarded the CES Excellence in Career Readiness Award and Hamida (in center) won the Chancellor's Leadership Award for Student Staff Excellence.



Orientation Leaders Training Session



PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATIONS IN INDIA AND CHINA

In June, Rutgers held in-person pre-departure orientations (PDOs) in India and China for new students and their families. The Rutgers team included leadership from Rutgers Global and schools. The events were attended by more than 440 students and parents. The goal of the PDOs was to assure new students and their families that there is comprehensive support available for pre- and post-arrival. Attendees learned about academic expectations and resources for success, Fall semester registration, immigration, health and safety, and arrival tips, as well as about life at Rutgers. Current student and recent alumni volunteers assisted during the events and answered questions.



PDO in Shanghai, China



PDO in Delhi, India



Students in one of the RU-FYT courses

RU-FYT (FIRST-YEAR TRANSITION COURSE)

Rutgers welcomed students from 94 different countries as part of its incoming class in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 with almost 800 of them enrolled in the First-Year Transition Course (RU-FYT). RU-FYT aided new students in navigating their first semester and adjusting to academic and campus life while laying the groundwork for a successful university journey. Now in its ninth academic year as a credited, graded, mandatory course, RU-FYT continues to be taught by highly trained upper-class peer instructors who are trained in inclusive pedagogy.

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF OUR STUDENTS

Rutgers Counseling, Alcohol, and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) mental health services works in close partnership with the ISSS team to help support international students. They co-host a series of wellness workshops each semester, "CAPS/ISSS International Students Support Space," with topics that resonate for students, such as meditation, yoga, and self-care.



Students at the CAPS/ISSS International Student Support Session

ADVISING SERVICES AT RUTGERS GLOBAL

Over the past year, the International Student Services team assisted students through more than 50,000 interactions, including advising appointments, virtual consultations, front-office inquiries, and processing of nearly 26,000 immigration-related document requests.

PROGRAMMING FOR OUR FACULTY & STAFF

In the fall and spring semesters, the International Student Services team presented their twice-annual **Working with International Students Workshop** for Rutgers faculty and staff to provide guidance for supporting international students. The International Faculty & Scholar Services team presented the **Employing Foreign Nationals Workshop** throughout the year, as well as their annual **Cross-Cultural Communications Workshop** in April. The topic was “Building Community: Empowering Supportive Campus Environments” with keynote speaker Dr. Sangeeta Lamba, Vice Chancellor for Engagement and Teaching Excellence at Rutgers Health. These workshops offered digital badges for faculty and staff who participated.



Student panel at the Working with International Students workshop



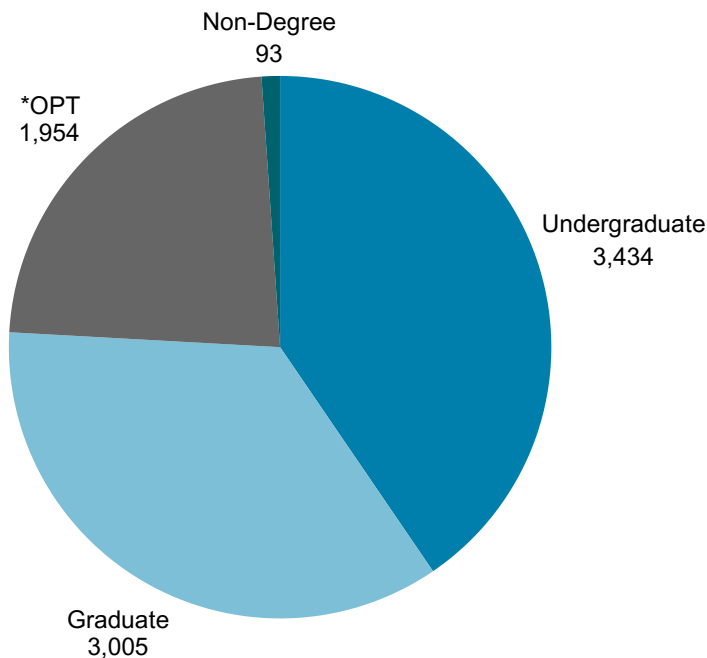
Three international post-docs shared their reflections at the Cross-Cultural Communications workshop



Dr. Lamba was the keynote speaker at our Cross-Cultural Communications workshop

*Optional Practical Training (OPT) is employment authorization that allows international students in the U.S. on F-1 visas to work in their field of study for up to 12 months, with an additional 24-month extension for eligible STEM graduates.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DEGREE LEVEL





RUTGERS GLOBAL CELEBRATES GRADUATING STUDENTS FROM AFGHANISTAN AND GAZA

The ISSS office coordinates funding and support for refugee and displaced students and scholars from around the world in collaboration with external and internal partners. In May, Rutgers Global, joined by leadership from Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Afghan Future Fund (AFF), hosted a graduation ceremony for 10 displaced students—7 students from Afghanistan and 3 students from Gaza—who completed an exceptionally challenging journey to obtain their degrees from Rutgers. As Vice President for Global Affairs Rick Garfunkel noted in his opening remarks, “The strength and resilience needed to reach this achievement is nothing short of astounding. And this is why we are gathered together today—to honor this journey.”



Karl Baumle, Maya Sarno, Rick Garfunkel, Executive Vice President Keena Arbuthnot, Janet Alder, and Mohini Mukherjee

GLOBAL SCHOLARS RECEPTION

Rutgers Global celebrated our international scholars with a reception in October. Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Keena Arbuthnot presented opening remarks followed by Dr. Janet Alder, Associate Professor, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Postdoctoral Affairs, and Assistant Dean for Graduate Academic and Student Affairs at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, who discussed her work with international postdocs and the strong commitment Rutgers shows in supporting their needs.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR SPEAKER SERIES



Rachana Rao Battaje

Lucia Guadalupe Ximena Herrera

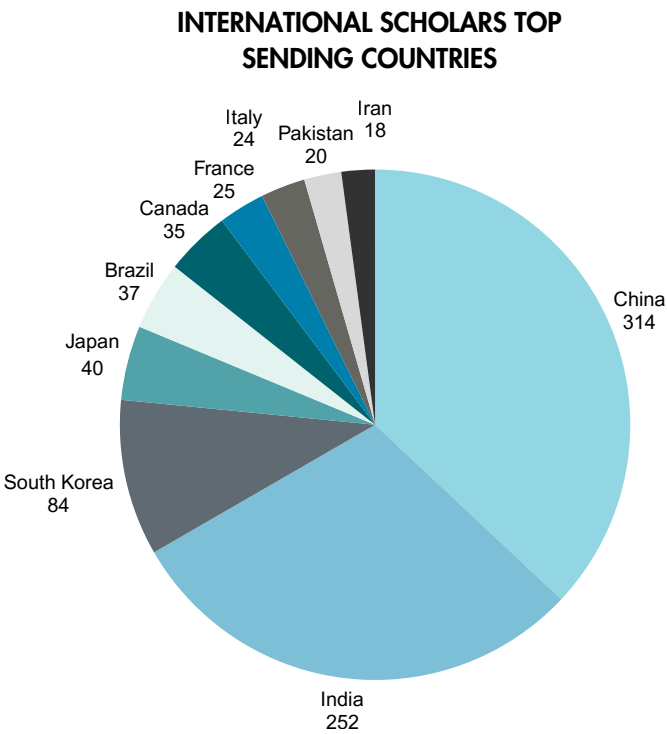
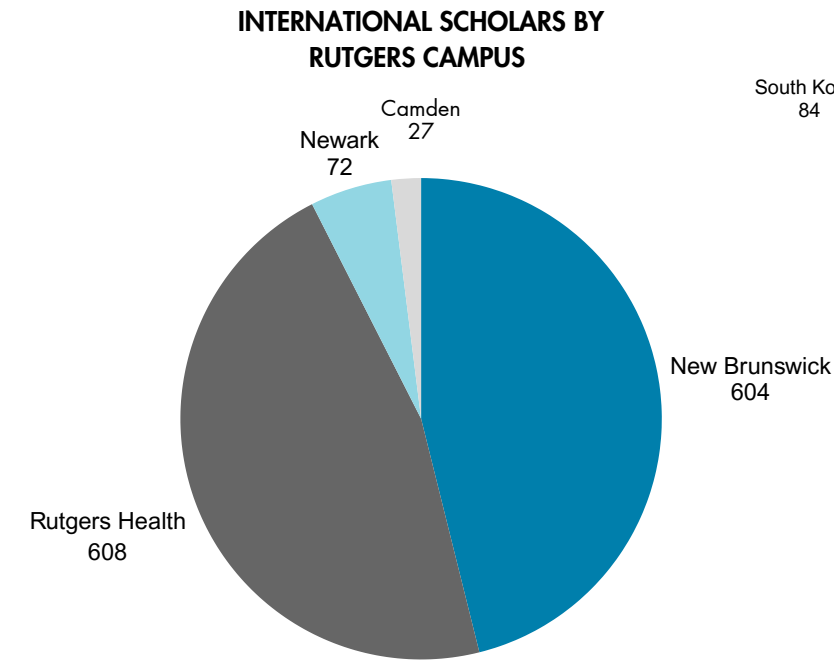
Liisa Veerus

In April, international postdocs Dr. Rachana Rao Battaje (India), Dr. Lucia Herrera (Argentina), and Dr. Liisa Veerus (Estonia), presented at our annual Scholar Speaker Series detailing how the microbiomes within our bodies and in the ecosystems we inhabit illuminate a One Health approach linking human, environmental, and microbial well-being. As a bonus, they shared simple, science-backed tips for caring for our invisible microbial allies.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR TOP FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION*

Biological & Biomedical Sciences
Business Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services
Computer & Information Sciences & Support Services
Engineering
Physical Sciences

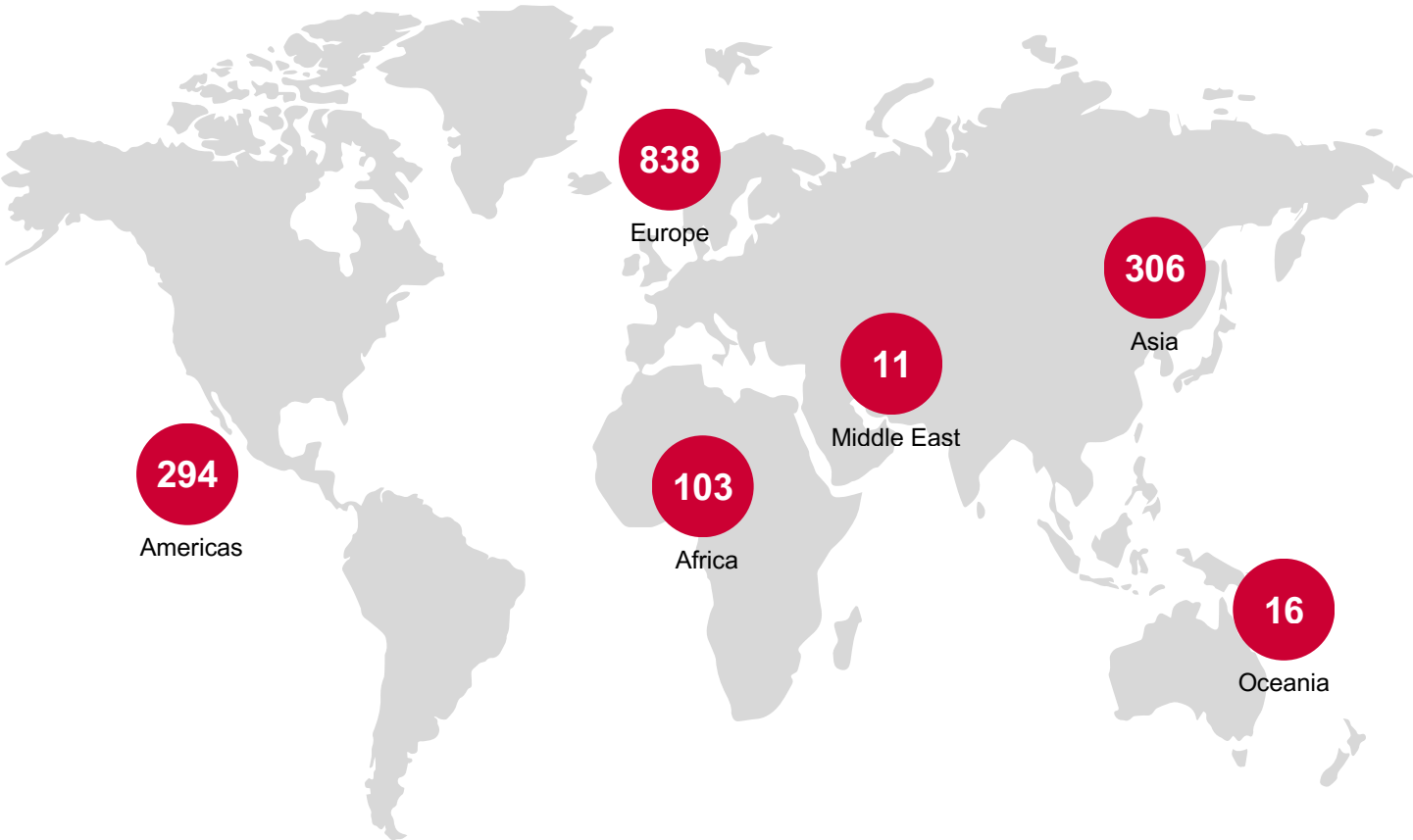
**In alphabetical order*



STUDY ABROAD

FACTS AT A GLANCE

TOP STUDY ABROAD DESTINATIONS FOR RUTGERS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



TOP COUNTRIES*

China	South Africa
Greece	South Korea
Italy	Spain
Jamaica	Taiwan
Japan	United Kingdom

**In alphabetical order*

TOP MAJORS*

Computer Science
Finance
Marketing
Political Science
Social Work

**In alphabetical order*



\$640,958

Scholarships Awarded
Includes both external and internal scholarships/funding that are tied to our specific programs/initiatives

1,568

Students Studying
Abroad

142

Study Abroad
Programs

New Brunswick, Camden, Newark

56

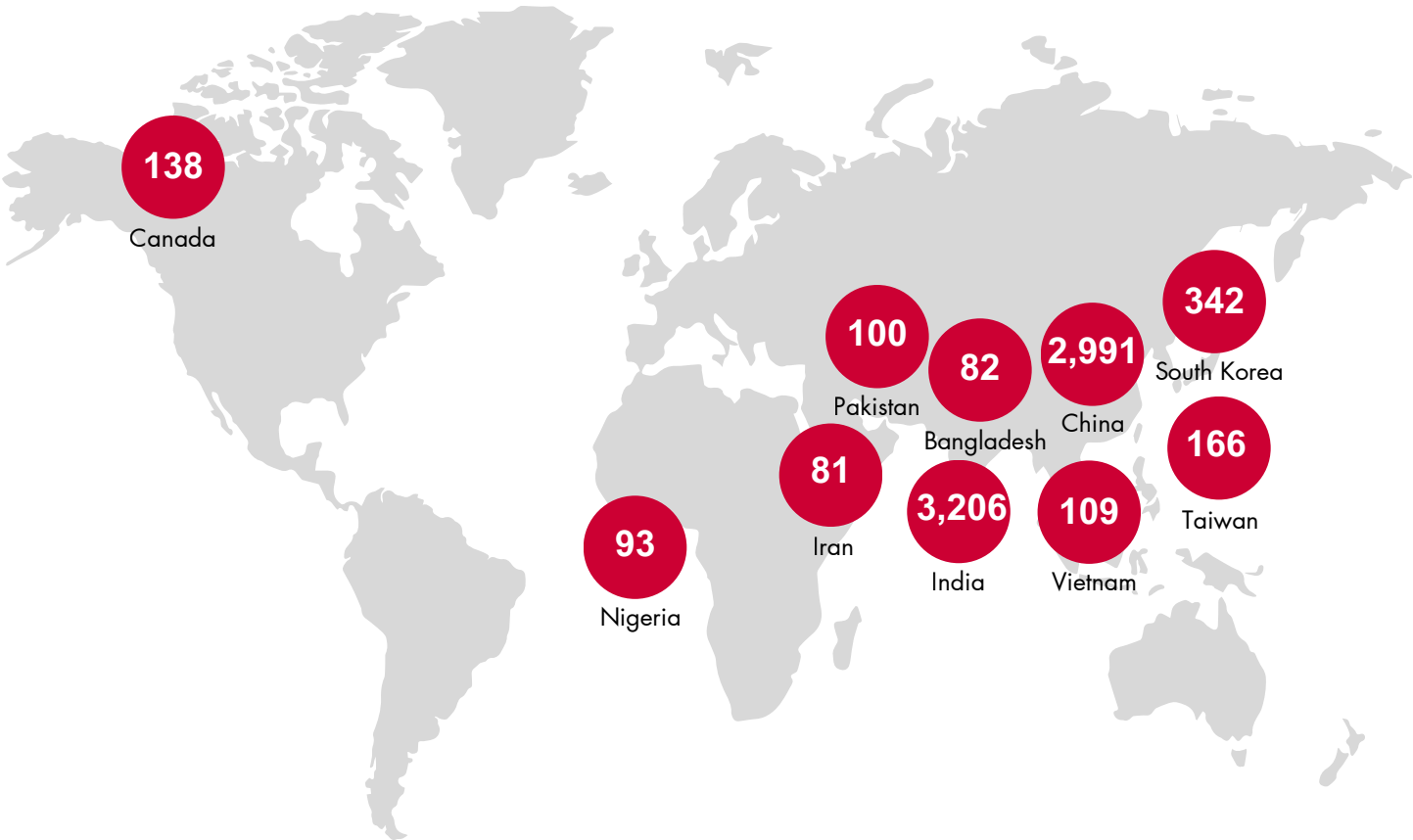
Study Abroad
Countries

**The data for this report is representative of New Brunswick, Newark, Camden, and Rutgers Health during the 2025-26 Academic Year. The numbers presented for ISSS Students and Scholars is based on Fall 2025 Open Doors data.*

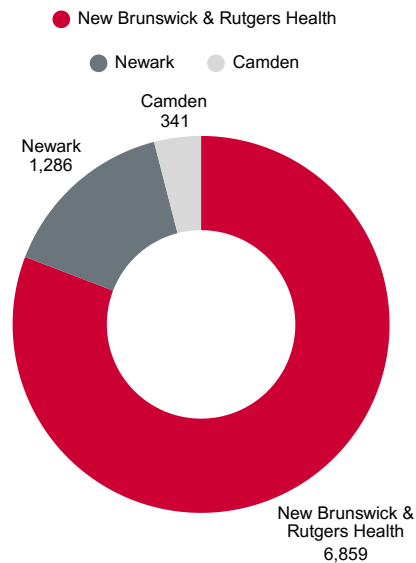
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FACTS AT A GLANCE

TOP TEN HOME COUNTRIES OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



International Students By Campus



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TOP MAJORS*

- Biological & Biomedical Sciences
- Business; Management; Marketing & Related Support Services
- Computer & Information Sciences & Support Services
- Engineering
- Health Professions & Related Programs
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Physical Sciences
- Social Sciences

**In alphabetical order*

8,486

Number of International Students

134

Countries

PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

PARTNERSHIPS: SOUTH KOREA, INDIA, GHANA



Global Job Fair draws at crowd at Rutgers in June

Rutgers Welcomes Korean Biomedical Leaders for Research Collaboration & Global Job Fair: In June, Rutgers hosted a research collaboration and partnership development program that brought together approximately 200 biomedical researchers, medical school leaders, government-supported research fellows, and trainees from South Korea, reinforcing Rutgers' growing role as a global hub for biomedical innovation and international research partnerships. Hosted in collaboration with the **Korea Association of Medical Colleges (KAMC)**, the program brought together recipients of South Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) Overseas Training Program, Korean biomedical researchers, and representatives from many of Korea's leading medical schools and research organizations.

Delegation to India Results in Partnerships with Leading Institutions: A delegation from Rutgers University traveled to Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Vellore, and Kolkata in November, meeting with partners, connecting with alumni, and engaging with key organizations resulting in an inspiring and impactful visit to India. The delegation brought together senior academic and institutional leadership, including deans, key faculty, and administrators from the School of Engineering (SoE), Rutgers Business School (RBS), the School of Social Work (SSW), Rutgers Foundation, and Rutgers Global. One key outcome was that **Rutgers School of Engineering** formalized Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with four leading Indian institutions.



Dean Alberto Cuitiño of Rutgers SoE signs MOU with IIT-Madras in India



J.C. Lore, front row, third from right, in Ghana

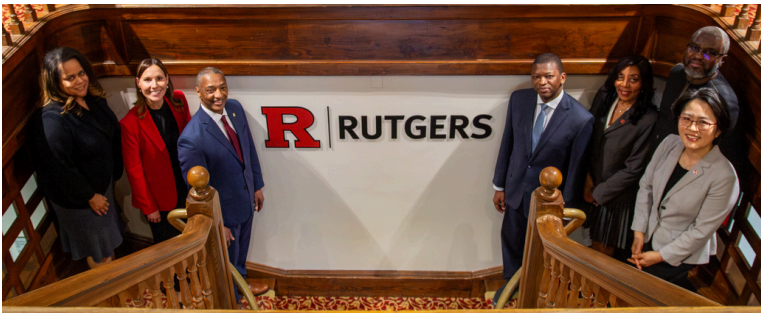
Engaging in Ghana: Rutgers University is strengthening its engagement in Ghana through a growing network of academic partnerships, faculty collaborations, student opportunities, and community-centered initiatives that reflect the university's broader global strategic vision. At the heart of this work is the newly formed Ghana Working Group, a cross-campus collective of faculty and administrators organized by Rutgers Global. Among the most impactful recent initiatives is the work of **J.C. Lore**, Distinguished Clinical Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy at Rutgers Law School. In 2025, he received a Rutgers Global Grant to advance the right to legal counsel for poor and vulnerable populations in Ghana.

New Collaboration between Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and Seoul National University: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM) welcomed its first student from Seoul National University School of Dentistry (SNU SD), **Jae Hyeok (Jerry) Lee**, marking the beginning of a new international collaboration. "This program allows for an academic and cultural exchange between our students and visiting students, simultaneously facilitating their professional and personal growth," said Rosa Chaviano-Moran, associate dean for admissions. RSDM has several other exchange programs around the globe, stretching from Ireland to Spain to Albania to India.



Rosa Chaviano-Moran, second from left, welcomes Jae Hyeok Lee, middle

Rutgers and Seoul National University Partner Launch Visiting Graduate Student Program: Rutgers University and Seoul National University (SNU) have launched the Visiting Graduate Student Program for the SNU Graduate School of AI Semiconductor, a structured research immersion initiative hosted by the Rutgers Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). Rutgers successfully hosted its first SNU students this year: **Dayoung Chun** and **Jihoon Kim**.



Ambassador Abdoul Wahab Haidara from Senegal meets with President Tate and Chancellor Conway



The Senegal Urban Forum at Rutgers-New Brunswick in June; Rutgers hosted the Senegal Football Team during the World Cup



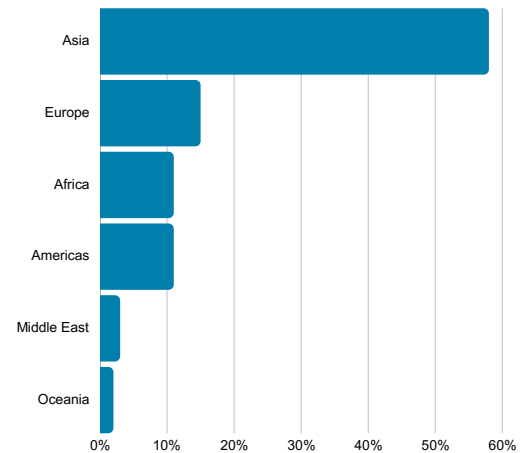
Ambassador Satoshi Katahira from Japan visits with Rutgers in March



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed by the Indian Consul General of New York on behalf of the India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

A majority of the formal partnerships are general Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), which allow for a range of common collaboration activities, including faculty mobility, graduate student mobility, and basic research collaborations.

PARTNERSHIP BY REGION



Renmin University of China Visit



A delegation from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras visits Rutgers



Amir Dhia of Education Above All, based in Qatar, visits Rutgers

SELECT INSTITUTIONS WITH STRONG ENGAGEMENT*

Ritsumeikan University
Seoul National University
Universitas Nasional
University of Dodoma
Xavier School of Management

*In alphabetical order

128

NUMBER OF
PARTNERS

151

ACTIVE
AGREEMENTS

42

COUNTRIES

GLOBAL PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

RUTGERS WELCOMES 26 STUDENTS FROM SOUTH KOREA FOR SHORT-TERM PROGRAM



In October, Rutgers Global, in partnership with the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT), hosted a 2-day academic program for 26 undergraduate students from South Korea majoring in biotechnology, health sciences, computer science, and engineering. The program's theme, "AI & Biotechnology in Healthcare," highlighted how artificial intelligence is reshaping biomedical innovation and interdisciplinary research.

RUTGERS INTERNATIONAL SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Rutgers offers customized short-term programs for international high school and university students in various disciplines, including AI technology, Computer Science, and Philosophy. This past year, we welcomed students from South Korea and China to several programs, including a new one with the Ernesto Mario School of Pharmacy.



TUP Program at the United Nations



South Korean students at the Ernesto Mario School of Pharmacy Summer program



Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations Summer program



Rutgers School of Engineering Summer program

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT PROGRAMMING

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Rutgers Global offered a range of programming during the year for students, faculty, and staff, all with an international focus. Our signature monthly series, Friendship Fridays, continued to draw a crowd of both international and domestic students looking to socialize and make new connections. Below are photos from some of our programs.



Global Graduation Celebration



Greek Culture Night



Lunar New Year Celebration



Apples Around the World



Anita Ashok Datar Lecture



Newark Thanksgiving Event



International Education Week Photo Contest Winners



Welcome Back Party

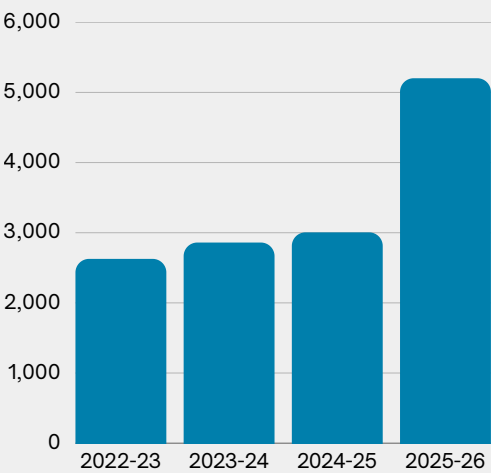
SPOTLIGHT ON RUTGERS GLOBAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER CORPS



Rutgers students celebrate Lunar New Year at a Rutgers Global event organized by the Student Volunteer Corps this spring

The Rutgers Global Student Volunteer Corps (SVC) is a vibrant group of Rutgers students who assist the Rutgers Global Programming & Events team each year in conceiving, planning, and executing fun and engaging campus events that serve to promote global awareness and cross-cultural understanding. These volunteers gain important benefits from joining the SVC, such as enhancing their intercultural communication skills, growing both personal and professional networks, learning how to work with teams, and gaining some excellent resume-building experience.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ON-CAMPUS GLOBAL EVENTS



FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

GLOBAL GRANTS



"This year resulted in one of our largest submission pools ever that included some especially strong proposals," noted Johanna Bernstein, Assistant Dean for Faculty Engagement at Rutgers Global, who administers the program. For this year's Global Grants cycle, Korea University (KU) and Rutgers entered into an agreement to foster mutual collaboration with the aim of promoting their research works and accomplishments to both international academic and industrial communities. "We are gratified to be able to support our faculty in their innovative international work with our annual Global Grants."

Faculty-led Study Abroad

Anna Haley
Carla Katz
Ethan Schoolman
Keisha April
Laura Napolitano
Laura Ramirez Polo
Maria Montenegro

Global Health

Sarah McMahon-Cannizzo
Silvia Perez-Cortes
Joachim Sackey
Udele Tagoe
Joe Vella

International Collaborative Research

Nathan Wages
Maria Kouneli
Corday Selden
Benjamin Bates
Federico Sesti
Ashutosh Goel
Omar Vasquez Duque
Ricardo Andres Bello Gomez
Ulla Berg

Korea University-Rutgers University co-funded Collaborative Research

Aziz Ezzat
Hyung Jin Ahn
Jingang Yi

GLOBAL APPRECIATION DINNER

Rutgers Global brought 150 members of the Rutgers community together in April for a memorable Global Appreciation Dinner. Faculty, students, and campus partners gathered to celebrate the people and partnerships that make Rutgers a truly global institution. The evening included presentations from Professor Bishr Omary, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research and Professor Ahmed Aziz Ezzat from the School of Engineering, amongst others.



Assem Kiyalova (and daughters), Ahmed Aziz Ezzat, Neha Tethmas, Rick Garfunkel, Bishr Omary, and Ji-Yeung Jang

UN@RUTGERS



Cymie R. Payne

HIGH SEAS TREATY RATIFIED

Cymie R. Payne, Professor in the Department of Human Ecology at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) and the School of Law-Camden, has argued for the BBNJ Agreement at the United Nations on behalf of the Ocean Law Specialist Group of the World Commission on Environmental Law. This agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty, is a legally binding international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) designed to conserve and sustainably use marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The agreement received 60 ratifications and officially entered into force on January 17, 2026.

COP30 OUTCOMES ADVANCE LEGITIMACY CRISIS

Dr. Danielle Falzon, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, attended the 2025 COP30 conference in Brazil and shared her reflections. "Unless the negotiations can pivot to decisive action-oriented policy-making, climate change will only get worse. The very slow, incremental, and precarious progress based on compromise and capitulation that has kept the climate negotiations going for three decades is no longer tenable."



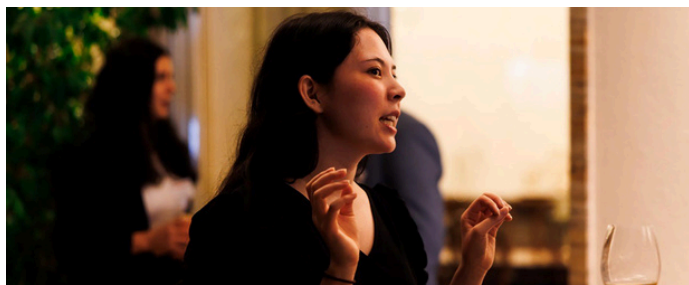


Manuela Gomez at the UN

SPOTLIGHT ON MANUELA GOMEZ

Manuela Gomez, a graduate of the M.A. program in Peace and Conflict Studies and an alumna of the Political Science program at Rutgers University–Newark, is forging a powerful path in international relations; one rooted in personal experience, global engagement, and a steadfast commitment to sustainable peace. While completing her undergraduate degree, which included participating in two study abroad programs in South Africa and Kenya, Manuela was nominated—along with five other Rutgers students—to represent the University at the Global Peace Summit held at the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference convened more than 370 emerging leaders for in-depth dialogues with refugees, peace ambassadors, conflict survivors, and government officials

FULBRIGHT



Rutgers graduate Emily Trujillo attended a Fulbright orientation event in Austria

RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK NAMED TOP PRODUCER

Rutgers University-New Brunswick once again has been named a top producer for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, with 11 undergraduate and recent graduates receiving the grants to study and teach abroad from the U.S. government's flagship educational exchange program. "Our students' ongoing success in earning Fulbright grants illustrates once again the Rutgers edge," said Rutgers President William F. Tate IV. "Again and again their grit and perseverance are matched by exceptional intellect and curiosity."



Riana Wulandari and Mutiara Indah Puspita Sari with a student

FULBRIGHTERS SHARE INDONESIA

Riana Wulandari, 2025 Fulbright Doctoral Degree Grantee and PhD Student in Public Health at Rutgers School of Public Health, and Mutiara Indah Puspita Sari, 2024 Fulbright Master's Degree Grantee (Class of 2026 Graduate) at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, visited Indian Fields Elementary School as part of the Fulbright in the Classroom program. "We came to share Indonesia, and a fifth-grade classroom in New Jersey showed us something too."



Sarita Monjane Henriksen

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR STUDIES MULTILINGUALISM IN NEWARK

When linguist Sarita Monjane Henriksen arrived on campus as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in January, she was struck by the similarities between Rutgers-Newark and her homeland of Mozambique. "I've been describing Mozambique as the most linguistically and culturally diverse place. But nothing had prepared me for what I've seen here," said Henriksen, a professor at Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo in Mozambique. Her work highlights how language policy connects classrooms in Mozambique to schools in Newark—and how multilingualism can be a resource rather than a barrier.

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards



Rebecca Greenbaum,
Professor, School of
Management and
Labor Relations, Taiwan



Brian Murphy,
Associate Professor,
History, Ireland



Minge Xie,
Distinguished
Professor, Department
of Statistics, Austria

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

CONNOR CULLINANE '23 SHARES REFLECTIONS ON SERVING IN THE PEACE CORPS



Connor Cullinane (center) in Morocco

Connor Cullinane served in Morocco from 2023 to 2025, and shared his reflections on the life-altering experience. "I was in Francine Newsome Pfeiffer's class on Political Networking, and she had invited a former Eagleton Alumni who was serving as a U.S. Diplomat to join us to talk about their life experience after Rutgers. They went in-depth about their time in the Peace Corps: what volunteering and service abroad looked like, the challenges they faced, the accomplishments they achieved, and the experience they earned by taking those risks, going abroad, serving a community, and volunteering abroad. From that night, this idea of joining the Peace Corps and seeing where it could take me latched on to my brain, and I decided if I was going to live life, I would live by being active, taking risks, and experiencing all the complexities life could throw at me."

DR. SHAMS NAGA '86, GLOBAL LEADER IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING, VISITS RUTGERS



Left to right: Kathryn Rosko, Kim Pernice, Jason Geary, Shams Naga, Ji-Yeung Jang, and Rick Garfunkel

Rutgers Global was pleased to welcome distinguished alumnus Dr. Shams Eldien Naga to campus in January, celebrating his enduring connection to Rutgers University and his international impact as a leader in architecture, urban planning, and design. Dr. Naga, who earned his Master of Science in Urban Planning from Rutgers University in 1986, is Founder and Chairman of the DHB Group and NAGA Architects, Designers, and Planners, which operate across the Middle East, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and the United States.

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS

Rutgers Global, in partnership with Rutgers Foundation, hosted alumni receptions in China, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, and Taiwan.



Hong Kong



Mumbai, India



Shanghai, China



Seoul, South Korea



Taipei, Taiwan

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

RICK GARFUNKEL PRESENTS AT INDIAN EDUCATION SUMMIT

Vice President for Global Affairs Rick Garfunkel spoke on discussion on AI in education and other topics at the Education Times Annual Education Summit '26 in New Delhi, India in June. The two-day Summit convened 6,000+ senior policymakers, global thought leaders, institutional heads, industry pioneers, and technology innovators, to discuss the direction of India's education ecosystem for the coming decade.



2026 BTAA SIO STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Lauren Forsman, Program Coordinator (pictured at center, in blue top) participated as a representative from Rutgers in the 2026 Big Ten Academic Alliance Staff Development Program on Internationalization. This is a great professional development opportunity for staff to learn about the internationalization of higher education. The program included a capstone experience abroad to Ireland during the summer.

RUTGERS GLOBAL STAFF AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Members of the Rutgers Global staff attended and presented at international conferences throughout the year, including NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), and Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE). Staff who represented Rutgers at NAFSA conferences included: Lauren Meregalli Ferrer, Charles Huntley, Carissa McCarthy, Audrey Nguyen, Stephanie Otte, Kim Pernice, Sibylle Pierce, Maya Sarno, and Patty Welsh. At AIEA, Johanna Bernstein, Ji-Yeung Jang, and Mohini Mukherjee presented. Rick Garfunkel, Steven Henin, and Mark Gao participated in the APAIE Conference in Hong Kong.

RUTGERS GLOBAL STAFF RETREAT

The staff of Rutgers Global gathered in July for the annual staff retreat. With team building activities that included games and crafts, the team had a great opportunity to connect, recharge, and strengthen bonds.



WELCOME NEW STAFF



Gaëtane Garçon
Senior Program Coordinator,
Study Abroad



Rachael Ecklund
Program Coordinator,
Global Initiatives



Virginia Li
Business Associate,
Study Abroad



Andreia Pereira
Administrative Assistant,
Study Abroad



Alex Baker at the Wolfberg Arch in South Africa

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