



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



February 7, 2025

Federal Policy Impact on the Rutgers International Community

Rutgers is steadfast in our commitment to our mission and values, ensuring our actions reflect the university's dedication to excellence. Our international students and scholars are at the heart of this mission, and in times of challenge and uncertainty, the university remains dedicated to fostering a secure and supportive academic environment for all our international students, scholars, faculty, and staff. Rest assured that we will navigate these uncertainties together, communicate openly, and remain accessible to address your concerns.

Rutgers Global is closely monitoring federal policy that may impact our international students, faculty, scholars, and staff. More information about key presidential Executive Orders (EOs), fact sheets, and additional information related to immigration and global engagement may be found on the [Rutgers Global alerts website](#). Additionally, the university has launched a [website](#) to share relevant information about federal actions and provide guidance to help scholars, faculty and staff continue their work and enable students to move forward with their academic progress and campus activities.

We encourage you to stay informed, reach out with any questions at immigration@global.rutgers.edu, and consult with Rutgers Global staff before making international travel plans.

Immigration related updates for international students and scholars

- Current EO 14161 calls on immigration agencies to enhance screening and vetting, evaluate visa programs, and issue a report (March 21, 2025) identifying countries that warrant a “partial or full suspension” of their citizens’ admission to the United States.
 - **Enhanced vetting** could result in delays and additional requirements for student and scholar visa applicants.
 - **Future travel bans may occur**, limiting admission to the United States or increased visa denials. While no specific countries have been named at this time, the rules regarding travel and re-entry could change quickly. **Travelers should consider that re-entry policy and requirements to the United States may change while they are overseas.**
 - Students or scholars facing unexpected obstacles to U.S. entry or re-entry should

contact Rutgers Global and their schools/departments.

- According to EO 14163, entry into the United States of refugees under the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) has been suspended as of January 27, 2025.
- As of February 5, there have been no changes to Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Curricular Practical Training (CPT) programs, nor to the J-1 or H-1B visa categories.
- Undocumented students, including those under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, should continue to work with the relevant Student Affairs offices on their campus and the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.
- Federal agencies have been instructed to strengthen enforcement actions against antisemitism, including monitoring and reporting on international students and scholars for potential violations of admissibility requirements under federal immigration law. Rutgers University remains committed to academic freedom and will not monitor or report on the academic activities of its community members unless compelled to do so by law.
- In alignment with [President Holloway's message](#) of January 25, 2025, we remind our community to contact the Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) at 732-932-7211 in the event of any federal immigration enforcement activity on campus.

Training and Research

If you are involved in U.S. government-funded international research or training programs that may be at risk of being disrupted by federal actions, we encourage you to stay in contact with the Rutgers Office for Research and seek guidance before taking any steps. Any funding and stop-work related questions should be directed to federal-tracking@rutgers.edu

Additional Community Resources

Community members seeking support or guidance, including international students, scholars, and Rutgers students and faculty studying or working abroad, can refer to the resources listed below for information on what to expect in the coming weeks and months.

For International and Study Abroad Students

- [ISSS Student Advising Services](#) – 848-932-7015
- [Counseling Services](#) or call 848-932-7884
- Offices of the Dean of Students Advocacy, Outreach and Support: email deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu or call 848-932-2300. Additional information is available at [Student Support](#).
- [Scarlet Well](#) – a NB wellness program
- [Student Legal Services](#) – 848-932-4529
- [Rutgers Global Study Abroad](#) – 848-932-7787

Select External Resources

- Association of International Educators (NAFSA): [Executive and Regulatory Actions Under the](#)

[Second Trump Administration](#)

- [Whitehouse.gov list of Presidential Actions](#)
- [Visa Appointment Wait Times](#)
- [Department of State Travel Advisories](#)

Sincerely,

Eric Garfunkel
Vice President for Global Affairs

Mohini Mukherjee
Executive Director of International Student Services, Rutgers Global

This update from Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) provides important information on your legal status, upcoming programs, and resources. Previous updates are available on the [Email Notices page](#).

This is NOT a subscription email list. These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers Health, though most apply only to F-1 and J-1 students. All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers visa sponsorships should understand the information provided in these notices and follow reminders and instructions that apply to their own situations. 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

Rutgers Health

(973) 972-6138

iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu