



**April 18, 2025**

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**A NOTE FROM ISSS**

As we will continue to affirm in our updates and messages, Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) is deeply committed to supporting our international student community on campus. This month, our email notice includes important updates regarding immigration registration documents and reporting change of address, ongoing advice for international students at Rutgers to stay informed, prepared, and connected, as well as employment resources and upcoming events. In addition to reading our monthly email notices, we encourage you to regularly review the [Rutgers Global alerts webpage](#) and utilize all [ISSS resources](#) for help and support.

**REQUIREMENT TO CARRY IMMIGRATION REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS AND REPORT CHANGE OF ADDRESS (New Requirements for Some Children Under 14)**

An updated [Alien Registration Requirement](#) went into effect on April 11 including new requirements for some children who entered the U.S. under the age 14. Please review a summary of the guidance below.

All nonimmigrants and lawful permanent residents must do the following:

- **Carry their immigration registration document** - Nonimmigrants and lawful permanent residents must carry their "evidence of registration" document at all times. Usually, this is [Form I-94](#) for most international students. Please note the electronic I-94, as well as

the I-94 travel history, can be printed.

- We recommend keeping a digital copy on your phone or a paper copy in your bag or wallet, especially when moving around campus or the local area. For domestic travel, carry a paper copy with you.
- No additional registration is needed if you were over the age of 14 when you entered the U.S. on your F/J visa — the I-94 serves as your proof of registration.
- **Report address changes within 10 days** - All noncitizens living in the United States must report any change of address within 10 days of the address change.
  - F-1 and J-1 Students must report a change of address/contact information within 10 days. Enrolled students must report changes through their [myRutgers portal](#).
  - F-1 students on Optional Practical Training must use the OPT Data Update e-Form via the [RGlobal portal](#).
  - J-1 students on Academic Training must use the Academic Training Update e-form via the [RGlobal portal](#).

New USCIS guidance requires young nonimmigrants who turn 14 while in the U.S. to "re-register" with USCIS within 30 days of their birthday, even if previously registered and issued a Form I-94 when they entered the country. This may affect, for example, F-2, J-2, H-4 dependents who entered before age 14.

#### Useful Resources

- [Alien Registration Requirement | USCIS](#)
- [Requirements to Carry Immigration Registration Document and Report Change of Address | NAFSA](#)

### INCREASED SCRUTINY OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY IMMIGRATION AGENCIES

In response to multiple January [Executive Orders](#), immigration agencies will begin performing enhanced screenings of social media accounts for antisemitic activity. This is expected to impact international students, faculty, scholars, and staff applying for immigration benefits within the U.S., applying for visas outside of the U.S., and applying for admission to the U.S. Please review the full alert on the [Rutgers Global alerts webpage](#).

### ONGOING ADVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT RUTGERS

In times of shifting immigration policies and uncertainty, it's important for international students to stay informed, prepared, and connected. ISSS offers the following tips to help you navigate any changes confidently:

#### Travel Preparation Tips

- **Plan international travel with caution.** Changes in visa processing, entry requirements, and potential delays could also impact travelers' ability to re-enter the U.S. as planned. While no new travel restrictions are in place at this time, we encourage you to stay informed and consult ISSS with questions. If you must travel

internationally, review our [travel guidance](#) carefully. And don't forget to get a [travel signature](#), if you need one!

- **Carry your documents.** Always keep printed or digital copies of your I-20/DS-2019, passport, visa, and I-94 -- even for domestic travel.
- **Make flexible travel plans.** Book tickets with flexible fares or travel insurance to accommodate changes.
- **Plan early.** Apply for visa renewals or travel documents in advance. OPT applications can be submitted up to 90 days before your program end date.
- **Be cautious with domestic trips.** Travel near U.S. borders or to U.S. territories may include immigration checks -- carry documentation.
- **Know your travel risks.** Changes in visa processing or entry rules may affect re-entry to the U.S. Stay informed and check with ISSS before international travel.
- **Bring document copies when traveling.** Carry hard and digital copies of all required documents for your specific visa type.

### Maintaining Legal Status

- **Take proactive steps to [maintain your legal immigration status](#) in the U.S.** Stay enrolled full-time unless you have prior authorization and report changes (like address or academic status) to ISSS promptly.
- **Keep color photocopies or digital copies** of your immigration documents (passport, visa, I-94, I-20/DS-2019, and EAD if applicable) with you, even when you're not traveling.
- **Apply early for immigration benefits.** Submit USCIS applications like OPT well ahead of deadlines.
- **Notify ISSS about RFEs.** If you receive a Request for Evidence (RFE) from USCIS, contact ISSS right away—we can help.

### Staying Informed

- **Check your Rutgers email.** ISSS sends important updates -- these messages contain important, up-to-date information specific to international students and scholars.
- **Use reliable sources for immigration news.** Only trust information from Rutgers Global-ISSS, USCIS, or other official government channels.
- **Know your rights.** Review resources like [AILA's Know Your Rights guide](#) in case you're ever asked for immigration documents.
- **Avoid misinformation.** Don't rely on social media or hearsay -- when in doubt, contact ISSS.

### Support and Wellness

- **Ask for help.** If you're confused about immigration rules, travel plans, or policy changes, [reach out to an ISSS advisor](#).
- **Prioritize your well-being.** Rutgers offers resources to support your mental health and overall well-being -- don't hesitate to use them.

- Mental health and wellness [resources for students](#) (and a [PDF](#))
- [ScarletWell resources](#) for integrating well-being into our campus culture and individual lives
- [Let's Talk](#) -- drop in and speak with a Counselor, attend workshops, events, and more

## OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

ISSS hosts a variety of programs to support student off-campus employment applications. Details are on the [Practical Training webpage](#).

- Join ISSS virtual chats to discuss CPT/OPT questions with international student advisers. The next session this semester is on **April 22**.
- [Register](#) for the “Beyond OPT: Visas After Graduation” virtual session on **April 18** at 1:00 pm, presented by immigration law firm, Klasko, if you are interested in working in the U.S. after graduation. Students are expected to understand CPT and OPT prior to attending. Review “Off Campus Employment” and “Post-Completion OPT” workshops on the [RGlobal portal](#) for a refresher.
- Graduate students can [register](#) for the “Applying for a Green Card Without an Employer Sponsor” virtual workshop with Dan Berger, Partner at immigration law firm Green and Speigel, on **April 22** at 2:00 pm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- **Rutgers Global Calendar of Events:** Review [upcoming events and sign-up details](#).
- **Shopping Shuttle:** Check the Spring 2025 schedule and [sign up to reserve your spot](#).
- **CAPS/ISSS International Student Support Space:** [Sign up](#) to join “Wellness, Multicultural Potluck & Fun” on Friday, April 25 from 3:00 – 4:30pm.
- **CAPS International Student Wellness Group (ISWG):** Call (848) 932-7883 to join a safe, confidential, and therapeutic group for international students. Meetings are weekly on Tuesdays from 2:00 - 3:30pm.
- **Rutgers Day:** Join Rutgers Global and all of Rutgers at [Rutgers Day](#) on Saturday, April 26!

Best wishes,  
Rutgers Global - ISSS

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](mailto:iss-students@global.rutgers.edu)

**Rutgers Health**

(973) 972-6138

[iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu)