



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



December 10, 2024

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ISSS HOLIDAY WISHES

The ISSS and Rutgers Global teams wish you a happy and healthy holiday season! As December flies by, we know you're focused on final projects, exams, and papers. Please remember to take care of yourself and plan ahead for any upcoming travel, Spring 2025 registration, or graduation plans. You will find helpful reminders in the notice below.

We're proud of your hard work this semester and wish you a safe and prosperous New Year!

TRAVEL AND OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Policy Updates: The transition between presidential administrations can often produce shifts in policy approaches, along with the potential for uncertainty. No changes to immigration rules or policies for international students have been announced yet. The new administration will take office on January 20, 2025. If changes arise, ISSS will provide updates to those affected.

Maintain your F-1 or J-1 legal status: Understand and comply with F-1 or J-1 rules, regulations, and restrictions throughout your studies.

Plan ahead for travel:

- Review [Travel and Visa Information](#) online.
- **Apply for a travel signature.** Submit the Travel Signature Request E-Form via [RGlobal](#). Processing takes up to 5 business days, and signatures are valid for 12 months (6 months for OPT). [Review travel signature request procedures](#) for more information.

- **Report international travel plans.** Use the **International Travel Plans E-Form** in [RGlobal](#) to notify ISSS of any planned travel.
- **Return in time for the start of spring 2025.** All international students must return and resume in-person classes by the start of Spring 2025 on **January 21, 2025**. Plan your travel to ensure timely arrival.
- **Keep copies of immigration documents.** Save digital backups of your passport, visa stamps, and other essential documents for easy access while traveling.
- **Refer to this [Travel Tips card](#)** for important information to keep in mind during international travel, and for useful contact information including phone numbers to reach out in case of emergency.
- **Carry immigration documents during domestic travel.** When traveling domestically, carry your immigration documents, especially if going far from Rutgers.

Apply early: If you are applying for a visa or for immigration benefits, such as OPT, it is important to apply early and factor in potential delays in processing. USCIS [Processing times](#) vary, and may be influenced by a variety of factors, including policy and regulatory changes and staffing levels. If you need to apply for or renew your visa during your travel abroad, review the [visa application information](#) on the ISSS website

Respond to RFEs promptly: Contact ISSS if you receive a **Request for Evidence (RFE)** or any unexpected communication from USCIS to ensure accurate and timely responses.

Use ISSS Resources: ISSS is here to guide and support you. [Contact ISSS](#) for advising, resources, or any immigration-related questions. Be proactive, plan ahead, and make the most of available resources.

Take Care of Your Well-Being: Your mental health is important. Utilize the [mental health support services](#) available to students. Reach out to [CAPS](#) for support if needed.

UPCOMING OFFICE AND UNIVERSITY CLOSURES

The ISSS office will be closed for the holiday break from Wednesday, December 25, 2024, through Wednesday, January 1, 2025. We will reopen at 8:30 am on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

FULL COURSE OF STUDY REQUIREMENT

- F-1 and J-1 students: Only **3 credits of online coursework** can count toward full-time enrollment (12 credits for undergraduate students, 9 for graduate students). Hybrid courses count as in-person.
- For more information, please refer to the [Full Course of Study Requirements](#).
- Deadline for initial registration for undergraduates: **January 24, 2025, at 5:00 PM**. For more information, please refer to the [Undergraduate Registration Calendar](#).

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT CHAT SESSIONS

Join ISSS virtual chats to discuss CPT/OPT questions with international student advisers. The final session this semester is on **December 12**. Details are on the [Practical Training webpage](#).

OTHER UPDATES AND REMINDERS

- **Program Extensions:** If your I-20/DS-2019 end date is approaching, request an extension. Please review full [extension of program information](#) for more information about eligibility requirements and instructions.
- **Graduating Students:** Visit the [Graduating Students webpage](#) for guidance on next steps.
- **Shopping Shuttle:** Check the Fall 2024 schedule and [sign up to reserve your spot](#). Winter Break dates will be announced soon.
- **Residence Life:** Follow Winter Break instructions for on-campus housing from Rutgers [Residence Life](#).
- **Reduced Credit Load Deadline:** Submit requests by **February 11, 2025**, if eligible. To maintain legal status, all F-1 and J-1 students must pursue a [full course of study](#). In specific circumstances, students may be eligible for a [Reduced Credit/Course Load](#).
- **Health Insurance Waiver Deadline:** Complete by **February 10, 2025**. Full instructions for enrolling in The Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or submitting a waiver can be found on our [health insurance webpage](#).

Take care, stay safe, and happy holidays!

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 the [Email Notices page](#).

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers Health. 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 must know the information provided in these notices and 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

Rutgers Health

(973) 972-6138

iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu