



DECEMBER 21, 2020

[HOLIDAY WISHES](#)

[UPCOMING OFFICE AND UNIVERSITY CLOSURES](#)

[COVID-19 RELATED GUIDANCE FOR SPRING 2021](#)

[UPDATES AND REMINDERS](#)

[OTHER INFORMATION](#)

ISSS HOLIDAY WISHES

Your friends at Rutgers Global wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We know this year has been challenging in numerous ways and we are proud of your resilience, learning, and success as we come to the end of this semester. We hope you find joy in whatever makes you happy during the winter recess, and we wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.

UPCOMING OFFICE AND UNIVERSITY CLOSURES

Due to COVID-19, services provided by Rutgers Global - ISSS are still temporarily modified in response to a change in university operating procedure. Please be advised of the following dates:

- Thursday, Dec. 24 - Remote appointments will end at 11:30 a.m. The virtual office will close at 5:00 p.m. as scheduled.
- Winter Break: Friday, Dec. 25 - Friday, Jan. 1

COVID RELATED GUIDANCE FOR SPRING 2021

There is no official guidance from SEVP/ICE regarding spring 2021, although it has been reported that SEVP fall guidance will continue into the spring. We need to wait for an official announcement and will share updates as they become available. In the meanwhile, please review the following resources for current information:

[COVID Related International Student FAQ](#)

[Rutgers Global - Alerts](#)

[Universitywide COVID_19 Information](#)

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

REDUCED CREDIT/COURSE LOAD – SPRING 2021 DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

To maintain legal status, all F-1 and J-1 students must pursue a full course of study at all times. This means being registered for a full credit load (12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students). There are cases, however, in which regulations consider a student to be pursuing a full course of study even though he or she NOT actually registered for a full credit load. For example, undergraduates who only need 1 or 2 classes to complete their program, or graduate students who have completed all coursework but are still conducting thesis or dissertation research might be considered to be pursuing a full course of study even though not registered for 9 credits.

If you will be registered for less than a full-time credit load in Spring 2021, you MUST submit a "Reduced Credit/Course Load" e-form to ISSS using the [RGlobal portal](#). You need approval from our office for less than full-time enrollment in any semester. The form can be completed online and will require your graduate program director/academic dean's approval. Please review our website for instructions and information about the process to submit this form. The deadline for submitting the form is **Friday, January 29**.

Please check the University's academic calendar for the appropriate add/drop dates, for the last date to drop classes without a "W" grade:

[Undergraduate Registration Calendar](#)

[Graduate Registration Calendar](#)

Bear in mind that it takes 3-4 days to process the form after receipt and we cannot guarantee timely processing of forms received after the deadline. This could mean loss of legal status and you will need to leave the country or apply for a reinstatement process with the government.

Remember, the "Reduced Credit/Course Load" e-form can be submitted at any time before the deadline, even before the semester starts.

PASS/NO CREDIT OPTION

The [Office of the Provost](#) announced on December 2nd that the Pass/No Credit option is available for courses taken during the Fall 2020 semester. As long as the number of credits on a student's transcript remains full-time (12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students) for Fall 2020, the Pass/No Credit option does not jeopardize the legal status of F-1 or J-1 students. However, all students should consider this option carefully and discuss potential ramifications with their academic advisor.

The deadline to submit the Fall 2020 P/NC form is Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Please [visit the FAQ page](#) to learn more about this option and consult with an academic advisor to make the best decision for your individual situation.

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.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR MYRUTGERS PORTAL LATELY?

Please take a few minutes to check your contact information in your [MyRutgers portal](#). Make sure your phone number and email address are up to date, so that you do not miss any important correspondence from our office or from other Rutgers units.

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. 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.

OTHER INFORMATION

SCAM ALERT

Recently, we have received several reports of increasingly sophisticated scams targeting unsuspecting international students and scholars. In these scam attempts, students have been contacted through both email and phone (sometimes a combination of both) by individuals posing as government officials. During these unusual times, remember to stay alert and beware of anyone who threatens you or demands money over the phone or through email.

Please refer to the ISSS website for more [tips to avoid scams](#), as well as a list of helpful [resources](#) regarding scams and fraud.

MINI COURSE OFFERINGS IN SPRING 2021 (for Undergraduate Students) - see attached flyers for details

- The School of Arts and Sciences will be offering a course in **Career Explorations in Arts & Sciences** in Spring 2021. Along with the General Arts & Sciences section, they are also offering a specialized section for international students (01:090:210). Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Academic Coaching for International Students** is a 1-credit, pass/fail course that is open to all undergraduate students in Spring 2021. This course will provide students with support for academic success. For more information email: ias-global@global.rutgers.edu

Spring 21
1.5 Credits,
Graded

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

**CAREER
EXPLORATIONS
IN ARTS &
SCIENCES**

01:090:210

**WHERE PURPOSE
MEETS OPPORTUNITY
REGISTER NOW!**

Open to Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors
Visit: <https://go.rutgers.edu/4epaoe7u>

Register for the International Student Section

To request SPN contact: ias-global@global.rutgers.edu
Instructor: Anu Gupta, Dean of International Academic Success

**Get focused support for your specific career
exploration needs, strengths, and challenges!**

REGISTER FOR:

**ACADEMIC COACHING FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

01:090:227

1-credit | 7-weeks | pass/fail
Weekly Zoom with Peers + Peer Coach
Open to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors + Seniors

Get Support to Succeed:

- Manage your workload with individualized strategies and tools
- Keep your focus and motivation while remote
- Master online learning platforms and educational technologies
- Excel at exam prep and get better grades
- Understand assignment expectations and ask effective questions of faculty

For more information email:
Office of International Academic Success
ias-globaleglobal.rutgers.edu

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.

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick. 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 Susan Maldonado at susanmal@global.rutgers.edu.

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services
848-932-7015
lss-students@global.rutgers.edu
global.rutgers.edu