



RUTGERS

MUSLIMS ABROAD

Resources for
Muslim Students

CREATED BY IFRAH AKHTAR
RUTGERS CLASS OF 2019

THINKING ABOUT GOING ABROAD?

Studying abroad is a life-changing opportunity. That might sound cliché, but there's truth behind those words. A global program lets you experience a new perspective all while pursuing an education. Not only does it make you a more competitive candidate for employers, but it allows you to experience personal enrichment.

Being Muslim and going abroad is a rarely discussed topic, but we are here to provide resources and answer your questions so that you can realize just how accessible the world can be.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thinking About Going Abroad?	1
Talking to Parents	2
Student Life Abroad	3
Food	4
Prayer Spaces	5
Other Resources	6
Student Voices	7
A Letter from Abroad	8
Rutgers Study Abroad Programs	9
Applying and Finances	10
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship	11
Contact & Resources	12

PARENTS | WHY GO ABROAD?

**"SEEK KNOWLEDGE EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO GO
AS FAR AS CHINA."
-PROPHET MUHAMMAD**

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (49:13)

These verses from the Quran encourage learning from different nations and individuals. The Muslim community needs to engage with the world and be involved in order to progress in the future. We all have a duty to seek an education. By studying abroad, we can open ourselves up to new experiences and help diversify not only ourselves but other parts of the world. Muslims should not fear traveling, and students, especially, should take the chance to go abroad and connect with other Muslims as well as people of different faiths. This is a unique opportunity for spiritual and individual growth.



PARENTS | WHY GO ABROAD?

- **RESEARCH YOUR PROGRAM** | This way you can effectively answer your parents'/guardians' questions. It is better to be prepared.
- **SAFETY** | This can be a huge concern, but you have many resources to turn to in the event of an emergency. Not only will there be other students with you, but you will have contacts for the program, as well as U.S. travel safety initiatives you can register with before going abroad.
- **CAREER SUCCESS** | Having a study abroad experience makes you a more competitive candidate in the eyes of future employers. The global experience also helps when applying for scholarships and internships.
- **ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY** | Even though you can travel any time in the future, the chance to study while traveling is a special experience. The programs and opportunities you can engage in may not be available to you in the future.

STUDENT LIFE ABROAD



CAN I FIND HALAL/VEGAN FOOD?

Yes! There are a number of resources you can turn to in order to find food while traveling. We live in the digital age, where information is available at our fingertips. Below are some resources for finding halal/vegan food just about anywhere.



ZABIHAH.COM

A massive database for halal markets, mosques, and restaurants around the world. Available in app form for both Apple and Android.



HappyCow

HAPPYCOW.NET

If you aren't able to find halal food, or if you're a vegan, this app is very helpful. You can search for vegetarian or vegan restaurants anywhere you are. Available in app form for both Apple and Android.



CAN I FIND PLACES TO PRAY?

Finding prayer spaces can be difficult depending on your location and surroundings. However, most universities have designated prayer rooms for students and faculty. It's a good idea to get in touch with the university or person of contact for the program you applied to. They should be able to provide you with resources for religious life at their specific location. If they aren't able to, you can use the apps below to find mosques and Islamic centers.



SALATOMATIC.COM

A database for finding mosques and Islamic institutions around the world. Available in app form for both Apple and Android.



ISLAMICFINDER.ORG

This site has everything- you can find prayer times, the qibla (the direction to pray towards), Quranic resources, the Islamic calendar, and more. Available in app form for both Apple and Android.



OTHER RESOURCES



HALALTRIP.COM

A food & travel resource.



IHERB.COM

International
grocery delivery.



VITACOST.COM

International grocery
delivery and more.

VeganEssentials

VEGANESSENTIALS.COM

International vegan
online store.

STUDENT VOICES



NAZISH ZARA
MOROCCO

"Going to Morocco was the most self-reflective and enlightening semester I had in all my years at Rutgers. I was forced to go outside my comfort zone and the bubble I was accustomed to, and it provided me with such a better life experience."



ABDULLAH AL TEKREETI
JAPAN

"An instance of me being aware of my religion as an outsider was when I visited a historical mosque (Tokyo Camii), it was a very beautiful mosque and people treated it as one of the shrines in Japan."

A LETTER FROM ABROAD

Dear Student,

I found myself nervous and excited and unexpectedly in the middle of Seoul. With each day, new memories were formed and I made friends not just from South Korea but Australia, The Netherlands, and Singapore, to name a few. I also found myself being tested in new ways and engaged by professors to explore the less traveled path, literally. My time in Korea exposed me to new foods, a different education system, and many wonderful people. The most memorable experience for me was spending the last few days of Ramadan here. I was initially very upset since Eid wouldn't be as festive as I'm used to; I missed my family and friends. However, going to the Seoul mosque and being able to be with other Muslims from the country was comforting. There's a hidden and unique Islamic scene thriving in Seoul.

Now that I'm back in the United States, I see everything with a different perspective. It sounds cliché but really, traveling changes you; especially when you're in a foreign country.

I wanted to get away to reconnect with myself and this program did just that. Why limit yourself to one lens when you can travel and gain many facets to view life through?

Travel Well,
Ifrah



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS & GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING

Rutgers offers over 160 different study abroad programs all over the world. These programs vary by length, subject, and even language. You can choose to pursue your education while learning a different language or take classes in English around the world. You can also choose programs that are as short as two weeks or even ones that span a year-long study.

There are also unique programs that allow you to participate in service while abroad. In these programs, you can actively engage the outside world by applying what you've learned in the classroom. You could be involved in a human rights organization or volunteer at a health clinic.

Regardless, you'll be making a difference in the global community.



APPLYING & FINANCES

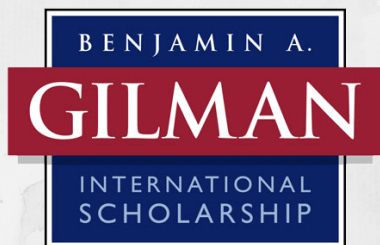
Programs have varying deadlines but everyone is encouraged to apply early. You will be asked to submit a \$35 application fee, personal statement, participation agreement, and an unofficial transcript. Certain programs may require one or two academic recommendations.

If you receive financial aid or loans, they transfer over to cover the cost of your program. Simply put, you're still a Rutgers student receiving a term bill, except you're studying in another country.

You can also apply to scholarships to help pay for your trip. There are a number of scholarships listed on global.rutgers.edu, to get you started.



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP



**DO YOU RECEIVE THE PELL GRANT?
IF YES, THE GILMAN IS FOR YOU!**

The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship is a grant program from the U.S. Department of State. It assists students with limited financial funding to pursue study or intern abroad. Their mission is to encourage students to gain critical skills that can be acquired through engaging with different cultures. The Gilman has been administered by the Institute of International Education since 2001.

If you receive the Pell Grant and are a U.S. citizen, you are eligible to apply to the Gilman. This is a national competitive scholarship and you can receive up to \$5,000 towards your study abroad program. The application process requires an essay and a proposal for a project that you will complete upon returning from your program. The deadline varies based on semester and early applications are available as well.

This is an extremely beneficial opportunity and should be considered if you are eligible.

For more information, visit gilmanscholarship.org.

QUESTIONS? | RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

RUTGERS GLOBAL—STUDY ABROAD

102 College Avenue | New Brunswick, NJ 08901

848-932-7787 | ru_abroad@global.rutgers.edu

Walk-In Hours: 12:00–3:00 PM (Mon-Fri)

(This office services ALL Rutgers campuses.)

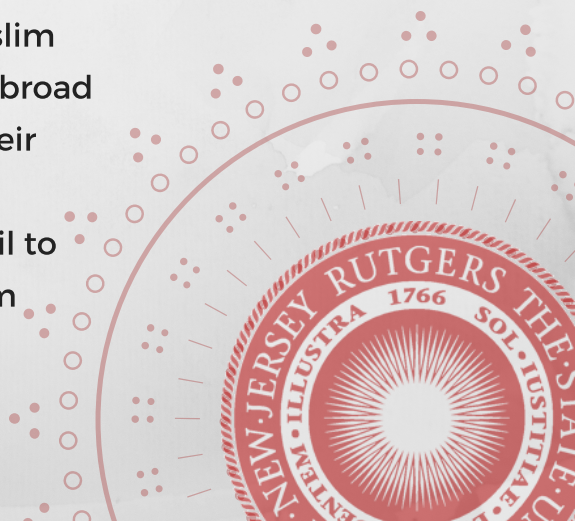
CENTER FOR ISLAMIC LIFE AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY (CILRU)

122 College Ave | New Brunswick, NJ 08901

chaplain@cilru.org

MUSLIM GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

To get in contact with Muslim students who have gone abroad and are willing to share their experiences, or to share yours, please send an email to muslimabroad@gmail.com



VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE



[MUSLIMSABROAD.WIX.COM/HOME](https://muslimsabroad.wix.com/home)



@MUSLIMS_ABROAD

