



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



January 17, 2025

IRS REBATE PAYMENTS

The ISSS recently learned that the IRS has been mailing \$1,400 checks to taxpayers who did not file a **2021** U.S. tax return to claim the “Recovery Rebate Credit.” The Recovery Rebate Credit is a credit for individuals who did not receive Covid-related stimulus payments, or “Economic Impact Payments.”

Although ISSS staff are not qualified to provide specific advice on your tax status or your eligibility to receive the rebate credit, you can find relevant information and resources below.

It is our understanding that international students and scholars, who were considered “nonresident aliens” in 2021 for tax purposes, **are not eligible to receive this rebate credit.** Only individuals who were U.S. citizens or resident aliens in tax year 2021 are eligible to receive the credit.

We understand that a small number of F-1 and J-1 students and scholars at Rutgers may have received the Recovery Rebate Credit in error. If you received this check from the IRS and if you were a nonresident alien in 2021, **it is an error.** Please note the following:

- Students who received an erroneous check are advised to write “VOID” across the check and mail it back to the IRS. For information on where to return the refund check, [please visit this IRS page for further instructions.](#)
- Cashing an erroneous refund check may result in interest due to the IRS.

Additional resources:

- Sprintax (a company offering non-resident tax preparation services) has a [detailed article for international students and scholars about the Recovery Rebate Credit](#) on their website.
- IRS [Returning an Erroneous Refund Information](#)
- IRS 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit [Eligibility Information](#)

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:

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