



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



January 22, 2025

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WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK FROM ISSS

Welcome and Welcome Back to Rutgers! ISSS wishes you a smooth start to the Spring semester and the New Year. Remember, 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.

FULL COURSE OF STUDY REQUIREMENT REMINDERS

- 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 with a face-to-face meeting count as in-person.
- For more information, please refer to the [Full Course of Study Requirements](#).
- Deadline for initial registrations for undergraduates: **January 24, 2025, at 5:00 PM**. For more information, please refer to the [Undergraduate Registration Calendar](#).

REDUCED CREDIT LOAD DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Submit Reduced Credit Load 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 IS FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Complete Health Insurance Waiver requests 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](#).

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 first session this semester is on **February 6**.
- Attend CPT/OPT 101 in-person workshops on **February 11** and **March 27**.
- Take advantage of OPT Support Sessions on **February 25** and **April 10** if you are working on your OPT application and already have a basic understanding of the OPT process.

OTHER UPDATES AND REMINDERS

- **IRS Rebate Payments:** A small number of F-1 and J-1 students and scholars at Rutgers may have received an IRS Recovery Rebate Credit in error. If you received this check from the IRS and if you were a nonresident alien in 2021, view our [memo](#) for more information and next steps.
- **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
- **On Campus Employment:** Review [required paperwork and steps to begin working on campus](#). Please note that all SSA offices will now require scheduled appointments.
- **Be Aware of Scams and Fraud:** [Use available resources to protect yourself from scams](#) targeting international students.
- **Orientation Leader (OL) Opportunities:** Stay tuned! The OL application will be available in February.
- **Research Participation Opportunity:** Please refer to the study's [recruitment flyer](#) for more information and take this [short survey about intercultural friendship](#) to determine if you are eligible to participate. Participants who meet the criteria will be offered a \$25 electronic Mastercard Gift Card.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- **Rutgers Global Calendar of Events:** Review [upcoming events and sign-up details](#).
- **Spring 2025 International Student Welcome Session:** [Register to join ISSS on January 29 from 1-3pm](#) to learn about important immigration information, review campus resources, and make new friends at Rutgers! We will have snacks, games, and prizes.
- **Shopping Shuttle:** Check the Spring 2025 schedule and [sign up to reserve your spot](#).
- **Spring Welcome Week:** [Events and programs for both new and returning students](#) will be held January 21-31.

- **CAPS/ISSS International Student Support Space:** Sign up for the [“New Year, New Me” session on January 31](#) to get organized and take care of yourself this semester!

Best wishes,
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