



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



November 13, 2024

[A Note from ISSS](#)

[Obtain a Travel Signature Before International Travel](#)

[Travel Considerations](#)

[Full Course of Study Requirement](#)

[Off-Campus Employment Chat Sessions](#)

[Employment Workshops for International Students](#)

[International Students: Beware of Scams](#)

[Shopping Shuttle](#)

[Upcoming Events and Resources](#)

[Rutgers Global Calendar of Events](#)

[CAPS/ISSS Student Support Space – Fall 2024 Wellness Workshop Series](#)

[Conversation Cafes](#)

A NOTE FROM ISSS

Thanksgiving will be celebrated in the U.S. on Thursday, November 28. This is the time of year for giving thanks, and the staff of ISSS are certainly thankful that we get to work with all of you! Please note that University offices will be closed on November 28 and 29 for the holiday.

As we approach the final months of the semester, know that we are here to help and support you. Please remember to plan ahead and let us know if you have questions about upcoming travel, Spring 2025 course registration, plans after graduation, and more. Additionally, we would like to personally remind you to beware of email and phone scams, as many students have reported these to us recently.

OBTAIN A TRAVEL SIGNATURE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

If you are planning to travel internationally during the upcoming holidays, please exercise caution and review the [Travel and Visa Information webpage](#) for travel guidance, resources, and tips. The travel signature on the I-20 or DS-2019 is valid for 12 months (6 months for students on OPT) and confirms that the student is in valid legal status and eligible to return to the United States to resume their program. If you already have a valid travel signature, you do not need a new signature at this time.

If you need a new travel signature, visit the [Travel Signature Request Procedure](#) page on our website, and submit a [Travel Signature Request E-Form](#) via the RGlobal Portal. Once submitted, your document will be ready within 5 business days, and we will email you an I-20 or DS-2019 that has been digitally signed for travel.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Please note that domestic and international travel guidelines and policies are subject to change. We would like to advise all our students to be careful and alert during any travel. As always, follow all rules and regulations to maintain your legal status in the U.S. Visit the [Travel and Visa Information page](#) on the Rutgers Global website for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

Travel Reminders

- Please plan well in advance if you need to apply for or renew your visa during your travel abroad. For more information, review the [visa application information](#) on the Rutgers Global website.
- Students living on campus should follow all instructions from Rutgers [Residence Life](#) regarding Winter Break.
- When making travel plans for winter recess, please be reminded that all international students are expected to return to the U.S. and resume in-person classes at the start of the Spring semester. The first day of Spring 2025 will be January 21, 2025.

FULL COURSE OF STUDY REQUIREMENT

ISSS would like to remind all F-1 and J-1 students that there are restrictions and limitations for enrolling in online courses. Undergraduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 12-credit full-time coursework requirement, and graduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 9-credit full-time coursework requirement. Hybrid courses with a face-to-face component count as in-person classes. For more information, please refer to the [Full Course of Study Requirement](#) page.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT CHAT SESSIONS

ISSS hosts virtual Off-Campus Employment Chat Sessions via Zoom, which are an opportunity for students to drop in and discuss their CPT/OPT questions with an International Student Advisor and connect with other students who are also interested in off-campus employment. Full details can be found on our [Practical Training webpage](#). Upcoming workshops this semester will be held on December 3 and December 12.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ISSS hosts in-person CPT/OPT 101 workshops each semester for students to learn about the CPT and OPT process, eligibility, which forms to fill out with RGlobal, procedures, important dates, and filing your OPT application with USCIS. Next week, a workshop will be held on November 21. More information can be found on our website [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: BEWARE OF SCAMS

ISSS has recently received a number of reports from international students this semester regarding scams. While you are at Rutgers, please take steps to protect yourself from scams

targeting unsuspecting international students. These scams, often originating as communication that *appears* as if it is from a government agency, can be very sophisticated. Remember: the IRS will not contact anyone about tax issues by phone (and local police will never contact anyone about tax issues). No government agency will ever call someone to ask for a form of payment over the phone. Additionally, be extremely cautious when authorizing bank transfers or wiring funds as these can be difficult to reverse, even if you are the victim of a scam. Please exercise caution and refer to the ISSS website for resources and tips to [protect yourself from scams and fraud](#).

A recent scam reported involves an email from an individual claiming to offer a job opportunity at Rutgers. The email will appear to come from a Rutgers office, faculty, or staff member, and it will ask for the student to provide their personal information to receive payment. When in doubt about the legitimacy of a Rutgers email, or when suspecting a potential scam, please consult with [ISSS](#). ISSS can help you determine if the situation is a scam and alert the international student and scholar community about the scam.

SHOPPING SHUTTLE

The Shopping Shuttle is a free service for international students and scholars, and it is scheduled on many Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the semester. Please refer to the schedule and [sign up to reserve your spot](#). All scheduling updates will be posted on the [ISSS Shopping Trips webpage](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Please refer to the links below for information about a variety of programs and activities.

Rutgers Global Calendar of Events

View all upcoming events [here](#)!

CAPS/ISSS Student Support Space – Fall 2024 Wellness Workshop Series

RU Ready for Wellness? Studying abroad and adapting to a new culture, while also trying to pursue your academic goals presents several challenges. CAPS/ISSS wellness workshops are here to support you, help you make friends, and assist you to make the most of Rutgers resources to adapt to your new student life. Please [RSVP](#) and join us for these **free** in-person interactive workshops!

Workshop #3 Navigating Homesickness: Strategies to Cope & Thrive (12/5/2024 from 5:00-6:30pm)

Feeling homesick? You are not alone! Come join the last workshop of the CAPS/ISSS Fall 2024 wellness workshop series for “hot cocoa N snack” conversation and social, share what you miss the most, and how you cope and thrive.

Graduate Conversation Café (November 14)

An upcoming Conversation Café will take place at the Graduate Student Lounge, 126 College Avenue, on Thursday, November 14. This event will allow graduate students to meet other students and practice having an academic discussion in English (and maybe other languages depending on interest). Food will be served, and a video will be circulated to participants as an

optional conversation starter. [Register for the November 14 café \(12:00 – 3:00 PM\)](#) to save your spot.

Please also note that the New Brunswick Public Library hosts English Conversation Cafés regularly for all interested undergraduate students, graduate students, and dependents. More information can be found on their [English Conversation Cafés Sign-up page](#).

Best
Rutgers Global - ISSS

wishes,

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