



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



OCTOBER 10, 2024

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A NOTE FROM ISSS

Happy Fall! The month of October is already bringing chillier mornings, earlier sunsets, and maybe even some delicious seasonal treats to Rutgers students. This month is also typically a time for mid-term exams, students settling into new routines, and beginning to plan ahead for the next semester and Summer! As you make your plans and continue to navigate the semester, please know that ISSS is here to help and support you. This month, ISSS is highlighting the importance of being aware of **scams** in our monthly notice. Please pay careful attention to this content, so you can protect yourself from scammers that may target unsuspecting international students. As you look ahead to the rest of the Fall semester, please reference our Rutgers Global event calendar for exciting offerings. Reminder! Daylight Savings Time will end at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 3.

Off-Campus Employment Chat Session – Tomorrow!

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. Sessions this month will be held October 10 and October 29, and the [schedule](#) will continue throughout the Fall.

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. This semester, these workshops will be held on October 22 and November 21. More information can be found on our website [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: BEWARE OF 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. Please exercise caution and refer to the ISSS website for resources and tips to [protect yourself from scams and fraud](#).

Possible Scam Scenarios

We have heard from students and colleagues who have shared a few common scams:

- Call from an individual claiming to be from a finance or law group and attempting to collect unpaid tuition
- Call from an individual claiming they are from the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or local police department, indicating that the student did not pay all required taxes and needs to pay right away or be deported
- Call from an individual claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, and that due to suspicious activity their Social Security Number would be blocked and that they needed to provide some personal information over the phone
- Call from a masked phone number that shows the call is originating from government agencies, including immigration offices and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China. The caller speaks in Mandarin, claims problems with the student's visa, and attempts to convince the student to wire money and give personal information
- Email from an individual claiming to offer a job opportunity at Rutgers. The email will appear to come from a Rutgers faculty or staff member, and it will ask for the student to provide their personal information to receive payment

Tips to Avoid Scams

Keep the following recommendations in mind to help protect yourself against scam and fraud attempts.

- If the caller sounds suspicious, you have the right to hang up or call the person back if you feel uncomfortable on the call. Give yourself time to research the caller or consult with other resources before further engaging with the caller.
- Do not wire/pay any money on the phone. No government agency, including the Department of Homeland Security, will ever ask for any form of payment over the phone.
- Do not meet up with the person.
- Do not share any personal or financial information, such as banking information or your SSN, to unknown persons over the phone or internet.
- Verify the identity of anyone who asks for your personal information over the phone. Ask for a caller's name, ID badge, and phone number, and request that you call them back or respond through the entity's customer service channels.
- Do not cash checks that arrive in the mail unexpectedly.
- Do not sign contracts without reading them and fully understanding the content.
- Monitor/Change information (bank account, credit card, online accounts, passwords, etc.) depending on the nature of the call/email.

Important Resources and Reminders

- If you feel unsafe, call the [Rutgers University Police Department](#) at 732-932-7211.
- If you are upset/anxious/needing to talk to someone, walk-in to meet with a counselor during [Let's Talk](#) hours or contact [Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program DAP, and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).
- Always contact the Rutgers Global–International Student and Scholar Services at iss-students@global.rutgers.edu or reach out to an International Student Adviser through our [advising services](#) if you think you have been contacted by someone trying to commit fraud. ISSS can help you determine if the situation is a scam and alert the international student and scholar community about the scam.

Spotlight! Payments Video Challenge: Combat Financial Scams and Win Big

Here's your chance to make a difference and win up to \$6,500! The Spotlight! Payments Video Challenge invites you to create a video short of 60 seconds or less that educates the public about financial scams. This is more than a contest—it's an opportunity to showcase your video skills, build your portfolio and grow your wallet. This contest is open to students from all majors.

The Challenge opens on October 1, with submissions due by November 12. It would be great if a student from Rutgers could bring home the grand prize! The contest is sponsored by the Payments Innovation Alliance and is presented by the Center for Payments, Chase, FICO and the

Independent Community Bankers of America. For more details, visit www.nacha.org/spotlight-Payments-Video-Challenge.

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 #2: *Fear of Missing Out (FoMO) Is Real!* will be held on October 24 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM.

Graduate Conversation Cafés (October 14 & November 14)

Conversation Cafés will take place at the Graduate Student Lounge, 126 College Avenue, on Monday, October 14, and Thursday, November 14. These events 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 October 14 café \(10:00 AM -1:00 PM\)](#)
- [Register for the November 14 café \(12:00 – 3:00 PM\)](#)

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