



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

April 18, 2023

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FALL 2023 - GUIDANCE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At this stage, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet provided updated guidance regarding online instruction beyond Spring 2023. [Current SEVP \(Student and Exchange Visitor Program\) guidance](#) will expire after the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. We anticipate SEVP will return to pre-pandemic guidance, which would affect how many online classes students can take per semester. Students are advised to follow pre-pandemic guidance, which requires students to enroll full-time with an in-person schedule that does not exceed 1 online class per semester. We continue to monitor the situation closely and we will provide updates as they become available.

As we receive news on any updates about government policies, and how they may affect your plans, we will notify international students via email, as well as the ISSS [Alerts page](#).

SCAM ALERT

We have been made aware of a recent uptick in scams targeting unsuspecting international students and scholars. These scams have become increasingly sophisticated, oftentimes with a government phone number appearing on your caller ID, or the caller knowing a lot of your personal information. Frequent scam attempts include the following:

- Emails in which a student is offered a job by a Rutgers professor whose email address has been spoofed. Please remember that on-campus employers will never ask a student to connect with an employer via text, and they will never require bank details or other personal information.
- Phone calls in which imposters imitate ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) officials or make it appear that the call is coming from SEVP. Scams are primarily related to USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) processes -- including background checks, H1-B lottery, and address updates on the AR-11 -- and are designed to intimidate students or solicit personal information. These imposters are using government contact information to extort money from stakeholders, including international students. Remember, no government agency will ever call someone to ask for any form of payment over the phone.

Additional resources:

- Our [Scams and Fraud](#) webpage
- [Federal Trade Commission](#) pamphlets in several languages
- Federal Trade Commission's [listing of common scams](#)
- USCIS webpages on [how to avoid scams](#) and where to [report a scam](#)
- [Internal Revenue Service on Tax Scams / Consumer Alerts](#)
- [Study in the States: Tips to Avoid Scams](#)
- [Beware of ICE Imposters](#)

APPLYING FOR CPT

All students applying for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) must complete the Off-Campus Employment Workshop on in the [RGlobal portal](#). F-1 students who plan to engage in CPT during the summer break should plan to submit a [CPT application](#) as soon as possible.

If you have questions about CPT, please take advantage of our Off-Campus Chat Sessions. A calendar of remaining Chat Sessions for the spring semester can be found on our [Practical Training](#) webpage.

APPLYING FOR OPT

While the USCIS deadline for post-completion OPT (Optional Practical Training) applications is 60 days following degree completion, it is recommended that students apply as early as possible to avoid potential delays. All students applying for post-completion OPT must complete the Post-Completion OPT Workshop on the [RGlobal portal](#). F-1 students who will be graduating in May and who plan to apply for post-completion OPT should plan to submit an [OPT application](#) as soon as possible.

Online OPT Application Alert: You MUST get a new OPT I-20 from Rutgers Global before you can submit your application to USCIS. Once you pay the online application fee, the I-765 is

considered filed immediately and will result in a denial if you applied from outside the U.S. or without the OPT I-20.

If you have questions about your OPT application, we encourage you to utilize the following resources:

- [Off-Campus Employment Chat Sessions](#): Available twice a month and open for students to drop in and discuss their CPT/OPT questions with an International Student Adviser (ISA)
- [Remote Advising Appointments](#): Note that appointment availability is displayed up to 14 days in advance and no less than 12 hours from the time of booking. If you do not see any available appointments, please check again on the following day for new availability.
- Communicate with our advisers by email (ISSS-students@global.rutgers.edu)

FINAL SEMESTER?

Are you finishing your degree requirements this semester? If so, congratulations! Be sure to review our [graduating students page](#) for important guidance on your next steps. Please note that we do not recommend traveling outside the U.S. if you have already completed your degree requirements and plan to re-enter the U.S. in your current status. If you have questions about traveling during your grace period, please visit our [advising services page](#) and consult with an international student adviser.

SUMMER TRAVEL

As the spring semester ends, we understand some of you may be considering domestic or international travel. As always, we would like to advise all our students to exercise caution and review the [Travel and Visa Information webpage](#) for further detailed international 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 programs. For more information and recommendations for international travel, visit the ISSS website page on [Preparing for International Travel](#).

Students graduating in May 2023 should also be aware that you must be physically present in the U.S. to apply for work authorization after graduation, called [Optional Practical Training](#). If you are not in the U.S. at the time of submitting your application, you cannot apply for OPT.

If you have any questions or concerns about traveling during the summer recess, please [contact an ISSS adviser](#).

THE LANGUAGE BANK

The Language Bank is a new initiative offered through the School of Arts and Sciences and The Language Center that will provide free translation (written) and interpreting (oral) services to local nonprofits and social service organizations. The goal of the project is to support these

organizations in their efforts as they work on behalf of the linguistically diverse population of New Jersey.

The Language Bank is currently recruiting faculty, staff, and students who would be willing to volunteer their time and talents in support of this initiative. Volunteers can serve as translators, interpreters, and as reviewers of translations done by student volunteers. Faculty and staff can also make requests for translation and interpreting services. Volunteers receive basic online training in translation and interpreting as well as detailed instructions on how to work with the platform. Volunteers have full control over the extent of their commitment.

Volunteers can learn more about the project and register online at [The Language Bank website](#). Please contact The Language Bank with any questions: languagebank@sas.rutgers.edu.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Study Abroad Fair | Wednesday, April 19th from 1-4 p.m. | Coffeehouse (College Avenue Campus, Morrell Street)

Learn more about our program offerings and how international exposure can give you a competitive edge in your job hunt. We will have food, music, and giveaways—including application fee waivers and scholarships!

Year of Languages Celebration | Wednesday, April 19th from 12-4 p.m. | College Avenue Campus, Voorhees Mall

All are welcome to celebrate the Year of Languages! Enjoy refreshments, candy from around the world, games, raffles, and other activities from all the Rutgers Humanities departments. Student short story essay and video challenge prize winners will receive awards at 3 p.m.

Ice Cream Social | Friday, April 28th from 4-5 p.m. | 30 College Ave (Outside)

Celebrate the end of the semester and warmer weather with some ice cream.

SAVE THE DATE! Rutgers Global Graduation Celebration | Monday, May 1st from 5-7 p.m. | Busch Student Center MPR

Rutgers Global invites all international undergraduate and graduate students as well as study abroad students receiving diplomas in 2023 to join us for a special celebration. We'll provide graduation stoles, as well as snacks and drinks. Invitations will be emailed mid-April.

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

<https://global.rutgers.edu/>

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 our [Email Notices page](#).

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers–Biomedical and Health Sciences. 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

RBHS

973-972-6138

iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu