

**NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

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**TODAY! ISSS IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT FOR F-1 STUDENTS**

**Thursday, November 16**

**3:30pm-5pm**

**Academic Building 2400 – East Wing, College Ave. Campus**

Learn about the CPT and OPT process, eligibility, what forms to fill out with RGlobal, procedures, important dates, and filing your OPT application with the USCIS.

**OBTAIN A TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON AN I-20 OR DS-2019 [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 further detailed 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.

**APPLYING FOR A TRAVEL SIGNATURE**

1. **Visit the [Travel Signature Request Procedure](#) page on our website.**  
Check your I-20 or DS-2019 to see when it was last signed for travel. If you have received a travel signature within 12 months of your anticipated return to the United States, you do not need a new signature at this time. Visit the travel signature page on our website for guidance on whether you need a new travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019.
2. **Navigate to the Travel section in the RGlobal Portal and complete the [Travel Signature Request E-Form](#).**
3. **Your document will be ready within 5 business days.** We will email you an I-20 or DS-2019 that has been digitally signed for travel. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has confirmed permanent acceptability of electronically-issued I-20 and DS-2019

documents. Be sure to print and sign your new I-20 or DS-2019, as you will need to show a paper copy upon re-entry.

4. **Report International Travel.** It is important for ISSS to understand the current location and international travel of our students to best assist you in maintaining your F-1/J-1 status. Any time you have international travel planned (departing and/or entering the US), we ask that you report this to us via the **International Travel Plans e-form** in the [RGlobal portal](#) (found under Travel & Location Information). This e-form is for informative purposes only, so you may submit it with recent international travel plans as needed in advance, at the time of travel, or after. It is separate from the existing [Travel Signature Request E-form](#) referenced above in Step 2.

### **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. Since the [termination of the COVID-19 flexibilities](#) took effect this fall, F-1 students may count no more than one 3-credit online course toward full-time enrollment, and J-1 students are only permitted to take an online course if this course is an addition to the credits required for a full course of study. Please note that hybrid or blended courses count as in-person classes. For more information, please refer to our [Full Course of Study Requirement](#) page.

### **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 and be prepared to face delays or extra scrutiny at visa issuing posts and at ports of entry. As always, follow all rules and regulations to [maintain your legal status in the US](#). Visit the [Travel and Visa Information](#) page on the Rutgers Global website for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

### **Visa Applications and Renewals**

Please plan well in advance if you need to apply for or renew your visa during your travel abroad. All individuals applying for a U.S. visa are screened before the issuance of a visa and visa processing can be subject to delays based on various reasons. For more information, review the [visa application information](#) on the Rutgers Global website as well as the [Department of State](#) website to review current wait times for U.S. visas.

### **Useful Resources:**

[Travel.state.gov](#) is the primary source of information regarding travel delays, alerts, and warnings. Please refer to:

- [Visa News](#)
- [Travel Alerts & Warnings](#)

- [Subscribe to Travel Alerts & Warnings](#)

When making travel plans for winter recess, please be reminded that all international students are expected to return to the US and resume in-person classes at the start of the spring semester. The first day of Spring 2024 will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

## REMINDERS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS & OPT

### EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As F-1/J-1 students, it is your responsibility to know the rules and laws governing your legal status, including the regulations regarding off-campus internships or any off-campus employment. You don't need to wait until you have a job interview to find out what those rules are.

All our employment workshops are now offered online through the [RGlobal portal](#). Review the [CPT](#) and [OPT](#) webpages for important information about how to complete the workshops, and consider joining an upcoming Off-Campus Employment Chat session with an adviser and your peers (dates and times posted on the [Advising Services webpage](#)). More information about employment for international students can be found on the [Employment webpage](#).

Remember that all on-campus employment must also be reported to ISSS. Please refer to our webpage on [On-Campus Employment](#) for information about steps for F-1 and J-1 students to report on-campus employment. The [On-Campus Employment workshop](#) may also be accessed through the [RGlobal portal](#).

### APPLYING FOR OPT

The USCIS deadline for post-completion OPT applications is 60 days following degree completion. All students applying for post-completion OPT must complete the Post-Completion OPT Workshop on the [RGlobal portal](#). F-1 students who will be completing their programs this fall and who plan to apply for post-completion OPT should plan to submit an [OPT application](#) as soon as possible.

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 advisors by email ([iss-students@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:iss-students@global.rutgers.edu))

## MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: STRESS MANAGEMENT

**Thursday, November 30**

**5:00-6:30pm**

**Rutgers Global ISSS Office: 180 College Ave, College Ave. Campus**

Feeling stressed and overwhelmed during the busy time of the school year? You are not alone! Join this free interactive workshop with a CAPS counselor, ISSS staff, and other international students. Express yourself creatively by making your own vision board and learn how to manage your stress through fun/interactive activities.

Please [RSVP](#) by 11/23/2023 to save your seat! Seats are limited. First come, first served! You will receive an email a week prior to the event to confirm seating. Pizza and beverage will be provided.

## SPRING 2024 LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

Activities in Languages and Cultures:

**Exchanges: 01:991:160:01:10071**

**By Arrangement**

This one-credit activity allows partnerships of two students to exchange conversation in two different languages they wish to share and learn. The activity is graded as Pass/No Credit and will not affect a student's GPA.

Students are partnered to exchange conversation in both languages with one of their peers once a week for an hour at a regular time period that fits their schedule. Language Exchange partners meet three times throughout the semester with a supervisor who validates the Exchange. Students record short entries after each partner meeting noting the linguistic skills practiced and the cultural elements and topics discussed.

Students can sign up to be paired with a language exchange partner at [this link](#). For more information, visit <https://go.rutgers.edu/langexch>

## TUTORING SCAM ALERT

ISSS has recently been made aware of a tutoring scam, in which scammers target individuals who are looking to become tutors, or they offer tutoring services involving fraudulent schemes designed to exploit people seeking tutoring opportunities. Here are some common elements of scams targeting potential tutors:

**Fake Job Postings/Email:**

- Scammers create fake job advertisements on online platforms, job boards, or social media, posing as educational institutions, tutoring agencies, or individuals seeking

tutors. The job descriptions often sound appealing, offering high pay rates and flexible working hours.

- After responding and expressing interest in a tutoring position from the scammer email or fake job posting, individuals may be invited to participate in a job interview. During the interview, scammers may ask for personal information, such as bank details, Social Security numbers, or copies of identification, under the pretext of completing the hiring process. This information can then be used for identity theft.

For more information about how to avoid scams and fraud, please continue to refer to our [Scams and Fraud](#) webpage, as well as more detailed guidance in our [October email notice](#).

### **UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES**

Please be advised that Rutgers Global - ISSS will be closed and virtual advising services will be unavailable on the following dates:

**Thursday, Nov. 23 - Friday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Recess**

**Monday, Dec. 25 - Monday, Jan. 1: Winter Break**

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (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 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 are required to know the information that is provided in these notices and to 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](mailto:iss-students@global.rutgers.edu)

**RBHS**

973-972-6138

[iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu)

