

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



September 3, 2021

- [MESSAGE FOR NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS](#)
- [IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND REMINDERS](#)
 - FALL 2021 INSURANCE EXEMPTION REQUEST AND WAIVER DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
 - FALL 2021 REDUCED CREDIT/COURSE LOAD FORMS FOR STUDENTS WITH LESS THAN A FULL-TIME CREDIT LOAD - DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021
 - COVID-19 VACCINATION AND THE FALL 2021 TERM
 - REMINDER: MANDATORY COVID-RELATED APPS
- BEWARE OF SCAMS
- [UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES](#)
- [SUCCESS.RUTGERS.EDU](#)

MESSAGE FOR NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

The Rutgers Global - International Student and Scholar Services office (ISSS) welcomes all international students to Rutgers University. Whether you are physically on-campus or joining us remotely from your home country for the Fall 2021 semester, we are here to support you! We encourage you to use our [online services](#) and our email address (iss-students@global.rutgers.edu) until we can resume normal operations here on campus. Best wishes for the fall 2021 semester, and remember, we are here for you!

TO ALL NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to Rutgers! The ISSS team is very happy that you have chosen to study at Rutgers and are pleased to welcome you through our virtual [International Student Orientation program](#), or ISO, which is supported through the University's Learning Management System, Canvas. All new students should have already received access details and instructions to access the Rutgers Global - ISSS Orientation course at site through their Rutgers email, and all modules of our virtual ISO program will remain available to you on Canvas through the fall semester.

If you are in the US or are traveling to the U.S. for fall 2021, please make sure you follow all the steps outlined in our [Post-Arrival Guide](#) so that our staff can activate your SEVIS status in a timely manner. If you are enrolling in the fall semester from overseas, we will not activate your SEVIS status until you arrive in the U.S. for spring 2022 or later.

Due to current Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [guidance](#), please remember that all international students with an **initial SEVIS record** must enroll in at least one in-person or hybrid course this fall semester in order to [maintain legal status](#). If you and your academic advisor determine that there are no in-person/hybrid courses available for you, please consult with an ISSS adviser by sending an email to iss-students@global.rutgers.edu.

TO ALL CONTINUING STUDENTS

Whether you are back in New Brunswick or continuing your program from a remote location, we extend a virtual “welcome back”! While our office at 180 College Avenue has reopened, we are offering a blend of in-person and remote advising services. Please refer to the [ISSS Advising Services](#) webpage for more information. Rutgers Global - ISSS continues to provide all programs and services in alignment with the [university operating procedures](#).

Please also note that all university units will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day.

Due to current Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [guidance](#), you may maintain legal status even if you are studying entirely online in the US or abroad. Fall 2020 guidance is still currently in place for 2021.

Continuing students who were in active F or J status on March 9, 2020 when [modifications for COVID-19](#) became effective are able to maintain their immigration status while studying entirely online in the US or abroad, provided they continue to be enrolled full-time and are making normal progress toward their degree. Remember, students in active SEVIS status, whether from inside the U.S. or abroad, must follow all rules to [maintain legal status](#).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND REMINDERS

FALL 2021 INSURANCE WAIVER REQUEST AND ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers visa sponsorship are required to maintain [a minimum level of health insurance coverage](#) and are automatically charged this fee when they register for a particular semester for enrollment in the University’s health insurance plan.

Returning/continuing F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers’ visa sponsorship who have insurance coverage other than the student insurance plan OR are living outside of the United States for the complete fall coverage term need to request a waiver of that insurance fee that is charged to your term bills by following the exemption request process [outlined on our website](#).

For new/incoming students who will not be located in the United States, we have made special arrangements to waive the University’s Student Health Insurance Plan Premium and the International Student Fee for the fall 2021 semester. If you are a new/incoming student and have not yet completed the Fall 2021 Plans survey in the [RGlobal portal](#), please do so now.

STUDENTS WITH A TA/GA APPOINTMENT

Students with full TA/GA appointments who are enrolled in benefits through University Human Resources DO NOT need to contact our office to request a waiver of the student health insurance premium. You only need to submit your enrollment paperwork through Human Resources and do not need to submit waiver documentation to our office. Once Human Resources processes your insurance enrollment paperwork we will receive your coverage information and process your waiver.

ALL OTHER F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS MUST *EITHER ENROLL OR WAIVE*. For more details on either process, please review the information and instructions on our website.

Please contact Eirinn Jones at eljones@global.rutgers.edu with any specific questions/concerns regarding the health insurance fee and waiver process.

FALL 2021 REDUCED CREDIT/COURSE LOAD FORMS FOR STUDENTS WITH LESS THAN A FULL-TIME CREDIT LOAD - DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

To maintain legal status, all F-1 and J-1 students must pursue a [full course of study](#) at all times. This means being registered for a full credit load. There are cases, however, in which regulations consider a student to be pursuing a full course of study even if he or she is NOT actually registered for a full credit load. For example, students who only need 1 or 2 classes to complete their program, or graduate students who have completed all coursework, but are still conducting thesis or dissertation research, may be considered pursuing a full course of study even if not registered for 9 credits.

If you are eligible for a [reduced credit load](#), you should submit your e-form request no later than September 17, 2021 to ensure your academic official can respond and our office can approve it by the deadline of September 24, 2021. Failure to receive approval by this deadline may result in the loss of your legal status in the United States. The Reduced Credit/Course Load Form must be submitted through the [RGlobal](#) student services portal.

If you have already submitted a Reduced Credit Load E-form to ISSS for Fall 2021 and received an email acknowledging its receipt, it is being processed and there is no need to worry. An International Student Advisor will contact you with any questions or issues.

Please email iss-students@global.rutgers.edu with any specific questions/concerns.

COVID-19 VACCINATION AND THE FALL 2021 TERM

Vaccination documentation should be uploaded to the [Rutgers Student Immunization portal](#) (NetID and password are required). International students who were unable to upload their proof of vaccination by the university deadline of August 1 due to difficulties in getting vaccines outside the US, may do so after they arrive and get the vaccine. Please complete all other immunization requirements and submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination once you have received the vaccine. Appointments are available at <https://rtr.ipo.rutgers.edu/vaccines/>.

For more information about the vaccination requirement, please refer to our [June 29, 2021 email notice](#), as well as the Vaccination Policy Updates for International Students message that was emailed to all international students on July 24, or refer to the [COVID-19 Related International Student FAQs](#).

REMINDER: MANDATORY COVID-RELATED APPS

My Campus Pass is a self-screening app that must be used by students, faculty, and staff each day when traveling to campus or entering a Rutgers building. To access My Campus Pass, log into my.rutgers.edu. The second app, Rutgers Visitors Log, is available by logging into <http://visitorlog.rutgers.edu>. Visitors and guests with a legitimate business purpose that cannot be accomplished remotely must be registered each day using this platform. Anyone with an active [NetID](#) can enter a guest through the system.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

We have been made aware of scams targeting unsuspecting international students and scholars. These scams have become increasingly sophisticated, oftentimes with an apparently

government phone number appearing on your caller ID, or the caller knowing a lot of your personal information. As is true anywhere in the world, there are people who attempt to take advantage of international students and scholars, but with a little knowledge you can learn how to identify a scam and avoid falling victim to the scheme. Please refer to the ISSS website for more [tips to avoid scams](#), as well as a list of helpful [resources](#) regarding scams and fraud.

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

SHOPPING SHUTTLE

Rutgers Global – ISSS arranges shopping shuttles to local stores throughout the semester so students can purchase groceries and other living essentials. You should sign up to reserve your spot on the shuttle; international students and scholars who have signed up will be given preference to ride on the shuttle.

[Click here for more information and to sign up for the shuttle.](#)

Please note: To ensure the safety of our students during this time, the shuttle can accommodate 10 passengers at a time; and passengers are required to wear a mask at all times while riding on the shuttle.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS



Rutgers Global organizes programming for our student community throughout the academic year, ranging from fairs to film screenings to special holiday events to our signature weekly program, Friendship Fridays. Be sure to check our events calendar throughout the year and join us!

FRIENDSHIP FRIDAYS

Each Friday during the academic year, Rutgers Global hosts a “pop-up lounge” open to all Rutgers students and scholars from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (ET). Enjoy games, activities, and conversation—and make new friends from around the world! #FriendshipFridays

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

Rutgers Global partners with other University units and departments to host on-campus events in recognition of International Education Week, happening this year from November 15-19, 2021. International Education Week is a joint initiative of U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

STUDY ABROAD FAIRS

Rutgers Global—Study Abroad hosts two Study Abroad fairs each academic year. Join us for the fall fair on September 21, 2021, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (ET) on the New Brunswick campus to learn about our programs all over the world—many of them at or below the cost of a semester at Rutgers. The fairs feature food, music, and giveaways, including scholarships!

BIG TEN ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Did you know that Rutgers University is part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance? We partner with these other leading universities to host events like film screenings, lectures, and workshops to activities including contests and scavenger hunts.

Join our mailing list for updates and reminders!

Stay connected!



AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES' CHINA ASSOCIATION (AUCA) SUMMER CAREER EVENTS

Career Exploration and Success is partnering with Rutgers Global, participating in American Universities' China Association (AUCA) Summer Career Events this summer. The 2021 AUCA

Summer Career Events includes Student Career Development Forums, and a variety of online employer talks and workshops through September.

Participating employers represent various industries and include but are not limited to the following: Bloomberg, Tencent, Deloitte, Pepsi, KPMG, HSBC, P&G, L'Oréal, iQiyi, Pfizer, NetEases Games.

To register and RSVP, please visit Rutgers Handshake at <https://app.joinhandshake.com/events/776132>

SUCCESS.RUTGERS.EDU

[Success.rutgers.edu](https://success.rutgers.edu) is a new, centralized website dedicated to helping you find all the tools and resources to succeed. Resources are organized in four thematic areas: Success Essentials, Academic Support Services, Involvement & Community, and Experiential Learning & Career Preparation. The site is easily searchable and also includes important “How To” instructional videos and guides. If you can't find something or need additional assistance, email student.success@rutgers.edu.

We wish you all a safe and successful fall 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 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

RBHS

973-972-6138
iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu