

Center for Global Services

RUTGERS

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Travelers Advisory Guide for International Students

Center for Global Services

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Welcome to Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey! The following information has been prepared to answer many of the questions frequently asked by new international students preparing to come to Rutgers. Please read this brochure carefully and thoroughly before contacting us with questions.

I. A WORD ABOUT U.S. VISA AND IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

Rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) may seem unnecessarily complex to those coming to the U.S. for academic and scholarly visits. In addition to standard visa and immigration rules, F and J visa holders are subject to special procedures of the DHS's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Information on SEVIS can be found at <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>.

Although the Center for Global Services tries to clarify and simplify these regulations by providing relevant information and advice, students and scholars who plan to study, teach or conduct research in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status should be aware that it is the legal responsibility of each individual student and scholar to comply with federal regulations governing his or her stay in the U.S., and that failure to comply is likely to jeopardize his or her legal status in the U.S.. Of critical importance to all ***F-1 and J-1 visa holders on Rutgers' visa sponsorship is that federal law requires you to complete a "check in"*** procedure at the Center no more than 30 days after the start date on your I-20 form (for F-1s) or DS-2019 form (for J-1s). Additional details on how to comply with U.S. government regulations are available on our website (<http://globalservices.rutgers.edu>) and in publications and through workshops offered by our Center upon your arrival.

II. APPLYING FOR A VISA: IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Please pay close attention to the details that follow to ensure that your documents are in order when applying for a visa.

Your Name Must Be the Same on All Legal Documents

Many problems can be eliminated by making sure that ALL of your legal documents list your name exactly the same way as shown in your passport. To avoid unnecessary difficulties, the spelling of your name should be exactly the same on your passport, your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/DS-2019), and your U.S. nonimmigrant visa stamp.

Passport

Your passport is an essential travel document issued by your government. As passports are small and easily misplaced, it is wise to make and keep a photocopy of your passport in a safe place in a location separate from where you keep your passport itself.

Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)

You will need your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) to obtain your F-1 or J-1 visa. If your name on this Certificate is not exactly as it appears in your passport, do NOT use this Certificate to apply for a visa—instead, return it to the appropriate admissions office at Rutgers and request an amended Certificate be sent to you before you apply for your visa.

Form I-901 for Payment of the U.S. Government's SEVIS Fee

Individuals who plan to apply for an initial F-1 or J-1 visa are required to first submit a Form I-901 form for payment of the U.S. government's SEVIS fee. Information and instructions on the I-901 SEVIS fee payment can be found at <https://www.fmjfee.com>. You must obtain and present proof of having paid the fee in order to apply for a visa and in order to enter the U.S. (For Canadian citizens, proof of SEVIS fee payment must be presented upon entry to the U.S.) Regardless of whether you pay online or by another method, be sure to make several copies of the payment confirmation receipt for your records.

Visa Application Forms and Personal Interview

(Note: Canadian and Bermudian citizens are NOT required to have a U.S. visa.) The basic U.S. visa application for most visa classifications is Form DS-160; some F-1 and J-1 visa applicants may be required to complete additional forms (DS-157 and/or DS-158). The DS-160 visa application form is available online at <https://ceac.state.gov/>. We recommend you read the Frequently Asked Questions on the DS-160, Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application page prior to completing the online visa application.

There is generally an application fee for a U.S. visa. For information on fees that may apply to you, go to the website of the U.S. consulate at which you'll apply for your visa. All U.S. consulate websites are accessible by link from: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

Most F-1 and J-1 visa applicants will be required to have a personal interview at the U.S. consulate. Waiting times for these interviews vary, depending on the specific consulate and time of year. For details on average visa waiting times at U.S. consulates throughout the world, go to <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>

For additional visa information and instructions on how to apply for a visa, go to: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html>.

To view "Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa", go to <http://www.nafsa.org/resource/library/Default.aspx?id=8643>

Additional Documents Needed for the Visa Application

Check with the website of the U.S. consulate at which you will apply for a visa prior to submitting your application to ensure that you have all necessary documents. Go to: <http://www.usembassy.gov/> Even if not listed on the website, you should also plan to present the following:

- Letter of admission from Rutgers
- Proof of funding as listed on Form I-20 or DS-2019 (not needed if admission letter notes full funding from Rutgers)
- If available, documentation indicating your intent to return home at the end of your studies

Special Advisories (“Do’s and Don’ts”) for F-1 and J-1 Visa Applicants

DO NOT enter the United States with a Certificate of Eligibility from a school other than the one you will attend! If you have already obtained a visa with one school’s name listed on it and you now wish to change your plans, contact the U.S. consulate where you obtained your original visa to ask for a new visa. If you are a student, it will not be possible to transfer to another U.S. school until you have completed the mandatory in-person “check in” procedure at the Center for Global Services, have provided a local U.S. address, email, and phone number as required by SEVIS regulations, and have offered a reasonable explanation as to why you entered on a Rutgers visa document if you intend to study at another school.

DO NOT enter the United States on a visa other than F-1 or J-1 if you intend to study at Rutgers upon arrival. Individuals who enter the U.S. on a B-1/B-2 visa may not apply to the DHS for a change to F-1 or J-1 status unless they meet two conditions:

- 1) their B-1/B-2 visa stamp in their passport bear the notation “Prospective Student” (F-1) or “Prospective Exchange Visitor” (J-1); and
- 2) they do not intend to engage in F-1 or J-1 activities until the change of status is actually approved by the DHS. Individuals in B-1/B-2 status are NOT permitted to engage in study or employment in the U.S. Please also note that the DHS will not approve a change of status from B-2 to F-1 or J-1 without the two notations mentioned above, and that such approvals normally take 4-8 months.

DO NOT attempt to enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 visitor more than 30 days prior to the starting date of your I-20 or DS-2019! Although you may apply for an F-1 visa up to 120 days prior to the I-20 start date and you may apply for a J-1 visa at any time after receiving the DS-2019, neither F-1 NOR J-1 visa holders are permitted to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on their I-20 or DS-2019.

DO “check-in” at The Center for Global Services no more than 30 days after the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019— earlier than that is even better. Your legal status in the U.S. will depend upon your completion of this mandatory “check in” at the Center within the first 30-day period of your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)! If you will not be able to complete this check-in before the 30-day deadline, you MUST notify our office in advance to protect your future entry and legal status.

III. DOCUMENT PROCESSING AT YOUR PORT OF ENTRY TO THE U.S.

Procedures at the Port of Entry

When you arrive in the U.S. you will go through immigration and customs lines. You will need to present your passport and your I-20 or DS-2019.

I-94 and CBP Admission Stamp

Upon entry to the U.S. by air or sea, you will receive an electronic I-94 admission record that will indicate your date of entry and be notated with your immigration status and expiration of stay. This record is maintained in Customs and Border Protection systems and can be accessed at www.cbp.gov/i94. You will also receive a CBP admission stamp in your passport that indicates immigration status and expiration of stay.

Upon re-entry to the U.S. by land, you will receive a paper I-94 card that will indicate your date of entry and be notated with your immigration status and expiration of stay.

- **F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders:** The CBP admission stamp will be notated “F-1 D/S” or “J-1 D/S” to reflect you have authorization to remain in the U.S for “Duration of Status.” If the stamp indicates anything other than “F-1 D/S” or “J-1 D/S,” you should ask the officer to re-process your documents. If you fail to recognize the problem while at the port-of-entry, you should immediately contact your international adviser upon return to campus.

Verify Your Documents Have Been Correctly Processed After the Immigration Officer Returns Them to You

U.S. immigration officers handle thousands of people every day and, like all of us, they occasionally make mistakes. We strongly recommend that you verify your documents before leaving the inspecting officer’s window to ensure they have been processed correctly. Errors on these documents will cause complications at a later date if you apply for a U.S. Social Security Number or a New Jersey Driver’s License. Please verify the following to ensure proper processing of your documents:

- Your passport has been stamped with your arrival date, port of entry information, and is notated with your immigration status and expiration of stay.
- You can access your electronic I-94 record at www.cbp.gov/I94. You may need a printout of this record for various purposes such as Social Security Applications, applying for a Driver’s License, completing the process of getting on Rutgers payroll if you will be pursuing an on-campus job.

Keep all your documents together with your passport at all times. Carry all of these documents with you each time you travel outside the Rutgers area.

Secondary Inspection

Sometimes the data or documentation available to the immigration officer at the first inspection station is insufficient for them to give final entry clearance to an incoming visitor. In such cases, visitors may be placed in “secondary inspection” until such time as an immigration service officer has had time to fully research the data or documentation and clear the visitor for entry to the U.S. This is nothing to worry about. If you are directed to a waiting room by an immigration officer at the first inspection station and/or required to follow additional procedures, it will likely delay your clearance for an hour or two (longer at very busy times), but you will eventually be cleared for entry.

IV. PLANNING FOR YOUR STAY IN THE U.S.

Things to Plan For

Climate and Clothing - New Jersey has a variable climate: cold winters with periodic snowfalls, hot summers, and some very pleasant periods in between. The temperature frequently drops to between -15C and -12C in the winter and rises to between 32C and 37C in the summer. Jackets, scarves, gloves and boots are essential for the cold winter months (November-March). Water-proof outerwear and umbrellas are essential in rainy weather.

Baggage - Regardless of the cost for excess weight, it is usually better to bring all personal baggage on the plane rather than ship it separately. Check with your travel agent or your airline for specific size and weight limitations. Unaccompanied shipments may be difficult to bring through customs and you may require a U.S.-based agent for clearance and forwarding. Such services are expensive and often result in considerable delays. DO NOT send packages, suitcases, or other belongings to the University in advance of your arrival. Offices and residence halls on campus do not have secured storage facilities for personal belongings.

Mail and mailing address – Immediately after you arrive, you must notify the University, DHS and your correspondents of your U.S. address. In addition, you should not have any mail (letters or packages) delivered to the Center for Global Services.

Email and Wifi- You should also be able set up a Rutgers email account prior to arriving at Rutgers with your given NetID. RUWireless is the wifi network accessible in most areas on campus. You can log in with a valid NetID and password.

Linens - If you will be living in on-campus housing, your bed may be larger than standard and will require special-sized linens which you can purchase upon arrival.

Things to Bring

Money - If you do not have an ATM card that is able to obtain cash from a U.S. cash machine, it is best to exchange some of your own currency for U. S. dollars and traveler's checks before you leave home. Direct foreign currency exchange is not available in most U.S. cities. The University and local businesses accept only U.S. dollars. When you arrive in the U.S., you should have sufficient funds to cover your expenses for several weeks, but you should not travel with large amounts of cash to avoid the risk of possible loss or theft. If you do not have a U.S.-usable ATM card, you should estimate your first month's expenses and purchase traveler's checks in U.S. dollars for that amount at a bank or travel office in your country. You can cash traveler's checks at U.S. airports, banks and most businesses in the U.S., including hotels and restaurants. It is also advisable to carry at least \$200-300 in paper currency plus \$10 in coins for "change" for baggage lockers, bus fares, and tips, etc.

Items Representing Your Country - Many people enjoy having examples of arts, crafts, traditional dress, photographs, music, maps or other items descriptive of home, both to show interested Americans and to provide a familiar touch.

Personal Identification - Students who will be employed on campus will need to apply for a U.S. Social Security Number upon arrival. The application requires an identification document, which is at least one year old. If your passport was issued less than one year before your arrival, bring an original birth certificate or another form of identification that is at least one year old.

Things NOT to Bring

Electrical Appliances - Electrical appliances manufactured outside the U.S. may not be compatible with the U.S. power supply or may not be permitted in the residence halls. It is best to purchase appliances after arrival.

Textbooks – For students, textbooks used in previous study are not recommended because students are expected to purchase required texts for each course they take, and supplemental material is available in University libraries, bookstores, and online.

U.S. Customs Restrictions – General information on items that may not be brought into the U.S. from abroad is available at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/customs.html>

V. ARRIVING IN THE U.S. AND GETTING TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Choosing an Arrival Airport

There are four major airports accessible from the New Brunswick/Piscataway campuses:

- [John F. Kennedy International Airport \(JFK\)](#)
- [LaGuardia Airport](#)
- [Newark Liberty International Airport](#)
- [Philadelphia International Airport](#)

We suggest you fly into Newark Liberty International Airport. It is faster, less expensive, and easier to get to New Brunswick from the Newark airport than from the other area airports.

Port of Entry Accommodations

Arrival in a strange city in a foreign country can be confusing and expensive. Hotel charges in large American cities are usually very high – averaging \$110 per night or more -- though lodging in smaller cities is considerably less expensive. Unless you plan to do some sightseeing elsewhere in the U.S. before arriving in New Brunswick, you should try to plan your travel and interconnecting flights to minimize the necessity for overnight lodging. If you do wish to tour a bit in the United States before coming to school, however, consult a travel agent or do plenty of research on expenses, places to stay and eat, and transportation.

Getting to New Brunswick from Area Airports

Before arriving at the airport, you should have a plan for how you will travel from there to your final destination. There are many options for ground transportation, including taxis, car services, shuttle buses, subways, and trains. Find out more about [getting to Rutgers](#). Try [UBER](#) or [Lyft](#) as cost effective options for ground transportation. Advanced reservations for airport van services are strongly suggested.

Airport Pick-up Service through Rutgers for Students Living On-Campus

For those students who have on-campus housing assignments, Rutgers University has partnered with a local ground transportation service to transport you from your arrival airport (Newark, JFK, LaGuardia or Philadelphia) to our New Brunswick Campus. Although we provide transportation from all four of these airports, we strongly encourage you to choose Newark Int'l (EWR) as your arrival airport being that it is much closer to campus and in turn more affordable. The transportation company will provide town car service, which can accommodate two students, two large pieces of luggage, and two carry-ons. In addition, vans with group pricing rates will also be available if multiple students arrive at the same airport around the same time. Typically, vans can accommodate 7-8 people with luggage. All students must provide at least 72 hour notification to the Rutgers Residence Life office to ensure curbside pick-up on designated day and time of arrival.

Public Transportation Choices from Newark Liberty Airport:

<http://www.panynj.gov/airports/ewr-ground-transportation.html>

Train: Take the "Airtrain" directly from your arrival terminal to the Airport Train Station, where you can connect with a New Jersey Transit train to New Brunswick (cost is about \$15). The train to New Brunswick leaves regularly. There is a taxi office behind the New Brunswick train station if you need a ride to your local destination.

Airport Van: The "Olympic Airporter" van charges approximately \$26 from Newark Liberty Airport to the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, which is about 4 miles from downtown New Brunswick. Advanced reservations are strongly suggested and can be made online at <http://olympic-limo.com/> or by phone (1-800-822-9797). From the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, call for a taxi/Uber to get to your local destination. It is customary to tip the van driver \$1 per bag and the taxi driver 15% of the fare.

Public Transportation Choices from JFK Airport:

<http://www.panynj.gov/airports/jfk-ground-transportation.html>

Bus: Take the New York Airport Service Express Bus from JFK to the Port Authority bus terminal in Manhattan (cost is about \$15). Then take a Suburban Transit bus from the Port Authority to downtown New Brunswick. The bus departs on a regular schedule and costs about \$16. Take a taxi from the New Brunswick bus stop to your local destination. (The taxi office is across the street from the bus stop, behind the train station.)

Bus/Train: Take either the Super Shuttle or the New York Airport Service Express Bus from JFK to New York Penn Station at 34th St. and 7th Ave. (cost is about \$25). Then take a New Jersey Transit train, which departs on a regular schedule from Penn Station for New Brunswick (on the "Northeast Corridor" line). Cost is about \$14. From the New Brunswick train station, take a taxi to your local destination. (The taxi office is just behind the New Brunswick train station.)

Airport Van: The "Olympic Airporter" van charges about \$50 from JFK to the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, which is about 4 miles from downtown New Brunswick. Advanced reservations are strongly suggested and can be made online at <http://olympic-limo.com/> or by phone (1-800-822-9797). From the hotel in East Brunswick, call a taxi to get to your local destination. It is customary to tip the van driver \$1 per bag and to tip the taxi driver 15% of the fare.

Private Transportation Choices:

You can hire a private limousine or taxi at Ground Transportation at either JFK or Newark Airport, but we do not recommend you do this unless you are prepared to spend around \$100 (or more) for the ride, depending on distance, time of day and level of service. (Taxis are generally used in the U.S. only to travel relatively short distances within a city, not to get from one city to another.) If you do choose to hire a private taxi, be sure to settle on a price with the driver before the ride. Tipping 15% is customary.

VI. ARRIVAL IN NEW BRUNSWICK

If You Are a Student Who WILL Enroll in Classes

If you will be an enrolled student at Rutgers, you should plan to arrive at the University in time to participate fully in the mandatory International Student Orientation, a program of information sessions, academic and administrative planning, and other activities that are essential to a new student's smooth transition to life at Rutgers University. Orientation dates and information, including instructions on when and where to report upon arrival, are sent to you by the appropriate Rutgers admissions office along with your I-20 or DS-2019. Please note: the starting date on your Form I-20 or DS-2019 is not the International Student Orientation date, but rather, the first day of classes; entry to the U.S. after the first day of classes may require permission from University officials and may require issuance of a new I-20 or DS-2019 form.

Whether or not you are required to take placement exams prior to registering for classes, it is very important that you attend the mandatory orientation program to become familiar with the University and its resources, meet with advisers to plan your curriculum, get settled, learn about University procedures and regulations, register for courses, recover from travel fatigue, make new friends and begin the transition to life in a new environment.

Please note that if you are unable to attend the orientation program, you are still required by federal law to complete a ***"Check-In and Document Verification" procedure at the Center*** upon arrival.

As noted above, arrival after the starting date specified on your I-20 or DS-2019 form may require issuance of a new form. Contact the appropriate Rutgers admissions office if you must arrive after the starting date on your form. If you cannot arrive in the first week, you must contact the admissions office immediately as you may need to defer your admissions date or apply for readmission the following semester.

If You Are a Student who will be EMPLOYED by Rutgers University

Everyone who is employed in the U.S. must have a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN). Because it takes at least 10 days for port-of-entry data to appear in the Social Security Administration's database, we suggest that individuals who need to apply for an SSN wait at least 10 days after entering the U.S. to submit the SSN application. When you complete your "check-in" at the Center, ask for instructions on applying for an SSN. When you are filling out the SSN application, be sure that you spell your name exactly the same as it is spelled on your passport, U.S. visa, and Form I-94.

VII. HOUSING

On-Campus/Undergraduate students: Check your admissions materials for on-campus housing information or go to the Housing website at <http://ruoncampus.rutgers.edu>. If you plan to live on campus, submit a completed Housing application form online to the Housing office promptly. Housing assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Most undergraduates living in University housing are required to take their meals in University dining facilities. Note that while most undergraduate residence halls are closed during Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks (they will be able to leave their belongings in the residence halls but need to make alternative arrangements to stay); there are now several halls that remain open during school breaks, and students who will need housing during breaks should indicate this in the designated area on the housing application. All students must move out of their rooms after the academic year is complete, typically in early May.

On-Campus/Graduate Students: Graduate student housing information is noted in the graduate admissions packet sent to international students, but you may contact Housing directly at 55 Bevier Road, Busch Campus, in Piscataway and access information online at <http://ruoncampus.rutgers.edu>. Please note that housing assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Off-Campus: The cost of single, furnished rooms off campus averages \$90 per week (more if cooking privileges are included). For an unfurnished 1-bedroom apartment, prices range from about \$850-\$1100 per month (not always including heat and electricity). The Off-Campus Living and Community Partnerships office provides listings of available rentals as well as some onsite assistance, but students are responsible for obtaining their own accommodations. You can access available off campus rental listings, maps and tenant rights information online at <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/>. You should expect to take at least one full week to find off-campus housing after you arrive.

VIII. EXPENSES

Because living in the United States is expensive, you should bring at least \$1000 in traveler's checks for initial purchases (more if you plan to live off-campus). Students who will be registering for academic coursework should also be prepared to pay for a full semester of tuition and fees (and, if applicable, on-campus room and board) upon arrival. A bank draft can be used to pay for these expenses, but students should bear in mind that bank drafts take at least 14 days to clear for payment and that there is a payment deadline each semester.

Sponsored students must submit copies of their award letters to arrange for direct billing to the sponsor. Details on current tuition costs, mandatory student fees, and payment options, are available online at <http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu>.

F-1 and J-1 enrolled students on Rutgers University's visa sponsorship will be assessed an SEVIS Fee each semester on their term bill; the SEVIS Fee is waived for students with full TA, GA or Fellowship awards from Rutgers. International students are responsible for financing their university education. Most international students at Rutgers are privately supported through personal or family resources. A few receive support from their government or institutions in their home country. Others are participants in exchange programs under foreign university or international organization sponsorship. With the exception of teaching or graduate assistantships and fellowships, the University has no financial aid available for enrolled international students. Teaching and graduate assistantships are awarded competitively by academic departments and require students to assist with instruction or research in addition to their own academic studies. If you have not received notice of an award, you should plan to meet your own educational expenses through personal funds. No long-term loan funds are available through the University. As a nonimmigrant student, you were issued an I-20 or DS-2019 referencing the financial statement you filed with your admission application. If there has been a negative change in your financial status, do not proceed to the University.

IX. MARRIED STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS

Married students who wish to have their families join them must realize the financial obligations of doing so. A married couple that is able to live inexpensively will require at least an additional \$5000 more per year than a single student or scholar. A minimum of an additional \$4000 is necessary for each accompanying child. The F-2 spouses of F-1 students are NOT permitted to work under any circumstances during their entire stay in the United States, but they may enroll in classes part time in an academic program while in F-2 status. J-2 dependents may apply to USCIS for employment authorization only if the income they earn will not go to the support of the J-1 principal visa holder. We advise international students to delay bringing your family until you have found housing in the community. Dependents of F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers' visa sponsorship are required to have comprehensive health insurance coverage during their entire stay in the U.S. (See "Insurance" section).

Schooling for Children

Education in the United States is required for children up to the age of 16, and public education is free of charge. Classes start in early September and go through mid-June. To enroll, children must be 5 years old by December 1. Bring your children's birth certificates, school and immunization records, all in English. Children must have the following immunizations: three or more diphtheria toxoid series (DPT or DT), three or more trivalent oral polio series or four salk polio vaccine series, measles, mumps, and rubella live vaccines, given on or after the first birthday, or a statement from a physician that the child has had measles or mumps, or a certified serological blood test if the child has had rubella.

Programs for Spouses

The International Women's Group (IWG) is a friendship and support organization run by and for wives of international students and scholars in cooperation with the Center for Global Services. The group meets throughout the academic year and offers a variety of educational, cultural and social activities. The IWG also offers English conversation classes for spouses a few hours per week. Go online to <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersInternationalWomenGroup> for more information about the IWG, including its current program schedule.

X. HEALTH CARE

Immunization Requirement for Students New Jersey law requires all college and university students to be vaccinated against certain diseases prior to enrolling in classes. The immunizations required for enrollment can be found at <http://health.rutgers.edu/who-are-you/incoming-students/pre-entrance-immunizations>. Students who do not submit immunization records are immunized at the Rutgers Student Health Service after arrival. Students who do not submit records or obtain immunization after arrival may not remain at the University.

Rutgers requires students to show proof of required measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations or immunity to these diseases. In addition, all undergraduates who will live in University Housing must show proof of having received a meningococcal vaccination prior to moving into their residence hall. (The vaccine is available on campus at the University Student Health Services if it is unavailable in your home country).

Also, students from countries considered to be “high risk” for tuberculosis must present results of a tuberculosis skin test prior to registration. Documentation has to be in the form of school immunization records, physicians’ records, or vaccination records from a public health department.

You may access Rutgers’ immunization form at <http://health.rutgers.edu/who-are-you/incoming-students/pre-entrance-immunizations/pre-entrance-immunization-form/>

Have the form completed by a physician or other medical practitioner and submit them to the address specified on the form itself. Additional vaccinations may also be recommended.

Insurance

Medical care in the United States is very expensive. One visit to a doctor's office can cost \$150 or more, and one overnight stay in a hospital can easily cost \$2000 or more. It is essential to have adequate health and accident insurance to cover the cost of routine medical care as well as emergencies, and Rutgers’ policy requires all international students, scholars and their visa dependents to have such coverage at all times, either through the University’s program or through personal coverage outside the University that meets or exceeds the University’s health insurance requirements.

All **students on Rutgers’ F or J visa** sponsorship are provided health insurance coverage, regardless of their credit load. You will be billed for this plan through your term bill each semester and may seek an exemption of the charges under certain specific circumstances. Fall semester coverage will be effective August 15th and will end January 14th. Spring semester coverage will be effective January 15th and will end on August 14th. PLEASE NOTE: Students are encouraged to be insured from the moment of arrival in the U.S.; therefore, please come with temporary coverage that will be valid in the U.S. from your arrival date until August 15th.

F-2 and J-2 visa dependents of Rutgers students and scholars are required to have comprehensive medical insurance as well. Purchase of such coverage through Rutgers or proof of coverage through an alternate insurance plan that meets the University’s health insurance requirements is required at the time an F-1 or J-1 student or scholar asks our office to issue a visa document (I-20 or DS-2019) for the dependent(s). Student health insurance policies do not cover 100% of all medical expenses. The student insurance plan may have co-pays and coinsurance that may apply depending on where you are treated, as well as a “deductible” (an amount the insured person has to pay before the insurance company will begin to help paying), while certain expenses such as dental care and eyeglasses are not covered at all. All full-time students at Rutgers can receive primary medical care at the Rutgers Student Health Center; services include physical examinations and treatment, psychological counseling, some laboratory tests, and discount pharmaceutical services. In addition, all registered students holding Rutgers’ F-1 or J-1 visa—including those who have been approved for part-time study by the Center for Global Services—can receive primary care at the Rutgers Student Health Center.

XI. ACADEMIC MATTERS FOR STUDENTS

Academic Advisement

Each new student admitted to Rutgers is assigned an academic adviser to assist in the planning of an academic program consistent with educational and career objectives. In a large university with many resources, it is essential to build a coherent and well thought out degree program with an adviser who is knowledgeable about academic options, procedures, policies, rules and regulations. It is your responsibility to come prepared to discuss your academic interests. Although these may change as you become more familiar with the University, advance planning and consultation will facilitate the formulation of your academic program.

Undergraduate students receive academic advising in the academic services office of their school; graduate students receive it in their academic department.

English Language Requirements for Students

Undergraduate international students are strongly encouraged to take their required Placement Tests remotely prior to their arrival on-campus online by contacting our Testing and Placement Office at <http://oirap.rutgers.edu/testplace.html>

Students will get their examination results and discuss course selection and registration when they meet with their academic deans during the International Student Orientation.

Graduate students whose admission letter requires them to take the English as a Second Language (ESL) exam must contact the Graduate ESL-ITA Program at gradesl@rci.rutgers.edu to schedule a test date. For graduate students pending or awarded a teaching assistantship (TA), the Office of the Dean of Graduate School-New Brunswick requires all non-native English speakers to take the SPEAK Test (an oral language assessment) to confirm oral proficiency. To sign-up for the SPEAK Test students should visit esl.rutgers.edu, and select "Register for an Assessment" under our 'Quick Links' section. The Graduate ESL-ITA office is located in Tillett Hall, Room 129, Livingston Campus, Phone number: [848 - 445-6675](tel:848-445-6675), email: gradesl@rci.rutgers.edu.

XII. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

The Center for Global Services is a vital reference point for international students, scholars and faculty. Members of the Center's staff provide advice on legal, cultural, educational, social, and personal matters. Our office coordinates programs with and for international students and scholars and serves as an advocate for the campus's international community. We hope you will maintain close ties with us throughout your stay. Many details regarding your relationship to the U.S. government, to your own government, or to your sponsoring agency are handled by the Center's staff.

All F-1 and J-1 visitors on Rutgers University's visa sponsorship are required by U.S. law to report to the Center for Global Services upon arrival and to keep our office informed of changes in your address, curriculum, program, and status at all times. If you have questions regarding your travel and arrival which are not answered in this brochure call 848/932-7015, or e-mail globalservices@global.rutgers.edu. Information about services and programs, including orientation dates, is on our website <http://globalservices.rutgers.edu>.

XIII. IF YOUR PLANS CHANGE

We hope you will enroll at Rutgers, but if you do not, please return the certificate of eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) to the address below, and notify the admissions office of your decision.

Center for Global Services
Centers for Global Advancement & International Affairs (GAIA Centers)
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New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8537
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