Things you might want to know this week

COMPUTER ACCESS
There are computers in:
Alexander Library- College Ave Campus
Basement of the Rutgers Student Center- College Ave Campus
Library of Science and Medicine (LSM)- Busch Campus
Tillett Hall- Livingston Campus
Kilmer Library- Livingston Campus
There are also computer labs in many other locations. However, you must soon obtain a netid account. For further information about campus computer labs, please visit http://computerlabs.rutgers.edu/.

CONFUSED ABOUT EST and EDT?
EST stands for ‘Eastern Standard Time’, which is the time zone that includes New Jersey and New York. It is at GMT-5 hours. During summer, time is adjusted for daylight savings and becomes EDT or ‘Eastern Daylight Savings Time’, which is GMT-4 hours. EDT applies from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday of November.

The other time zones in the U.S. are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Zone</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Daylight Saving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>CST = GMT-6</td>
<td>CDT=GMT-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>MST=GMT-7</td>
<td>MDT=GMT-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>PST=GMT-8</td>
<td>PDT=GMT-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>AKST=GMT-9</td>
<td>AKDT=GMT-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>HST=GMT-10</td>
<td>HDT=GMT-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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applicable to Aleutian Islands only and not to Hawaii)

MAKING PHONE CALLS...
• Phone numbers in the USA have 10 digits (e.g. 848-932-7015). The first 3 digits are the area code (e.g. 848 is the area code of the New Brunswick campuses).
• If you are dialing a number outside your local area, you need to dial a one (1) first. (e.g. 1-876-123-4567).
• If you are using a campus phone you only need to dial a ‘2’ (for College Ave and Cook/Douglass campuses) or a ‘5’ (for Busch & Livingston), then the last 4 digits. For example, an office on College Ave campus has the full number 1-848-932-1234, but you would dial 2-1234. For Busch campus the full number might be 1-732-445-1234, but you would dial 5-1234.
• To dial overseas you must dial 011 then the country code and phone number you wish to dial.
• The emergency number in the USA is 911. To call from on-campus, dial 6-911.
• Toll free numbers begin with 1-800
• Numbers that will charge you for calling them (sometimes at very high rates) begin with 1-900

HEY! YOUR PARCEL IS ON ITS WAY...
List of Post Offices on or near New Brunswick/Piscataway Campuses-
http://mds.rutgers.edu/mailservicelocations.html

- College Avenue Campus Records Hall
- Busch Campus Busch Campus Center
- Livingston Campus Tillett Hall
- Cook Campus PAL building, near Cook Campus Center
- Douglass Campus Douglass College Center
- New Brunswick 86 Bayard St (Bayard St is off George St)
- Highland Park 406 Raritan Ave (between 4th & 5th streets)
SERIOUS ABOUT MONEY MATTERS?
Go to one of the local banks in downtown New Brunswick (make sure you have your passport and other ID with you) and ask about their student accounts. (Student accounts come with many of the services free of charges such as money transfers, Online Banking, and checks, etc.) Banks with branches in downtown New Brunswick include:

- Wells Fargo 120 Albany St www.wellsfargo.com
- PNC Ferren Deck Mall, 1 Penn Plaza www.pnc.com
- Bank of America 410 George St www.bankofamerica.com
- Chase bank 133 Neilson Street www.chase.com
- Or the Rutgers’ Credit Union, which has branches on College Avenue and Busch Campuses www.rutgersfcu.org

You do not need a Social Security Number (SSN) for opening a bank account. If you do get an SSN in the future, it is advisable to inform your bank about it so that they can update your credit history. For more information, please attend our session on Banking this week.

LET’S GO SHOPPING!
There is a new grocery store located in the Plaza on Livingston on Livingston Campus called Kilmer’s Market, at 55 Rockafeller Road #40, Piscataway, NJ. The other grocery store within walking distance of campus and on the campus bus route is Bravo on George Street. It is close to the undergrad dorm “Rockoff Hall”. For other daily use items, you could go to 7-eleven close to the Rockoff Hall or Rite Aid Pharmacy. For more variety walk up to the Stop & Shop in Highland Park, or catch a cab to A&P in New Brunswick, Shop Rite in Piscataway or Stop & Shop in Somerset.

STOCKING UP YOUR APARTMENT
The campus center stores offer a small range of household items if you need something straight away. Most large stores such as TARGET, WALMART, and SEARS also offer a fairly wide range of household items. There is one department store, Sears, behind Cook Campus, which is an easy walk from the bus stop outside the Women’s Studies building on the EE route.

EXCITED ABOUT YOUR FIRST CAR HERE?
Make sure you sign up for the GSA Market email list (Go to https://mailman.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/gsa_market). Rutgers faculty and students use this list to (among other things) advertise cars for sale. You can often get a really good deal from another international student that is leaving. You can post an email yourself asking for a car.

EAST OR WEST DRIVER’S LICENSE IS THE BEST
You can use your existing license for 2 months in New Jersey. After that you must apply for a NJ license. This is very useful as a form of ID, even if you don’t plan on getting a car yet. Many places will only accept a US driver’s license or a passport as proof of your age (i.e. to get into a bar, buy alcohol, traveling within the United States, etc.) If you already have an International Driver’s license you will just need to take a written test based on the New Jersey road rules and regulations and take an eye-test. Also, if you are covered under the U.N. Convention, then the driving permit from your country along with documentation such as I-94, I-20 and other means of identification would suffice. For more information, check out the unofficial guide to the Department of Motor Vehicles: www.dmv.org, or the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission http://www.nj.gov/mvc/.

HOW DOES SALES TAX WORK HERE?
NJ adds 7% sales tax to most goods and services. Often this is in addition to the price advertised. Items that are exempt from this tax include some clothing, food and some other items intended for home consumption. Students do not have to pay sales tax on food bought on campus.

IMPRESSED WITH THE SERVICE...LET’S TIP!
Tipping is usually optional, but often expected in the USA. It often supplements the income of those who may be earning below minimum wage, such as waiters. Typically you would tip 15-20% at restaurants, to taxi drivers, hairdressers, bartenders, etc. The tip should be calculated on the total before tax. Note that restaurants may charge a mandatory “service charge” or “gratuity” (15 to 18%) for large groups.