WELCOME TO RUTGERS!
The Center for Global Services conducts a mandatory and comprehensive orientation for new international students. New International Student Orientation (ISO) is an important component of your successful transition to Rutgers and will allow you to interact with the staff, faculty and student volunteers who will support you during your time at the university. The ISO program will introduce you to the Rutgers campus, fulfill your immigration-related obligations, learn how to maintain your legal status, and obtain permission to work on campus. Additionally, a variety of fun and social activities will help you get to know other new students. Shopping, a reception, picnics, and discounted trips to New York City and Philadelphia are all offered during the ISO!

The ISO is a five-day program – it is run conference style, with multiple sessions offered through the week and often repeated for your convenience. Learn more about the ISO program here and visit our website (http://globalservices.rutgers.edu) for the latest updates and a detailed program closer to the start of orientation.

"Orientation really helped me get familiar and feel comfortable in my new surroundings"

PROGRAM DATES & SCHEDULE INFORMATION
Orientation will begin on Monday, August 29 2016, 9am at the College Avenue Gym (130 College Ave, New Brunswick). Program schedule with a detailed explanation of orientation sessions and activities will be made available in advance on the Center’s website. Some orientation sessions are repeated multiple times during the week, some are required, while others are optional. You will also be provided with an orientation information packet which includes a printed program schedule at the Welcome Session.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA) TRAINING ORIENTATION
New teaching assistants must attend the Teaching Assistant (TA) Orientation on August 31 (only international TAs) and September 1 (all TAs). Teaching assistants play a critical role in the instructional process at Rutgers and the university is committed to assisting you in your adjustment to your new role. The training programs will acquaint you with Rutgers, instructional practices, the nature of the undergraduate population, and the role of the TA at the university.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATION
The Graduate English as a Second Language (ESL) program will administer the ESL writing exam on Wednesday, September 1, 2016 at 9:00 am to all graduate students whose admission letter requires them to take an ESL course. For graduate students pending or awarded a Teaching Assistantship, the SPEAK Test (an oral language assessment) is required as per the Graduate School-New Brunswick. To sign-up for a test date, please visit esl.rutgers.edu, and select "Register for an Assessment" under our 'Quick Links' section. For more information please contact: gradesl@rci.rutgers.edu.

Note: The start date on your I-20 or DS-2019 is 9/6/2016 (the date classes begin) but Orientation starts on 8/29/2016. U.S. law strictly requires all new F-1 and J-1 Students to report to the Center for Global Services, 180 College Avenue on the College Avenue Campus, no later than the end of the first week of classes to complete a check-in and document verification process.
**HOUSING AND DINING OPTIONS DURING ORIENTATION WEEK**

*Graduate students who have confirmed on-campus housing assignments for the academic year may make arrangements with the Housing Office to move into their permanent accommodations before Orientation begins.* Follow instructions on the Housing Office’s website and contact that office directly to determine when you can move in to your permanent housing assignment.

Please note: *We regret there will be NO temporary orientation housing available.* Students who plan to live off campus are recommended to begin looking for an apartment at their earliest. Rutgers University Off-Campus Living and Community Partnerships ([http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/](http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/)) is here to help students interested in living off-campus, by providing online resources and educational programming. They provide listings of available rentals, tips and information about off-campus living including understanding leases, security deposits, and rental responsibilities.

Students needing temporary housing may wish to contact the Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center ([http://ruicc.rutgers.edu/](http://ruicc.rutgers.edu/)), a Rutgers-owned inn located on the Douglass campus of Rutgers, or any of the New Brunswick area hotels. The Hyatt Regency is within walking distance of the campus; hotels in Somerset, Piscataway and East Brunswick are within a $15 - $20 taxi ride of the campus. Always ask for the lowest room rate available; some hotels offer discounted rates to Rutgers students, so be sure to mention that you will be one.

There are various dining options on and off-campus. Check our website for an updated listing of available on-campus dining options during orientation. This list will be posted closer to the start of the program.

*For general information on area lodging & dining: [http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/visit/lodging-and-dining](http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/visit/lodging-and-dining)*

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCE HUB**

The International Student Resource Hub on our website contains a lot of pre-arrival instructions as well as important information you will need during Orientation. In addition, the Hub includes many good-to-know information regarding services available for Rutgers students, getting involved on campus, and more! Visit the International Student Resource Hub:

[http://globalservices.rutgers.edu/content/resource_hub/resource_hub.html](http://globalservices.rutgers.edu/content/resource_hub/resource_hub.html)

**PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

The Center for Global Services has compiled a Traveler’s Advisory Guide for International Students to help your prepare your arrival to Rutgers. The Guide contains information including visa application, things to bring, on and off-campus housing, healthcare, and much more. Please use this guide, in addition to the International Student Resource Hub, for planning and preparation:

[http://globalservices.rutgers.edu/forms/prearrival.pdf](http://globalservices.rutgers.edu/forms/prearrival.pdf)

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM (IFP)**

The International Friendship Program (IFP) is about bringing Rutgers international students together with Rutgers and local community members in a comfortable environment that is conducive to cross-cultural friendship and learning. This program is for people who are interested in learning and sharing about different cultures and gaining a deeper understanding of cross-cultural issues. Rutgers domestic students and local community members participate as the IFP hosts. The IFP is sponsored by the Center for Global Services as both a support program for Rutgers-New Brunswick international students and as a service to members of local communities interested in cross-cultural friendships. Join us on Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/rutgersIFP](https://www.facebook.com/rutgersIFP)), or contact the IFP Coordinator, Ms. Carissa McCarthy with any questions at carissam@gaiacenters.rutgers.edu.