



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**RUTGERS**  
Global

- F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS: OBTAIN A TRAVEL VALIDATION SIGNATURE ON AN I-20 OR DS-2019 BEFORE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVEL

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OUR PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN TRAVEL SIGNATURES  
This new procedure is effective immediately. All students requesting travel signatures will be required to complete the Travel Signature Request Form. Please note that we will not be providing travel signatures during walk-in hours and encourage you to plan accordingly.

### **F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS: OBTAIN A TRAVEL SIGNATURE ON AN I-20 OR DS-2019 BEFORE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

If you are planning to travel internationally during the upcoming summer break, please exercise caution and follow the travel recommendations provided below. F-1 and J-1 students and scholars (and their F-2 and J-2 dependents) should not make trips abroad without first obtaining a travel signature on their I-20 or DS-2019 form. The signature is valid for 12 months and confirms that the I-20 or DS-2019 owner is in valid legal status and eligible to return to the United States to resume their programs.

#### **STEP 1 – Make sure you need a new travel signature**

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 expected travel and anticipated return to the United States, you do not need one at this time. For more details, visit the Travel Signature Request Procedure page on our website.

#### **STEP 2 – Complete the Travel Signature Request Form on the RGlobal Portal**

**STEP 3 – Follow email instructions for getting the travel signature; pick-up or delivery of your I-20/DS-2019. You will be issued a new I-20/DS-2019 with a travel signature.**

Your document will be ready within 5 business days. Be sure to keep all your previous I-20s/DS-2019s safely.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVEL**

We would like to advise all our students to be careful and alert during any travel – domestic and international, and be prepared to face 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 our [Travel and Visa Information](#) page for information and detailed recommendations for travel.

### Traveling outside the US

When traveling outside the United States, F-1 and J-1 visa holders must have in their possession the following documentation to ensure their ability to re-enter the U.S. and resume their activities:

- Passport valid at least six months beyond re-entry date
- Valid U.S. visa in the appropriate classification, e.g., F-1, J-1
- Valid immigration document for the status being sought: I-20 or DS-2019 with travel signature from Rutgers Global - ISSS. The travel signature is valid for 12 months.  
If you are on Rutgers' visa sponsorship and you need an extension of your I-20 or DS-2019, please follow instructions on our website for an [Extension of Program](#).

While not specifically required by regulations, the following additional documents are strongly recommended when traveling abroad. These documents provide information about your legal status, academic and immigration history in the U.S. They need not be presented unless asked.

- Your complete [unofficial transcript](#) and [Enrollment Verification](#) to prove good academic standing
- Current [proof of funding](#)
- All previously-issued I-20 or DS-2019 forms
- If needing to apply for a new F-1 or J-1 visa before returning to the U.S., a recently-updated I-20 or DS-2019 issued to you within the 6 months prior to your application for a new visa
- If your field of study or research is technology or science-related, we recommend you get a letter (on letterhead) from your supervisor, department chair, center director or graduate program director. The letter should explain as much about your program of study and research in simple terms.

### Useful travel resources for international students:

- [Study in the States, What to Expect when Entering the United States](#)
- [U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Know Before You Visit](#)
- [Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Travel Guidance](#)
- [U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Entering the U.S. - Documents required for Foreign Nationals \(International Travelers\)](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) - I-94 Related Information](#)
- [NAFSA's \(Association of International Educators\) 10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa](#)