New International Student Orientation Guide
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International Student Services
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Building 4, 2nd floor, Room 2330
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www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss
Immigration Check-In
Location  International Student Services
         Student Alumni Union
         Building 4, Room 2330
Hours    Monday – Friday
         8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- Passport and Form I-20 (F1 Students) or Form DS-2019 (J1 students) must be submitted to ISS for review. Copies will be made and you will receive a travel signature. New students are also required to complete an Emergency Contact Form.

Student Health History Form
Location  Student Health Center
         August Center
         Building 23A
Hours    Monday – Friday
         8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m.
- Students must submit completed Health History Forms in order to maintain proper status at RIT. If you submitted your form electronically, you should have received an e-mail from the Student Health Center. If you did not receive an e-mail or did not submit your form yet, please stop by the Student Health Center so your case can be reviewed.

University ID
Location  Registrar’s Office
         Eastman Building
         Building 1, floor 1
Hours    Monday – Friday
         8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- Students may upload a photo at https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/registrar/id-photo and then, after presenting valid photo identification, pick up their University Identification card.
- Students who do not upload a photo may have their photo taken when they come in.

Set up Computer Account
Location  ITS Help Desk
         Gannet Building
         Building 7B, Room 1113
Hours    Monday – Thursday
         7:30 a.m.– 9:00 p.m.
         Friday
         7:30 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
         Saturday – Sunday
         12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- For assistance setting up your RIT computer account, visit the ITS Help Desk. Additional information about Computer and E-mail can be found on page 5 of this guide.
Academics at RIT

Academic Support

The Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Monroe Hall, room 2080, above the Artesano Bakery in the SAU, provides flexible and innovative services to enhance the academic and personal success of students.

English Language Center (ELC) is located in the Monroe Hall room 2040, above the Artesano Bakery in the SAU, and teaches ESL to RIT students who have previously studied English.

Classroom Hints

Attendance: Attending class is important and is often part of your grade. If you are ill or must be absent, please notify the professor by telephone or e-mail and ask for the assignment ahead of time.

Office hours: You can visit your professor during “office hours.” This is a time for professors to meet with students on an individual or small group basis. Students must take the initiative to make an appointment when they need help.

Introduce yourself to the professor right away. It is common to use academic titles in addressing faculty (Professor, or Dr. if the professor has a Ph. D), although some professors will tell you to call them by their first name.
**Academic Dishonesty** is taken seriously and not seen as simply “helping” another student. Do not copy assignments from other students: you must do your own work. During exam time, be sure to never talk to another student, open up your notes, copy from another student’s paper or ask someone else to do your work- or you will be accused of cheating.

**Class participation:** Students should take initiative to ask questions and assert their opinions when appropriate. Participation in the classroom is expected and encouraged and is often a part of your grade. Feel free to express your thoughts even if they are different from those of other students or the professor. Asking questions shows that you are listening and trying to understand the material. Professors appreciate this attention.

**Time Management:** It is important to study throughout the entire semester. Since large amounts of work will be assigned, time management is critical for academic success. Students must learn how to schedule study time and to skim materials. Deadlines are important- plan to take all tests and hand in all assignments on the days they are scheduled. Many professors will not give make-up exams or accept late assignments. We recommend the use of an agenda where you can plan all your tasks per semester and then just follow and update on a day- to- day basis.

**Informality:** Students and professors may dress and act casually. In the classroom, drinking a soda or eating very quietly is usually acceptable.

**Grading:** The final course grade is based on a number of factors and will vary from class to class but typically includes quizzes, mid-terms, finals, papers, oral presentations, take-home tests, attendance, and class participation. It is not a custom to negotiate with professors for grades. The grading system is intended to be fair. If you believe that your grade is not fair or that your professor made a mistake, you should make an appointment to discuss the grade. Never try to bargain. Some professors grade “on a curve,” meaning the grading scale is determined by overall class scores.

**Plagiarism:** When you write an academic paper, you must be sure to acknowledge the ideas you have taken from other people and sources. Representing someone else’s work as your own is called “plagiarism” and it is considered a serious offense in the United States, and can result in a failing grade or expulsion from the school.

**Take the initiative:** International students must take the initiative to approach American classmates for help (to borrow notes, to study or prepare for an exam, etc.) Classmates will often be willing to give out their phone number to a student who needs assistance.
Computer and E-mail

How do I check my e-mail?
Your official RIT e-mail which professors and peers will use to contact you is always accessible via: [http://google.rit.edu](http://google.rit.edu). You should check your e-mail everyday to avoid missing deadlines and assignments.

How do I register for classes and check my grades?
Using the Student Information System ([http://sis.rit.edu](http://sis.rit.edu)), you can add and drop courses, check your class schedule, grades, and Grade Point Average (GPA), view open and closed courses, degree information, your Academic Advising Report (AAR), and semester exam schedule.

How do I register my laptop for RIT Wi-Fi usage?
Go to [https://start.rit.edu/Wireless/](https://start.rit.edu/Wireless/)

How do I access myCourses?
The myCourses system can be accessed via: [https://mycourses.rit.edu](https://mycourses.rit.edu). This allows students to view information for their classes posted by the professor.

How do I get help?
For general computer help, including help with your account, contact the ITS Help Desk in Frank E. Gannett Hall, Room 113. You may call 585-475-HELP (4357) or email servicedesk@rit.edu or consult the ITS website at [www.rit.edu/its](http://www.rit.edu/its)
Electronic Resources

https://mycourses.rit.edu
This application allows students and professors to interact. Here you will find syllabi, articles and assignments posted by your professors. Sometimes they will expect you to submit your assignments online through a “drop box”. You can view your grades and your exam results using this portal as well. A significant portion of teamwork activities is also done through this portal.

http://library.rit.edu/
RIT library is an essential resource for everything you need for your studies. Besides the traditional method of checking out books and textbooks, you can get access to the electronic library and numerous databases, which will allow you to use library resources without leaving home. You can also get an online or in-person consultation from a librarian if you are having trouble finding the necessary information online. This application does not let you register for courses. You can do that via the Student Information System.

https://tigercenter.rit.edu/
tigerCenterHome/#/landing
(click on menu icon on left)
Tiger Center - An app that allows RIT students to search and enroll for classes, view important academic information, and download their class schedule in iCal format. Additional features are in development to improve the student experience. To receive support or provide feedback, please visit http://www.rit.edu/its/tigercentertalk/

https://my.rit.edu/
This page gives you a number of links to other useful academics-related resources. You can get access to the Academic Support Center, Bookstore, E-Learning Zone, RIT Academics, Co-Op Education & Career Services etc. All of the above mentioned sites are also easily accessible from this page.

https://www.rit.edu/eservices/
Students may use this site to view and pay tuition bills, apply for financial aid, as well as view grades and class schedules. It can also be used to add funds to Tiger Bucks or Food Debit. Access can be provided to parents, sponsors or other third parties.

Note: You will need your active computer account (username and password) to properly use these resources.

Please be sure to LIKE RIT International Student Services on Facebook for important updates, tips, contests, and photos!
Cultural Adjustment

Learning to live in a new culture is never easy. For most people it is like riding a roller coaster with many ups and downs. You may feel very happy or excited one day and very sad or lonely the next day. This is very common; everyone experiences some form of cultural stress. These feelings will eventually calm down or go away.

Honeymoon Period: Initially, you will be fascinated and excited by everything that is new. You are at first elated to be in a new culture.

Culture Shock: A point where you are immersed in new problems, including housing, transportation, food, language, and making friends. Fatigue may result from continuously trying to comprehend and use the second language. You may wonder, “Why did I come here?”

Adjustment: Everyday activities such as housing and going to school are no longer major problems. Language skills and self-confidence are established. A routine has been developed.

Mental Isolation: You may be feeling lonely since you have been away from family and good friends. You might feel some frustration in not being able to express yourself as well as you can in your native language.

Acceptance/Integration: You have accepted the habits, customs, food and characteristics of the people in the new culture. You feel comfortable with friends, associates, and the language of the country.

Suggestions for Adjusting to a New Culture

Learn and observe. Learn as much as you can about your host culture and your new environment.

Think positively. Try not to focus on the things you do not like about your host culture. Do not hang around people who have negative attitudes.

Keep your sense of humor. Look for the funny side of embarrassing situations. Everyone makes mistakes; learn from yours.

Keep an open mind. Do not judge what you see as right or wrong, but instead challenge yourself to try to understand the many behaviors you will encounter. You don’t have to participate in something you disagree with, but you should try to understand it.

Keep realistic expectations. Movies and television do not offer a realistic view of life in your host culture. If your expectations were different, you may need to re-evaluate them.

Set realistic goals for yourself. You may not be able to do as much as you did at home during your initial adjustment period. Re-evaluate your goals and expectations often.

Speak English as much as possible. Don’t worry about making mistakes. Practice, practice, practice!
Go out, take initiative: Find out where people meet and socialize, and make an effort to go to these places. Attend programs sponsored by ISS! Americans may have had less international experiences than you have. International students usually have to take the first steps in getting to know Americans.

**Seeking Help in Coping with Culture Shock**

The International Student Services staff is happy to meet with you. They have overseas experience and are very familiar with the cultural adjustment process. They will also answer questions about your immigration status.

The RIT Student Health Center will assist you if you are feeling sick or have other physical symptoms of culture shock and can aid you in determining where to seek attention of experienced doctors and nurses.

International student organizations provide an excellent opportunity to get involved on campus and allow you to meet fellow RIT students from around the world. Global Union is one of them.

The RIT Counseling Center is another resource if you would like to speak with a professional counselor. It is very acceptable to see a professional counselor in American culture. It does not mean you are mentally ill. No one will think less of you if you visit these offices. Counselors often see students about a variety of issues. All conversations are completely confidential.

Your family and friends can often be a good source of support. Friends who have been in the United States longer than you have probably experienced the same feelings. Talk to friends who have a positive attitude about living in the United States.
Counseling Center

Promoting & supporting the emotional health and well-being of the campus community

About - University life can be one of excitement and self-discovery. At the same time, it can generate academic, emotional, personal, social, and even financial concerns. Although not uncommon, at times these concerns can make it difficult to succeed or function while at school. Counseling is an excellent way to address such issues, to learn more about yourself and others, to develop new life skills, and to explore and gain insight, understanding and acceptance.

Making an Appointment is quite easy. Simply call (585) 475-2261 (Voice/TTY) or stop by the office located on the second floor of the August Building immediately across from the Student Life Center on RIT’s “Quarter Mile.”
Rochester Global Connections

About – The Rochester Global Connections brings the Rochester community together with international college students and visitors to develop friendships, promote international understanding, and enhance the quality of life for our participants and the community. RGC is a nonprofit, volunteer organization, whose activities are nonsectarian and nonpolitical in content.

Friendship Volunteer Program
Friendship Volunteers, who can be a family, a couple, or an individual, are matched with international students to whom they offer practical assistance and social interaction. They may help you shop for clothing, food and household items, open a bank account, practice English, and understand American culture. Your hosts may invite you to their home for dinner and conversation, to share holidays and special events, or take you to places of interest, including museums and historical sites. If you would like to be matched with a Friendship Volunteer, visit RGC’s website at www.rochesterglobalconnections.org/
Books

Find out in advance what books you need. From the Barnes and Noble @ RIT Official Website http://www.rit.bncollege.com/ you can find out what books your professors require for the courses you will study (complete “Buy Your Textbooks On-Line Today!” form).

You won’t be obliged to purchase selected books, but you will be able to see which ones you will need to study. Sometimes you might be able to find an international edition of a textbook in your home country. International editions are usually much cheaper than American editions, so you might want to consider it as an option to lower your expenses.

Barnes and Noble @ RIT Bookstore – Located in Park Point, it serves as the campus bookstore for RIT students. There you will find every textbook or other supportive material (CDs, case studies, etc.) you need for your classes – basically, whatever RIT professors specified as required for the course.

Many students choose to rent their textbooks from Barnes and Noble @ RIT. For details visit the store website.

Wallace Library – Library resources might help you in a few ways: A book you need might be available for borrowing for the entire semester. However, there will only be one or two copies of a book available, so act quickly. Very often there will be a copy on a reserve, available from Circulation Desk. You cannot take it home, but you can study with it in the library. https://library.rit.edu/
Banking

Opening a bank account
It is recommended that you open a bank account and obtain a debit/credit card and a check book, because a lot of payments in the US are made electronically, and by card or check. It is also much safer to keep your money in a bank than at home.

There are a few major banks in the area. When choosing a bank, ask for additional benefits provided for RIT students. In order to open an account, international students are usually required to provide various combinations of the following documents:
- Home address and local address proof;
- 2 forms of ID (e.g. passport and RIT ID);
- Proof of the international address (the address as noted in the passport or a piece of mail (acceptance letter, etc.) from RIT that was sent to the international address) or
- A letter on school letter head stating you are a student at the college and list your international address and US address, and signed by a college representative (Chase Bank only);
- I-20 or DS-2019;
- An acceptance letter from RIT.

Please note that most of the banks come to the campus during the Orientation week, and you can open an account without having to go off campus to the bank.

ATMs
The following banks have an ATM on campus:
Bank of America
Gordon Field House (GCR),
First Niagara
Student Development Center (CSD),
Grace Watson Hall (GWH),
Student Alumni Union (SAU),
Crossroads (CRS),
M&T Bank
George Eastman Building (EAS),
Nathanial Rochester Hall (NRH).
Advantage Federal Credit Union
Full services at Global Village.
ATM locations
Student Alumni Union (SAU)
Lyndon B. Johnson Building (LBJ)
Barnes and Noble @ RIT

You will find the ATMs on campus on RIT’s Interactive Campus Map https://maps.rit.edu/
Cell Phones

Annual contracts
Most cell phone companies offer a variety of contract plans that allow you to use selected phone services and then bill you each month. You must select a “plan” according to the number of minutes, text messages, and other features you estimate you will use each month. Evaluate each plan carefully according to your needs, noting that companies will often charge very high rates per minute if you exceed your number of minutes per month. Once you select your plan, you must make monthly payments, either by check or by automatic deduction from your credit card or bank account. Some companies may require you to have a Social Security Number and credit card approval in order to sign up for the contract, although AT&T, for example, offers exceptions for RIT international students. Be sure to discuss these details, including potential activation fees or early termination fees, prior to signing a contract.

No annual contracts
1. Pay-as-you-Go: This option is often convenient for students who make very limited calls. Select a pre-packaged phone kit. The kit will include a very basic phone, and then you decide how much money to add to your account. For example, when you purchase the phone (at Wal-Mart, Best Buy, even at gas stations!), you can add $50 worth of calling time to your account. Once you use all the money, you must “refill” the phone with more money using prepaid cards, online, or by phone in order to make more calls. If you don’t add money, you can’t make calls. Inquire about refill expirations! A $10 refill card may require you to use the full $10 within a set time period, such as 2 weeks. Different companies will charge different prices for the minutes that you use. For example, under one plan $50 may buy you 500 minutes at 10 cents per minute, but on another plan, that same $50 may only buy you 200 minutes at 25 cents per minute. Other plans may give you the option to pay $1 per day on the days that you make calls, and then those calls cost less per minute.

2. Prepaid monthly option: “Pick your Plan” by selecting the number of minutes and features you want…for example, $30 for 200 minutes, or $50 for 400 minutes. Your monthly payments will be automatically deducted from your credit card or bank account. Once your monthly minutes run out, you can no longer make calls until the next month when your minute-plan starts again. This feature protects you from unexpected charges at the end of the month. Phones range from very inexpensive, simple models, to more expensive, very sophisticated models.

3. Prepaid Group Plans
There are also group discounts available from some cell phone providers. Cricket, for example offers “Group Save Discounts” when students add eligible cell phone lines to their account.
Student Health

Student Health Fee
All full time undergraduates pay a mandatory student health fee each semester, which appears on your bill from the Student Financial Services’ office along with tuition, living expenses and other fees. Graduate students may choose to pay the term fee or a fee for service at each visit. The health fee covers unlimited office visits and many of the basic services students may need. Some tests and services within the SHC are not covered by the health fee. There is a separate charge for: urine pregnancy tests, rapid strep tests, rapid mononucleosis tests, immunizations, medications purchased within the SHC (including contraceptives).

The SHC does not accept insurance, credit cards or debit cards for direct payment of charges. Cash, check and Flex ’Tiger Bucks’ are the only accepted methods of payment within the SHC. You will be given a receipt which you may then submit to your insurance company for reimbursement.

The Student Health Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM until 6:30PM and Fridays from 9:00AM until 4:30PM. We are not open on weekends.

The Student Health Center offers an on-call nurse advice service for immediate medical concerns when the Student Health Center is closed. The nurse advice service cannot assist with making or cancelling appointments or managing prescription issues. If you need health advice when the Student Health Center is closed, please call (585) 475-2255 and select the nurse advice option.

If there is a medical emergency that requires immediate assistance dial 911.

For Urgencies & Emergencies https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studenthealth/urgencies-emergencies
Insurance
All RIT students are required to carry insurance to cover services provided outside the SHC, such as: Referrals to specialty providers (orthopedics, dermatology, etc.), lab tests sent to an outside laboratory, X-rays and other imaging tests, prescription medications purchased outside the SHC, urgent care and emergency room visits, and hospitalization.

International students are automatically charged for the Aetna Student Accident and Sickness Plan offered through RIT. The plan provides coverage for a full calendar year and is not limited to services within Rochester. For additional plan information, claim forms, or to print your insurance ID card, please visit [www.universityhealthplans.com/letters/letter.cgi?school_id=10](http://www.universityhealthplans.com/letters/letter.cgi?school_id=10). If you wish to exempt yourself from RIT insurance plan, you must fill out an Insurance Waiver form: [https://www.universityhealthplans.com/secure/waiver.cgi?school_id=238](https://www.universityhealthplans.com/secure/waiver.cgi?school_id=238).

For students whose insurance coverage is provided by a spouse or parent residing outside the Rochester area, it is very important to check the policy thoroughly for coverage of “out of network” healthcare services. If you are covered, please check to see what the policy requires for benefit coverage while the student is away from home. If you are not, please consider purchasing the RIT plan. State insurance plans such as Medicaid do not provide coverage outside the home state.

Be prepared
- Know the name of your insurance company
- Bring a copy of your insurance card to every SHC appointment (they need the information if we send lab tests out or make a specialty referral)
- Know the basics of your plan, especially regarding out of network coverage
- Keep a copy of your policy with you on campus to refer to if needed
- Keep a copy of any claim forms or know how to obtain them if needed
- Keep a copy of all the forms, tests or else you bring and submit to RIT
Transportation

Get up to date bus information with the RIT Mobile App and track your bus in real time! Download at https://www.rit.edu/mobile/. You can also download the TransLoc app at http://translocrider.com/

RIT Campus Shuttle (#33) – Traverses the RIT campus on the southern portion of Andrews Memorial Drive and the various residential centers (University Commons, Colony Manor, Perkins Green, Riverknoll, Greek Housing) on campus. This route also stops at Park Point residential areas and The Province. This service operates weekdays (M-F) from approximately 7 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Weekend service is available from approximately 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The RIT Inn/Racquet Club Shuttle connects campus to the RIT Inn and Conference Center and the Racquet Club apartments. It operates weekdays (M-F) from approximately 7 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Weekend service is available from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Lodge apartment complex provides its own service to and from the RIT campus.

Schedules for RIT Campus shuttle routes are available at the Parking and Transportation Services office, at the Information Desk (SAU building, 1st floor) and at https://www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/bus. Schedules are subject to change and are updated each semester. Please note that RIT transportation services are not available when the University is officially closed due to a holiday (federal or Christmas/New Year’s week) or emergency closures due to inclement weather conditions. Please be aware that Regional Transportation Services (RTS) provides reduced services during all federal holidays. Public Safety provides students with Mobile Escort van and walking escort service if students need to traverse the campus late at night http://finweb.rit.edu/publicsafety/safety/
RIT Retail Bus
For information on weekend transportation to South Town Plaza, Marketplace Mall, Wegmans, Target, Wal-Mart, and Regal Cinemas please visit RIT Bus Services [https://www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/bus](https://www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/bus).

City Transportation – There is one route that provides direct service to the RIT campus on a daily basis from downtown Rochester – RTS Route 24. This bus runs through Rustic Village – a popular off-campus housing option for RIT students. In order to get to any other destinations, you will need to switch between routes. In order to plan a trip or request information about schedules, routes and payment options, please visit the Information Desk at Campus Center or check [http://www.rgrta.com/MapsSchedules/RegionalTransitService%28RTS%29.aspx](http://www.rgrta.com/MapsSchedules/RegionalTransitService%28RTS%29.aspx).

RIT Parking and Transportation Services (PATS) provide various parking permits and services. All vehicles used and parked on campus must be registered with the Parking Office located in Grace Watson Hall (GWH). Please refer to the parking website at [www.rit.edu/parking](http://www.rit.edu/parking) for the parking regulations and services offered.

A valid driver license from another country is also valid in NYS. You do not need to apply for a NYS driver license unless you become a resident of NYS. For more information about driver’s licenses, please visit the NY DMV website: [http://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/looking-license-permit-id-card-information#about](http://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/looking-license-permit-id-card-information#about) (international students who attend school in NYS are not considered residents of NYS).
International Driving Permit: an International Driving Permit is not a driver’s license. The permit is issued in your home country and only verifies that you hold a valid driver’s license in your home country. Your foreign driver’s license, not the International Driving Permit, allows you to drive in NYS. You are not required to have an International Driving Permit to drive in NYS, but the permit has value. The permit verifies, in several languages, that you have a valid foreign driver’s license. A police officer who cannot read the language on your foreign driver’s license can read the permit.

According to NYS law, a resident of another country can get a NYS drivers license. In order to get your NYS license, you need to:


2. Visit the Henrietta Branch (Suburban Plaza 2199, E. Henrietta Road Rochester, NY 14623, call 1-518-486-9786) to apply for your learner’s permit. You will have to pass a short theory test, a vision test, pay your fees and have your picture taken. You will need to provide a few IDs, including Social Security Number (SSN). If you are not eligible for a Social Security Card, you must provide a letter or form SSA-L676 from the US Social Security Administration (SSA) that states you are not eligible. The SSA letter or form must have been issued no more than 30 days before the date of your application. Read the specific requirements on the identification requirements page of the NY DMV website [http://dmv.ny.gov/forms/id44edl.pdf](http://dmv.ny.gov/forms/id44edl.pdf)

3. Practice driving for the road test, and complete a 5-hour pre-licensing training course. ABC School of Driving has years of experience in instructing international students (visit [www.abcschoolofdriving.com](http://www.abcschoolofdriving.com) or call 585-546-2810). Schedule and take your road test. Allow a month between the day when you schedule your road test and the actual date of your test.

When you apply for a New York State driver’s license you must surrender your foreign driver’s license to the DMV road test examiner. The local DMV office keeps your foreign license and then destroys it after 60 days. If you plan to return to your home country and use your foreign license, ask the road test examiner how to make sure that your foreign driver’s license is not destroyed. If you need to get your license back, go to the local DMV office where you applied for your NYS license.

Zipcars on Campus
This service allows members to use a car by the hour or day. Zipcars are available on campus to any licensed students, faculty, or staff with a membership. [http://www.zipcar.com/universities/rochester-institute-of-technology](http://www.zipcar.com/universities/rochester-institute-of-technology)

RIT Bikeshare
You may rent (for free) a bicycle for 24 hours. More information is available at [https://bikeshare.rit.edu/](https://bikeshare.rit.edu/)

Taxi Service
Use of a taxi service is a private transaction between a student and the taxi company. For information on options for taxi service visit [https://www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/taxi](https://www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/taxi)
Housing

On-campus
Sign up for RIT on campus housing before you arrive. Freshmen students must stay at Residence Halls during their first year, but all other students are responsible for completing necessary forms and securing their housing. Please be aware that although RIT Inn and Racquet Club are considered to be a part of RIT on campus housing, they are, in fact, located off campus, and you will have to take a shuttle (free for RIT students) to get to the campus. For more information visit: http://www.rit.edu/fa/housing/

Off campus
Many students, especially graduate students, choose to live off campus. The rent is usually lower, and apartments might be newer and more comfortable. RIT’s ACE (Association for Commuter Engagement) assists students who are commuting to campus from off-campus residences. Their services will be available to you once you arrive. More information about ACE can be found on their website: www.rit.edu/ace

Also, check popular internet resources such as http://rochester.craigslist.org and click on “Housing”
http://www.rentrochester.com
http://www.roommates.com
http://www.mynewplace.com
facebook.com/rithousing

In order to search the sites, you might be asked to enter a ZIP code: 14623

More resources are available on the ISS website at http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/life-rit/campus-housing

Tips for those who are considering staying off campus

1. You need to make sure the housing that you choose is located within walking or biking distance (although it might be problematic in winter) from RIT, or that it is located on a bus line. Even if you plan to buy a car, it will still take some time, and given that public transportation in Rochester is not well developed you might be unable to commute. Useful resources for planning bus trips are: www.rgrta.com and www.maps.google.com

2. Apartments are usually not furnished, and if they are, the rent will be higher. You may buy used furniture and sell it again once you move out.

3. Apartment complexes might offer some of the following amenities for no charge to residents: fitness center, sports playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, pool, library, laundry facilities, business center.

4. Lease (rent) terms are usually one year; shorter periods might be available for a surcharge. Breaking a lease often comes with a financial penalty.

5. Security deposits need to be submitted with the application in an amount equal to 1-2 months’ rent.

6. Rent payment may or may not include heat/water/gas/cable TV/Internet access/garage/electricity costs/laundry.

7. You might be required to present a proof of income, and/or a co-signer or guarantor might be required for non-U.S. residents.
Dining

How can I pay?
The most common way for students to pay for meals is with a University ID card. This card keeps track of your meal plan (debit account) and/or your Tiger Bucks (a kind of “virtual” money used on campus and many other places.

What is a meal plan?
“Resident Plans: Students residing in a residence hall must select a meal plan. First year students may choose one of three meal plans - Tiger 20, Tiger 10, and Tiger 14. Each option includes a certain number of meals per week at Gracie’s, an all-you-can-eat dining facility. With the Tiger 20 meal plan you are allowed 20 meals per week, plus have $325 in Dining Dollars per semester. In addition, 7 meals per week are considered ‘meal exchanges’ and can be exchanged for $8.25 worth of food at a different dining facility on campus that accepts Meal Exchanges. All students living in an apartment on or off campus, may complete an Optional Meal Plan. http://www.rit.edu/fa/diningservices/content/meal-plans-and-debit-plans

Tiger Bucks
The Tiger Bucks Account allows students, faculty, and staff the ability to purchase goods and services at participating locations, including all Dining Services and vending locations. Some discounts and promotions may be available to Tiger Bucks account holders. Balances will be carried over from one year to the next.

Dining Dollars Account
The Dining Dollars account allows students to make tax-free food purchases at any Dining Services area. You may also use your food debit account in many campus wide food and beverage vending machines. No refunds will be given on this account and all accounts are closed at the end of the school year.

Depositing Money to Dining Dollars/Tiger Bucks Accounts.
Deposits can be made online by logging in to https://www.rit.edu/eservices/ and selecting the appropriate option at the lower part of the screen. Deposits may also be made in person at the Student Financial Services Office during normal business hours. Student Financial Services is located on the first floor of the University Services Center. You may deposit money to your Dining Dollars and Tiger Bucks account at Tiger Center https://tigercenter.rit.edu/tigerCenterHome/auth#/diningbalances

Dining Locations
For a full listing of all on-campus dining locations, visit: https://www.rit.edu/fa/diningservices/hours-and-locations

Artesano Bakery & Café is located in the SAU’s first floor offering numerous desserts, pastries and coffee.

Beanz is a coffee shop and lounge located in the Grace Watson lobby and serves the popular Spot Coffee and many great Freshens Smoothies, along with fresh baked Otis cookies and loads of treats from our bakery!
Brick City Café is centrally located in the Student Alumni Union Building. Enjoy a variety of grilled items cooked-to-order, along with daily specials, fresh baked goods, hot entrées and vegetarian selections, homemade soups, chili, grill, sandwiches made-to-order, and a fresh seasonal salad bar.

Bytes on the Run: Welcome to our brand new, convenient ‘grab and go’ store located in the breezeway of the Student Alumni Union (in front of Artesano).

The Café & Market at the Crossroads is one of the most popular dining adventures at RIT, featuring pasta & pizza, made to order salads, deli sandwiches and soups, food hot off the grill, Asian cuisine, and more! They have a full convenience store inside Crossroads too. Aspirin for your headache, milk, microwave meals, fresh fruit, a wide selection of beverages, candy, cereals and plenty of chips!

The Commons— Relax and dine in our newly renovated facility located on the second floor of the NTID Student Development Center. Open seven days a week. We are also your late night dining place. Choices include stone oven pizza and pasta dishes, charbroiled sandwiches from the grill, toasty Quiznos Subs, salads made just the way you like it, and lunch and dinner chef’s specials.

The Corner Store is located in Nathaniel Rochester Hall across from the Post Office. Pick up a snack or the fixings for a whole meal! The store is filled with fresh produce, sandwiches, chips, beverages, microwavable entrees, ice cream, detergents, and tons of other good stuff!

CTRL ALT DELI is located in the atrium of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing Science Building offering delicious quesadillas, pita pizzas, wraps and much more.

Catalyst is located in Institute Hall (INA). It serves handcrafted savory and dessert crêpes and all natural, fresh blended smoothies that are convenient, portable, and great tasting.

Gracie’s: Grace Watson Dining Hall (better known as Gracie’s) is the largest dining facility on campus. Offering an all-you-can-eat concept, Gracie’s serves three meals a day with the exception of Sunday, when it offers brunch and dinner.

Ritz Sports Zone is located in the lower level of the Student Alumni Union in the heart of the RIT campus. The Ritz grill is the home of Oscar’s Hot Burger, an original since 1985. They also serve chicken and wings, deli sandwiches, and more! The Ritz Sports Zone is also home to the Game Room, where you can play a variety of video and pinball games, darts, pool, football and air hockey, and ESPN Sports Center Desk!

Salsaritas is a café located in Global Village. It serves Mexican food like burritos, delicious quesadillas, tacos, nachos etc. Global Village also offers a sushi bar and a Chinese grill.

Sol’s Underground is located on the A level of Sol Heumann residence hall. It offers a variety of classic milkshakes and frozen delights, made to order flatbread wraps and pizza, soups, and baked treats.
SETTLING DOWN

RIT Services
Employment

Employment on Campus

**Reminder:** International students are eligible to work up to 20 hrs per week on campus during academic semesters and up to 40 hours per week during breaks.

The Student Employment Office posts on campus jobs on its website [https://www.rit.edu/emcs/seo/](https://www.rit.edu/emcs/seo/)

To work on campus you will need to:

**Enroll** for a minimum of 12 credit hours (undergraduates) or 9 credit hours (grad students), or have a full-time equivalency for the semester(s) of employment.

**Apply** for a job on campus - Get a Student Employment Verification Slip from your employer, which you will then take over to the Student Employment Office (SEO) to receive your Employment Eligibility Card and fill out your I-9 form online.

After you’ve filled out your I-9 form online, go and ask for a copy of the Hire Form from your employer with an original signature. Bring this Hire Form to International Student Services (ISS) so that we can write a Social Security Request letter on your behalf.

You must now apply for a Social Security Number. In order to apply, you will need to travel to the downtown Social Security Administration office ( SSA) and apply in person. Students must arrange their own transportation or take the Rochester Public Bus (Bus #24). Directions via bus are available in ISS and on the ISS website.

Please bring the following documents with you when you go to the SSN Office:

- Your Hire Form
- A Social Security Request letter written by ISS
- A completed Social Security Application form (go to ISS for application)
- Original passport with visa, I-94 card, and I-20 or DS2019.

To print a copy of your I-94 card visit: [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94)

Paychecks will not be distributed unless this receipt is on-file in our office. Failure to apply for a Social Security Number will result in termination of your employment.

**Reminder:** For students on an F-1 visa, you are eligible for a Social Security Number only if you have been offered a job. Students who accept employment at RIT must be willing to fulfill their commitment to their employer. If circumstances change and you are no longer able to work, a minimum of 2 weeks’ notice must be given to your employer. Students should not pursue employment at RIT for the sole purpose of obtaining a social security number.
Employment Off Campus

The following information is for F-1 students, but the rules for J-1 employment are very similar. J-1 students must contact their program sponsor (RIT, Fulbright Foundation, etc.) to discuss co-ops and academic training. For F-1 students, there are two types of off campus employment: Curricular Practical Training (CPT), and Optional Practical Training (OPT). For both types, you must first have been enrolled full time for a full academic year.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Register for a class called “Co-op” with both your academic department and the Co-op/Career Services Office. You will need to get approval from your academic department. The Co-op office will assist in your search, but it is up to you to find the Co-op.
- Make an appointment with International Student Services as soon as you have registered for the Co-op. Bring a copy of your job offer letter showing the company name, address, and the co-op start and end date. ISS will then issue you a new I-20 with CPT authorization so you can legally work for that company only. Do NOT start working until ISS issues you a new CPT I-20.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)
OPT is a 12 month authorization card issued by US Immigration for you to work at any company in your field of study. To be eligible:
- You must have used less than 12 months of full-time CPT.
- All of your required coursework must be complete.
- You do not need a job offer, but once you are approved for OPT, the 12 months will begin, whether or not you actually find work. Unemployment is limited to 90 days during your 12 month block of OPT.
- Apply 3 months before your I-20 program end date. ISS offers OPT workshops every semester – a schedule of upcoming workshops will be sent via e-mail. Plan on attending an OPT workshop 1 or 2 semesters before you graduate to get all your questions answered.
Can I volunteer off-campus? All off-campus work requires authorization. This includes volunteering or working for free.

- The only exception is for jobs where no one is ever paid (example: volunteer food server at a church soup kitchen for the poor).
- If you are doing something that another person could be doing for pay, it is work and needs authorization/permission from ISS.

Student Government provides free legal advice from an attorney. The lawyer is available in the Student Government office by appointment only. Contact Student Government at 475-2204 (v/tty) or e-mail sgstaff@rit.edu or kahhcc@rit.edu to make appointments. Any legal concerns can include but not limited to child support, landlord/tenant issues, contracts, starting a business, traffic violations, D.W.I., wills and estates, and immigration issues.

http://www.rit.edu/sg/services.php
Campus Life

Campus Life
https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/campuslife/

Campus Life at RIT exists to bring students of similar interest together and provide them with opportunities to become effective leaders. Currently there are approximately 300 active clubs, 11 Student Organizations, and 30 Greek Organizations on campus. RIT welcomes and embraces all of its unique, student operated clubs and organizations. To find out more about clubs and organizations visit:
https://www.facebook.com/ClubsAtRIT
https://www.facebook.com/RITCampusLife/

Global Union
https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/globalunion/

RIT Global Union is an organization which functions as an umbrella organization for the international students and all the cultural clubs on campus and which represents the interests of all affiliates and members before the RIT Student Government. The RIT constituency includes over 2,000 international and American students, and 27 cultural clubs. GU is located on the lower level of the Campus Center (Building 3, Room A760), and can be reached by e-mail ritglobalunion@gmail.com.

Commuter Life at RIT
http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/campuslife/commuter-life

RIT defines a commuter student as any student living off campus. If you are not residing in college-owned housing, you are a commuter. RIT Commuter Life strives to help commuter students become an active part of the college community. While your academic career is important, college shouldn’t be just about attending classes and studying. We encourage commuters to take part in campus events and activities, clubs, and organizations on campus. We want your experience at RIT to be one that is rewarding AND engaging!

Student Government
www.rit.edu/sg

Student Government is the representative body for the students of RIT. It is the students’ voice on all Institute policies, developments, and decisions. SG is comprised of senators from each of the colleges, community senators, representatives from the Major Student Organizations (MSOs), the executive cabinet, and two advisors. It is SG’s job to ensure that the student perspective is taken into account when decisions are made.

Center for Women and Gender (CWG)
www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/womenandgender/

The mission of the CWG is to foster a campus community that is safe, equitable and respectful of all members. The areas of focus include Community Enhancement; Health and Wellness; Leadership Development; etc. They offer education and referrals for relationship, sexuality, pregnancy, body image, harassment/discrimination and sexual assault issues. The CWG is also a 24-hour comprehensive service for students involved with sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking (CARES). Call 585-295-3533 (v/text) or contact the CWG at 585-475-7464 (v/tty) to access this service.
Residence Life
The Center for Residence Life serves students residing in RIT Residence Halls, RIT Inn, Global Village and Apartments. While Housing Operations is responsible for administrating housing assignments and maintaining facilities, Residence Life is responsible for the communities and individuals living on campus. There are Resident Advisors (RAs) on every Residence Hall floor, apartment complex, and in Global Village, who assist with community building, providing resources to students, and mediating roommate conflicts. RAs also plan several events and activities for students during the school year [www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/reslife/](http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/reslife/)

Public Safety
RIT’s Public Safety Department delivers professional public services and initiatives contributing to a safe community, sensitive to the uniqueness of individuals and groups engaged in living, learning, and working on campus. Public Safety can be reached 24/7 on any day of the year, including holidays and breaks. Students can call them to report any incidents that happen on campus, such as theft, harassment, vandalism, medical or non-medical emergencies.

- **Emergency**: (585) 475-3333
- **General**: (585) 475-2853
- **Text**: (585) 205-8333
- **AOL**: RITPUBLICSAFETY

[www.rit.edu/fa/publicsafety/](http://www.rit.edu/fa/publicsafety/)
Religious Life

Catholic Campus Ministry
Minister Alice Miller Nation
E-mail amncpm@rit.edu
Office (585) 475 5172

Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Sunday Masses:
10 a.m. interpreted;
5 p.m. celebrated in the Allen Memorial Chapel.

Hillel: A Resource for Jewish Students
Contact Eli Bass
Office (585) 703 6090
E-mail esbcpm@rit.edu

Shabbat, Holidays, Seders, Etc.
Shabbat services are held Friday evenings. Services begin at 6:00 pm.
followed by a wonderful home cooked Shabbat Dinner.
http://www.rithillel.org/

Lutheran Campus Ministry
Contact Justin Johnson
Office (585) 475 5171
E-mail jmjcpm@rit.edu

Church
Worship services will be offered once a week. The day and time of
the services for each semester will be determined by the students.

Muslim Student Association
Contact Rauf Bawany
Office (585) 475 4373
E-mail rxbcpm@rit.edu

Jumuah Prayer
Muslims on campus observe the Friday prayer, which is 1:00 p.m. to
2:00 p.m. in the Skalny Room of the Center for Religious Life. The MSA
provides “Iftaar” (breaking the fast) during the holy month of Ramadan.

Zen Buddhism
Idunno Zen Community Coordinator
Contact Shudo Brian Schroeder
Office (585) 475 6346
E-mail zazenRIT@gmail.com

Meditation sittings take place most Wednesdays at 5:00 pm and
Saturday mornings at 10:00 am during the regular academic year
while classes are in session.

For more information, visit the Center for Religious Life’s website:
http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/student-life/center-religious-life
Traveling

Within the U.S.
Whenever you leave Rochester, whether by train, bus, plane, or car, you must travel with your original immigration documents: valid passport, visa, and I-20 or DS-2019. It is recommended you carry your original documents if you go to pick up friends or family at the train/bus station or at the airport. It is recommended you carry a copy of your documents at all times.

Outside North America
• Passport valid at least 6 months into the future (required)
• Valid US visa; original I-20 (or DS-2019) endorsed (signed) by ISS within the current academic year (required)
• Proof of financial support (recommended)
• Transcript or enrollment verification letter (recommended and available from Registrar’s Office)

To Canada
Citizens of certain countries require a Canadian visa in order to enter Canada. More information can be found at: www.rit.edu/iss/travel/

Normally a valid F-1 or J-1 visa is required to re-enter the U.S., however special rules apply for travel to Canada and Mexico. “Automatic Revalidation” allows re-entry to the U.S. with an expired F-1 or J-1 visa; however students must not attempt to renew their visa while in Canada. Automatic Revalidation does not apply to students from Iran, Sudan, Syria, or Cuba, so students from these countries must have a valid F-1 or J-1 visa in order to re-enter the U.S.
# Popular Restaurants and Stores

## Restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thali of India</td>
<td>3259 Winton Rd S</td>
<td>(585) 427 8030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandoor of India</td>
<td>376 Jefferson Rd</td>
<td>(585) 427 7080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Sabor de La Isla (Dominican)</td>
<td>1019 Norton St</td>
<td>(585) 266 2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chopsticks</td>
<td>125 White Spruce Boulevard</td>
<td>(585) 427 8878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King and I (Thai)</td>
<td>1455 East Henrietta Road</td>
<td>(585) 427 8090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Buffet</td>
<td>376 Jefferson Road</td>
<td>(585) 427 0240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinbad's Mediterranean Cuisine</td>
<td>719 Park Ave</td>
<td>(585) 473 5655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>382 Jefferson Rd</td>
<td>(585) 424 2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D'Mangu (Dominican)</td>
<td>1475 E. Henrietta Road</td>
<td>(585) 424-2200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grocery Stores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grocery Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namaste (Indian groceries)</td>
<td>3047 W Henrietta Road</td>
<td>(585) 424 2980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Food Market Inc</td>
<td>1885 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd,</td>
<td>(585) 292 9888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chang's Oriental Food Store</td>
<td>1867 Mount Hope Ave</td>
<td>(585) 426 7660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desi Bazaar (+Halal)</td>
<td>1713 Crittenden Road</td>
<td>(585) 292 9895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Caribbean Market</td>
<td>1415 Clinton Ave N</td>
<td>(585) 266 8610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spice Bazaar</td>
<td>364 Jefferson Rd.</td>
<td>(585) 292-5939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wegmans Grocery Store</td>
<td>Great selection of international products,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to find the store nearest you, visit <a href="http://www.wegmans.com">www.wegmans.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spaces filling fast.

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