Welcome!!
August 18, 2019
Presentation objectives:

- Introduce our team
- Review your responsibilities
- Describe how we help you as an international student - throughout your stay

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International Student Services Team

Special thanks to the rest of our team…

Your Peer Advisor Leaders (PALS!)

Full PAL list: www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/new-students/peer-advisor-leaders
ISS Orientation Highlights

Start with these resources:

• Please install RIT’s CampusGroups app on your phone

• Read our “New Student Resources”:
  
  www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/new-students/resources-new-students

• Load bus & RIT shuttle apps to your phone here:
  
  www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/bus
How to get around:

On and Off-Campus options:
www.rit.edu/fa/parking/transportation/bus

Zipcar:
Student rate memberships for cars that can be rented easily on campus by the hour or by the day: www.zipcar.com/rit

Bikeshare: (free on-campus service)
bikeshare.rit.edu/about

*Wear a helmet & use a strong bike lock*
Ride Share Services

- Operating in Rochester since 2017
- Often less expensive than a taxi cab
- Personal car ownership carries risks & high costs - such as insurance.
Campus Policy on Smoking

- RIT’s smoke-free policy restricts *all* smoking/vaping (tobacco, e-cigarettes, pipes, etc.) to designated areas only.
RIT partners with Flywire to pay your tuition by wire transfer from your home country bank. 

This should save you money on fees.

https://www.flywire.com/pay/rit
Report your addresses & phone

You are required to always update your local address (where you physically live)

Immigration regulations require you to update it within 10 days of any move at: www.rit.edu/infocenter/
Email Requirements

Regularly (at least every other day) check your RIT e-mail account and read all notices from ISS & academic depts.

Students have been stuck at the border because they ignored emails from our office.

Email management options here: start.rit.edu
**Tuition & fees**

eServices at [www.rit.edu/infocenter/](http://www.rit.edu/infocenter/) lists tuition and fees, fines, credits, etc.

YOU are responsible for monitoring *your* bill – even while on co-op or thesis.

Be sure to click on “Recent Activity” (*not just “Statements”*)

You can apply for a payment plan to spread out payments.

Details: [www.rit.edu/sfs](http://www.rit.edu/sfs)
Health Insurance & Student Health Center

Health Insurance is primarily used off-campus

Cost is $154/month, charged in two parts:

- $702 Fall (08/15/2019-12/31/2019)
- $1,147 Spring (01/01/2020-08/14/2020)

If you wish to cancel (waive) your health insurance, you must apply within 30 days after classes start, and **only if you have another approved U.S. insurance plan**. Your policy must meet all RIT standards.

http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/life-at-rit/health-insurance

- In addition, you will see a charge for access to the **RIT Student Health Center**
- Details: [https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studenthealth/about/feespayment](https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studenthealth/about/feespayment)
We answer questions (or refer to professionals) for:

- Cultural Adjustment & Intl. Student Groups/Clubs
- Driver’s license (You can use your home country license while here as a student)
- Social Security Number (If you have a job offer; more info at our employment session)
- Banking, cell phones, legal workshops or referrals, etc. (See the new student handbook/guide and your PAL)
If you don’t know where to go, you are always welcome to contact ISS:

Located in the SAU, above Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream

www.rit.edu/iss

(585) 475-6943 Office

(585) 475-3333 Emergency
and now, let’s move on to Immigration Rules…
**Important Terms**

- **ISS**: International Student Services

- **SEVIS**: Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (ICE database) this is funded by your SEVIS fee.

- **DSO** (Designated School Official for the F-1 student visa program) the advisors at International Student Services.

- **RO** (Responsible Officer) for J-1 program for students & scholars.
Several Government Agencies Enforce Immigration Rules

- **YOU** are responsible for understanding & following
  - F-1 and J-1 rules.
- We are here to help you understand them.
- So...
- Please ask questions before doing anything unusual.
Maintaining your lawful status

- It is YOUR responsibility to know and follow the rules related to your F-1 or J-1 status.
  - If your spouse or children are in the US, they are also required to know and follow the rules for F-2, J-2, etc.

- No matter what you do, we will always advise you, but the responsibility to follow the rules is yours, and there are serious consequences to ignoring or breaking the rules.
Immigration Documents

- **Passport**: keep yours updated through your embassy (or passport authority when home)

- **Visa (F-1 or J-1)**: only needs to be valid at time of entry to US

- **I-94 record** (access your most recent record online)

- **I-20 (F-1 students)**; **DS-2019 (J-1 students)**
Immigration Documents

You must have *all* of your *original* documents (not copies) when you are downtown at the central bus, train station, or the airport!

And...*whenever* you leave Rochester.
Passport

Extended/replaced only by your embassy, or in your home country.

Must always be valid while you are in the U.S., and have at least 6 months of remaining validity.
Visa

Can only be issued outside the U.S.

The visa is like your “key” to get into the U.S.

Your visa can expire while you’re in the U.S., but your I-20 and passport must always remain valid.

If you leave the U.S. with an expired visa, you must obtain a new visa in your home country before returning to the U.S.
Wait a week after entry to the US to see your I-94 record.

Then, print out your I-94 number: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94

You will need the I-94 number if you apply for a campus job, a Social Security Number, or a New York driver’s license.
Form I-20

(describes the terms of your F-1 status)
Form DS-2019
(describes the terms of your J-1 status)
How long can I stay in the U.S.?

Your form estimates when you will complete your degree requirements. Can be shortened or extended with approval from your Academic Department and ISS.

Students have a grace period to stay in the U.S. after completion of program.

- 60-day grace period for F-1
- 30-day grace period for J-1

Within that time, you must depart the U.S. or obtain post-completion work/training authorization. Details at our monthly workshops (see our website for more details).
To re-enter the U.S. after a trip

Required:

✓ Passport valid at least 6 months into the future
✓ Valid U.S. Visa*; original I-20 (or DS-2019) endorsed (signed) by ISS/sponsor during the current academic year

Also required if you will be renewing your visa:

▪ Recent proof of financial support
▪ Transcript or “Enrollment Verification Letter” (from Registrar’s Office)
*Travel to/from Canada*

Same as previous page, with one exception:

Your F-1 or J-1 visa, *can* be expired, *if you did not attempt to renew* your visa in Canada.

NOTE: Visa must *not* be expired if you are from Iran, Syria, Sudan, or Cuba

Certain citizens also require a Canadian Entry Visa (available only by mail)

More information at:  [www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp) Or, link may be found at [rit.edu/iss](http://rit.edu/iss)

** It can take 2-4 weeks to get a Canadian Visitor Visa. **
Traveling within the US

When traveling outside of Henrietta, always carry your:

- Actual Passport
- Actual I-20 or DS-2019 (not just a photocopy)
- With a travel signature from the current academic year

This is particularly important at Rochester’s long distance bus station, train station and airport! (includes athletes traveling with RIT teams)
How to **Stay in Status, Part I**

Report to International Student Services for initial registration in SEVIS. We will then sign your documents.

If you’ve not yet “checked-in” please drop-off your I-20/DS-2019 & Passport/U.S. Visa at ISS this week.

Update your local address: Report a change of local address to RIT within 10 days of the change. We will update SEVIS.

Do this at: [rit.edu/infocenter/](http://rit.edu/infocenter/)
How to **Stay in Status**, Part II

Each semester*, pursue a “full course of study”**

- 12 credits minimum for undergraduates
- 9 credits minimum for graduate students

**Exceptions:** Co-op counts as full time (but you must notify ISS)

* Official school breaks (mid-Dec to mid-Jan, and summer)

** Limited special circumstances (final term, serious medical) & you must notify ISS

*** FTE (Full-Time Equivalency) for grad students doing courses plus research, thesis, capstone, final project, etc.
How to Stay in Status, Part III

Only 1 online course per semester can count towards your “full course of study” minimum. Plan ahead and choose courses carefully!

If you only need one course to finish your degree in your last semester, that course cannot be an online course. In-person component required.

Consult Academic Advisor & an ISS advisor with any questions.
How to Stay in Status, Part IV

Make normal progress towards completing your degree before the expiration of your DS-2019 or Form I-20

Contact ISS for:

- extension of stay – request before your documents expire
- change in educational levels or programs of study
- transfer of schools
How to Stay in Status, Part V

NEVER work off-campus without advance authorization:
- F-1 must have written approval for off-campus work
- J-1 must have advance written approval for both off-campus and on-campus work

20 hrs/week maximum of on-campus employment, while school is in session
This is monitored by the RIT Student Employment Office.

After completing studies, abide by the grace period rules
- Or, apply for work authorization, change of educational level, or a school transfer before your documents expire.
Request forms on our website:

Reduced Course Load (RCL) Form
(only academic advisor can submit)

Program Extension Form (only academic advisor can submit)

Insurance Information, including the student waiver request:

www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/life-at-rit/health-insurance
Summary

What **YOU** need to do:

- Be a full-time student
- Get advance permission for off-campus work
- Keep I-20, DS-2019 & passport valid
- Keep local address & phone # updated with RIT

What you will get?

- Ability to travel
- Ability to work during studies
- Apply to work after studies
Questions?

www.rit.edu/iss

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