

TO: Deans and Directors
CC: Chancellors of Camden, Newark, New Brunswick and RBHS
FROM: Richard Edwards, Interim SVP for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL, SUPPORTED PHD-PROGRAM STUDENTS WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Driven mainly by pandemic-related travel restrictions, some international PhD students have found themselves outside the United States and unable to return. Like all PhD students, these students play a vital role in the educational and research mission of the university, and we anticipate that many will be able to continue to perform their duties via remote access.

The guidance below addresses questions related to the funding of continuing, matriculated PhD students and for those newly admitted and supported international PhD students.

Continuing, matriculated students will be paid as usual, where possible, through existing pathways established during their residence in the United States. International TAs, GAs and Fellows have been able to work remotely (and out of the country) since the University transitioned its operations in March, and this practice should continue.

To receive payment, international TAs, GAs and Fellows must maintain active SEVIS status and be otherwise eligible for employment. According to guidance from DHS/ICE/SEVP, students on F-1 visas may engage in on-campus employment while working remotely. This guidance is effective through the Fall 2020 semester and allows students in F-1 status to engage in on-campus employment remotely, if the current on-campus employment opportunity has transitioned to remote work or the employment can be done through remote means. These students should be eligible to return to the United States and resume in-person activities and their studies once COVID-19 related restrictions (travel, visa, etc.) are eased.

Newly admitted and funded international PhD students will be provided with Chancellor scholarships or other forms of tuition remittance, as the University would for any similarly eligible and supported student beginning a PhD program, to allow them to enroll for courses. These students have been accepted into our graduate programs and they are anxious to engage with their courses of study. Many of these new students will begin their programs from their countries of residence via remote access.

Newly admitted international PhD students who have not yet been able to secure the documentation necessary to be onboarded into the Rutgers HR and Payroll systems, and who do not have the documentation required for them to be employed, cannot receive a salary or stipend and cannot receive health insurance.

The above represents university guidance for the Fall semester. It will be reassessed if federal or other relevant guidance changes or before the end of the fall 2020 semester.

Questions related to this guidance should be directed to the respective graduate school dean's offices:

For School of Graduate Studies – Dean Jerome Kukor, jkukor@grad.rutgers.edu
For Graduate School Newark – Dean Taja-Nia Henderson, tajania@law.rutgers.edu
For Graduate School Camden – Dean Michelle Meloy, mlmeloy@camden.rutgers.edu