

Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest

Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest February 23, 2026

Welcome to the Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest!

This weekly digest serves as official communication from the Office of Graduate Student Life and keeps you up-to-date on events, opportunities, campus resources and support services for graduate students at Rutgers-New Brunswick! Share with your friends and tell them to [SUBSCRIBE](#)! You can contact the Office of Graduate Student Life by emailing gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu or visiting our offices during the week in the Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave., behind Panera Bread).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Black History Month!

2026 marks a historic centennial—100 years of nationally commemorating Black history! The Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC) has created the [2026 Black History Month Calendar](#) featuring events hosted by the PRCC, Black Student Organizations, and their esteemed campus partners.

New Graduate Peer Coaching at the Learning Centers

The Learning Centers are excited to introduce Ben Pereira, who joins them as a Graduate Peer Coach. Ben is a PhD candidate in Communication, an international student who comes with experience as a Graduate Mentor Fellow in the Honors College, supporting students in academic planning, project development, and long-term goal-setting. Ben is available to provide support and educational resources to assist you in your graduate academic journey. Together, Ben will work with you towards your goals and make your experience a fulfilling one. [Make a one-on-one appointment](#) with Ben or one of our Graduate Academic Coaches today!

Residency Reclassification Deadline—All Students

The Residency Reclassification deadline for graduate and undergraduate students for Spring 2026 term is Friday, March 20, 2026. The application and all supporting evidence must be submitted by this date. [Learn more about the application here.](#)

Shuttle Bus to Knightsbridge Road Begins Month-Long Pilot

Rutgers Department of Transportation Services launched a shuttle service between The Yard on College Avenue and Rutgers Central Administration offices located at 33 Knightsbridge Road in Piscataway. The Knightsbridge Shuttle began a month-long pilot on February 2. It runs every 35 minutes, from 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday, round trip between The Yard and 33 Knightsbridge Road. For the schedule and hours of operation, please [visit the website](#).

Regalia Information for Upcoming School of Graduate Studies Convocation

Regalia for the Spring 2026 School of Graduate Studies Convocation ceremonies is now available for [online purchase](#)! The Early Bird Discount ends (Last Day to Ship-to-Store) on February 28, 2026. All students who plan to participate in the SGS Convocation ceremony must wear academic regalia, consisting of a cap, gown, and hood. Email convocation@grad.rutgers.edu with questions. [SGS Doctoral Convocation Ceremony](#) and [SGS Master's Convocation Ceremony](#) information available online.

Join the Rutgers Graduate Student Association Advocacy Trip to Washington DC!

Interested in advocating for policies affecting graduate students in Washington DC? Complete the [interest form](#), stay informed, and receive the application when it opens! The trip is open to all Rutgers New Brunswick graduate students, especially those who depend on federal funding (work-study, loans, grants, fellowships, etc.) For any questions, please contact ypeas@gsa.rutgers.edu.

You Can Still Register to Join a Graduate Affinity Group!

Looking to get connected with other graduate students and participate in a fun and supportive community? Consider joining a peer-designed and peer-facilitated affinity group. Groups will meet monthly in the spring semester at a date/time and in a format to be determined by the facilitator and participants. Affinity groups are affirming spaces to build community with peers who share experiences, backgrounds, and social identities and connect with peers for personal and professional support and around shared interests. Six groups are being offered this semester: African graduate students, BIPOC LGBTQIA2S+ students, Chinese students, International students, Neurodivergent students, Southeast Asian students. [Read descriptions](#) for each group and learn if it's a good fit for you. Questions? Ghada Endick, gendick@echo.rutgers.edu.

– STAY INFORMED –

Looking for more ways to stay informed? Check out the [newsletters page](#) on our website! The newsletters page is the new home for information about various newsletters and listservs that are relevant to the graduate student experience including: the Graduate Student Association, Student Volunteer Engagement, Career Exploration and Success: Doctoral Career Community, Student Basic Needs, and more!

Follow Graduate Student Life on Instagram!

Stay up to date with the Office of Graduate Student Life by following us on Instagram [@rugradstudentlife](#)! Never miss another graduate student life event!

DIGEST DIRECTORY

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EVENTS

– THIS WEEK! –

Self Defense and Personal Safety – Tuesday, February 24, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Location: College Avenue Gym Dance Studio, Lower Level (130 College Ave., New Brunswick)

Registration required!

Learn how to protect yourself with RUPD's Self Defense & Personal Safety Workshops, hosted by Rutgers Recreation. This one-session course covers situational awareness, de-escalation strategies, and practical self-defense tools—no prior experience required.

Black History Month Celebration Spin Class with Dr. Ariel Leget – Thursday, February 26, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Werblin Recreation Center, Cycle Studio (656 Bartholomew Rd., Piscataway, Busch Campus)

No registration required!

The Spinning program always welcomes new class participants to this low-impact cardiovascular workout. These classes are part of the drop-in Fitness and Wellness class schedule. Please drop in. Access the Rutgers Recreation February Programs [online](#).

Black History Month Centennial Gala – Thursday, February 26, 6:30pm – 10:30pm

Location: Traves Hall (Douglass Student Center, 100 George St., New Brunswick/ C/D Campus)

Registration required!

2026 marks a historic centennial—100 years of nationally commemorating Black history. In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and fellow scholars founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH), institutionalizing the teaching, study, and celebration of Black history. A decade later, in 1925, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, which evolved into the Black History Month observance that has become an integral part of American culture and the global community. An evening of celebration featuring live music entertainment, dinner, and inspiring speakers. Admission is \$10 per registrant. Contact the Paul Robeson Cultural Center for questions, at prccrutgers@echo.rutgers.edu.

Council of Black Graduates Cookout – Friday, February 27, 6:00pm – 10:00pm

Location: Dean's Conference Room (675 Hoes Ln. West, Piscataway, Busch Campus)

No registration required!

Join the Council of Black Graduates as we close out Black History Month with a cookout-styled celebration. Enjoy traditional Black American cuisine and other aspects of cookout culture including card games, good music, and dancing. Visit [getInvolved](#) for more information.

Afrofit Fusion: Pilates & Dance – Saturday, February 28, 11:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Cook Recreational Center Dance Studio (50 Biel Rd., New Brunswick, C/D Campus)

Registration required!

Strengthen your body and mind while embracing the vibrant rhythm of Afrobeats! Start with Pilates-inspired exercises to build core strength and mobility, followed by dynamic Afrobeats choreography that energizes and empowers. End with a restorative stretch to leave you feeling strong, confident, and refreshed. AfroFit Fusion is perfect for all experience levels, blending dance and fitness for a truly invigorating experience - instructed by Zina & Victoria every last Saturday of the month. Contact Zina at zno1@ubhc.rutgers.edu with any questions.

SSAAM Heritage Singers – Saturday, February 28, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Zimmerli Art Museum (71 Hamilton St., New Brunswick, College Ave.)

Registration recommended!

The afternoon features a choral program of spirituals inspired by the exhibition Allan Rohan Crite: Neighborhood. Co-presented with the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum. A light reception follows the performance. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the access provided, please call

Nicole Simpson, Access Coordinator, at 848-932-6178 or email nsimpson@zimmerli.rutgers.edu in advance of your participation.

– COMING UP! –

COMING UP! Spring Off-Campus Housing Fair – Monday, March 2, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: College Ave. Student Center (126 College Ave, New Brunswick, College Ave.)

No registration required!

The Off-Campus Housing Fair is a comprehensive event designed to help students explore their off-campus living options. It's a unique opportunity to connect directly with local landlords and property managers, ask questions, and compare housing opportunities all in one place. Students will also have access to valuable campus and community partners who can offer guidance on safety, lease reviews, and available resources. The fair is a one-stop shop for reliable information and support. Go to [getInvolved](#) for more information.

COMING UP! Graduate Student Disability Services Drop-In Hours – Wednesday, March 4, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (Behind Panera Bread, 126 College Avenue, New Brunswick, College Ave.)

No registration required!

As a graduate student, teaching assistant, instructor, or friend, you may wonder about academic accommodations and accessibility. The Office of Disability Services is hosting a drop-in afternoon for graduate students interested in learning about the services that ODS provides. Stop by the Graduate Student Lounge or join via [Zoom](#) and meet Coordinator Nyche Michel to discuss accommodations for hearing, vision, and mobility conditions, learning disabilities, psychological diagnoses (such as anxiety or depression), chronic illnesses, traumatic brain injuries, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and more. Bring yourself or bring a friend to ask questions and learn about outreach efforts. Coffee and donuts will be provided while supplies last! Questions or accommodation requests specific to this event? Please email dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu, call 848-202-3111, or visit ODS in Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus.

COMING UP! Trailblazing Women of New Brunswick – Saturday, March 7, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Location: New Brunswick Free Public Library (60 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick)

[Registration](#) recommended!

Join the Friends of the New Brunswick Free Public Library for a wonderful seminar on the Trailblazing Women of New Brunswick. Principal Librarian Jacquelyn Oshman will

walk us through the history of women who have shaped New Brunswick throughout the years and the many 'firsts' made from the suffragette movement to modern day. Light refreshments will be served. With questions, please contact Jacquelyn Oshman by email at joshman@nbfpl.org or by phone at 732-745-5108 x.2717.

– WELLNESS WORKSHOPS, GROUPS, & SUPPORT–

CAPS International Student Wellness Group – Tuesdays from 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Asian American Cultural Center (49 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Livingston Campus)

The CAPS International Student Wellness Group is a confidential, safe virtual space designed to support international students in navigating unique challenges like cross-cultural adjustment. It provides a supportive environment to discuss concerns, share experiences, and connect with peers and meets every Tuesday, starting on February 24. Please call 848-932-7884 with any questions.

CAPS Counseling Conversations & Wellness/Therapy Groups

Visit the website for more information and schedules for all Let's Talk sessions and to learn more about individual CAPS Community Based Counselors (look for "Community Based-Counselor"). The CAPS website also lists the various available workshops and group descriptions. To get connected with any of these groups, please call 848-932-7884.

Uwill: FREE Immediate-Access to Teletherapy

Uwill provides free immediate access to teletherapy through an easy-to-use, private, secure, confidential, online platform. Choose a therapist based on your preferences, including issue, gender, language, and ethnicity. Select a time that fits your schedule, including day, night, and weekend availability. Register and book your first session using your Rutgers email.

Graduate Student Wellness Coaching – Ongoing

Make an appointment with a wellness coach!

A wellness coach helps you focus on your present situation and provides general assistance to develop strategies that will improve various aspects of your life. The idea is that you are the expert on your own life, and the coach is there to assist you with putting a plan in place to help you reach your goals. Our coaches are not counselors or therapists. Think of a goal you want to achieve, e.g., managing your time, setting boundaries, and then submit the form. *As a graduate student, you will receive a coach who is a professional staff member, not a peer.*

Personal Training with Rutgers Recreation

Location: Various Locations

Ready to reach your fitness goals? Rutgers Recreation's certified personal trainers are here to guide you every step of the way—whether you're just starting out or looking to take your workouts to the next level. Choose from one-on-one or partner sessions at a time and location that fits your schedule. Our trainers will design a personalized program to help you build strength, confidence, and consistency. For more info:

<https://go.rutgers.edu/f25rurecpt>.

– ACADEMIC SUPPORT & WORKSHOPS –

Teaching That Clicks: Tools and Techniques for Real Engagement Online – Tuesday, February 24, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Location: Virtual

Registration required by February 23!

This interactive workshop provides graduate instructors with evidence-based practices for fostering meaningful learner engagement across online and hybrid teaching environments. Drawing on nearly two decades of experience teaching fully online graduate courses and the latest educational research on the topic, Dr. Ramazan Güngör will guide participants through practical approaches that support student motivation, participation, and success, whether teaching asynchronous discussion-based courses, synchronous Zoom seminars, or hybrid classes that blend modalities. This session fulfills the requirement for the Teaching with Technology certificate program for graduate students and postdocs. Contact Ramazan Gungor, Assistant Dean for Professional Development, Outcomes Assessment and Alumni Engagement, at rg835@grad.rutgers.edu with any questions.

Navigating the Publication Process and Careers in Journals: Manuscript Writing Workshop – Wednesday, February 25, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: Virtual

Registration required!

Get advice on everything from how to select an appropriate journal to best practices in experimental design, manuscript preparation, and submission to help you get your papers published. Also, learn how you can have a career in journal editing and publishing. For more information contact Janet Alder at janet.alder@rutgers.edu.

Graduate Writing Accountability Group Sessions – Mondays and Thursdays, 11:00am – 1:00pm (except 3/16 and 3/19)

Registration required for each session!

Need some structure and motivation with working on your projects and assignments? Join a Graduate Writing Accountability Session hosted by the Graduate Writing Program and the Learning Centers! Using the Pomodoro method as a structure, these

facilitated sessions will provide a supportive atmosphere where graduate students can sit together on Zoom and write alongside other graduate students to make progress toward their goals.

Graduate Academic Coaching at the Learning Centers

Academic Coaches at the Learning Centers are available to provide one-on-one academic coaching to graduate students, partnering with them to develop the personalized study strategies, time management habits, and self-management skills necessary to navigate university rigor and achieve academic success.

Ben Pereira is the Learning Centers' Graduate Peer Coach. Ben is a PhD candidate in Communication, an international student who comes with experience as a Graduate Mentor Fellow in the Honors College, supporting students in academic planning, project development, and long-term goal-setting. Ben is available to provide support and educational resources to assist you in your graduate academic journey. Together, Ben will work with you towards your goals and make your experience a fulfilling one. [Make a one-on-one appointment](#) with Ben or one of our Graduate Academic Coaches today! For any questions about Graduate Academic Coaching or Graduate Student Services at the Learning Centers, email Dr. Wilson Ng at wwn2@echo.rutgers.edu.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FUNDING, & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

– PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT –

**Teaching That Clicks: Tools and Techniques for Real Engagement Online –
Tuesday, February 24, 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

[Registration](#) required!

Join this hands-on workshop to learn practical, research-based strategies for creating engaging, inclusive, and effective learning experiences across online and hybrid courses that you can apply right away in your own teaching. This workshop is in collaboration with the Institute for Teaching, Innovation, & Inclusive Pedagogy. Please [visit the SGS website](#) for more information or email Dr. Ramazan Güngör at rq835@rutgers.edu.

College and Money – Wednesday, February 25, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Virtual

Registration required by Tuesday, February 24!

Do your finances affect your academic success? Let's discuss how there is a direct correlation between financial wellness and student success. For more information, contact scarletsense@ofa.rutgers.edu.

Virtual Financial Planning Workshop for Rutgers Grad Students and Postdocs– Thursday, February 26, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Location: Zoom

Registration required!

This free workshop will be presented by the Financial Planning Association of New Jersey to educate graduate students and Postdocs on cash flow management, debt, student loan paydown and building a safety net. We know that living on a grad student and postdoc income can be challenging and many of you also have families to support. The skills you gain in this workshop will help you navigate your financial situation. Hosted by the School of Graduate Studies and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. For more information contact Janet Alder at janet.alder@rutgers.edu.

– SCHOLARSHIP & FUNDING RESOURCES –

Dr. Cheryl A. Wall Memorial Fellowship

Apply by April 6, 2026!

Rutgers- New Brunswick Ph.D. candidates conducting research in African American or Black literature, Black Feminism, or interdisciplinary studies are encouraged to apply for the Dr. Cheryl A. Wall Memorial Fellowship. Dr. Cheryl A. Wall was a longtime Rutgers University professor and prominent scholar of African American women writers. In a teaching career of nearly five decades, Dr. Wall championed racial diversity both in the curriculum and the classroom. The Dr. Cheryl A. Wall Memorial Fellowship honors Dr. Wall's legacy by providing \$2,500 annually to doctoral students who qualify. [Apply online](#). For questions, please contact the Division of Student Affairs Scholarship Coordinator at sascholarships@echo.rutgers.edu.

Learn to Write a Competitive Funding Application with GradFund's FREE Self-Paced Canvas Course

Learn to write a competitive external funding application using GradFund's FREE self-paced Canvas course! This course teaches the art of competitive proposal writing through developing familiarity with both funders in your field of study and the proposal writing genre. [Enroll](#) in GradFund's self-paced Canvas course.

[The Office of Financial Aid](#) can provide information about need-based funding and financial aid. Other forms of need-based aid or scholarships may be available through your school of enrollment.

– EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES –

Web Strategy & Resource Organization Assistant – Rutgers Graduate School of Education

Compensation: \$25-30 per hour, 10 hours per week

Location: Hybrid, based in New Brunswick

[Apply](#) by 6:00am on March 9, 2026!

The Rutgers Graduate School of Education is seeking a graduate student in communications, UI/UX, web strategy, or a related field, to assist in system and web development. Responsibilities include developing systems for resource organization, creating and refining existing webpages, and analyzing site metrics. The graduate assistant must have prior experience with CMS and dynamic content design, with a strong understanding of UX principles, and accessibility standards. Please review the job listing for additional details.

RSS-DC Summer Program Graduate Intern – Rutgers Scarlet Service in Washington, DC

Compensation: \$5,000 stipend plus housing

Location: Hybrid, based in Washington DC

[Apply](#) by 11:59am on March 23, 2026!

Through planned programs and activities, and 1:1s and/or group mentoring, the Summer Program Graduate Intern will work to provide unique and supportive living-learning experience for the [cohort](#). This will be an 11-week commitment beginning remote in May and transitioning to in-person in Washington, DC in June and July. RSS-DC is looking for current graduate students with a minimum 3.0 GPA and experience in event planning and execution, facilitation and mediation, and strong written and verbal communications skills. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter including their enrolled Rutgers master's program, a resume, and contact information for two references to rss-dc@rutgers.edu. Please email any questions to rss-dc@rutgers.edu.

THE RESOURCE CORNER

Free Income Tax Filing Assistance for Eligible Taxpayers – February 6 – April 4

The [New Brunswick Free Public Library](#) has once again partnered with [United Way Central Jersey](#) and the Rutgers Business School's [Beta Alpha Psi](#) chapter to offer the annual [VITA](#) (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. This service provides free

income tax filing assistance for eligible taxpayers with incomes up to \$75,000 for the 2025 tax year. Appointments are available Fridays and Saturdays from February 6 through April 4. Call [732-745-5108](tel:732-745-5108) ext. [2725](tel:2725) for an appointment.

International Tax Information

It is tax season! International students, please refer to tax reporting requirements and Glacier Tax Prep software access instructions on the Rutgers Global Taxes [webpage](#). To learn more, join Glacier Tax Prep Live Q&A [sessions](#). Also, students who were employed on campus at any point in 2025 are encouraged to attend Rutgers' [Tax Workshop](#) for F-1 and J-1 on Thursday, February 26 at 2:00pm.

GradSense: A Financial Planning Resource Developed Specifically for Graduate Students

[GradSense](#) is a website designed specifically for grad students like you to help you make informed financial decisions throughout your grad school journey. It provides guidance on funding your degree, essential tips on managing your finances while in school, and, once you complete your degree, information on evaluating and negotiating job offers, and resources on federal loan repayment. Key Features of GradSense include 1.) Funding Options and Financial Aid: Offers guidance on finding and applying for financial assistance; 2.) Managing Finances: Provides practical tips on budgeting and managing money while in graduate school, including an online budget calculator developed specifically for graduate students; and, 3.) After Grad School: Includes information on evaluating and negotiating job offers and resources on federal loan repayment. GradSense is free and available to anyone who is interested in financial wellness. The site is managed by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and supported by TIAA. Rutgers University is a member of CGS.

Get EndNote FREE through the Rutgers Libraries!

EndNote is available to all Rutgers students, faculty, and staff through the Rutgers Libraries! EndNote is a desktop program for collecting and organizing references that allows you to create a searchable personal reference database, find full text articles, manage and annotate pdf files, cite references while writing a paper, create bibliographies in your preferred style, and more! Click [HERE](#) for more information about downloading EndNote as a Rutgers affiliate.

Free Professional Legal Services For Rutgers Students!

Rutgers University Student Legal Services offers professional legal advice and assistance to eligible Rutgers– New Brunswick students at no cost by attorneys licensed to practice in New Jersey! Student Legal Services offers legal consultations on various matters including: tenant/landlord disputes, domestic violence, traffic violations, intellectual property, immigration/INS/DACA, civil suits, and more. They also provide notary services, attorney referrals, community outreach & education, and

pre-law advising services. Visit the [Student Legal Services website](#) for more information.

Interstride for International Students

Interstride is an educational technology company offering an online platform for international students. The platform assists with job searches, visa procedures, work authorization, and networking, providing tools like career planning features, checklists, and a calendar. Here is the login portal: <https://student.interstride.com/dashboard>. Rutgers students get access for free. For issues, please contact yiwei.zhang@rutgers.edu!

Restorative Justice Services for Graduate Students

Graduate students can contact the Restorative Justice Program for assistance building deeper connections, developing proactive community agreements, or resolving conflicts that arise within their student organizations, study groups, and any other communities they engage with. [Learn more](#) about the Restorative Justice Program. The Restorative Justice Program can be contacted by email at restorative_justice@echo.rutgers.edu

STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

Community Human Services and Health Resources

Students in need should consider NJ 211, a free and confidential service connecting individuals to local health and human services. Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.nj211.org for help with housing, food, healthcare, and more. Additionally, click [HERE](#) for a database of local food pantries by ZIP code throughout the state of New Jersey.

Rutgers Global Alerts Page

Rutgers Global Alerts are intended to provide guidance and resources to all members of the Rutgers community regarding issues related to travel advisories, immigration policies, and other regulatory updates that impact international students and scholars, as well as domestic students and faculty traveling abroad. Important notices for international students are also sent as periodic emails to the international student community at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. Visit the [Global Alerts webpage](#) for updates.

Student Basic Needs: Emergency Aid Fund

The Rutgers Emergency Aid Fund provides RU-New Brunswick students with one-time need-based financial support for unforeseen, unavoidable, and unplanned costs associated with emergencies like accidents, illnesses, fire and water damage, or the need for emergency housing or food. International and undocumented students are

eligible to apply. Visit the [Basic Needs website](#) for more information and to find the application for Emergency Aid.

Resource Webpage for Pregnant and Parenting Graduate Students

The Office of Graduate Student Life, in partnership with the Office of Title IX & Compliance and the Supporting Parents & Caregivers at Rutgers (SPCR) Graduate Student Organization, recently launched a new [resource webpage for pregnant and parenting graduate students](#)! This webpage serves as a platform for helping pregnant and parenting students locate resources, policies, support services, and community engagement opportunities available at Rutgers University and in the local community.

Academic, Employment, and Student Support Resources on the Graduate Student Life Website

Looking for additional graduate student resources, services, or support? Check out the resource pages on our website! Find information on [Academic Support Resources](#), [Career & Professional Development](#), [Student Support Services & Resources](#) and more on our website!

Do you have an opportunity for graduate students that you would like to promote in the Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest? [Submit it](#) by Thursday to appear in the following week's edition!