



## Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest Special Edition: Graduate Students First Weeks @ RU!

### Welcome to this Special Edition of the Graduate Student Life Weekly Digest!

All incoming and continuing graduate students are invited to welcome and community-building programs during September to kick off the Fall 2024 semester. These programs are designed to introduce students to essential resources, provide opportunities to connect with other graduate students, learn about graduate student organizations and participate in campus-wide events. From Game Night and Yoga Class to Socials & Mixers and a Community Walking Tour, there's an event for everyone! The events included in this newsletter are exclusive to graduate students but university-wide social events and open-houses will also be taking place throughout the month! Click [HERE](#) to view the full fall 2024 program of events!

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS FIRST WEEKS @ RU EVENTS**

**Join a Graduate Affinity Group! August 29 – September 13**

**Register for a group [HERE](#) by 12pm on Friday, September 13.**

The [Office of Graduate Student Life](#) (OGSL) invites graduate students to consider joining a peer-designed and -facilitated affinity group. These discussion-based affinity groups will meet monthly from September-December 2024, at a date and time and in a format determined by the facilitator and participants. These groups are spaces to build community with peers who share experiences, backgrounds, & social identities and connect with peers for personal and professional support. Six Graduate Affinity Groups are currently being offered: Bisexual+ students, BIPOC LGBTQIA2S+ students, Chinese students, International Students, African students, and Neurodivergent students. To read descriptions for each group, learn if it's a good fit for you, click [HERE](#). Please email Zoey Eddy, [ze26@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:ze26@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) or Dean Ghada Endick [gendick@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gendick@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions. *This program emerged from the advocacy of students on the SGS DEI Graduate Student Advisory Committee and is supported by an IDEA Innovation Grant from University Equity and Inclusion.*

**Graduate Student Life Drop in Hours – Tuesday, September 3, 3pm-4pm**

**Location: Zoom ([Click HERE to join](#))**

Do you have a non-academic problem and are not sure who to talk to? The Office of Graduate Student Life staff will be offering in-person and virtual drop-in office hours during the fall 2024 semester starting on Tuesday 9/3. Click [HERE](#) to view scheduled office hours and instructions for scheduling an appointment. Drop-in on Zoom to say hello to Ghada Endick, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life! Please email Dean Ghada Endick, [gendick@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gendick@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

### **Graduate Student Life Drop in Hours – Wednesday, September 4, 1pm-2pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge, Room 206 (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

Do you have a non-academic problem and are not sure who to talk to? The Office of Graduate Student Life staff will be offering in-person and virtual drop-in office hours during the fall 2024 semester starting on Tuesday 9/3. Click [HERE](#) to view scheduled office hours and instructions for scheduling an appointment. Drop by in person to say hello to Nikki Sullivan, Graduate Program Coordinator for Graduate Student Life and receive a free giveaway! Please email Dean Ghada Endick, [gendick@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gendick@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

### **Let's Talk Accommodations with Nychey Michel – Wednesday, September 4, 2pm-4pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

Stop by the Graduate Student Lounge and meet Disability Services Coordinator Nychey Michel! Come talk to Nychey and find out if accommodations make sense for you and receive snacks and sensory toys while supplies last! The Office of Disability Services provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities including hearing, vision, and mobility conditions, learning difficulties, psychological diagnoses (including anxiety and depression), chronic illnesses, and more! Contact Nychey Michel via email at [nlm108@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:nlm108@echo.rutgers.edu) or by calling 848-202-3111.

### **Graduate Student Life & GSA Open House & Scarlet Arts Rx – Thursday, September 5, 12pm-2pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

Come check out the Graduate Student Lounge to meet the Graduate Student Life staff, the GSA, and [Scarlet Arts Rx](#) to learn about how we can support your graduate student experience! The Graduate Student Lounge is a great place to study, relax, or connect with friends and is equipped with a microwave and mini-fridge! Come visit us for free Insomnia Cookies, massages, and giveaways and find out how to get free reserved MGSA box office tickets to on-campus music, theater and dance performances then stop by the Farmer's Market happening right outside!

### **NEW Arts and Wellbeing Program: Scarlet Arts Rx – Ongoing through Fall 2024**

Discover the transformative power of the arts through a new FREE arts and well-being program for all Rutgers–New Brunswick students– Scarlet Arts Rx! Arts engagement is related to improvements in: mood, Sleep quality, Social connections, Self-confidence, Creative thinking skills, and more? You don't need to be an artist to participate in Scarlet Arts Rx and get: free reserved Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA) box office tickets for theater, dance, and music performances (and you can bring RU-NB friends for free), opportunities to connect socially and meet new people, and higher self-awareness about how the arts affect your well-being. Each time you fill out a 1-minute feedback survey after each RU-NB arts activity or event you attend, you can be entered into a monthly drawing for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Sign up for Scarlet Arts Rx [HERE](#), and check out Scarlet Arts Rx on getINVOLVED [HERE](#). Please contact Peichi Waite [pw337@mgsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:pw337@mgsa.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

### **Black Graduate Student Mixer – Monday, September 9, 5:30pm**

Location: Paul Robeson Cultural Center (600 Bartholomew Rd, Piscataway, Busch Campus)

The Council of Black Graduates (CBG) welcomes all Black-identified graduate students to the first gathering of the year at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. If you are a Black graduate student looking to connect with other Black grads, please join CBG for light refreshments and lots of camaraderie. Please email CBG [rutgerscbg@gmail.com](mailto:rutgerscbg@gmail.com) with any questions.

**GSA Game Night – Monday, September 9, 7pm-8:30pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Join the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for a night of laughter, strategy, and camaraderie at Board Game Night! Whether you're a seasoned board game enthusiast or a curious beginner, this is a great chance to relax, unwind, and have some fun. Grab your friends, bring your competitive spirit, and be prepared for an unforgettable evening of games, snacks, and good times. Don't miss out on the chance to make memories and forge new friendships over classic and modern board games!

**Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) Workshop: Hosting Effective Office Hours – Tuesday, September 10, 12pm-1:30pm**

Location: Zoom

**Register [HERE!](#)**

Each semester the Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) offers workshops covering a wide range of topics to assist TAs with their continued professional development. These sessions, designed for current and future graduate student TAs, are free. All workshops are virtual. Teaching Assistant Project Staff at School of Graduate Studies are here to help! Feel free to contact them with questions at [tapweb@grad.rutgers.edu](mailto:tapweb@grad.rutgers.edu).

**Rutgers African Graduate Students Affinity Group New Member Social – Tuesday, September 10, 5pm-7pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

The African Graduate Student Affinity Group and Office of Graduate Student Life welcome all new African students to attend a new member social to enjoy food, fellowship, and connection! Please email Affinity Group Facilitators, Mazvita and Zainab, at [rutgers.africangrads@gmail.com](mailto:rutgers.africangrads@gmail.com) with any questions.

**GSA Free Movie @ RU Cinema: BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE – Tuesday, September 10, 7:15pm-9:30pm**

Location: Rutgers Cinema (105 Joyce Kilmer Ave, Piscataway, Livingston Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Join the GSA and watch the new BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE movie! Tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis! If there are tickets remaining on Monday, they will be distributed on Tuesday between 5-6PM in the Graduate Student Lounge. Please contact the GSA Events Manager [events@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:events@gsa.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**GSA Coffee & Breakfast – Wednesday, September 11, 9am-11am**

Location: Chemical & Chemical Biology Building, Foyer (123 Bevier Road, Piscataway, Busch Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Join the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for a delightful morning of warmth, conversation, and scrumptious delights at our Coffee and Breakfast event. Whether you're here to kickstart your day or savor a leisurely morning, GSA would be delighted to host you! Contact the GSA Events Manager [events@gsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:events@gsa.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**LGBTQIA+ Graduate Student Social – Wednesday, September 11, 5pm-7pm**

Location: Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities (17 Bartlett St, New Brunswick, College Ave Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Calling all Queer and trans graduate students! Swing by the SJE house to connect with fellow grads, enjoy free food, and feel comfortable knowing that there is a community for you at Rutgers. Hosted by Center for Social Justice Education & LGBT Communities and co-sponsored with Rutgers GRADient (GSO). RSVPs encouraged.

**RSVP NOW: Graduate Student Welcome Reception and Resource Fair – Thursday, September 12, 3pm-6pm**

Location: Busch Student Center, Multipurpose Room (604 Bartholomew Rd, Piscataway, Busch Campus)

**RSVP [HERE!](#)**

Save the date for the annual Graduate Student Welcome Reception and Resource Fair hosted by the Office of Graduate Student Life and Graduate Student Association! Join us for light refreshments and finger foods and hear from University Departments and Graduate Student Organizations (GSOs) about all the wonderful resources Rutgers has to offer graduate students!

**Graduate Student Yoga – Wednesday, September 18, 5–6pm**

Location: Graduate Student Lounge (126 College Ave, behind Panera Bread, College Ave Campus)

*Graduate Yoga is part of the [Life @ The Graduate Student Lounge Event Series](#) and is held every Wednesday.*

Graduate Student Yoga is back! Join us on Wednesdays and take a pause from your busy week by practicing Yoga and relax your mind and body with your fellow graduate students. Hosted by Rutgers Recreation and Office of Graduate Student Life. No Registration Needed. Yoga mats and blocks are provided, and all skill levels are welcome! Email [gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**Volunteer & Community Engagement Information Session for Graduate Students – Monday, September 23, 3:30pm-4:30pm**

Location: Zoom

**RSVP [HERE](#) to receive the Zoom link!**

Join the Collaborative Center for Community Engagement and Office of Student Volunteer Engagement for a virtual information session to learn more about opportunities to volunteer, participate in community service, and connect with local community organizations as a graduate student. Attend either session on Monday, September 23 or Wednesday, September 25. Feel free to reach out to [gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**1:1 Coaching Sessions for Volunteer Engagement – Ongoing through Fall 2024**

**Sign up [HERE](#) for a 1:1 Coaching Session**

Graduate students looking for ways to volunteer in the community should consider scheduling a 1:1 coaching session with the Office of Student Volunteer Engagement to kick-start their volunteer journey. Click [HERE](#) to schedule a coaching session.

**Community Walking Tour of New Brunswick – Tuesday, September 24, 3pm-5pm**

Location: Departs from the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (NBPAC), (11 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901)

**Register [HERE](#) by 11:59pm on Friday, September 20!**

This 90-minute walking tour is an informative and fun way to get familiar with the surrounding New Brunswick city neighborhoods and gain an understanding of the city's history, cultural assets, and major institutions. Frequent stops are made in front of city murals, parks, local institutions and restaurants.

Hosted by the [Collaborative Center for Community Engagement](#) and Office of Graduate Student Life. Email Dean Ghada Endick [gendick@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gendick@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**Volunteer & Community Engagement Information Session for Graduate Students – Wednesday, September 25, 12:00pm-1:00pm**

Location: Zoom

**RSVP [HERE](#) to receive the Zoom link!**

Join the Collaborative Center for Community Engagement and Office of Student Volunteer Engagement for a virtual information session to learn more about opportunities to volunteer, participate in community service, and connect with local community organizations as a graduate student. Attend either session on Monday, September 23 or Wednesday, September 25. Feel free to reach out to [gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:gradstudentlife@echo.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

**Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) Workshop: Managing Your Time as a TA – Wednesday, September 25, 12:00pm-1:30pm**

Location: Zoom

**Register [HERE](#)!**

Each semester the Teaching Assistant Project (TAP) offers workshops covering a wide range of topics to assist TAs with their continued professional development. These sessions, designed for current and future graduate student TAs, are free. All workshops are virtual. Teaching Assistant Project Staff at School of Graduate Studies are here to help! Feel free to contact them with questions at [tapweb@grad.rutgers.edu](mailto:tapweb@grad.rutgers.edu).

**Scarlet Tabletop Gaming League Interest Meeting – Thursday, September 26, 7pm-9pm**

Location: College Avenue Student Center, G2 Level, Room 108 (126 College Ave, New Brunswick, College Ave Campus)

Join fellow tabletop game enthusiasts for an evening of fellowship and fun! Whether you have a casual interest or deep enthusiasm for tabletop gaming, this will be a space where members can unwind and immerse themselves in the intellectual challenges of strategic and thematic board games. This Graduate Student Organization (GSO) will offer you a chance to relax from the demands of academic life and serve as a valuable networking opportunity. Members can connect with fellow enthusiasts, build lasting friendships, and share their love for board games. Join us in creating a vibrant community where fun and fellowship go hand in hand. Email Alex at [an525@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:an525@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

## ***STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES***

**New Resource Webpage for Pregnant and Parenting Graduate Students!**

The Office of Graduate Student Life, in partnership with the Office of Title IX & Compliance, and Supporting Parents & Caregivers at Rutgers (GSO), 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. Click [HERE](#) to visit the webpage.

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

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

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