Life at The Bloustein School From a Student’s Perspective

The Rutgers – New Brunswick campus is Rutgers’ flagship campus, centrally located in the state of New Jersey. The Bloustein School building is in downtown New Brunswick, and is within walking distance from the train station. Using the train, students can easily get to New York City (50 minutes), Trenton (30 minutes), or Philadelphia (90 minutes). Rutgers has two other smaller campuses across the state: a Northern New Jersey campus in Newark, and a Southern New Jersey campus in Camden.

As students, the location of the Bloustein School makes all the difference to us. It gives us unique opportunities to travel to, work in, and learn from some of the biggest and most thrilling cities in the country. Aside of New York City and Philadelphia, we are also close to Washington DC (3 hours), Baltimore (2.5 hours) and Boston (4 hours).

Outside the classroom, Bloustein students take advantage of our close proximity to these large metropolitan areas, as well as more local destinations. We take the train for day trips to New York City, Philadelphia,
or short drives to Princeton for dinner. In the warm months we head over to the Jersey Shore for a day at the beach to enjoy the sunshine and some relaxation.

Located in the heart of downtown New Brunswick, Bloustein is in walking distance of numerous bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues. We organize Thursday evening Socials, encouraging students to take a break from their studies and enjoy some off time with their colleagues and friends. The Bloustein School is also close to two of the free Rutgers bus system stops. These bus lines bring students and New Brunswick residents around the city and between the four areas of Rutgers New Brunswick. Bloustein students have full access to any of the libraries, study spaces, or gyms located on these campuses.

Students are also active participants in civic, educational and recreational activities within the school and university communities. Students can join the Rutgers Association of Policy and Planning Students (RAPPS), which has subgroups like the Social Justice Committee, The International Development Interest Group (IDIG), The Women’s Leadership Coalition and Walk Bloustein Bike Bloustein.

A great example of our participation in local events is Park(ing) Day. This is a day when groups transform metered parking spots around New Brunswick into small public parks to encourage community discussions about urban public space. Our Park(ing) spot is located behind the Bloustein School on Bayard St. and is always a fun day for everyone who participates.
We also try to get outside and take advantage of all the fantastic nature all around us! The Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park offers trails that our students head to when the weather is nice. Each year, Walk Bloustein Bike Bloustein hosts a bike ride from the New Brunswick entrance on the canal down to Princeton, New Jersey, about a 20 mile ride.

Our student community here at the Bloustein School is very close. We are not only classmates and colleagues but are also friends and many times roommates. Many Bloustein students choose to live within walking distance to the Bloustein School in New Brunswick or across the river in nearby Highland Park. Having the majority of the graduate student population live nearby has strengthened the Bloustein School’s community and adds to the incredible experience you will have during your time here at Bloustein. It’s a welcoming and collaborative environment that provides you with more than a learning experience.

This community extends beyond the 2 to 3 years that students are at Bloustein. As a school we are proud to have a strong alumni network that is supported by our full time Career Services department. After students graduate they continue to provide feedback to the school which has created an ongoing series of professional development soft skills workshops. The Bloustein School has alumni chapters in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco with new chapters added each year. Students can spend a couple hours a week participating in mock interviews, learning graphic and design techniques or strengthening their excel skills. The Career Services department is also available to current students for resume, cover letter and interview support. Students can use this resource during and after enrollment!