



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).

Although we are in the midst of a serious global pandemic, we hope to achieve some level of normalcy soon and when that happens, there will be a robust litany of activities that will be available for Bloustein students to partake in. Currently, Rutgers University is planning for a hybrid, staggered return back to campus starting fall, 2021. (Many of the images you will see below were taken pre-Covid19.)

Outside of 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.



Image 1. Friendsgiving with Bloustein Friends

Located in the heart of downtown New Brunswick, the Bloustein School is within walking distance of numerous bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues. George Street, one of the main thoroughfares in the city, as well a home to many of these venues, has been closed to car traffic due to COVID19. It has been converted to a pedestrian-only corridor providing many options outdoor dining and other forms of entertainment.



Image 2: Outdoor Dining on George Street during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In the past, we had organized regular Thursday evening Socials and plan to do so again when it is safe. To make up for the lack of in person connectivity, Bloustein has been hosting a wide variety of Zoom-based social events. These socials encourage 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 stops on the free Rutgers bus system. These bus lines bring students and New Brunswick

residents around the city and between the four areas of the Rutgers New Brunswick campus. Bloustein students have full access to any of the libraries, study spaces, or gyms located on these campuses.



Image 3: Fall 2019 Biking Studio for Anchorage, Alaska

Students are also active participants in civic, educational and recreational activities within the school and university communities. Students can join Bloustein Graduate Student Association (BGSA), which has subgroups like EJB Designs, the International Development Interest Group (IDIG), and The Women's Leadership Conference Committee.



Image 2: Students Listening to a Presentation on Population Health Informatics

A great example of our participation in local events is Rutgers Day. This is a day that focuses on the many programs and activities that Rutgers offers. Activities range from events that showcase the animals and farms at Rutgers, to theater performances, to our own table to represent the Bloustein School. 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. Many students also run along the Raritan River in Johnson and Donaldson Parks, as well as using the Rutgers gym facilities, which

are included in your student fees. Some students even teach classes at these centers during their free time.

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.

Image 5: Community Development Class Visiting Paterson Falls



Many Bloustein students choose to live within walking distance of 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. 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. The friends you will make in graduate school will ultimately form the basis of your future professional networks. As a school we are proud to have a strong alumni network that is supported by our full time on-site Career Services department that works solely with Bloustein's graduate students. 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, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, Minneapolis and Seattle, 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 reviews, interview support as well as salary negotiation coaching. Students can avail of these resources while they are in school but also as alumni down the road.