

# GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

Rutgers Department of Physics and Astronomy



## *Physics community*

The physics department as a whole, and its graduate students in particular, form a close-knit community, with a number of activities organized throughout the year. These activities include:

- **Weekly colloquium:** Each week a renowned speaker shares his or her research through a non-specialized talk for a wide audience with a background in physics. Before the start of the talk there is time for casual conversation with colleagues, coffee, and cookies. The schedule can be found at <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/colloquium/>
- **Research seminars:** Each individual research group organizes its own seminars where experts from other universities present their current research. The schedules can be found at <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/dev/physicsnews2.shtml>
- **Student seminars:** The graduate students organize a series of weekly seminars (SSPAR) that are by and for other graduate students. Topics are broad, the atmosphere is informal, and food is always provided. More information can be found at <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/gso/SSPAR/>
- **TA training program:** Since last year, the department has its own TA training program (DELTA P), directed specifically towards physics TA's. The program consists out of a 1 or 2 days crash course before classes start, and a more extensive series of workshops during the year. The crash course will be specifically directed to first time TA's.
- **Conferences and workshops:** Various conferences, workshops, and other special events occur in the department and associated departments (Mathematics, BioMaPS, Chemistry) throughout the year.
- **Location:** Princeton, IAS, UPenn, NYU, Columbia, and the greater New York area are all easily accessible and provide additional opportunities to attend seminars and special events.
- **Graduate Student Organization (GSO):** The department GSO, associated with the the university-wide Graduate Student Association (GSA), hosts several department parties throughout the year as well as other events such as graduate student movie nights.

# *Housing*

There are a number of different housing options available to Rutgers students, depending on your preferred living environment and willingness to commute:

- **On-campus:** Most first year students choose to live on campus. Especially if you don't own a car, this is convenient when you are still getting to know the area, since the department is within walking distance. The Rutgers bus system takes you to downtown New Brunswick in about 15 minutes. The graduate housing options on Busch campus are the Buell apartments (4 bedrooms) and the Johnson apartments (2 bedrooms), both within walking distance of the department. More information can be found on

<http://housing.rutgers.edu/ie/index.php?page=content/Common/Halls/Busch/Buell.php>

<http://housing.rutgers.edu/ie/index.php?page=content/Common/Halls/Busch/Johnson.php>

<http://housing.rutgers.edu/ie/>

On-campus family housing is also available. For all these housing options it is essential to apply as soon as possible.

- **Off-campus (Rutgers vicinity):** Many graduate students choose to live off-campus. The most common options are New Brunswick or Highland Park. Living in New Brunswick has the advantages of the city and better public transportation connections, while Highland Park is a quieter environment. Other options include Somerset or Piscataway. These are usually a bit cheaper but will likely require a car. For more information, check out the Rutgers off-campus housing page at

<http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/>

- **Off-campus (greater New Jersey):** Those who prefer an urban environment and don't mind a longer commute sometimes choose to live in Jersey City or even New York City. Jersey City is approximately a 45 minute drive, depending on the traffic. The train ride from Manhattan to New Brunswick station takes about an hour.

# *Recreation Opportunities*

- **Recreation on campus:** Rutgers University has extensive recreation facilities on every campus. The university community has also a diverse range of sports and cultural clubs for students. More information can be found at

<http://www1.recreation.rutgers.edu/>

- **Outdoors:** New Jersey and the surrounding region offer many options for those who enjoy hiking, camping, biking, skiing, climbing, and many other outdoor activities. Popular destinations include the Delaware Water Gap, the Pinelands, and the Catskill Mountains (NY). Organized outdoor trips are available through Rutgers Recreation and are also commonly organized among the department graduate students themselves.
- **Skiing:** Piscataway is only hours away from some of the best skiing and snowboarding the northeast United States has to offer. Regardless of your skill or preference you are sure to find a nearby mountain that will leave you wanting more.

<http://www.skiblument.com/>

<http://www.skicamelback.com/>

<http://www.huntermtn.com/>

- **New York City:** One of the great advantages of New Brunswick is the proximity of New York City. The NJ Transit train takes you from New Brunswick station to New York Penn Station in Manhattan in about 1 hour. This works out very well if you want to catch a Broadway show, see a concert, visit a museum, or just spend a weekend exploring the city.
- **Philadelphia, Princeton, Boston, Washington, D.C, and more:** Other travel destinations are Philadelphia (about 1 hour by train) or Princeton (½ hour by train). If you want to go a bit further you can visit Washington, D.C., Boston, and numerous other places on the east coast. Both D.C. and Boston require an approximately 5 hour bus ride from New York. Tickets are typically around \$20. For even further trips you can rely on Newark International Airport to take you anywhere in the world. You can access Newark International Airport by train from New Brunswick station (about ½ hour).