The New Student’s Guide to Life
in the English M.A. Program @ Rutgers-Newark

**ESSENTIALS:** First things first! Set up your Rutgers e-mail. All students need a Rutgers address for using Blackboard in classes, receiving bulletins from the Graduate School, communicating with Rutgers’ employment system, and other institutional purposes. Go to [http://netid.rutgers.edu](http://netid.rutgers.edu) and click on “manage e-mail addresses.” Put in the netID the University has sent you and type in your password. Activate the account. At the bottom of the page, your official Rutgers e-mail address should appear.

Check your “rutgers.edu” inbox often, especially if you don’t use it much. If you have problems with anything Rutgers online, contact Rutgers Newark Computing Services (RUCS) Help Desk in Hill Hall 109, off the Plaza-level entrance hall; call 973-353-5083; or write help@newark.rutgers.edu. Web site: [ncs.newark.rutgers.edu](http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu).

Get your Rutgers-Newark photo ID. They’ll take your mug shot on the 3rd floor of Blumenthal Hall (249 University Ave., just beyond the playing field) if you bring proof of your identity and your RUID (Rutgers ID number). You’ll need the photo ID for checking out library materials and using the computer labs.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Our main communication methods are personal e-mail and messages sent to our listserv (nwk_gradlit@email.rutgers.edu), which uses students’ addresses of choice. You and faculty can send to Gradlit but they cannot read what you write each other on it. You’ll be forwarded calls for papers and articles, announcements about upcoming conferences, campus events, special scholarships, jobs near and far, and more. *If you aren’t getting those bulletins from us, or your contact information changes, notify Dr. Larson.* Many alums stay on Gradlit for years. It’s a way to keep in touch. Resourceful students can also network through it with other students and alumni.

Each degree student is also assigned a shared mailbox, in a vintage wall installation across from Hill 504—handy for course paper returns and occasional handouts from us, not valuables. To the left of this is our MA program bulletin board.

**Note about e-mail and web addresses at R-N:** Web site URLs and many e-mail addresses have recently been changed, though not all. You’ll see variations. Many English faculty still get their e-mail at “andromeda.rutgers.edu.” Some have a second address ending in “@rutgers.edu.” If you’ve lost someone, do a “People” Search on the main RU home page [www.rutgers.edu](http://www.rutgers.edu). Some browsers bury the People Search several levels deeper into the Newark home page [www.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu). (Google Chrome displays it.) The Newark home page has a trusty “A-Z Directory” at the top right for finding departments, offices, and programs.

**THE R-N GRADUATE SCHOOL** is in Conklin Hall 241, 175 University Avenue, Newark NJ 07102 (973-353-5834). They’re open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. weekdays. The GS-N catalog is at [http://gsn.rutgers.edu](http://gsn.rutgers.edu).
**ADMISSIONS:** The Graduate and Professional Admissions office is in Engelhard Hall Room 101, 190 University Ave. (right across from the Rutgers Arch). Site: [http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu](http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu). For special needs contact Diane Afonso <dafonso@ugadm.rutgers.edu> (973-353-3785) or Jennifer Nyeste <nyeste@ugadm.rutgers.edu> (x3784). Admissions also organizes guided campus tours. Ask to see the Dana Library’s upper floors.

**THE REGISTRAR’S OFFICE** is on Blumenthal Hall’s 3rd floor (973-353-5324). Hours: M, T, Th, F 8:30am to 4:30pm; Wed. 10am to 6pm. Get the Academic Year schedule, look at the schedule of classes, and register through [http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu](http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu).

**FINANCIAL AID (973-353-5151) and STUDENT ACCOUNTS (x 5818)** are both on this floor too (973-353-5151 and 5153). Director of Financial Aid: Natalia Morisseau (x 5872).

**REACHING OTHER R-N OFFICES:** The Newark Campus Switchboard number is 973-353-1766 (weekdays till 4pm). Rutgers–New Brunswick’s is 732-445-4636. RNB’s English Doctoral Program Director is at 732-932-7674 or 7625. FYI: New Brunswick, located in Middlesex County, is about a 45-minute New Jersey Transit train journey from Newark’s Penn Station. The station in NB is in walking distance of the campus.

### About Us . . .

**FINDING US:** The Graduate English Director’s office is in Hill Hall 529. Contact Dr. Janet Larson at engma@andromeda.rutgers.edu; by phone, 973-353-5193; or by post c/o the English Department, Hill Hall 504, Rutgers University, Newark NJ 07102. Her faculty mailbox is in Hill 505.

The English Department, chaired by Dr. Fran Bartkowski (973-353-5014), is located on 5th floor Hill. The main office is generally open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, and to 4 p.m. most Fridays (973-353-5279). The English Department lounge is just down the hall. The Department Administrator, Ms. Madelyn Munoz-Bertram (x 5158), handles things like Special Permission number requests to get into the occasional class and schedules the individual translation tests. Our spot in cyberspace is open 24/7 at [http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/english](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/english).

**How do I find English faculty?** A bulletin board near the Department office lists office locations and hours, which are also posted on the doors. (Almost all faculty offices are along the 5th floor Hill corridor.) You can look faculty up through People Search on the Rutgers home page [www.rutgers.edu](http://www.rutgers.edu) or find them on our web site. Some have their own sites. Faculty mailboxes are in Hill 505. Course syllabi are posted on our web site and can be requested from faculty before the term begins.

**Who is my faculty adviser?** After advising new degree students during their first term, the Director assigns them to a colleague, attempting to make a good match. Students may also request a particular adviser at any time. The adviser list is posted right next to the graduate student mailboxes in the corridor across from Hill 504.

Because we emphasize good advising here—to help keep everyone on track and make the most
of their graduate experience—we expect students to meet with their faculty advisors in person at least once a year, especially before registration begins (early Nov. for Spring, early April for Fall). E-mail may be convenient, but there is no substitute for spontaneous face-to-face conversation, in which one may garner unexpected tips about negotiating the program, the interests of faculty, career ideas, and contacts as well as course registration advice. The Program Director is also available on a continuing basis to all of our graduate students.

International students are advised as well by the Office of International Student Services, (973-353-5368), which runs the Program in American Language Studies (PALS). They’re located in Conklin Hall 226, 175 University Ave., Newark NJ 07102 (973-353-1427). Director: Kristi Bergman at 973-353-5368 (kristi.bergman@rutgers.edu).

ENGLISH MA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: Our 30-credit degree requires Introduction to Graduate Literary Study and your choice of one American literature course and of two pre-1800 (pre-Victorian) literature courses. The other six credits are electives. Students must also pass the Common Reading exam, given in March and usually taken in the student’s final term, and a one-hour written translation test demonstrating Intermediate Level proficiency in a foreign language (details below).

Students may elect the Women’s and Gender Studies concentration, 12 credits taken within the 30-credit English degree. See the document describing it in the rack outside Hill 504 or on our web site. Any grad student may take the W&GS graduate courses, one offered in fall, one in spring, under the 26:988 number.

COURSES & CREDITS:

How do I set up an independent study? Most take seminars, but students can also propose a subject area to a professor with the requisite expertise. They work out a plan of study together and set up a schedule of regular in-person meetings through one term. Generally, a seminar-length paper is submitted at the end. This plan must be arranged during the semester before the study begins, not during the summer or the projected semester of work. The student registers for 3 credits in Independent Study 26:350:522.

If you wish to do a Master’s Thesis (26:350:696, 697)—two terms, 6 credits—read the handout on this subject first, in the rack outside 504 or on our web site, for a discussion of the pros, the cons, and the process. Then take the question up with your faculty advisor. The semester before Thesis study is to begin, the student must present a plan to a faculty member and secure his/her agreement to be the primary reader. Later a second faculty reader is brought in. Inform Dr. Larson once a plan is set. The Graduate School has deadlines and formal requirements for submission of the completed thesis. It is not a graduation requirement in our program.

How do I apply for transfer credit? Pick up a request form from the Graduate School or download it from their site, fill out the top portion, and give it to the Graduate English Director along with a syllabus from the course and xeroxed pages from the school’s catalog with a course description, credits, name of the program, and the school. (We should already have the transcript.) Up to 12 credits of appropriate graduate courses can be transferred on approval of the Program Director and the Graduate School after the student has taken 12 credits here. The GS-N Catalog has the details.
Can literature students take creative writing courses? The M.A. Program offers a literature degree and no longer has a “writing track.” Matriculated students can, however, take writing electives under the 26:350 number, listed below, when they are offered.

Fiction for Fiction Writers (26:350:525) is occasionally offered in Summer Session. Other offerings during the AY are Nonfictions (26:350:523) and Poetry for Poets (26:350:524).

Introduction to Publishing and Editing (26:350:531) is offered every several years during the AY. Publishing and Editing Internship (26:350:548) is by special arrangement and requires a faculty supervisor in addition to the in-house internship director.

Narrative History (26:510:504), a creative non-fiction writing workshop, is offered regularly by Prof. James Goodman (History Department, at goodmanj@andromeda.rutgers.edu). This course serves the MFA Program but often has seats for English MA students too.

The Rutgers-Camden Summer Writing Conference, a rich, intensive experience with established and new writers on staff, offers graduate-level writing workshops for 3 credits in addition to free readings by the guest authors. It is hosted over 10 days each June by Camden’s English Department. For more information, visit http://writersconference.camden.rutgers.edu.

Graduate writing course credits from other institutions and summer workshops can also be transferred as electives on the English MA Program Director’s approval.

The Graduate School and the English Department offer an MFA in Creative Writing (see www.ncas.rutgers.edu/mfa; phone 973-353-1107). This program, which has its own application process, faculty, and creative writing workshops (not available to English MA students), is directed by distinguished novelist and English Department colleague Professor Jayne Anne Phillips. The MFA is considered a “terminal” degree, not a stepping-stone to a doctoral program, and serves as a credential for college-level creative writing teaching positions.

Are there summer graduate courses? Most professors are engaged in research, travel, and writing in the summer. The program does offer graduate courses occasionally in Summer Session I or II. In special cases selected summer undergraduate courses can be approved for graduate (“G”) credit. Write Dr. Larson first, secure the professor’s agreement to additional assignments, then forward that information to her with the professor’s e-mail attached. She will take up your request with the GS-N Dean. Each Summer Session is 6 weeks long. There must be a commitment to an extended time frame for the graduate student to complete the research and writing for a seminar paper.

How do I prepare for the Common Reading Exam and the translation test? The faculty committee that prepares each year’s exam based on the Common Reading List can be contacted for information and sample back exams. The Graduate Director also conducts a tutorial the previous May for prospective exam-takers, who then set up their own in-person summer study groups. For students who will take the exam the following March, a Blackboard site is set up for bouncing questions back and forth and networking to set up meetings. These students file a Declaration of Intent with the Director in October. This form, the Common Reading List, a detailed Exam Description, and other program documents are in the rack outside Hill 504.
The translation test, which is offered in many languages, must be taken by November 30 preceding the semester of graduation. When you’re ready, e-mail Dr. Larson your preferred language, propose a day/time during office hours and cc Ms. Madelyn Munoz-Bertram <msmunoz@andromeda.rutgers.edu>, who will reply to confirm the arrangements.

For those who command only English, Rutgers New Brunswick’s Summer Language Program offers free non-credit intensive summer classes to registered Rutgers graduate students in reading knowledge of German, French, Italian, and Spanish, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. from May 26 to July 2. These courses are designed for grad students with no prior knowledge of the language, although the teachers adapt as much as possible to the actual level of their classes. Attendance requirements are strict and grades are reported to the graduate directors. An A fulfills our MA language requirement. The grade does not appear on the transcript, although one can put it on a c.v. Registration begins in early March is done in person with Ms. Alex Bachmann, Graduate School-New Brunswick, 25 Bishop Place, College Ave. Campus <abachman@rci.rutgers.edu>. Let Dr. Larson know first that you are interested.

WORK ON/NEAR CAMPUS

Hiring for fall campus work begins at least as early as the previous March. People also apply for Work Study (see below) early. Occasionally, positions open up late in the summer.

How do I get teaching experience while earning my degree? Rutgers-Newark has the most diverse undergraduate population–in nationalities and ethnicities–in the United States. A great way to start tapping into this resource once you arrive is to join the vibrant community of graduate tutors at the R-N Writing Center, directed by Marne Benson (marneben@yahoo.com). Pay is competitive. Experience helps; so does taking Rhetorical Theory and the Teaching of Writing (26:350:506), offered every fall. Put in an application in Conklin Hall Room 126, 175 University Ave. (street level entrance), download one at <www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~nwc>, call (973) 353-5847, or write the Center at <nwc@andromeda.rutgers.edu>.

A few of our students with experience have been hired to teach freshman writing, usually after being here at least one semester. Contact Professor Jennifer Arena, Director of the undergraduate R-N Writing Program (973-353-5851). You may leave a note and résumé for her in Conklin 137 or write <jenarena@andromeda.rutgers.edu>. The Graduate Director can be asked to supply references for both tutoring and teaching.

The English Department Chair very occasionally hires graduate students with special expertise for teaching undergraduate literature classes. When such a rare opportunity comes along, the Graduate Director can connect the student with the Chair.

The Dean’s Office, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, and some of our faculty have funds to hire graders for classes. And some faculty hire research assistants. The Director will pass along opportunities as they come up; but ask your professors, too.

Dr. Kristi Bergman (973-353-5368 and kristi.bergman@rutgers.edu), Director of the R-N Program in American Language Studies (PALS), located in Conklin Hall Rm. 226, hires people with Master’s Degrees to teach their ESL classes. She also hires work study students to tutor and to act as “conversation partners” with PALS students. She is available to meet with inquirers in July and most of August (2015) as well as during the school year. The general e-mail address is
Other such programs in the area: Essex County College (3 blocks from campus) runs a Bilingual Studies Program, directed by Marie Girault (tel. 973-877-3449). Other local colleges also have ESL, TESOL, or PALS programs, such as Bergen Community College (Dr. William Jiang wjiang@bergen.edu); Union County College (Howard Pomann 908-965-6040); Rutgers New Brunswick (Karen Pickering, kep50@scarletmail.rutgers.edu).

**TEACHING AND TUTORING AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS:** Because Chairs and Directors do change, you’re wise to call before writing. Try to get an in-person appointment. Here’s the contact information we have:

Schools within blocks of the RN campus that hire part-time teachers: New Jersey Institute of Technology (Dr. Eric M. Katz, Chair of the Humanities Dept., 973-596-3266; www.humanities.njit.edu); NJIT Writing Center (Dr. Catherine Siemann 973-596-3271). NJIT’s School of Management also hires our students to help with its writing assessments; info through Dr. Larson.

Try the Essex Community College English Dept. (973-877-3382). The Academic Support Center for Berkeley College, Newark Campus (536 Broad St.), hires “qualified, graduate-level, professional writing tutors”; contact Mr. Arjune M. Sharma, Director, 973-642-3888 ex. 6176 or aus@berkeleycollege.edu. Not far away in South Orange is Seton Hall University (Dr. Mary Balkun, English Dept. balkunma@shu.edu; Dr. Nancy Enright, Director of Freshman Writing enrighna@shu.edu).

More of the many academic institutions in the Metro area: New Jersey City University (gen. # 201-200-2000); Hudson County Community College (gen # 201-714-7100); William Paterson University (English Dept. 973-720-2254, Dr. Ian Marshall, Chair—an R-N English MA alum; Dr. Donna Perry, Dir. Basic Writing, x 2214 <perryd@wpunj.edu>; Dr. Steven Newton, Dir. Writing Center x 3059).

Montclair State University (English Dept. 973-655-4249; Writing Program x7442); Kean College (gen. # 908-737-5326; Dr. Daniel O’Day, English Dept. hiring, x 0394; Dr. Best, English Chair, 0377; 1000 Morris Ave., Union NJ 07083); St. Peters College (Prof. Constance Wagner, Dir. Writing Program, 201-761-6323 – send resume in the body of e-mail or as a Word attachment to <cwagner@spc.edu> and cc <bkuzminski@spc.edu>; Dr. Kathleen Monahan, Chair English Dept., 201-761-6310 <kmonahan@spc.edu>; 2641 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City NJ 07306); and the College of New Rochelle (New Rochelle, NY).

**FURTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

University Human Resources (973-353-5500): full-time work at R-N. Stop by to fill out a job application in Blumenthal Hall Room 201, 249 University Ave. (across the playing field from Warren St.).

Housing and Residence Life hires Resident Assistants and other staff for the dorms and graduate apartments well before the fall semester. The head of the Office of Housing is Shigeo Iwamiya (shigeo@rutgers.edu) at 973-353-1037.
Campus Police hires some students for security jobs. Inquire at 973-972-7551.

R-N Career Development Center (Dir. Tom Hopkins, 973-353-5313): In Hill Hall walk one ramp up from the Plaza level entrance hall and make a sharp left. For free job listings, go to http://cdc.newark.rutgers.edu. Once students have paid their term bills, they are automatically sent a “Welcome to Raidernet” (subject line) e-mail, which entitles them to use Newark Career Services’ listings. The Center also gives help with constructing c.v.’s.

Paul Robeson Campus Center (973-353-5568), right next to Hill. Stop by their main office, 2nd floor (turn left after the Martin Luther King Drive entrance doors, or come in from the Plaza and go up one level) to put in an application for a student job at the Center.

The Golden Dome Athletic Center, at University and Warren Streets, site of the fitness center, gym, and swimming pool, has hired our graduate students with expertise as personal trainers and assistant coaches. The Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics, chaired by Mark Griffin (973-353-5474 x 203), can give you the current names and contact information for coaches in baseball, softball, men’s and women’s basketball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, cross country and track. To accomplished athletes in certain sports, they also offer 2-yr. Graduate Internships covering tuition and campus housing.

Federal Work Study Program: Most of FWSP jobs are for undergraduates, but ask anyway at the RN Office of Financial Aid (249 University Ave., Blumenthal Hall, third floor; web site https://studentaid.rutgers.edu; hours: 8:30 to 4:30 M-F--call for evening hours. Phone: 973-353-5152. Fax: 973-353-5057). To apply through the Federal Work Study Program, go to http://studentwork.rutgers.edu/new/GenInfo.htm#Loc, follow the link to <fafsa.ed.gov>, and fill out a FAFSA form. Check box for work study. Later, if that is all you want, you can decline any loan offered in an award letter. If you’re found eligible for Work Study, a need-based award, you then get listings and put in a job application. Besides the usual on-campus positions, FWSP lists jobs in community service and non-profit agencies off campus, including work in public schools’ nutrition education programs, day care, legal defense, community health jobs, and tutoring in support of the National Literacy initiative.

The JLPD (Job Locations and Development Program), headquartered in New Brunswick, has miscellaneous listings for off-campus, part-time, and seasonal employment available to students who are not on Work Study; there are no financial aid requirements. Review the listings at http://studentwork.rutgers.edu.

Departments and programs also hire directly. If you can’t find a phone number on web sites, call R-N Campus Information at 973-353-1766 weekdays before 4pm.

International students registered at Newark must contact the International Student Advising Office in Conklin Hall 226 (see PALS contact info above) for assistance with the information required before they can apply for jobs.

SCHOLARSHIPS and FELLOWSHIPS

The GS-N distributes Master’s Tuition Awards (each covering one course) to program directors, starting in April or early June, to be given out for the following AY. GS-N is also working on new scholarship funding possibilities and will be posting applications on their web site. On this contact Dr. Kinna Perry <kinnap@andromeda.rutgers.edu>.

Rutgers University offers two competitive Fellowships at Newark for which MA students are eligible, the Trustees Fellowship and the Ralph Bunche Fellowship, both meant to increase
diversity in the graduate programs. Both cover tuition and include a substantial stipend. English, like nearly all Master’s programs at R-N, is restricted by University rules from offering Teaching Assistantships.

Among outside groups offering scholarships in all fields is Executive Women of New Jersey www.ewnj.org. Their application process begins in March-April. Directors nominate second-year female students for these scholarships.

BOOKS, RESEARCH MATERIALS, & COMPUTERS

The John Cotton Dana Library is in the center of the Plaza. (Be prepared to show your student ID.) Departments: Circulation and Course Reserves (973-353-5161); Reference (x 5901); InterLibrary Loan (x 5903); Media Services, 4th floor (x 5917), where you can view films that Rutgers owns or visit the Jazz Institute. Make good use of Dana’s seasoned Reference staff and ask them about workshops for students new to the Rutgers Libraries system.

To consult the online catalog (IRIS), go to <www.libraries.rutgers.edu>. With a “netID” you can order books, periodicals, articles, and micro-media from other RU libraries or “EZ Borrow” materials from other schools’ collections; view professors’ Book Reserves; and access research databases, electronic literary texts, online periodicals, and electronic journals Rutgers subscribes. If you’re having difficulties “Ask a Librarian” on the Iris page. For other consult Rutgers Computing Services (1st floor Hill) at 973-353-5083 or write help@newark.rutgers.edu.

Where can I use computers on campus? Computer labs, funded by student fees and in heavy demand at peak times, are located in Dana Library, Engelhard Hall 311 and 313 (which has good color scanning equipment for jpg files, and the Law School library (which has good color scanners too). Print out for free, even in color (up to a point), check e-mail, and use special software such as Power Point.

In summer 2015, the campus installed nearly 700 new indoor WiFi access points and “the nation’s fastest outdoor WiFi” (choose NewarkNet_Free_Wi-Fi from your wireless device).

What are the local book stores? The U Bookstore (run by Barnes and Noble) is in Bradley Hall 1st floor, corner of Warren St. and Martin Luther King Blvd. New Jersey Books (independent; has used and new texts) is at 167 University Ave., corner of Bleecker St. (973-624-5383). Faculty tend to prefer one store or the other. Both carry Rutgers gear.

LIVING & SOCIALIZING ON CAMPUS: Talbott Apartments, on Bleecker Street just across from the Plaza, is for graduate students only, as are several floors of a newer complex, University Square, on University Ave. at Bleecker St.

The latest addition to R-N’s living spaces is 15 Washington Street, a neo-classical vintage building lavish in marble, oak, and brass that formerly housed our law school. It is now home to 333 students, including 233 graduate and professional, and 100 undergraduates. The campus Chancellor’s office has been busy renovating 15’s grand public spaces, including the magnificent Great Hall for performances, conferences, lectures, and other university-community gatherings. Contact the Director of Housing and Residence Life at 973-353-1037 or check out <http://housing.newark.rutgers.edu>. You can ask for a housing tour.
How can I meet other students outside classes? A baker’s dozen of ideas:

1. Hang out in the freshly redecorated English Department lounge on Hill 5th floor.
2. Get involved in graduate student government. Besides taking up academic concerns, this body makes decisions about special programs and social events funded by student fees. Every grad program has representatives. If you can attend afternoon meetings, you could be our EGSGA rep! Contact the Graduate School for details.
3. Even if it’s not your class day on campus, come to English Department lecture series, parties, speaker events, and the annual graduate symposium. The MFA Program hosts its Writers at Newark series on Tuesday evenings and student readings as well (see schedules at www.ncas.rutgers.edu/mfa).
4. Get involved in Gradlit listserv discussions. Or start one.
5. Write for The Observer, the campus newspaper; its editorial offices are in Robeson Center (973-353-5023). Or visit <www.rutgersobserver.com>.
6. To keep abreast of campus events of all sorts, check the Campus Events virtual bulletin board periodically at www.newark.rutgers.edu/events.
   Keep an eye out for announcements on actual bulletin boards, on flyers in clear plastic holders outside classrooms, and at the library about campus lectures, performances, film showings, and conferences. Programs of special interest are often hosted by the Center for Migration and the Global City (cmgc.newark.rutgers.edu/); the Clement Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience (www.ncas.rutgers.edu/institute-ethnicity-culture); the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies (https://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/); the Women’s and Gender Studies Program (www.ncas.rutgers.edu/womenstudies); the Robeson Center Art Gallery (1st floor); and the Rutgers-Newark School of Law (https://law.newark.rutgers.edu). The History and American Studies graduate programs sponsor annual conferences. The Institute of Jazz Studies on campus (Dana 4th floor), the Newark Museum, and Newark Public Library (both nearby, both in historic buildings) all enrich our community.
7. Stop by Starbucks in Robeson and see who’s there. After your 1,000-calorie drink, go work out or swim at the gym (see above).
8. Tutor at the Writing Center (see above) and network with your peers.
9. Find someone in your class who lives in Talbott Apartments, University Square, or 15 Washington Street and hang out with them.
10. Set up a study group with other members of your seminar. Groups also form in summers to prepare for the MA Exam.
11. Invite classmates to start up something—a music group, a poetry slam; bring a speaker to campus; edit an online literary magazine; or organize a teach-in on current political issues. Attend
a **graduate student conference** in the area together; the GS-N has some travel funds available. Watch for Gradlit e-mail with these announcements.

(12) Find out through your classmates where students are currently hanging out after class. (McGovern’s Tavern on New St., just beyond Washington St., is a good guess.)

(13) Want to meet other grad students outside class? **Go outside**! The Plaza is a great socializing space—and besides tables, it hosts legacy trees, scientific experiment plots, flowers, lawns, native grasses, and wildlife. Early Wednesday mornings during May and October, Biological Sciences hosts bird-watching tours—you’d be surprised how many species stop off here during spring and fall migration. Signage around the Plaza’s edges describes R-N as an amazingly biodiverse urban natural environment.

**TRANSPORTATION:** There’s a new shuttle bus route—the RUN Run—to/from Newark’s Penn Station and all around campus, including the parking decks, from 4 p.m. to midnight seven days a week. (For the route map and schedule, see [http://rudots.rutgers.edu/nwktransport.shtml](http://rudots.rutgers.edu/nwktransport.shtml).) An extended version of that route loops to Newark Penn Station from 8 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Planning has begun for a new “**commuter hub**” attached to Conklin Hall—a place for mixing, relaxing, and rejuvenating before and after a commute to RU-N.

**FOOD:** **Where do we eat?** The really important question!

- **Robeson Center** has a cafeteria, a salad bar, healthy pizza, a Starbucks, and a convenience store for snacks and microwavable food. (The English Department lounge microwave is available during office hours.) The **Center for Law and Justice**, an imposing modern building at the end of the grassy mall that stretches from the Rutgers Arch on University Ave. to Washington Street, has a lunch and coffee getaway spot on the lower level. When the weather is nice, make the tables in the Plaza under the trees your café.

- **University Square** sits over a row of multi-ethnic fast food eateries on University Ave. street level. Serious meals are served at **Stonsby Commons**, the newly-renovated dining hall next to the campus housing complex on Bleecker St. Stroll the Mall from University to Washington and spot **Rob’s Pizza** at the intersection with New St. Go one more block down New Street and, on the corner to the left, you’ll find healthy lunch foods at the popular **Art Kitchen**. Venture a little farther on foot and you can discover ethnic eateries, delis, pubs, and more pizza joints in this area.

- The hardy can try the campus **lunch trucks’** cheap edibles. One is usually parked in the environs of Hill Hall and another on University Ave. at the foot of the outdoor stairs up to the Plaza until 4:30 or so.

  Just beyond Newark’s Penn Station is the city’s famous **Ironbound section** for sumptuous Portuguese fare late into the evening. In fine weather, bring your brownbag lunch into the **Newark Museum’s garden** just two blocks from campus. While you’re on a study break, saunter over and have a look at the museum’s fine collections.

<StandardLetters\Guide to Life> 10/24/15