

### Rutgers University, USA

Thinking about going through the application process exactly one year ago, I would have never thought at that point that I would end up where I am now.

I truly believe that Rutgers was the perfect choice for me and that applying for it was one of the best decisions of my life.

As I was a big admirer of the US (its Politics not included) even before I left, I now feel at home there and it is a place I would rather not leave in 4/5 months. And even though this thought scares me for the time once June arrives it also makes me incredibly grateful that I am lucky enough to live through this.

I have definitely matured as a person, I can feel that I have become more independent, confident in myself and my abilities and more open to people. Also, this might sound weird, but the (sometimes extreme) friendliness of American people has inspired me to be kinder and more open to strangers and has made it easier for me to meet new people and just try to be nice to everyone, even during a bad day, as it does make a change. I am now more at ease with the thought of moving out one day, be on my own and just do things as I please.

Also, I am a little perfectionist sometimes and going through all the paperwork at the beginning and getting Rutgers to give me the correct modules was a bit of a challenge, but showed me that asking for help is never a sign of weakness but makes your life easier and that eventually most things sort themselves out no matter how much you worry.

The biggest challenge was, I believe just flying out to New York and finding my way around (even though it went surprisingly smooth) and adjusting to this new life- and teaching style.

To feel more like a "local" I try to just talk to people, if it's class mates, teachers, people in New Brunswick, its coffee shops or someone that talks to me in New York, I love to ask questions and luckily Americans love to share.

Also in my second week I started volunteering at the UNHQ in New York every Friday, this got me into the routine of going to the city, talking to exciting people and just living, or at least pretending to live the life of a person that works in New York.



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I really am happy abroad and having passed all my modules, there is nothing bad I have to say about my experience so far, except that I will have to leave at one point, which is something I now need to prepare myself for a bit mentally as to not be overwhelmed in the end.