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RIT Weekly Digest

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A Welcome Guide to International Students

What to expect and what you can do



by [James Kemper](#) on September 20

Diversity at RIT

As a student from another country I can tell you that diversity is something that many universities and colleges open up to in welcome arms and RIT is one university that does what it can to bring in more international students. As a student from a foreign background it might be a tough and arduous transition or it can be really easy, it all depends on the situation and how you handle obstacles present.

Resources on Campus

RIT has loads of resources for you as an international student and you should use the services that they offer to help with your transition and they were able to help me on that transition as well. The resource that students like us have is, RIT's International Student Services, they mainly provide help when it comes to Visa's, documentations that you might need, and information about living in Rochester. Another resource would be international House which is special interest housing focused on students who come from international background which allows can allow you to find others on campus who have been through the same transition as you are currently going through. Lastly there many clubs and organizations that focus on diversity so do the research and see what clubs might interest you as an international student. I can say that being in a club that focuses on my interests really helped me meet new friends and I was able to fit in with groups around campus I really never feel alone.

Culture Shock

Being a foreign student in a new school and a new country can be tough if you don't know what to expect you may have some culture shock. I had this when I first moved to Rochester my freshman year. It was a tough process transitioning especially when it came to getting adjusted to social norms. Another thing that felt weird was the food I had all the freedom to eat what I wanted but I still missed my mom's asian cuisine. I ended up learning to cook and try recipes that I was comfortable with and it worked out perfectly. Culture shock is perfectly normal in this situation because you aren't used to the new culture that you are experiencing. The best thing that you can start off by doing is finding people that may be facing the similar situation as you and bond with them. You may have something similar like being from the same area or having

the same love of food, so branch out and meet these new people they may know some things that you might not know. Do not be afraid of culture shock embrace it and make it into a learning experience for yourself to help you grow in this new environment. Also don't be afraid to try new things here like the food and activities if you don't you might feel unhappy with your situation so go out there and try something new.

Housing

Another issue that I faced and you might face when you first get to Rochester is the issue of finding housing. RIT can help with that by providing you with housing on campus in their many housing complexes, this is a good option because it takes the stress off of you trying to find housing. In my experience on campus housing is good but you can do better some of the housing is better than others such as University Commons versus Riverknoll. I know that you also might not want to live in the dorms because that can be a tough transition altogether it's a small room shared with another person you might not know and there are too many rules.

Another option for off campus apartments would be looking into staying at Park Point or the Province which are off campus apartments next to the RIT campus I felt that this was way too expensive for me so I decided against living in apartment from Park Point and Province. If you however do not feel like living on campus or close to campus the best option for you would be the RIT housing facebook page which has posting listed daily on people who are looking for roommates. I was actually able to find my current roommate through mutual friends and we went looking everywhere for a house. Eventually we found one through the facebook group and ended up having a lease signed for living there for a year.

Being an international student or even a US citizen from a different country can be tough at first but if you can find the right people to be around and the right resources for your personal need

then the transition will be easier. Just be sure to do your research and be prepared to learn new things everyday both in the classroom and in everyday situations. I used the resources that were made available to me to my advantage and I was able to make new friends and try new things. So go out there be adventurous and outside that bubble of yours, who knows you might find the next best thing for you here in the US good luck.