Welcome! This brief document provides the essential information that you will need to start your education in the Microbial Biology Graduate Program at Rutgers University. If you have any specific questions or need help on any matter please contact the Program Administrator Kathy Maguire [(848) 932-5642  maguire@aesop.rutgers.edu] or the Program Director Dr. Gerben Zylstra [(848) 932-6298  zylstra@aesop.rutgers.edu].

NetID and Email: If do not already have a Rutgers NetID please go to https://netid.rutgers.edu and register. This process will also give you an official Rutgers email address (@scarletmail.rutgers.edu). Your NetID is needed for almost everything at Rutgers: course registration, electronic access to the library, etc. Almost all official communication will be through email so set your default email address to something that you will check often.

Sakai: Your NetID will give you access to the file sharing site https://sakai.rutgers.edu. The Microbial Biology Graduate Program maintains a Sakai group "Microbial Biology - Graduate Students" (MBGS) where you will find program announcements and forms. Please email your NetID to Ms. Maguire so she can add you to the Microbial Biology Sakai group. All graduate courses use Sakai to disseminate course material (syllabi, course readings, grades, etc.). Most Microbial Biology Graduate Program official announcements will be through Sakai.

Orientation: The Graduate School's orientation will be August 24 at 1:00pm or August 25 at 10:00am in the Rutgers Student Center. Information is here. You only need to attend one of these two orientations. International Student Orientation is a one week mandatory program, August 24 to 29. Detailed information is at the Rutgers Center for Global Services here.

Microbial Biology Program Welcome Meeting: We will have a one hour meeting to welcome all new students to the program sometime in the first few weeks of classes. Please watch for an announcement on the MBGS Sakai site for the date, time, and place.

Safety Training: All graduate students are required to attend Laboratory Safety Training before working in a research laboratory. Once you have your NetID please sign up for one of the "Laboratory / Biological / BBP Safety Training - Combined" sessions here.

Academic Calendar: The Academic Calendar is here, the registration calendar is here, and the course schedule is here. The 2015 Fall term courses start September 1 and end December 10. Final exams are held between December 15 and 22.

Registration: Once you have a NetID you can register for the Fall semester. The registration web site is here. You must register by August 31! Courses can be dropped or added until September 15. If a course is full or if a special permission number is needed please contact Ms. Maguire for assistance. All Ph.D. students sign up for the same courses in the Fall term (see PhD Degree First Year 2015 handout). M.S. students have more options (see MS Degree First Year 2015 handout). Dr. Zylstra serves as the academic advisor for all Ph.D. and M.S. students so if you have any questions please contact him directly.

New Jersey Residency: Students should apply for New Jersey residency as soon as they are eligible in order to reduce the tuition cost. Please see the directions and forms here.

Transportation: The University has a very efficient bus system for transfer around campus. Parking permits can be obtained here. All first year courses are taught on the Cook Campus but microbiology research laboratories are located on all campuses.