

## The flag display guidelines below are noted for use at Rutgers University.

In general, and under normal circumstances, only the United States, New Jersey, and Rutgers flags are permitted to be displayed on university land or on or within university buildings. Flags must be displayed in accordance with the United States Flag Code and New Jersey Statute.

In those instances where a recognized foreign government dignitary in an official capacity is speaking, the flag of that country may be displayed in accordance with diplomatic protocol.

The university follows the United Nations Protocols when recognizing foreign governments. This includes the United Nations, its 193 members and the two observer states, The Holy See and Palestine.

Existing flag arrays, (those in place before September 1st, 2024), may remain but must comply as follows:

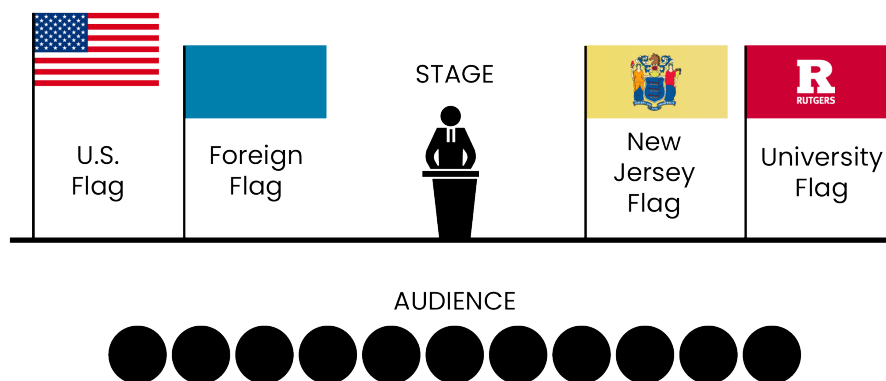
- 1 The United Nations Protocol: The UN flies its own flag as well as that of its 193 members and two observer states, The Holy See and Palestine.
- 2 Recognizing that the display of almost 200 flags may not be possible, a student in a program or school where a multination flag array is displayed, may request that the flag they identify with be represented.

### When displaying flags the following rules must be followed:

#### ▪ Display of Flags on a Stage/Platform

For major campus ceremonies and events, three flags are used on stage: the United States flag, the State of New Jersey flag, and the University flag. When displaying flags on a stage, the U.S. flag takes precedence and has the position of honor. From that point the flags are placed in descending order of importance. From the speaker's perspective, looking into the audience, the U.S. flag is located to the right (also known as stage right or house left). The New Jersey flag followed by the University flag is to the left of the speaker (known as stage left or house right). If a flag from another nation is flown, that flag is on house left to the right of the United States flag, as viewed by the audience. See the diagram below for the order.

Whenever a lectern is present, flags should be placed in line with or behind the lectern.



## ▪ Display of Foreign or Other Flags

In those instances where a recognized foreign government dignitary in an official capacity is participating in the event program, the national flag of their country should be flown on stage, if possible. It is not permitted to fly the national flag of another country on major flagpoles around campus. Foreign flags must be of equal size. When displaying the U.S. flag along with flags of several other countries, arrange the foreign flags in alphabetical order to the right of the U.S. flag, as viewed from the audience. The U.S. flag will always be furthest from the speaker. The foreign flags must never be flown on a single flag pole below the United States flag. The university follows the United Nations Protocols when recognizing foreign governments. This includes the United Nations, its 193 members, and the two observer states, The Holy See and Palestine.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International protocol prohibits the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

## ▪ Half-Staff Display of Flags on a Stage

Rutgers University observes periods of mourning proclaimed upon the death of specified government officials or upon Executive Order by the President, Governor, University President, and by the Chancellor as he/she deems appropriate (such as for remembrance of the 9/11 attacks.) To designate this period of mourning, the University flies its flags at half-staff.

The term half-staff means the position of the flag is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff or pole. The university designated departments raise and lower flags at campus flagpoles. It is the responsibility of the event/venue manager to ensure that flags displayed on a stage also denote mourning during a half-staff time period.

If a national or state period of mourning is designated, all flags on stage, not just the U.S. flag, should also show half-staff status. The exception is when flags from other nations are also displayed. As permission must be obtained from a nation before its flag is flown at half-staff, it is recommended that international flags not be flown when the flag of the United States is at half-staff.

## ▪ Display of Flags on the Same Halyard

When the U.S. flag is displayed with other flags on the same halyard the U.S. flag flies at the top. The state flag is second, the university flag flies in the lowest position. No other flags are permitted. The pole must be tall enough that no flag is flying lower than about 2/3 from the top.

Additional information can be viewed at [www.legion.org/advocacy/flag-advocacy/flag-code](http://www.legion.org/advocacy/flag-advocacy/flag-code)

## ▪ NJ Statute on Flag Displays

### **52:3-4. Display of foreign flag unaccompanied by national flag prohibited; exception; violation misdemeanor.**

It shall be unlawful to display the flag or emblem of any foreign state or country either on public or private property within this state, unless such foreign flag or emblem be accompanied by a national flag of the United States of America, of at least equal dimensions; but whenever a foreigner becomes the guest of the United States, the state, or any city or municipality, upon the proclamation of the governor or the mayor of any such city or municipality, the flag of the country of which such public guest shall be a citizen may be displayed upon any state, county, or municipal building without being accompanied by a national flag as above provided.