

Open Forum
Fall 2020
Immigration
Update for
Students

Tufts International Center
August 5, 2020



Before We Begin

- Please mute your audio
- Chat room will be disabled until we start the Q&A period
- Refer to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19> for ongoing updates
- PDF version of this Powerpoint will be available on the International Center's COVID-19 site under "Open Forum Resources"
- Recording will be sent to today's registered participants

Today's Topics

- Announcements
- Q&A

Immigration Announcements

- **Updated FAQs at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19/faqs-fall-2020-plans>**
 - Transfer students staying outside US
 - Virtual internships
 - F-1 visa requirement for entry into the US

Immigration FAQs – Entering US

- **For continuing students (with valid F-1 visa) trying to come back to US from non-Schengen country, will students need anything more than their usual documentation to be able to come to US, if they're able to get a flight?**
 - Standard entry requirements will apply to F-1 students (passport, I-20, F-1 visa). However, COVID-19 restrictions on entry to the US still apply to persons coming directly to the US from China, Iran, and Brazil.
- **Is there a possibility that the current plan for Fall 2020 will be changed?**
 - As far as immigration requirements for Fall 2020, we believe that most of the major rules for students are set for now. There are some procedures that still need to be worked out for transfer students staying outside the US, as well as some special topics.
- **What are the differences between March 9 guidance and July 24 guidance?**
 - The March 9 guidance was specifically about the Spring (and Summer) 2020 terms. The July 24 guidance extends the March 9 guidance to the Fall. It confirms rules about new students and 100% online programs (not permitted) and enrollment requirements for continuing and transfer students who were in the US on March 9 and continuing in their programs for Fall 2020.

Immigration FAQs

- **Are we (continuing international students) allowed to take classes outside United States as long as we are enrolled in a full time basis? Are there any consequences of doing so? (i.e. will it affect our visa status, I-20, SEVIS, OPT/CPT, 5-month rule, etc?)**
 - Yes. There are no visa restrictions on doing on-line classes from outside the US. If you are a student who already had an active SEVIS record this past spring, registering full-time this fall will help us to maintain your SEVIS record in active status “as if” you were in the US.
- **Are we allowed to take online courses only outside United States?**
- **Are we allowed to take hybrid courses outside United States?**
- **Do we still need to ask for our School/Department's permission to take courses outside United States?**
 - As mentioned above, there are no visa restrictions on taking on-line classes outside the US. You can take hybrid classes as well, but hybrid classes have an in-person component – you would need to work it out with your instruction about how to satisfy class requirements. We do recommend that you talk to your department if your plan is to be outside the US for the Fall 2020 semester.

New Students

- New students are students who were not in US as F-1 students during Spring 2020 and are planning to start their programs this Fall 2020 semester
- **Fall 2020 Guidelines:**
 - Cannot come to US as F-1 students are 100% online (however it is permitted to start online classes from home country)
 - Allowed to come to US as F-1 students if classes are not 100% online (must include in-person or hybrid classes)
 - Keep in mind COVID-19 travel restrictions, visa delays, etc.

Continuing Students

- Continuing students are students who were already in F-1 student status during Spring 2020 at Tufts and are continuing on in their programs during Fall 2020
- **Fall 2020 Guidelines:**
 - Allowed to re-enter / remain in US as F-1 students as long as they are enrolled full-time for Fall 2020
 - Although in-person / hybrid courses are encouraged, permitted to take those classes that are most helpful for degree progress and personal safety

Transfer Students

- Transfers students are students who were already in F-1 student status during Spring 2020 (March 9) at another school (high school, college, or university) in the US and are starting programs at Tufts in Spring 2020
- **Fall 2020 Guidelines:**
 - Transfer students still inside US may transfer F-1 status for Fall 2020; may take whichever classes are best for Fall 2020 semester and maintain F-1 status as long as they are full-time
 - Transfer students attending Tufts @ BNU will have F-1 status maintained as long as they maintain full-time enrollment
 - Transfer students who will remain outside the US but register for full-time classes on-line for Fall 2020: **transfer procedures will require us to delay the transfer process until after the Fall semester begins. We will need to issue deferred I-20s for Spring 2021.**

Q&A on Housing, Quarantines / Testing

- Any recent changes to the move-in policy announced last week?
- What happens if international students who are living on-campus cannot make it to campus during the move-in dates?
- Does Tufts have a quarantine / testing policy for off-campus students that's different from on-campus students?
- Massachusetts requirements versus Tufts requirements – what are the differences?

Resources on COVID-19 and Campus Reopening

- <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu>
- covid19@tufts.edu

Thank You

- Send questions to internationalcenter@tufts.edu
- Thank you for coming!