

Open Forum  
Fall 2020  
Immigration  
Update

Tufts International Center  
October 23, 2020



## Before We Begin

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

## Today's Topics

- International Center Updates
- Immigration News
- US Election
- Spring 2021 Immigration Rules
- Q&A

# International Center Updates

- Services will stay virtual / remote for remainder of Fall 2020
- Look to our Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/TuftsInternationalCenter>) and our web site (<https://icenter.tufts.edu>) for information about programming and events
- Office closings:
  - Wednesday, November 11
  - Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27
  - Wednesday, December 23 (early closing)
  - Thursday, December 24 – Friday, January 1 (winter break)

# Immigration News

- **International Travel**

- Many US consulates have reopened partially, but still visa operations remain closed or limited in certain countries
- No changes to US COVID-19 travel restrictions since summer
- Arrivals from Schengen area / UK & Ireland – automatic national interest exceptions apply to F-1 students only
- Travel conditions remain highly sensitive to changing COVID-19 developments

- **US federal government rule changes**

- Proposed elimination of F-1 and J-1 “flexible” status to “fixed” status”
- Current Changes to H-1B work visa requirements

# International Center Response Process in Rule Change

Intl Center reviews and analyzes rules for short-term and long-term impact on the University

Communicates issues and sends recommendations to University leadership, deans, faculty, etc.

Works with Partners (national associations, other universities and colleges) to develop policy response and strategy

Holds Open Forums, communicates with students and scholars

## F-1 / J-1 Duration of Status Proposed Rule

- Government proposal to change how F-1 and J-1 legal status is granted and organized
- Legal status would be have fixed time limits and require students and scholars to apply to the US government for extensions if they need more time
- International Center position: we are opposed to this rule, which will create unnecessary expense and administrative burden on our students and scholars, who already have to comply with multiple rules and regulations
- **The rule is in a proposal stage, which means that it does not apply yet. The government is accepting public comments and must change the rule in response to those comments – not clear when the final version, if any, will be issued.**

## **November 3 US Presidential Election**

- US presidential election will take place on Tuesday, November 3
- Take an anonymous poll: Are you concerned about the outcome?
- November 6 Open Forum – election results will be discussed



# Spring 2021 Immigration Rules

- Immigration rules for Spring 2021 will be substantially the same as Fall 2020

Fall 2020 Status & Spring 2021 Intention	Spring 2021 Requirements	Notes
In the US in F-1 status during Fall 2020, coming back to US for Spring 2021	Enroll full-time, but no specific requirements on types of classes	Priority is to take classes that help you make progress toward your goals
Outside US during Fall 2020, coming to US for Spring 2021	Enroll full-time, must take at least one <u>in-person</u> or <u>hybrid</u> class	
Outside US during Fall 2020, remaining outside US during Spring 2021	No visa requirements or restrictions	Consult with academic advisors regarding course selection

## Pre-Submitted Questions

- There is talk about shifting from all in-person classes to online classes after Thanksgiving break. This may be university-wide, by school, or class-by-class. In the case that this happens, will my F-1 status as an international student be affected?
- **No. Your status will not change if the decisions are being made by the University or your school in response to worsening COVID-19 conditions to complete the rest of the semester in an online format.**

## Pre-Submitted Questions

- I'm an F-I Arts & Sciences / SOE / SMFA student studying on campus this semester. I have a F-I visa that is valid until next year. I wanted to ask if there are any actions that I should take in order to be here again this spring semester. What should I do regarding the intent form for Spring 2021?
- **Provide your best guess answer about your intentions. If you have a valid visa and plan to come back to campus for Spring 2021, indicate your intention as such.**

# November 6 Open Forum

- **9am, Friday November 6**
- Primary topics:
  - Post-US Presidential election discussion
  - Josh Hartman, Director of Residential Life

# Thank You

- Send questions to [internationalcenter@tufts.edu](mailto:internationalcenter@tufts.edu)
- COVID-19 related news: <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu>

Thank you for coming!