

Open Forum  
Fall 2020  
Immigration  
Update

Tufts International Center  
November 6, 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

- Updates and News
  - COVID-19 and Campus Developments
  - Scams
- Josh Hartman, Director, Office of Residential Life
  - Spring Intent Form
  - Spring Housing
- US Election
- Spring 2021 Immigration Rules
- Q&A

# International Center Updates

- Office closings:
  - Wednesday, November 11
  - Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27
  - Wednesday, December 23 (early closing)
  - Thursday, December 24 – Friday, January 1 (winter break)
- Online advising appointments: go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/contact/appointments>

## Travel Signatures, Extensions, and OPT

- Request a travel signature or extension of your I-20 / DS-2019 online
- Updated travel signatures I-20s will be delivered electronically (via Email), allowing you to print out the updated I-20s
- Students completing this semester should apply for OPT now: go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/fl-opt>

# Scams

- There have been reporting indicating an increase in the number of scams recently, and these scams have become very sophisticated
- COVID-19 scams
  - Fake emails promising COVID-19 emergency funds
- Job and Internship scams
  - Off-campus job and internships offers that seem very real – but are not
  - Never take a job or internship that requires you to put up your own money up front – e.g., pay an application fee, buy equipment (even if there is a promise for reimbursement later), etc.

# COVID-19 Updates

- Increase in COVID-19 cases at Tufts
- Announcement regarding 10pm advisory
- Thanksgiving break

## Pre-Submitted Questions

- **Q:** What kind of flexibility is available to international students to travel to the US in light of a possible lockdown? In case of a lockdown in the US where international flights are canceled during December-January, would international students be able to travel to the US during the semester?
- **A:** While a national lockdown of the US is unlikely, we can't rule out the possibility of additional COVID-19 related measures that may restrict or limit travel to the US – especially as the COVID crisis continues to expand and intensify in certain parts of the world (including the US). We will have to wait for the actual situation to become clearer. However, in the event that students are delayed entry to the US for Spring 2021 (i.e., late arrival), we will work with you individually to ensure you are able to come to resume on-campus or hybrid classes.



# US Presidential Election

- As of this morning (Friday, Nov 6), the US Presidential Election remains undecided
- Please share your thoughts, comments, or concerns

## Thank You

- **November 20 Open Forum will be canceled**
- **Next Forum: 9am EST, Friday December 4**
- Send questions to [internationalcenter@tufts.edu](mailto:internationalcenter@tufts.edu)
- COVID-19 related news: <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu>

Thank you for coming!