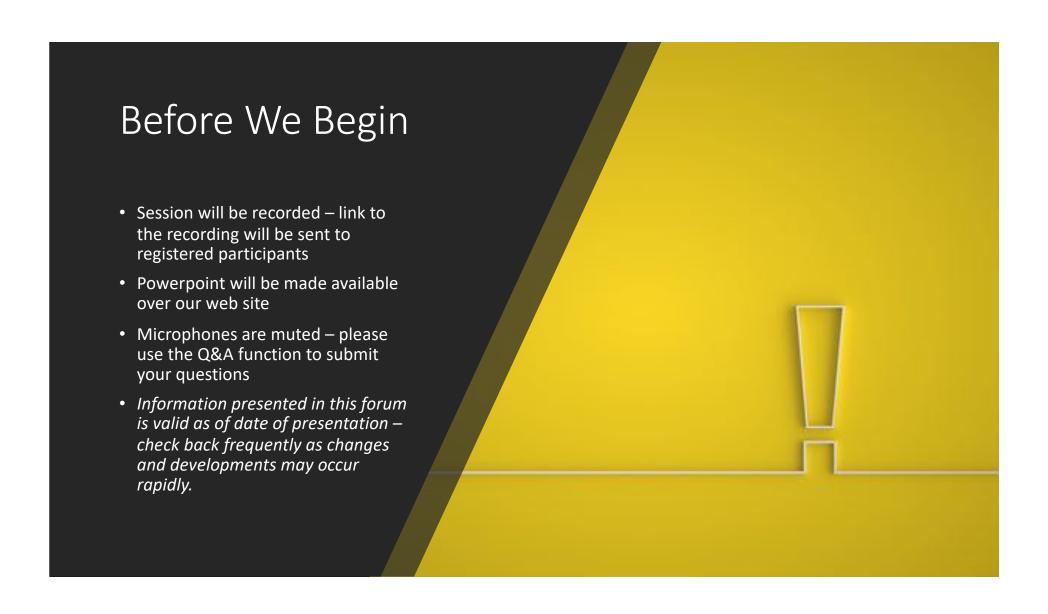
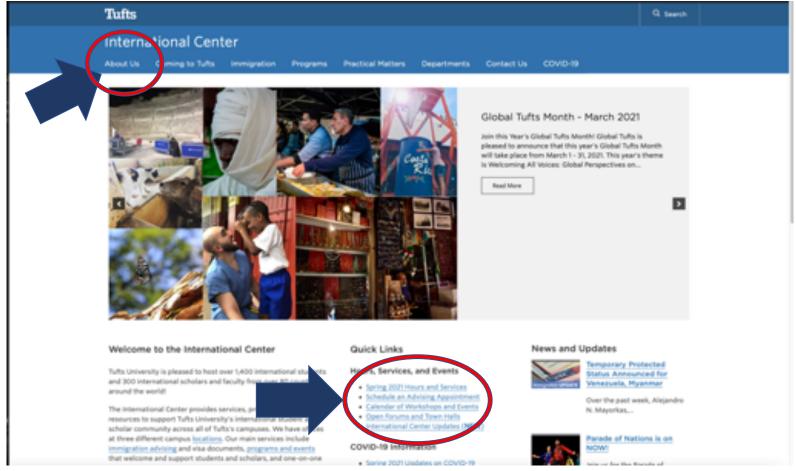


Spring Immigration Open Forum

March 19, 2021



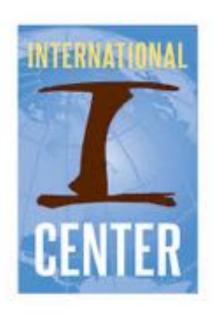


https://icenter.tufts.edu - Links to Open Forum resources, email updates, and more

Agenda

- 1. Opening Remarks
- 2. Quick Announcements
- 3. COVID-19 Developments
- 4. International Travel
- 5. New or Newly-Arriving Students
- 6. Current and Completing Students
- 7. International Center Portal
- 8. Scholar and Employment Issues
- 9. Q&A





Opening Remarks

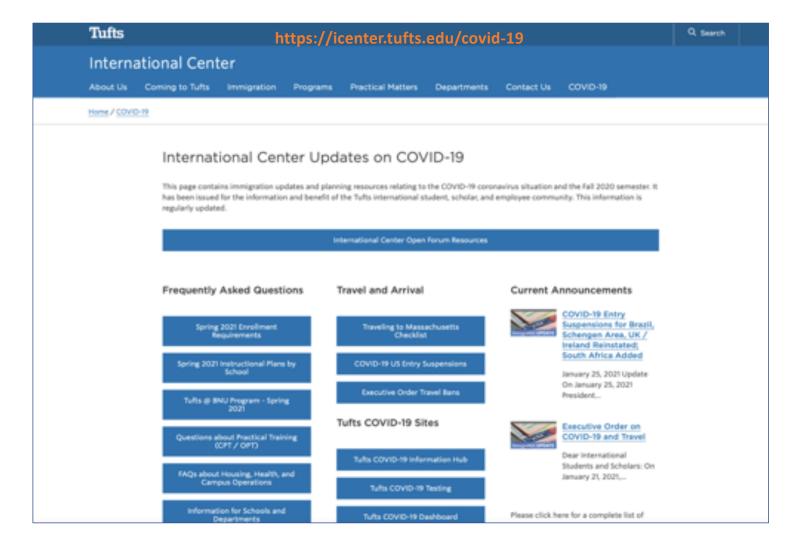
- Opening Remarks
- International Services for Spring / Summer / Fall 2021
 - Still remote for Spring 2021, Summer 2021
 - TBD for Fall 2021
- Contact Information
 - Email us at internationalcenter@tufts.edu
 - Check our web site at https://icenter.tufts.edu
 - Make an online advising appointment at https://icenter.tufts.edu/appointments

Quick <u>Announce</u>ments

- Grab-n-Go Event for Undergraduate
 Students next Wednesday (March 24th) at 1pm at the International
 Center, 20 Sawyer Avenue
- International Center Graphic Contest
 - April 30, 2021 deadline
 - Go to our web site at <u>https://icenter.tufts.edu</u> for details
- We're on Instagram!
 @tuftsinternationalcenter
- Next Forum
 - Friday, April 16 at 9am EDT
 - · Look for announcement on our web site

COVID-19 Developments

- COVID-19 situation continues to evolve rapidly due to vaccinations but also resurgent cases in different regions
- US wide variance in state approaches to COVID
- Massachusetts Travel Advisory in effect March 22nd
 - https://www.mass.gov/alerts/travelorder-notice#1820506
- Continued need for masking, physical distancing, and other protections
- Watch for University announcements and go to https://coronavirus.tufts.edu for comprehensive information about Tufts's COVID policies



International Travel

- Travel is still heavily restricted -COVID-19 entry bans still in effect
 - Possible relaxation of certain travel bans (Europe, Brazil, Canada / Mexico) by mid-May
 - No news on China, Iran
- US visa operations resuming in some countries, limited to closed in others
- COVID-19 test requirements for international travel, including entry into US

New Students or Newly-Arriving Students

- I-20/DS-2019 issuance (Visa Document Request) process for remote students making initial arrival, and for new students
- Fall 2021 arrival protocols
 - What we know about testing and quarantines – still under review
 - Orientation
- Off-campus Housing Searches
 - https://offcampus.tufts.edu
 - Additional resources from International Center available in mid-April

Current and Completing Students

OPT Filing Season

- 113 applications processed so far for Spring 2021 graduates
- Apply asap! USCIS processing times between 3-5 months
- Attend an upcoming OPT and/or STEM Extension workshop (go to Calendar on our web site)
- Reminder: Must be in US to apply

CPT requirements

- One full academic year in F-1 status
- Students who started program remotely may not be eligible yet – contact us if you are not sure!

Tax Season

- Filing deadline of April 15 for anyone who was in the US in calendar year 2020 EVEN IF NO INCOME.
- Sprintax information sent to all students, contact us if not received

Summer 2021 On-Campus Housing

- Hardship application process will be sent out to students this month
- If you cannot return home due to issues with visa, travel restrictions, cost, etc. and think you might need housing, apply.

International Center Portal

(icenterportal.tufts.edu)

- Used to update student personal and employment information
- International Center Portal is active once a student deposits and activates their SIS record and Tufts email
- For all technical issues (difficulty with log in, password, or file uploads) please contact us at <u>InternationalCenter@tufts.edu</u> with your Student ID number
- New students receiving a "SIS record not found" error upon login should email <u>Patrick.Himes@tufts.edu</u> (Medford and Cummings campuses) or <u>Neriliz.Soto_Gonzalez@tufts.edu</u> (Boston campus)

Scholar and Employment Issues

- H-1B entry ban in effect through March 31 (only applies to new H-1B applicants)
- Immigrant visa ban has been revoked by the Biden Administration
- COVID-19 entry suspensions apply to H-1, J-1s although entry may be possible for urgent circumstances through the national interest exception process
- Limited visa operations may impact travel
- Take note of Tufts Travel Policy



