



Office of the Provost  
International Center

# Spring Immigration Open Forum

March 19, 2021

# Before We Begin

- Session will be recorded – link to the recording will be sent to registered participants
- Powerpoint will be made available over our web site
- Microphones are muted – please use the Q&A function to submit your questions
- *Information presented in this forum is valid as of date of presentation – check back frequently as changes and developments may occur rapidly.*



The image shows a screenshot of the Tufts International Center website. At the top, the Tufts logo is on the left, and a search bar is on the right. Below the logo, the text "International Center" is displayed in a large font. A red circle highlights this text, and a blue arrow points to it from the left. Below the main header, a navigation menu contains the following items: "About Us", "Coming to Tufts", "Immigration", "Programs", "Practical Matters", "Departments", "Contact Us", and "COVID-19".

The main content area features a large collage of images on the left, including a woman in a white headscarf, a man in a blue shirt, and a woman in a blue shirt. To the right of the collage is a section titled "Global Tufts Month - March 2021" with a "Read More" button. Below the collage, there are three columns of content:

- Welcome to the International Center**: A paragraph describing the center's mission to support international students and faculty.
- Quick Links**: A section with a red circle around the heading "Hours, Services, and Events". Below it are four links: "Spring 2021 Hours and Services", "Schedule an Advising Appointment", "Calendar of Workshops and Events", and "Open Forums and Town Halls".
- News and Updates**: A section with two news items, each with a small image and a "Read More" link.

At the bottom of the page, there is a "COVID-19 Information" section with a link to "Spring 2021 Updates on COVID-19".

<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](mailto:internationalcenter@tufts.edu)
  - Check our web site at <https://icenter.tufts.edu>
  - Make an online advising appointment at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/appointments>

## Quick Announcements

- **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 <https://icenter.tufts.edu> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - <https://www.mass.gov/alerts/travel-order-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 Center Updates on COVID-19

This page contains immigration updates and planning resources relating to the COVID-19 coronavirus situation and the fall 2020 semester. It has been issued for the information and benefit of the Tufts international student, scholar, and employee community. This information is regularly updated.

### International Center Open Forum Resources

#### Frequently Asked Questions

[Spring 2021 Enrollment Requirements](#)

[Spring 2021 Instructional Plans by School](#)

[Tufts @ BMU Program - Spring 2021](#)

[Questions about Practical Training \(OPT / OPT\)](#)

[FAQs about Housing, Health, and Campus Operations](#)

[Information for Schools and Departments](#)

#### Travel and Arrival

[Traveling to Massachusetts Checklist](#)

[COVID-19 US Entry Suspensions](#)

[Executive Order Travel Bans](#)

#### Tufts COVID-19 Sites

[Tufts COVID-19 Information Hub](#)

[Tufts COVID-19 Testing](#)

[Tufts COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

#### Current Announcements



[COVID-19 Entry Suspensions for Brazil, Schengen Area, UK / Ireland Reinstated; South Africa Added](#)

January 25, 2021 Update  
On January 25, 2021  
President...



[Executive Order on COVID-19 and Travel](#)

Dear International Students and Scholars: On January 21, 2021,...

Please click [here](#) for a complete list of



# 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](http://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 [InternationalCenter@tufts.edu](mailto:InternationalCenter@tufts.edu) **with your Student ID number**
- New students receiving a "SIS record not found" error upon login should email [Patrick.Himes@tufts.edu](mailto:Patrick.Himes@tufts.edu) (Medford and Cummings campuses) or [Neriliz.Soto\\_Gonzalez@tufts.edu](mailto:Neriliz.Soto_Gonzalez@tufts.edu) (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

A glass hourglass with white sand is positioned on a light-colored wooden surface. The top bulb of the hourglass is partially filled with a yellowish liquid. In the background, a portion of a silver laptop is visible. A dark grey diagonal overlay covers the right side of the image, containing the text 'Q&A Time' in white.

Q&A Time



Thank You  
for Coming!

**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

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International Center