



Office of the Provost
International Center

International Center Open Forum

April 16, 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 with little advance notice*

Agenda

- I-20 Processing
- Visa Operations
- COVID-19 Entry Suspensions
- COVID Testing and Vaccination - Travel
- Vaccination Requirements and Campus Arrival
- Arriving from China
- Final Questions & Answers

I-20 Processing

- The International Center is currently processing I-20 visa certificates for Fall 2021 arrival
 - (Exception: School of Dental Medicine I-20 issuance temporarily on hold while waiting for TUSDM approval)
- If you are planning to come for Fall 2021, apply for an I-20 even if you are not yet certain about visas, travel, or other conditions
 - If you later have to defer attendance or will have a late arrival, we can make adjustments as needed
- Send an email to Patrick.Himes@tufts.edu or Neriliz.Soto_Gonzalez@tufts.edu if you have problems accessing the International Center Portal

Visa Operations

- US consulates worldwide have slowly started to resume services in many, but not all countries
- Major gaps remain: US consulates in China, in particular, are still largely shut down or available only for US citizen services and other very specific types of visa situations
- Rumored resumption of consulate and visa operations in July, but this is **not confirmed**
- REMEMBER: If you already have a valid F-1 visa from a previous school, you do not need to get a new visa even if it was for an earlier school – you only need to get a new I-20 from Tufts
 - However, keep in mind COVID-19 entry suspensions (see next slide)

COVID-19 Entry Suspensions

- Please remember that the US still has COVID-19 entry suspensions on persons coming to the US from **China, Brazil, Iran, South Africa, and Western Europe** (Schengen Area + UK & Ireland)
- If you were physically present in these areas at any time during the 14 days prior to coming to the US, you are barred from entry even if you have a valid visa – you must first go to a country or region not included on this list for at least 14 days before coming to the US
- ONLY exception at this time are F-1 students only coming to the US from Western Europe
- No official confirmation about when these restrictions will be removed

COVID Test & Vaccination Before Travel to US

- The US at this time requires proof of a negative COVID-19 test result based on a COVID test taken at least three days (72 hours) prior to boarding your international flight
- Airlines are required to request documentation – may vary from country to country
- Proof of vaccination not required at this time as a condition of entry into the US
- Discussions of ‘vaccine passport’ still taking place, not clear if they will be required or recommended for Fall 2021 arrival
- Follow your home country and international airline guidance on travel

Vaccinations and Campus Arrival

- Tufts has not decided or announced a Fall 2021 vaccination policy
- While an increasing number of schools are requiring students to be vaccinated for Fall 2021, Tufts is still reviewing scientific data and policy options
- Final decision may rest on how the pandemic continues to evolve; US and Massachusetts state guidance and requirements may affect what Tufts needs to do
- You are encouraged to get vaccinations if available to you currently

Late Starts, Deferrals, January Arrival

- Different options may exist for students if you cannot arrive by start of classes in September
- Options will depend on whether you are an undergraduate or graduate / professional student
- **Undergraduate students** asked to arrive on campus for Fall 2021, with some accommodations for late arrivals, remote classes, participating in BNU (China), or taking gap year – however, students cannot *start* in January (no ‘gap semester’)
- **Graduate / professional students** – more flexibility depending on exact program, contact your department to discuss options

Arriving from China

- **Students coming to US directly from China will need to take into account**
 - Visa operations still shut down
 - COVID-19 entry suspension
- **Options**
 - **BNU:** Tufts is currently in discussions with Beijing Normal University to continue our 2021-2022 arrangement, not confirmed yet
 - **Deferral or Late Arrival:** depends on program / school
- **Advocacy:** Active discussions and efforts within Tufts to work with other schools to advocate for improved visa options for students coming from China

International Center

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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 @ BNU Program - Spring 2021](#)
- [Questions about Practical Training \(CPT / OPT\)](#)
- [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

Pre-Orientation and Orientation

- Pre-Orientation for undergraduates will almost certainly be entirely or mostly on-line / virtual, but look for announcements
- Orientation activities are by school – most events and information sessions will still be virtual

Upcoming Events

- April 23 Off-campus Housing and International Students webinar – go to our home page at <https://icenter.tufts.edu> to find registration information
- Mid-May (TBD) – next Open Forum
- Look to our web site for more updates and announcements as they become available

Q&A



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>

Facebook: [/tuftsinternationalcenter](#)

Instagram: [/tuftsinternationalcenter](#)

Thank You for Coming!

Tufts International Center

<https://icenter.tufts.edu>



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