As the 2002-2003 school year begins, the staff at the International Center would like to welcome all new students, faculty and research scholars! Tufts is an institution that offers a warm and welcoming environment for all! We hope that this will be your experience as well.

If you do not already know, there are three separate campuses at Tufts: Medford, Boston and Grafton. The International Center is located in Medford but services the international community on all three campuses.

The International Center, also known as the I-Center, can provide you with immigration information regarding your legal status while at Tufts. You should never feel uncomfortable in approaching the Center for immigration advice. This is our role. We are here to help you understand your legal obligations in the U.S., but it is also YOUR responsibility to keep informed! The staff at the International Center works for Tufts, we do NOT work for the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS). Ask the International Center any questions regarding your immigration status before approaching the INS. And finally, we know that many of you will seek advice from friends and colleagues who have been in the U.S. for a while. Although you can certainly receive good advice from colleagues, we remind you that you will get the most current and accurate information from the International Center. INS regulations change and they may be quite different from the time your colleague remembers!

In addition to the immigration services offered by the I-Center, we are available for advising/counseling in the area of cultural adjustment and settling-in to life in the U.S. We are used to answering questions on all topics.

Communicating with the I-Center: There are several ways in which you can reach the staff at the I-Center. The first way is to come by in person. We are located at 20 Sawyer Ave on the Medford campus. You are welcome to drop by to ask a question. If it is determined that your question needs a more in-depth response, we will recommend that you set up an appointment with an appropriate I-Center staff person. You can reach us by either walking in, phoning or e-mailing us at internationalcenter@tufts.edu. The I-Center website, at http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter, is another source of information.

We hope that your first year at Tufts is a wonderful one, and that the International Center will be a valuable resource in making your year a success! On behalf of the staff, we look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,
Jane Etish-Andrews
Director

To All Incoming Students

The International Center requires copies of all your immigration documents (visa stamp, Form I-20 or IAP-66, I-94 card, passport with identity and expiration date page) as well as your current address for our files. If you miss the Immigration Meeting at International Orientation or International Graduate Student Orientation, you must attend a session on Tuesday, September 10th, from 3:30PM-4:00PM, or 4:00PM-4:30PM. Please contact the I-Center for location and sign up.
The International Club (I-Club)

The International Club (I-Club) is a very active cultural and social organization whose primary goal is to promote intercultural understanding and exchange throughout the Tufts community. It also works to raise financial aid money for undergraduate international students. The I-Club plans such events as barbecues, semi-formal dances, cultural evenings, foreign films and the annual Intercultural Festival. Watch for notes in "The Daily" and flyers around campus for information about upcoming events! For additional information you may contact the I-Club President, Jose J. Vicens at jose.vicens@tufts.edu. I-Club elections are held in the fall.

Student Organizations Fair

Student Organizations Fair
Monay, September 9th, from 11 am until 4 pm at the Mayer Campus Center. If you're interested in joining a student organization, this is the time to do it! For further information, call the Student Activities Office at 627-3212.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

The International House, located at 13 Sawyer Avenue, is a residence made up of undergraduate students from around the globe, including the U.S. I-House members often sponsor international dinners, lectures, and parties. The philosophy of the I-House supports an equal balance of both U.S. and international student participants and encourages intercultural exchange. This year, the I-House celebrates its 30th anniversary. Look for specific events planned by the House residents honoring this occasion!

Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) was formed to address the many issues all graduate students face, regardless of discipline. The GSC serves as liaison to the administration and faculty of the Graduate School. Additionally, the GSC organizes numerous social events and publishes a newsletter called "The Grad Rag". To share your concerns or to become involved, stop by the Graduate Student Council Office at West Hall, basement level or contact the GSC's President, Kellie A. Donovan, at 617/627-3576. For additional information about the GSC and how to get on the mailing list, check out their website at: http://ase.tufts.edu/gsc.

Chinese Students and Scholars Association

Since 1992, the Tufts Chinese Students and Scholars Association's mission has been to help foster communication and interaction among Tufts Chinese students and scholars, their families and friends, and between the Chinese and other students at Tufts. TCSSA has organized many social events, such as a celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival, Karaoke, potluck parties, Chinese movies, soccer and volleyball games.

If you have questions regarding TCSSA or would like to be updated about events, please contact TCSSA's President Xinxian Deng by e-mail at xdeng01@emerald.tufts.edu. Check out the TCSSA website at http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa.

Indian Society at Tufts

The mission of the Indian Student Association at Tufts (ISAT) is to foster greater interaction among graduate students of Indian origin; to provide all possible help and support to incoming graduate students of Indian origin; to enable them to transition comfortably into their new environment; to provide a convenient forum for them to share their experiences and discuss pertinent issues; to represent, promote and protect the interests of the graduate students of Indian origin at the University level; and to create an awareness among the Indian student community about the programs, environment and educational opportunities at Tufts. For more information about ISAT and their upcoming events contact: Lakshmi Subramanian at lakshmi.subramanian@tufts.edu, or visit the website at http://ase.tufts.edu/isat.
YOU MUST INFORM INS OF YOUR U.S. ADDRESS

The Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) requires that you notify them of your U.S. address. You must do this within 10 days of your arrival in the U.S. as well as within 10 days of any subsequent address change while in the U.S. Please inform INS of your address change by completing Form AR-11. The address to mail the form to is listed at the bottom of the form. Be sure to keep a copy of the completed form for your files. Failure to comply with this law could result in serious penalties. You can download this form from http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/update-law.asp You can also obtain this form at the International Center.

APPLYING FOR A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

http://www.ssa.gov

Non-immigrant International Students, Faculty & Research Scholars, and their dependents who are legally eligible to work, as per their immigration status, are required to apply for a U.S. Social Security card. To obtain a Social Security card, you must visit a Social Security Administration office. The telephone number for all Social Security offices is 1-800-772-1213. They are all open 9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

If you are on the Medford Campus, the closest Social Security office is located at 240 Elm Street, in Davis Square, Somerville. You may also visit the Malden Social Security office. They are located at Malden City Hall, 200 Pleasant Street, Room 215 (across from the Malden “T” station – on the orange line).

If you are on the Grafton Campus, you may visit the Social Security office at 51 Murdle Street in Madison Place Plaza in Worcester.

If you are on the Boston Campus, you may visit the Social Security office located at the O’Neil Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston.

When you visit the Social Security office, you will need to present the following:
- A Social Security Application form, which you can download from http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.html;
- a valid passport;
- I-94 card (small white card usually stapled to your passport);
- a valid visa document (Form IAP-66, Form I-20, Form I-797, Employment Authorization Document, etc.);
- Students will also need a work authorization letter from the International Center;*
- Faculty or Research Scholars may need to present their contract, invitation or form letter issued to them by their Tufts sponsoring department.

*Newly-arrived students will not be able to obtain a work authorization letter until they have been in the U.S. for a one-month period. All questions regarding your work eligibility should be addressed to our office.

It is advisable that you wait a couple of weeks after your arrival in the U.S. before applying for a Social Security card. The reason is that the Social Security office will need to verify your immigration status on the Immigration & Naturalization Service’s (INS) database system. It takes at least a couple of weeks after your arrival before this information can be accessed electronically by the Social Security office. If, when you visit the Social Security office, you’re not yet listed on the INS database system, the Social Security office will request verification from the local Immigration office in Boston. This is done by mail and could take 6-8 weeks. The Social Security office can only approve you for a Social Security Number after they have verified your immigration status. Once the Social Security office has cleared you for a number, it will take an additional 2-3 weeks for you to receive the Social Security card. Please notify the International Center of your Number. You will not be able to be paid by the Tufts Payroll office until you have obtained a Social Security Number.
How do I make sure that my F-1 visa status is maintained?

**Answer:** There are several things that you need to do to maintain your visa status. You must:

- Keep your passport valid at all times.
- Pursue a full course of study (3 or more credits for undergrads and graduates, or 2 credits plus a TA or RA for graduate students).
- Keep I-20 valid at all times (Do not let it expire). For reference on the expiration date, see Item #5 in your I-20: "complete studies no later than (date) _____."
- Follow specific procedures if you transfer, change your degree level, or extend the duration of your program.
- Work no more than 20 hours per week ON CAMPUS during the academic year.
- Do not work off-campus without proper authorization.

If you have any questions about your visa status, contact the International Center.

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**Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)**

As of January 30, 2003, all international students and scholars who are studying or working in the U.S. on the F-1 student non-immigrant visa or the J-1 Exchange Visitor visa will become a part of the Immigration & Naturalization (INS) SEVIS tracking system. This is an electronic reporting system which will connect Tufts information systems to the INS. This is a federal law and Tufts will need to be in compliance. Currently many departments at Tufts are working together to create systems that will allow Tufts to be ready for SEVIS.

Most important for students and exchange visitors (students and scholars) is to be aware of the end date of the visa document, (Form I-20 or Form IAP-66/DS-2019) and to pursue a full-time program. Any questions should be directed to the International Center. Finally, there are more delays for foreign nationals from certain countries in securing visa stamps when applying for admission to the U.S. This complication may affect travel decisions. Again, consult the I-Center staff with questions. We will keep you posted of all updates pertaining to your legal status in the U.S. via our website or through a direct mailing.
WHO IS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT TUFTS?

You are presently a member of our growing international community at Tufts University! During the 2001-2002 academic year there were:

- Undergraduate International Students: 344
- Graduate International Students: 277
- International Faculty/Researchers: 206
- Exchange, Special Students, Practical Trainees, and English as a Second Language Students: 238
- Total International Population: 1065

Last year there were 100 countries represented. The 10 countries with the largest number of international students, faculty and scholars at Tufts were (in descending order):

- China
- India
- Canada
- Korea
- Japan
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Greece
- France

INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATION PROGRAM

For those graduate students on the Medford campus who are interested in improving their English and learning more about American culture, the International Center offers students an opportunity to meet one hour per week with a “conversation partner” who is a Tufts staff person, faculty member or student. This is a great way in which to meet Americans outside of your academic studies as well as to have a chance to develop a friendship with an American.

Some comments from past participants might provide a better understanding of what the program is really all about:

“At first, I expected a conversation partner as an English teacher. Yet I realized it is more interesting for me to share my culture with someone who is interested in it. Since we are friends now, we’ll keep in touch... Thank you... It was fun!” - International student from Japan

“I have had a wonderful experience from the Conversation Program... We are both very interested in other cultures and both willing to share both the positives and negatives of our respective cultures.”

-American partner

If you are interested in this program please contact Monica Rodriguez, International Student Advisor Assistant, at the International Center (x7-3458) or by e-mail at monica.rodriguez@tufts.edu and/or sign up at International Graduate Student Orientation.
Financial Resources

LAILA MOSHIRI YAZDI
MEMORIAL FUND

This fund was established in memory of a former Tufts international student, Laila Moshiri Yazdi. Laila, who was from Iran, was a senior majoring in History at the time she passed away in 1982. She was well-known and well-liked on campus. Her father donated her spring tuition to establish a loan fund for foreign students in need of short-term help. Since its inception, the fund has been used often and is truly appreciated by students in need.

Small, short-term emergency loans ($500 or less) are available to all Medford international students (except Fletcher international students) through this fund. Applications are available at the International Center.

OLIVER CHAPMAN MEMORIAL
EMERGENCY LOAN FUND

In the spring of 1993, the International Scholarship Committee established this loan fund. The fund is named in honor of Oliver Chapman, an international student from Panama who passed away in 1992. He was an International Orientation Host Advisor and was very active in the international community. The fund is intended to assist undergraduate international students with tuition payments during times of hardship in their home country. The amount of the loan ranges from $1,000-$3,000. Students in need must apply one month in advance.

If you would like more information regarding this loan, please contact the International Center or Student Services at Dowling.

“Spiritualities Today”

CHAPLAIN’S TABLE, Fall 2002

Beginning September 19, join us every Thursday, 5-7pm at the MacPhie Conference Room for good conversation over dinner. Speakers will address topics such as: “The Mystical and Prayer,” “Chinese Healing,” “Finding Time for Sabbath at Tufts,” “Conscientious Objection to War,” and “Lessons of Tolerance from an Islamic Society”.

Stop by the International Center or the Chaplain’s Office for more detailed information. All are welcome. Reservations are required. Please call Goddard at x73427.

Co-sponsored by Tufts’ Chaplain’s Office x73427, International Center x73458, and Fletcher School x73700.

This program is an excellent way for international students to interact with Americans over dinner and through conversation!