Welcome

As the 2004-2005 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.

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 I-Center staff for immigration advice. This is our role. We are here to help you understand your legal obligations in the US, but it is also YOUR responsibility to keep informed! The staff at the International Center works for Tufts, we do NOT work for the US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS).

Ask the International Center any questions regarding your immigration status before approaching the USCIS. And finally, we know that many of you will seek advice from friends and colleagues who have been in the US for a while. Although you can certainly receive good advice from friends, colleagues and relatives, we remind you that you will get the most current and accurate information from the International Center. USCIS regulations have dramatically changed and are quite different from those your peers and colleagues may remember!

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 US. We are comfortable answering questions on all topics.

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!

TO ALL INCOMING STUDENTS & FACULTY/SCHOLARS

The US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) requires the Tufts International Center to collect copies of your visa stamp in the passport, Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, Form I-797, I-94 card, passport identity page and expiration date. You must come by the International Center to complete this requirement by Friday, September 17, 2004. If you do not present this documentation to the I-Center you will jeopardize your ability to study or work in the US.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB (I-Club)

The 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, Carolina Schildknecht at Carolina.Schildknecht@tufts.edu. Elections for Secretary and Freshmen Representatives are held in early September.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR

Tuesday-Thursday, September 7th, 8th & 9th, from 11 am until 2 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 (617) 627-3212.

THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE (I-House)

The International House, located at 13 Sawyer Avenue, is a residence made up of undergraduate students from around the globe, including the US. I-House members often sponsor international dinners, lectures, and parties. The philosophy of the I-House is to create an environment in which residents can experience an intercultural living arrangement. The goal of the I-House is to foster intercultural friendships and experiences.

Student Groups at Tufts

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 Grind. 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 Amanda Pavlick at Amanda.Pavlick@tufts.edu, at (617) 627-3576 or gsc@tufts.edu For additional information about the GSC and how to get on the mailing list, check out their website at: http://ase.tufts.edu/gsc

TUFTS CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

Since 1992, the Tufts Chinese Students and Scholars Association’s (TCSSA) 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 Zheng Wang by e-mail at Zheng.Wang@tufts.edu. Check out the TCSSA website at http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa

THE 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: Shivani Sahni at Shivani.Sahni@tufts.edu, or visit the web page at http://ase.tufts.edu/isat/.
Immigration Update

**WHAT is USCIS?**
The USCIS is the US Citizenship & Immigration Services, which falls under the newly created US Department of Homeland Security. This is the agency that would meet most of your immigration services needs.

**WHAT is ICE?**
The ICE is the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement department, which falls under the newly created US Department of Homeland Security.

**WHAT is SEVIS?**
The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a web-based system for maintaining information on international students and exchange visitors in the United States. This system is administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

All non-immigrant students, faculty and research scholars studying, doing research or working at Tufts on either an F-1 or J-1 visa are required to be entered into the SEVIS system by Tufts.

In order to maintain your F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status with ICE you must make sure that you understand the following rules:

**MAINTAIN FULL-TIME STATUS (FOR STUDENTS)**
If you are a student you must be registered in the fall and spring semesters as a full-time student (3 credits or more for undergraduate and graduate students, or if you are a graduate Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant, you must register for two credits). You cannot drop below full-time during the academic year (September–May). If a student has a compelling reason (i.e. due to illness, academic or language deficiency) why s/he must drop below full-time status, you must first have the clearance and approval from the International Center. Only in exceptional situations will an approval be granted.

**CHANGE IN LOCAL ADDRESS**
You are required by law to notify ICE of a change of address within 10 days of your initial arrival in the US as well as within 10 days of any subsequent address change while in the US. Starting in the fall students will be able to update their local address on the Student Information System (SIS on-line). This information will be transmitted to the ICE as required. Faculty and research scholars however, must continue to inform the International Center staff of your change of address.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE (FOR STUDENTS)**
Students may NOT take a leave of absence and remain in the US. The International Center should be contacted to discuss the circumstances requiring any leave BEFORE it is authorized.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR DISMISSAL (FOR STUDENTS)**
The International Center should be consulted about a student’s impending dismissal from Tufts or disciplinary action before it is finalized.

**PREMATURE TERMINATION OF STUDIES (FOR STUDENTS)**
The International Center must be informed of any early termination of a student so that the ICE can be informed of this event.

**CHANGE IN MAJOR, RESEARCH TITLE OR SPECIALTY**
Any changes related to the academic field must be reported to the ICE by the International Center.

**UPDATE DEPARTURE, REENTRY OR ADDITION OF DEPENDENT**
It is your responsibility to tell the International Center that a family member has arrived, departed, given birth etc.

**HEALTH INSURANCE FOR J-1 STUDENTS, FACULTY & RESEARCH SCHOLARS**
It is your responsibility to have adequate health insurance, which includes repatriation of remains and medical evacuation. Students are automatically assessed a university health insurance fee, but faculty and scholars must present to the International Center proof of health insurance compliance.

**PASSPORT**
You must keep your passport valid six months beyond your required stay in the US.

**IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT**
Make sure that your Form I-20 or DS-2019 is current. Pay attention to the end date on these forms. On the I-20 Form look at the end date on Item #5 and on the DS-2019 look at the end date on Item #3. Do not allow the date which says that you will complete your studies by ___(date) to expire!!!

**EMPLOYMENT (FOR STUDENTS)**
Do not work more than 20 hours a week on campus during the academic year. Do not work off campus without consulting the I-Center to determine if you are eligible for off-campus employment. Students who are within the first nine months of studies, are NOT eligible for any off-campus employment.
The International Community at Tufts

You are presently a member of our growing international community at Tufts University! Currently there are:

- Undergraduate International Students: 354
- Graduate International Students: 689
- International Faculty/Research Scholars: 207
- Exchange, Special Students, Practical Trainees, and English as a Second Language Students: 167

Total International Population: 1417

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

- China
- Canada
- India
- Korea
- Japan
- Turkey
- Germany
- Taiwan
- Saudia Arabia
- United Kingdom/ France

The 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.

A comment from a past participant 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

If you are interested in this program please contact Monica Rodriguez, International Student & Scholar Advisor, at the International Center (x7-3458) or by e-mail at Monica.Rodriguez@tufts.edu and/or sign up at International Graduate Student Orientation on Thursday, September 2, 2004.
Financial Resources

The 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 undergraduate and graduate international students (except Fletcher 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. The amount of the loan ranges from $1,000-$3,000. Students in need should apply one month in advance.

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

INTERNATIONAL CENTER, MEDFORD CAMPUS, STAFF:

PICTURED (L-R) : Jane Etish-Andrews, Director
Jessica A. Walker, International Student & Scholar Advisor
Lois Hutchings, Office Manager
Maria M. Conley, Assistant Director
Monica S. Rodriguez, International Student & Scholar Advisor

NOT PICTURED:
Danielle Davis, Office Student Assistant
Liesbeth Gallon, International Orientation Coordinator
Waidehi Gokhale, Assistant Coordinator for the Intercultural Conversation Program

Duane Goodin, International Orientation Coordinator & Webmaster
Darya Rudym, Office Student Assistant
Bilen Seyoum, International Orientation Coordinator