As the 2013-2014 academic year begins, the staff at the International Center would like to welcome you! Tufts is an institution that offers a warm and welcoming environment for all and we hope that this will be your experience.

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 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 us informed! You may seek advice from friends and relatives who have been in the US for a while and, although you will get good advice from them, we remind you that the International Center has the most up-to-date information regarding immigration.

In addition to the immigration services offered by the International Center, we are available for advising in the area of cultural adjustment and settling into 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!

Sincerely,

Jane Etish-Andrews

To All Incoming Students

Any students (either undergraduate or graduate) who were not able to attend International Orientation are required to attend a mandatory immigration session. There are two sessions scheduled: Wednesday, September 4th, 2013, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Dowling 745A) and Monday, September 9th, 2013, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Dowling 745B). Please register for one of these sessions at our website http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventSignup.aspx.

International Center, Medford Campus, Staff

Jane Etish-Andrews
Director

Naoko Kotoge
International Student & Scholar Advisor

Sarah Curry
Immigration Specialist

Hannah Mumma
International Student & Scholar Advisor

Lois Hutchings
Office Coordinator

Advisors On Call

Throughout the year, the I-Center will be providing walk-in hours for students to meet with their advisors without making an appointment. Walk-in hours will be Tuesdays, 10-11:30am and Thursdays, 1:30-3:00pm.

The I-Center will also be hosting Google Hangouts to give students the opportunity to talk to advisors online. Google Hangouts will occur every Wednesday, 3:00-4:00pm.
The International Community at Tufts

You are presently a member of our international community at Tufts University! Currently, in the schools of Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Gordon Institute, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, and the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, there are:

427 Undergraduate International Students
324 Graduate International Students
237 International Faculty/Research Scholars*
988 Total International Population

* Faculty/Research Scholar number includes The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging.

There are 96 countries represented at Tufts. The 10 countries with the largest number of international students, faculty and scholars are:

1. China
2. India
3. So. Korea
4. Canada
5. Turkey
6. France
7. United Kingdom
8. Japan / Singapore—tied
9. Iran
10. Italy

The Intercultural Conversation Program

For first-year graduate students who are interested in improving their English and learning more about American culture, the International Center offers an opportunity to meet one hour per week with a "conversation partner" who is a Tufts student or staff member. This is a great way to meet English-speaking people outside of your academic studies, as well as a great chance to develop a friendship!

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

"It's really a great experience that we can have a chance to share our culture and help each other understand different backgrounds. It's not only an English conversation program, but a way to learn about the world."

- International student from China -

"I've learned that friendship and common interests can transcend any language, cultural or age barriers."

- English Partner -

If you are interested in this program, please contact the student coordinator, Monica Noriega (F’14), by e-mail at internationalcenter@tufts.edu.

Writing Assistance for International Students

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) offers confidential writing support for all Tufts students, including international undergraduate and graduate students. Book an appointment with a writing consultant through the online Tutor Finder or visit our drop-in hours. For more information, visit http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/.

Graduate students: Watch for an announcement about the ARC workshop in September 2013 exclusively for international graduate students on WRITING FOR THE AMERICAN ACADEMY.

Financial Resources for International Students

Finding a Job on the Tufts University Campus

Job listings on the Medford campus can be found through the JobX student employment website (http://uss.tufts.edu/stuempl/).

You can also stop in at any on-campus office to inquire about job openings. If you do not have a Social Security number, see the section titled “Getting a Social Security Number.”

The Laila Moshiri Yazdi Memorial Fund

This fund was established in memory of a Tufts international student, Laila Moshiri Yazdi. Laila was from Iran and 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 international 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.
Graduate Student Groups

**THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE (I-HOUSE)** - [http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsIhouse.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsIhouse.htm)

The International House, located at 13 Sawyer Avenue, is a residence made up of undergraduate students from around the globe, including the US. The philosophy of the I-House is to create an environment in which residents can experience an intercultural living arrangement. Residents of the I-House participate in the Intercultural Conversation Program and are paired up with an international graduate student for weekly meetings that foster friendship and provide for conversation in English.

**THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB (I-CLUB)** - [http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsIclub.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsIclub.htm)

The I-Club is a cultural and social organization whose primary goal is to promote intercultural understanding throughout the Tufts community. Watch for notes in *The Tufts Daily* and flyers around campus for information about the general information meeting! For additional information, you may contact the I-Club President, Panayioti Kastritis, at Yiota.Kastritis@tufts.edu. Elections for Secretary and First Year Representatives are held in early September.

**LEONARD CARMICHAEL SOCIETY (LCS)** - [http://ase.tufts.edu/lcs](http://ase.tufts.edu/lcs)

The Leonard Carmichael Society (LCS), an undergraduate, student-run, community service umbrella organization at Tufts, offers programs that focus on hunger, homelessness, work with children, health education, literacy, work with the elderly, and more. The General Interest Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, at 9:00pm in Cabot Auditorium.

For more information phone 617-627-3643.

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**Undergraduate Student Groups**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR**

**Tuesday, September 10, 2013** at the Residential Quad, 5:00-7:00 PM. If you are interested in joining an undergraduate student organization, this is the time to do it! [Rain date is Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m.]

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**Graduate Student Groups**

**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC)** - [http://go.tufts.edu/gsc](http://go.tufts.edu/gsc)

Stop by the Graduate Student Council Office and Grad Lounge at West Hall, basement level (entrance in the rear of the building), or contact the GSC's President Jennifer Nguyen at gsc-president@tufts.edu.

**THE INDIAN SOCIETY AT TUFTS (ISAT)** - [http://ase.tufts.edu/isat/](http://ase.tufts.edu/isat/)

For more information about ISAT and upcoming events, contact ISAT President, Disha Sood, at disha.sood@tufts.edu.

**TUFTS CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION (TCSSA)** - [http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa](http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa)

For more information, contact TCSSA president Chenguang Xi, at chenguang.xi@tufts.edu.

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**TUFTS UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY**

Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green, Medford, MA

617-627-3427

[http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu](http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu)

Facebook: Tufts University Chaplaincy

Welcome to Tufts' new University Chaplain, Rev. Greg McGonigle!

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. The chaplaincy supports religious and philosophical communities, educates about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promotes multi-faith engagement. The chaplaincy includes the University Chaplain who is responsible for religious life overall, and Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, and Protestant chaplains, as well as student groups across the religious and philosophical spectrum. Please see our website and Facebook page for specific educational and cultural program information or to get involved. Some of our weekly gatherings are listed below. All are always welcome:

Muslim Jumah Prayer: Fridays, 1 pm, Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St.)

Jewish Conservative & Reform Shabbat Services: Fridays, 5:30 pm (6 DST), Granoff Family Hillel Center (220 Packard Ave.)

Protestant Worship: Sundays, 7 pm, Goddard Chapel (3 The Green)

Catholic Mass: Sundays, 10 pm, Goddard Chapel
International Student Work Eligibility

General Overview: An international student's eligibility to work on-campus is dependent upon their type of non-immigrant student visa. If a student has entered the US on a non-immigrant status, either F-1 (I-20 document) or J-1 (DS-2019 document), then s/he will be eligible to work on-campus without special permission from US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). All full-time international students are permitted to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week during the academic year (September-May), although it is not recommended in your first year. During official Tufts vacations and summers, students are permitted to work up to 40 hours per week on campus only without permission from USCIS or the Tufts International Office. Students will still need to have a valid Social Security Number in order to work on campus. Please see below for information about Social Security applications. If you hold a non-immigrant status other than F-1 or J-1, you are most likely not allowed to work. Please contact the I-Center to confirm your work eligibility.

Getting a Social Security Number

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 Social Security card in order to be paid for employment.

The Social Security Administration will be on-campus at Tufts to facilitate student, faculty & scholar applications for a social security card. The on-campus visit is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013, 11:00am-3:00pm, in the Balch Arena Lobby (Aidekman Arts Center). Please plan to take advantage of this special on-campus visit!

Immigration Update

In order to maintain your F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status, you must be aware of the following:

Maintaining 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). A full-time Graduate RA or TA may count as one credit, provided you register for it properly at the beginning of each semester. You cannot drop below full-time during the academic year (September–May). If you have a compelling reason (i.e. due to illness, academic or language deficiency) to 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.

Any students (either undergrad or grad) who were not able to attend International Orientation are required to attend a mandatory immigration session. There are two sessions scheduled: Wednesday, September 4th, 2013, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Dowling 745A) and Monday, September 9th, 2013, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Dowling 745B). Please register for one of these sessions at our website http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventSignup.aspx.

You will receive emails throughout the academic year regarding immigration guidelines. Please be sure to read these emails for information on registration requirements, academic resources, employment, leave of absence, travel, etc.

I-94 Update

A physical copy of the I-94 Card is no longer provided upon arrival in the United States. Instead, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will scan your passport and store your I-94 admission number and other information online. You will be able to access and print your I-94 number at http://www.CBP.gov/I94.

Travel Outside the US Requires Approval Signature from the I-Center

If you are interested in traveling to a country outside of the United States (including Canada & Mexico), you must first obtain a signature from the International Center on your visa document (Form I-20 or Form DS-2019). The signature is a requirement for re-entry into the United States. It confirms that you have maintained a full-time academic status. Please bring your visa document to our office at least one week before traveling. In most cases, we will be able to confirm your registration and sign your document while you wait. If you travel without a recent signature from our office, you will risk running into difficulties at the port of entry (or in extreme cases, being denied entry).

Fall Signature Days

If you will be returning home for the Winter Break, please take advantage of our Fall Signature Days on November 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1:00-4:00pm, at a remote location (location TBD), when the I-Center will be signing I-20s for travel.