As the 2014-2015 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.

MANDATORY IMMIGRATION SESSION FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

If you did NOT attend either Undergraduate or Graduate International Orientation, you must attend a mandatory immigration session. There are two possible dates:

- **Wednesday, September 3rd, 2014, 12:00-1:00 p.m.** (Dowling 745A)
- **Or Wednesday, September 10th, 2014, 12:00-1:00 p.m.** (Dowling 745A)

Please register for one of these sessions here: [http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/programs/eventSignup.aspx](http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/programs/eventSignup.aspx).

Medford Campus International Center Staff

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20 Sawyer Ave • Medford, MA 02155 • (617) 627-3458
internationalcenter@tufts.edu • Facebook: Tufts International Center
[http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter](http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter)
The Tufts International Community in Numbers

436 Undergraduate International Students
342 Graduate International Students
237 International Faculty/Research Scholars*
1015 Total International Population

(includes the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Gordon Institute, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, and Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine)

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

98 countries represented
Top 10 in number of international students, faculty, and scholars:

1. China
2. India
3. South Korea
4. Canada
5. Turkey
6. Singapore
7. Greece
8. Pakistan
9. UK / Japan / France / Germany / Thailand
10. Taiwan / Vietnam

Student Groups

Undergraduate

The International House (I-House)
http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/programs/I-house.asp
An intercultural living space at 13 Sawyer Ave for international and American undergrads. Residents of the I-House participate in the Intercultural Conversation Program (see page 3).

The International Club (I-Club)
http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/programs/i-club.asp
A Tufts club that promotes intercultural understanding throughout the Tufts community. The General Interest Meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 11, and the I-Club Welcome Picnic/BBQ will be on Saturday, Sept. 13. Please contact I-Club President Brett Fouss at brett.fouss@tufts.edu for more information.

Leonard Carmichael Society (LCS)
https://sites.tufts.edu/tuftsicss/
A student-run community service umbrella organization which offers programs that focus on hunger, homelessness, work with children and the elderly, health education, literacy, and more. The General Interest Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 9:00pm in Cabot Auditorium.

Graduate

Graduate Student Council (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 at gsc-president@tufts.edu.

The Indian Society at Tufts (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)
https://sites.google.com/site/tuftscsaweb/
This organization broadens the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, language and history through club-sponsored activities including social events, guest speakers, and culture shows. For more information, contact TCSSA president Ludan Zhang at Ludan.Zhang@tufts.edu.

Student Activities Fair
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 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 10, 2014, 5:00-7:00 p.m.]
**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 Tutor Finder on iSIS or visit our drop-in hours. For more information, visit [http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/](http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/).

Exclusively for **International GRADUATE Students**: Watch for announcements about the fall ARC workshop on WRITING FOR THE AMERICAN ACADEMY and the fall and spring ARC classes on oral communication skills in English.

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**Intercultural Conversation Program**

**FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS**: Interested in improving your English and learning more about American culture? The I-Center offers an opportunity to meet one hour per week with a "conversation partner" (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:

"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, Ashish Pradhan (F’15), by e-mail at internationalcenter@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)

The Tufts University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement. The University Chaplain leads the University Chaplaincy team, which currently includes four associate chaplains (Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Protestant) and a Humanist in Residence. The University Chaplaincy works with roughly 20 campus religious and philosophical communities that offer over 18 weekly gatherings and many special programs. Beyond its work supporting these communities, the University Chaplaincy offers its own tradition-specific and multifaith programming and services for the whole university. See our website and Facebook page for specific program information and 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 p.m. (6:00 during Daylight Savings), Granoff Family Hillel Center (220 Packard Ave.)
**Protestant Worship**: Sundays, 7 p.m., Goddard Chapel (3 The Green)
**Catholic Mass**: Sundays, 10 p.m., Goddard Chapel
International Student Employment and Financial Resources

If you are on an F-1 or J-1 Visa (with an I-20 or DS-2019):

- You are eligible to work on campus:
  - Up to 20 hours a week during the academic year
  - Up to 40 hours a week during the summer and vacation periods
- All other work requires permission from US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) or the I-Center
- You will need a valid Social Security Number

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:

Please see our website for detailed information on getting a Social Security number:
http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/taxes/

Social Security Campus Visit:

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 11, 2014, 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., in the Balch Arena Lobby (Aidekman Arts Center).

Please plan to take advantage of this special on-campus visit!

Finding a Job on the Tufts Campus:

JobX: http://uss.tufts.edu/stuemp/
Listings for Medford Campus student jobs

Stop in at any on-campus office to inquire about job openings!

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 at the time she passed away in 1982. The fund can be used by international students in need of short-term help. Small, short-term emergency loans ($500-$1000) are available to all Medford undergraduate and graduate international students (except Fletcher students) through this fund. Applications are available at the I-Center.

Need your I-94 Admission Number to apply for an SSN?
Go to www.cbp.gov/194
To maintain your F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status, be aware of the following:

**Maintaining Full-Time Status (For Students):**
- You must be registered as a full-time student (3 credits or more) in both fall and spring semesters
  - A full-time Graduate RA or TA position can count as 1 credit (provided you register for it properly)
- You cannot drop below full-time during the academic year (September-May)
  - If you have a need to drop below full-time (i.e. illness, academic or language deficiency), you must speak to the I-Center to have it cleared and approved. Only in exceptional situations will an approval be granted.

You will receive emails from the International Center 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**

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 can access and print your I-94 number at [http://www.CBP.gov/I94](http://www.CBP.gov/I94).

**Travel Signatures**

**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 and 20th, 1:00-4:00pm**, at a remote location (location TBD), when the I-Center will be signing I-20s for travel.
Making the Most of the Tisch Library: Workshop for International Students
Friday, September 5, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Tisch 223
Wednesday, September 11, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Tisch 223
(attend either session)

Start your time at Tufts off right by learning to do research from the experts at Tisch Library. We’ll show you how to find resources and introduce you to staff that will help you throughout your Tufts career.

Bring your questions; we’ll answer them!

Mark your calendars: I-Center Thanksgiving Celebration!
Friday, November 21, 2014, 5-9 pm.
Join us for a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner!

Tufts Dining Around the World Events (dates subject to change)
Carmichael Dining Around the World - Caribbean Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Carmichael Dining Around the World - Oceania Wednesday, January 21, 2015
Dewick Dining Around the World - Japan Thursday, February 12, 2015
Carmichael Dining Around the World – Street Food Thursday, February 26, 2015
Dewick Dining Around the World- Brazil Tuesday, March 10, 2015

[Undergraduate students can participate with their Meal Plans. Graduate students may buy tickets at the door or watch for free ticket offers from the International Center.]

Counseling Center Workshop: Decoding U.S. Culture
Cultural Adjustment and Stress Management Strategies for International Students
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 12:00—1:30 p.m. (lunch is provided)
Dowling 745A