Welcome!

Medford Campus International Center Staff

Jane Etish-Andrews  
Director

Pat Himes  
International Student & Scholar Advisor

Whitney Sullivan  
International Student & Scholar Advisor

Lois Hutchings  
Office Coordinator

Sarah Curry  
Immigration Specialist

Carol Murphy  
Immigration Specialist

Lauren Kulwicki  
Graduate Student Intern

Kayla Blackborow  
Janeth Jepkoge

Amanda Saban  
Neli Tsereteli  
Student Assistants

International Student Statistics

510  Undergraduate International Students  
496  Graduate International Students  
267  International Faculty/Research Scholars  
1486 Total International Population

98 countries represented

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

1. China  
2. India  
3. Taiwan  
4. Turkey  
5. South Korea  
6. Canada  
7. Japan / Iran  
8. Spain  
9. France / Thailand  
10. Nepal / UK
As the 2015-2016 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, Director

Who is my student immigration advisor?

Pat Himes (patrick.himes@tufts.edu):
- Undergrads in the School of Arts & Sciences (non-STEM eligible)
- All graduate students in the School of Arts & Sciences

Whitney Sullivan (whitney.sullivan@tufts.edu):
- Undergrads in the School of Engineering
- Graduate students in the School of Engineering
- Friedman School
- Exchange Students
- Certificate Students
- STEM-eligible undergrads in the School of Arts & Sciences — contact the I-Center if you are unsure if this is applicable to you!

Check our website for important events!
Visit here: http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/programs/

Upcoming I-Center events include:

Mandatory Incoming Undergraduate Immigration Session
Wednesday, September 9, 12:00-1:00 in Barnum 008

Mandatory Incoming Graduate Student Orientation
Thursday, September 3, 9:00-2:00 in Granoff Distler, 20 Talbot Ave

Counseling Center International Student Workshop: Decoding US Culture
Making the Most of the Tisch Library: Workshop for International Students
Tufts Dining Around the World At Dewick and Carmichael Dining Halls
Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshops

Mark your calendars: I-Center Thanksgiving Celebration!
Friday, November 20, 2015, 6-9 pm.
Join us for a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner!
Pat & Whitney’s Immigration Update

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.

Travel Signatures

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

If you are interested in traveling to any country outside of the United States, you must first obtain a signature from the International Center on your immigration 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 I-20/DS-2019 to our office at least one week before traveling. 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).

If you will be returning home for the Winter Break, please take advantage of our Fall Signature Days! Check our calendar for dates and times!

International Student Employment and Financial Resources

If you are on an F-1 or J-1 Student 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 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.

Need your I-94 Admission Number to apply for an SSN? Go to www.cbp.gov/194

Getting an SSN: http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/taxes/

Finding a Job on the Tufts Campus:
JobX: http://uss.tufts.edu/stuemp/

The Laila Moshiri Yazdi Memorial Fund
This 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 campus international students (except Fletcher students). The 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. Applications are available at the I-Center.
International Student Groups & Resources

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 coordinator, Mary Pyne, 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 Tutor Finder on SIS or visit our drop-in hours. For more information, visit 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.

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 or the date for their GIM, contact TCSSA president Ruihao Xie at Ruihao.Xie@tufts.edu.

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. Find out about their GIM and future events at their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/tuftsiclub.

Please contact I-Club President Shanice Kok at Shanice.Kok@tufts.edu for more information.

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.

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. Find out about their GIM and future events at their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/tuftsiclub.

Please contact I-Club President Shanice Kok at Shanice.Kok@tufts.edu for more information.

Tufts University Chaplaincy

Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green, Medford, MA
617-627-3427
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. 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. All are always welcome.

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 SIS or visit our drop-in hours. For more information, visit http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/.

Exclusively for International Graduates: 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.

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

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