## Welcome!

### Medford Campus International Center Staff

- **Jane Etish-Andrews**
  - Director

- **Pat Himes**
  - International Student & Scholar Advisor

- **Whitney Sullivan**
  - International Student & Scholar Advisor

- **Neriliz Soto Gonzalez**
  - International Student & Scholar Advisor

- **Shari Moona**
  - Administrative Coordinator

- **Sarah Curry**
  - Immigration Specialist

- **Jennifer Braga**
  - Graduate Intern

- **Neli Tsereteli**
  - Nesi Altaras
  - Thaw Htet
  - Tianyu Zhang
  - Student Assistants

### International Student Statistics (2015/2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate International Students</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate International Students</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive English Language and Summer Session</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total International Population</td>
<td>1,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. China  
2. India  
3. Turkey  
4. South Korea  
5. Canada  
6. Japan  
7. Taiwan  
8. Iran  
9. Spain  
10. Vietnam / UK

98 countries represented
As the 2016-2017 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 I-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, and excited to help you!

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

Check our website for important events!

Upcoming I-Center events include:

**Mandatory Incoming Graduate Student Orientation**
*Thursday, September 1, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Granoff Music Center*

**Mandatory Incoming Undergraduate Immigration Session**
*Wednesday, September 7, 12:00-1:15 p.m., Barnum 008*

- Intercultural Conversation Program (ICP)
- Counseling & Mental Health International Student Workshops
- Tufts Dining Around the World
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshops

Mark your calendars: **I-Center Thanksgiving Celebration!**
*Friday, November 18, 2016, 6-9 pm*

Join us for a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner!
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.

**Access your electronic I-94 Admission upon entry to the U.S.**

**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.** Travel signature are valid for one year!

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.

**Step 1**  
**Finding a Job on the Tufts Campus**

**Step 2**  
**Evidence of Employment Letter**

**Step 3**  
**Getting a Social Security Number (SSN)**

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 (ICP)

**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, staff, or faculty 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:**

- "ICP helped me make my first friendship in the US. Aside from weekly meetings, after meeting through ICP, my partner and I introduced our girlfriends to each other. We all went out together, and had a good time. I also spent the Thanksgiving day at their place, which was much nicer than what I would have done if I hadn't met my ICP partner.”
  - ICP participant, from Iran

- "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 Whitney Sullivan by e-mail at Whitney.Sullivan@tufts.edu.

---

### Tufts Academic Resource Center (ARC)

**Dowling Hall, 7th Floor, Suite 720**

617-627-4345

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) offers confidential writing support for all Tufts students. Book an appointment with a writing consultant through the Tutor Finder on SIS or visit our drop-in hours.

Exclusively for **International Graduate Students:** We offer a fall workshop on Writing for the American Academy and the fall and spring ARC classes on oral communication skills in English.

---

### Tufts University Chaplaincy

**Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green, Medford, MA**

617-627-3427

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.

---

### Tufts Counseling & Mental Health

**120 Curtis Street, Medford, MA**

617-627-3360

Tufts Counseling & Mental Health is a diverse team of clinicians deeply committed to college mental health. They have resources specifically for international students. Check out their website for more details.

---

### Graduate

**Graduate Student Council (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)

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)

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.

---

### International House (I-House)

An intercultural living space at 13 Sawyer Ave for international and American undergrads. The I-Center advisor to the I-House is Whitney Sullivan, and the 2016-2017 I-House Manager is Barry Maswan.

---

### The International Club (I-Club)

This Tufts club promotes intercultural understanding throughout the Tufts community. Find out more on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/tuftsiclub.

**I-Club President:** Akshat Rajan
**I-Club Vice President(s):** Martha Rjmneceanu & Ashley Miller

---

**Tufts Counseling & Mental Health**

Tufts Counseling & Mental Health is a diverse team of clinicians deeply committed to college mental health. They have resources specifically for international students. Check out their website for more details.