

Fall 2011

# Welcome!



## International Update Tufts University International Center

As the 2011-2012 school 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.



From Jane Etish-Andrews, Director

This academic year is a big anniversary year for the International Center. **In 2012 we will be celebrating the International Center's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International House, the 25<sup>th</sup> year of International Orientation, and the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Oliver Chapman Leadership Award!** There will be many celebrations marking these milestones and we hope that you will be a part of the festivities!

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

*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 7th, 2011, 12:00-1:00 p.m. and Monday, September 12th, 2011, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held at Dowling Hall, Room 745A. Please register for one of these sessions at our website <http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsOPTsession.aspx>.*

### International Center, Medford Campus, Staff

Jane Etish-Andrews, Director

Jodi Hanelt, Assistant Director

Naoko Kotoge, International Student & Scholar Advisor

Hannah Mumma, International Student & Scholar Advisor

Lois Hutchings, Office Coordinator



INTERNATIONAL CENTER STAFF

L to R: Hannah Mumma, Naoko Kotoge, Lois Hutchings, Jane Etish-Andrews, Jodi Hanelt

# 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:

384 Undergraduate International Students  
338 Graduate International Students  
273 International Faculty/Research Scholars\*  
**995 Total International Population**

\* Faculty/Research Scholar number includes The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

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

China (204)	India (106)	So. Korea (82)	Canada (48)
UK (34)	Turkey (33)	Germany (16)	Brazil (21)
Greece (21)	Spain (21)	Taiwan (21)	Italy (16)
Iran (15)			

Some countries are tied!

## 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 coordinator, Jenny Heintz (F'12), by e-mail at [internationalcenter@tufts.edu](mailto:internationalcenter@tufts.edu).

## Financial Resources for International Students

### 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.

### OLIVER CHAPMAN MEMORIAL EMERGENCY LOAN FUND

The Chapman 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 **\$3,000-\$5,000**.

Please contact the International Center or Student Services at Dowling Hall for more information.

### **GROUP OF SIX—PASSPORT PROGRAM!**

During All-School Orientation, incoming undergraduates will be invited to get acquainted with the Group of Six: Africana Center, Asian American Center, International Center, Latino Center, LGBT Center, and the Women's Center. Students will visit the centers and collect stamps in their passports. Passport stamps and validation will be available at the centers on: Wednesday, 9/7/2011(4-6:00 p.m.), Friday, 9/9/2011 (12-2:00 p.m.), and Monday, 9/12/2011, (4-6:00 p.m.).

Stop by to receive your stamp and have a snack!

# Undergraduate Student Groups

## THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE (I-HOUSE) - <http://ase.tufts.edu/center/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 I-House will be celebrating its **40th anniversary in 2012!** 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)



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! Highlights of the year are the I-Cruise on Boston Harbor (scheduled for October 22, 2011) and the Parade of Nations (scheduled for March 3, 2012). For additional information, you may contact the I-Club President, Baturay Akaslan, at [baturay.akaslan@tufts.edu](mailto:baturay.akaslan@tufts.edu). Elections for Secretary and First Year Representatives are held in early September.

## LEONARD CARMICHAEL SOCIETY (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 everything from hunger, homelessness, work with children, and health education, to literacy, work with the elderly and much more! General Interest Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, 9:00pm, in Cohen Auditorium.

For more information phone 617-627-3643. Website at: <http://ase.tufts.edu/lcs>.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011**, 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! [Raindate is Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 5:00-7:00 p.m.]

## ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER WORKSHOPS

Effective group project work  
(for undergraduate students)—October 2011

Study Group Strategy  
(for undergraduate students)—October 2011

Watch for emails from the I-Center  
with more details about these  
upcoming workshops!

Writing Workshop & Academic Integrity  
(for graduate students)—September 2011

Graduate work in the American Academy  
(for graduate students)—November 2011

# Graduate Student Groups

## GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) - <http://go.tufts.edu/gsc>

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) - Stop by the Graduate Student Council Office at West Hall, basement level, or contact the GSC's President Okuary Osechas at [gsc-president@tufts.edu](mailto:gsc-president@tufts.edu). Website at: <http://go.tufts.edu/gsc>.

## THE INDIAN SOCIETY AT TUFTS (ISAT) - <http://ase.tufts.edu/isat/>

For more information about ISAT and upcoming events, email [Kartik.Shah@tufts.edu](mailto:Kartik.Shah@tufts.edu).  
Website at: <http://ase.tufts.edu/isat/>.



## TUFTS CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION (TCSSA) - <http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa>

The Tufts Chinese Students and Scholars Association (TCSSA) - For more information, contact TCSSA president [Jingcheng.pang@tufts.edu](mailto:Jingcheng.pang@tufts.edu). Website at: <http://ase.tufts.edu/tcssa>.

## TUFTS UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

The International Center co-sponsors "The Chaplain's Table", a series of discussions on various topics of religion and philosophy. This is a good opportunity to have a **free** dinner and interesting conversation with your peers and faculty. The fall 2011 schedule (September to November) includes weekly discussions on the topic of "Religion and Pop Culture".

Open to Graduates and Undergraduates.

For more information visit the Chaplaincy website, [www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy](http://www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy).

# 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 September 13, 2011. You will receive an email from the I-Center with information regarding time and location. 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.

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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.

## 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).