



## **International Education Services**

**Preparing for Fall 2021**

Campus Resources & Cost of Living

***Welcome***

# Thanks for joining us today!



Mute your  
microphone



Type any questions in  
the **Q&A** box



REC ●



**This webinar is being  
recorded**

# Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Update on Fall 2021 Mode of Instruction
- F-1 Student Immigration Considerations
- Student Support and Resources at UMBC
- Student Chat - UMBC Career Center
- Question and Answer Session

## NOTE:

This is a continuously evolving situation. Information presented during today's webinar is subject to change based on UMBC and SEVP guidance. Any updates/changes will be shared with students as soon as possible via email, webinars and UMBC + IES Websites.

# Introductions

Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International Student Adviser

Dave Anguish - International Student & Scholar Adviser

Kirthana K. - Global Ambassador Peer Mentor

## Fall 2021 Update

- [Retriever Ready: COVID-19 Response](https://covid19.umbc.edu) (covid19.umbc.edu)
- Planning for primarily in person campus for Fall 2021 while keeping health standards and COVID-19 best practices in place
- UMBC has committed to making a non-online class available for new international students entering the country in Fall 2021 should SEVP require it
- At this time no information on vaccination requirements for students

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# Entering the US to attend UMBC for Fall 2021

## Things to consider:

- You should already have a visa or plan to have a visa interview appointment by early August
- The earliest you can arrive in the US is 30 days before your I-20 program start date
- You must receive your visa and enter the US by the start of classes (August 31st)
- Be aware of travel restrictions in your home countries as well as in the [U.S.](#)
- Full time enrollment required (UG: 12 credits, Graduate: 9 credits)
- Last semester rule hybrid format rule **might** still apply - SEVP will announce any changes/ updates as they occur ([US Entry Requirements](#))
- **Transfer Students:**
  - Students currently in F-1 status in the U.S. transferring to UMBC from another institution
  - Please follow regular I-20 transfer guidelines
  - Planning to travel home? Or already at home and planning to return for Fall 2021? Please email us at [ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu)

## Entering the U.S. after Deferring to Fall 2021

- What happens to your I-20?
  - IES will contact you once deferral is completed by Undergraduate/Graduate admissions
  - Program dates will be adjusted to reflect your first semester in the U.S.
  - We will request updated financial documents if over 6 months old
  - We are currently processing Fall 2021 I-20s for newly admitted and deferred students
  - Your SEVIS fee is valid for one year
- Graduate Assistants (RA, TA etc):
  - Please work closely with your department to explore your options if you plan to defer another semester
  - If you are able to keep your assistantship, your department should provide you with an updated GA Offer Letter that reflects the semester you will be in the US
- Entry to the US
  - Only able to enter the U.S. 30 days before the start of your chosen semester
    - “Earliest Admission Date” section on your I-20
    - Fall 2021 semester - August 1st

# Campus Resources

- Student Organizations/Campus Life
- Academic Success Center
- Graduate Student Association
- Residence Life
- Off Campus Student Services
- UMBC Transit
- University Health Services
- International Education Services (IES)  
Office
- Career Center



# Student Organizations

- [200+ student organizations](#)
- International Student Specific Clubs
  - Bangladeshi Student Association
  - Chinese Student and Scholars Association
  - [EKTA - Indian Graduate Students](#)
  - Iranian Graduate Student Organization
  - [PAKSA](#)
  - [Sri Lankan Student Association](#)
  - [Nepali Student Association](#)



## Academic Success Center: Academic Advocacy

- Available to all Undergraduate students
- Workshops on time management and study and research skills
- Writing Center
- Free tutoring services for many level 100 and 200 courses
- Academic resources geared towards undergraduate students
- Academic Advocates: help undergraduate students navigate any difficulties with their courses

Website: [Academicsuccess.umbc.edu](https://academicsuccess.umbc.edu)



- Connects Graduate students to graduate level specific resources on campus
- Writing Adviser appointments
- GEARS - research symposium
- Graduate Assistant Advisory Council

Website: [GSA.UMBC.EDU](https://GSA.UMBC.EDU)

# On Campus Housing

## Undergraduate On Campus Housing:

- Residence Halls:

Chesapeake, Susquehanna, Potomac, Patapsco, Harbor and Erickson Hall

- Apartments (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year only): Hillside, Terrace, Walker Avenue and West Hill Apartments

[UMBC Residential Life](#)

## Graduate On Campus Housing:

- Walker Avenue Apartments

- utilities included

# Off Campus Housing

- [UMBC Off Campus Student Services](#)
  - Resources for adult learners, commuters, transfer students and veteran students
  - Information on U.S. rental procedures, leases etc.
- [Off Campus Housing Website](#)
  - Lists local apartments and has a roommate finder
- Other apartments near campus: Westland Gardens, Maiden Choice Apartments



- Free!
- For UMBC students only
- [Transit Tracker App](#)
- Convenient connections to public transportation
- Helpful for thinking about housing options

Website: [UMBC.EDU/Transit](https://UMBC.EDU/Transit)



**Paradise**  
Serving the Arbutus & Irvington Community



**Courtney Rd**  
Serving the Arbutus & Irvington Community



**Arundel**  
Serving the Arundel Mills Mall



**Catonsville**  
Serving the Catonsville Community (Frederick Rd. business area)



**Arbutus**  
Serving the Arbutus Community



**BWI MARC**  
Serving the BWI MARC train stops



**Rt 40**  
Providing connection to the Rt. 40 business district



**Downtown**  
Providing connection from Downtown to UMBC

- Full range of clinic services directly on campus:
  - Diagnosis and treatment of illnesses
  - Routine physical examinations
  - Immunizations
- Health Insurance – **Insurance is mandatory.** All UMBC students are automatically enrolled in Student Health Insurance Plan

Website: [UHS.UMBC.EDU](https://UHS.UMBC.EDU)



# International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS Office)

- Help international students acclimate to the U.S. and UMBC campus through immigration advising and programming events
- OPT Workshops
- International Student Career Conference
- Website: [ies.umbc.edu](https://ies.umbc.edu)
- Student Portal: [IES Portal](#)
- Advise on maintaining F-1 status while at UMBC and through OPT/STEM OPT
- Available via email at [ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu)
- Instagram and Twitter: @UMBC\_IES



## Work Opportunities

- On campus work
- Off campus work
- Requirements

# On Campus Work Opportunities

- No immigration authorization required - can begin working right away
- Apply through UMBCworks
- If you're new to the US you'll need a SSN after getting a job offer. IES will help you with that process
- How much can you work a week?
  - During semester: 20 hours
  - During summer/winter break: 40 hours
- Finding a position is competitive and not guaranteed

# Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Off campus work opportunity during your studies
- Must complete 2 full time semesters **in the US** to qualify
- Job must be related to major
- All majors are eligible
- How much can you work a week?
  - During Semester: Part Time - 20 hours
  - During Summer/Winter Breaks: Full Time – 20+ hours

## OPT and STEM OPT Extension

- OPT = 1 year full time work permission after graduation
- Any job in any U.S. location related to degree
- Up to 3 months unemployment
- Work can be: part time, fulltime, paid or unpaid
- Job must be related to degree
- STEM OPT = 2 year extension of work authorization
- Who is eligible for STEM Extension? Any student with a [STEM eligible](#) major
- IES guides students through the process of applying for OPT and STEM OPT

# Example of STEM Eligible UMBC Majors

Computer Engineering

Computer Science

Cybersecurity

Data Science

Engineering

Engineering Management

Health Information Technology

Information Systems

Physics

Systems Engineering



ICE has a full list of STEM Degrees Here:  
[STEM Designated Degree Program List](#)

To find your major, use the CIP Code on  
your I-20 to search the list

## Requesting a UMBC I-20



Allow at least 24 hours for change to register in your myUMBC account

### Required Documents:

- Copy of your passport
- Proof of available funding for one academic year (\$35,982 for Graduate and \$40,624 for Undergraduate)
- Affidavit or letter of support from financial sponsor

# Requesting Your I-20: Finances

- Amount required is based on **estimated cost** of an Academic Year (9 months)
- Amount is specific to UMBC only
- Required amount is subject to change
- As of Fall 2021 Admission at UMBC that is:
  - Undergraduate: \$40,624
  - Graduate: \$35,982
- **No cost to request a UMBC I-20**

## Requesting Your I-20: Sources of Funding

### Acceptable Sources of Funding:

Checking/Savings Account Bank Statements

Approved Loan Documents

Scholarship Awards

Graduate Assistantships

Fixed Deposits (only if you can withdraw the money at any time)

Documents CANNOT be older than 6 months

Letter of Support/Affidavit

### Unacceptable Sources of Funding:

Stocks or bonds

Real Estate Holdings

Retirement Funds

Life Insurance Policies

Unapproved Loan Documents

Documents older than 6 months



# Funding Your Studies

## Undergraduate:

- Merit scholarships available based on GPA, test scores, application materials
- Contacted directly by Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships after admission

Website: [SCHOLARSHIPS.UMBC.EDU](https://scholarships.umbc.edu)

## Graduate:

- Funding in the form of Graduate Assistantships (RA,TA)
- Not guaranteed and very competitive
- Funding is up to your specific department

Website: [GRADSCHOOL.UMBC.EDU](https://gradschool.umbc.edu)

## Career Center

- Award winning services to prepare UMBC students for professional life



- Resume review services
- Career fair – generalized and program specific
- Trips to visit local businesses and potential employers
- Job search and job evaluation advice
- Interview preparation
- UMBCworks
- Website: [Careers.umbc.edu](https://careers.umbc.edu)

# Global Ambassador Chat - Working With The Career Center



# Student Perspective: UMBC Career Center



Kirthana K.  
MS Information Systems  
(Bidar, India)

# Important Websites

[UMBC COVID-19 Page](#) (Retrievers Return Roadmap)

[IES COVID-19 Page](#)

[Grad School COVID-19 Page](#)

[Flexible Launch Program](#)

[Off Campus Student Services](#)

[Student Business Services](#) (tuition fees, payment schedule etc)

[University Health Services](#)

[Cost of Living Calculator](#)

[Maryland 6% Sales Tax](#)




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## Frequently Asked Questions

- If I start classes online can I enter the U.S. in the middle of the Fall semester?
  - No. Current F-1 rules prohibit this.
- Will my electronic I-20 be ok for entering the U.S.?
  - Yes, the electronic copy is valid for visa interviews and entering the U.S. You will also receive a letter of explanation from the ISSS Office
- I have a valid B2 Visa can I enter the U.S. that way and take online classes?
  - No. B2 visas do not allow visa holders to study.
- How do I defer my admission?
  - Undergraduates: email [admissions@umbc.edu](mailto:admissions@umbc.edu) Deferral deadline: August 2021
  - Graduate: [Deferral Form](#) No deferral deadline but the sooner the better!
- I already received an I-20 for a previous semester but deferred to Fall 2021. What happens next?
  - We will update your I-20 program dates. Once your deferral is approved, IES will reach out to directly about next steps
- Can UMBC guarantee visa approval?
  - We cannot guarantee your visa approval. We can however share resources throughout the semester on preparing for your interview.
- I have a valid F-1 visa from a previous semester. Do I still need to do a visa interview?
  - No. If your F-1 is still valid, you do not need to do another visa interview. You will need an updated I-20 that reflects a Fall 2021 program date for entry to the US

# Questions?

- Advisers are always available via email at [ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu)
- Our website: IES.UMBC.EDU - [Information for Admitted Students](#)
-    See what we're up to! @UMBC\_IES  
#UMBCInternational

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For more information, visit

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Or email us at

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