

# Fall Forum for International Students

July 12, 2021

# Today's Facilitators

**K Jill Barr** - Associate Vice Provost,  
Senior Assistant Dean, The Graduate  
School

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

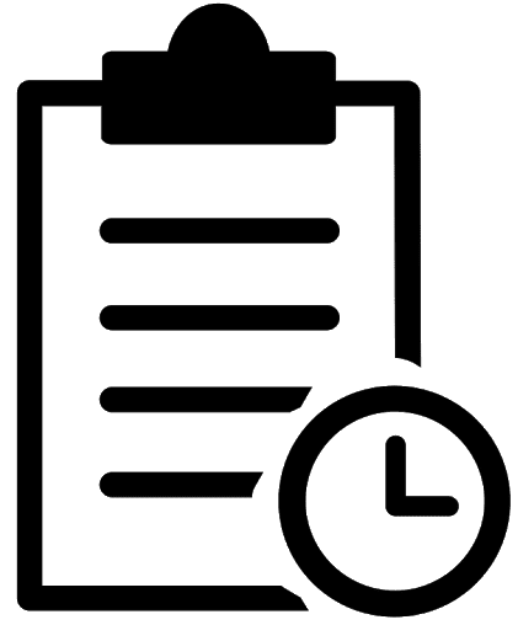
**Natalie Lobb** - Graduate International  
Student Support Specialist

**Adam Julian** - Director of International  
Student and Scholar Services

**Bruce Herman** - Director of University  
Health Services

# Today's Agenda

1. Fall 2021 Registration and Enrollment
2. Visa Process
3. COVID Protocols and Travel
4. Vaccine Requirements





## Our commitment to you

UMBC is committed to doing everything we can to support you and will make all accommodations and arrangements we can to help you through this transition.

# A note on current information for Fall 2021

From <https://covid19.umbc.edu>:

- We understand that recovery is a dynamic process, not a single milestone. Our plan is based on current knowledge and key assumptions about what is possible. We recognize that our plans will likely evolve as the environment changes, or we are able to confirm our assumptions and adapt accordingly.

Any updates to current information and procedures will be communicated and can be found on <https://covid19.umbc.edu>

# Fall 2021 Registration

Questions? Use the Q & A or email [isss@umbc.edu](mailto:isss@umbc.edu) or [www.isss.umbc.edu](http://www.isss.umbc.edu)

# Fall 2021 Registration and Enrollment Options

## How will classes be conducted in Fall 2021?

- UMBC is looking forward to a robust on campus experience for the Fall 2021. Most courses will be offered face-to-face or in hybrid format during the Fall 2021 semester.
- Students who will be present in the US for the Fall 2021 semester must be enrolled in at least 1 face-to-face course
- Online course options will be available for students who choose to enroll from outside the US.
- Hybrid courses are courses in which face-to-face classroom instruction is combined with online. Instructors will determine which class meetings will be in person and which will be in an online format. Students are expected to attend the face-to-face meetings of the class.

## How many online or hybrid courses am I allowed to enroll in?

- **New students:** UMBC has announced that all programs will return to in-person and hybrid courses, predominantly, but some online classes will also be available. International students new to the US in the Fall 2021 semester MUST enroll in at least one classes that is in person or hybrid – your entire class schedule CANNOT be online in your first semester.
  - It is strongly recommended new students review all information about entering the US to attend UMBC in Fall 2021. [Click here](#)
- **Current (Continuing) students:** Continuing F-1 students are welcome to enroll in all online courses, or can choose to enroll in hybrid or in-person classes if desired. This includes students in their last semester. As of April 26, 2021, the government agency [SEVP has confirmed that the established COVID exceptions to F-1 student rules will remain the same for Fall 2021.](#)
  - It is strongly recommended you review all Fall 2021 options for continuing UMBC F-1 students [click here](#)

# Fall 2021 Registration and Enrollment Options

## When is the last date I can defer if I choose this option?

- If you choose to defer, you should do so by the first day of classes. While there is no formal deadline, if you have confirmed you wish to defer for the semester, please contact admissions and make sure you drop any classes you are enrolled in.
  - Graduate Students: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/students/forms/>
  - Undergraduate Students: email [admissions@umbc.edu](mailto:admissions@umbc.edu) to request to defer, and include the semester you wish to defer to

## What do I do if I need help registering for classes? Who do I contact?

- You should contact the [Registrar's Office](#) if you need help registering for classes online. If you need help choosing courses or have questions about a class, contact your advisor.
  - Graduate Students: Contact your department directly. Details on how to contact your department's GPC or GPD can be found [here](#)
  - Undergraduate Students: contact the Office for Academic and Pre-Professional Advising [here](#)



# Visa and Travel to the U.S.

Questions? Use the Q & A or email [isss@umbc.edu](mailto:isss@umbc.edu) or [www.isss.umbc.edu](http://www.isss.umbc.edu)

# Visa Process

**Do I need to bring a physical I-20 to my visa appointment or to the U.S.?**

- Yes. You should print the signed I-20 copy out to bring with you to your visa appointment. You can also use it to enter the US.

**Visa interview appointments are not available. What should I do?**

- Current visa appointment availability varies by U.S. embassy or consulate location, and the public health conditions in that location. Some embassies or consulates have provided additional interview slots for international students and are prioritizing those appointments. Others encourage you to make an appointment at any available time and then contact the Embassy/Consulate to request an earlier emergency appointment. The situation changes daily and varies from location to location. Please continue to maintain close communication with embassy or consulate locations near you.

# Visa Process

What if the only available visa appointment is after the start of the semester and I still want to come to the U.S.?

- Students who plan to travel to the US to join UMBC for Fall 2021 are expected to arrive by the start of classes on August 31st. **September 14th is the very last possible date to enter the US for the Fall 21 semester.** If arrival by this date is not possible, you can choose to take classes online from outside the US for the Fall 2021 semester or defer your start to a later semester.

When will I get my passport/visa if approved?

- On average, it takes 7-10 business days to process this request after a student is approved for a visa. Though given current circumstances there may be delays however this process is being expedited as much as possible.

# Arriving at the U.S. Border/Airport

## Required documents:

- Passport with at least six months future validity
- Form I-20

## Suggested documents:

- Admission letter/academic transcripts
- Evidence of financial support

**Do not pack these documents in your checked baggage**

# COVID Protocols and Travel to the U.S.

## What date must I arrive in the U.S.?

- For Fall 2021, students who plan to travel to the US to join UMBC in-person **are expected to arrive by the first day of classes, August 31st** and should make every effort to arrive by this date.

## When is the last day I can arrive in the U.S.? When is the earliest date?

- **Last date:** If extenuating circumstances such as visa delays or travel delays occur, September 14th is the very last possible date to enter the US for the Fall 21 semester. If arrival by this date is not possible, you can choose to take classes online from outside the US for the Fall 2021 semester or defer your start to a later semester. Details on the process for arriving between August 31st and September 14th will be sent later in the summer. **For now, students should make every effort to arrive no later than the first day of classes, August 31st.**
- **Earliest date:** Students entering the US in F-1 status for the first time can only enter **up to 30 days before the I-20 start date**

## FAQ for International Students Fall 2021

<https://covid19.umbc.edu/faq-for-international-students-fall-2021/>

# Quarantine After Arrival

## Is there a required quarantine period in the U.S. or UMBC?

- We will be following the CDC's guidelines for international travel. At this time (June 9 2021), unvaccinated individuals (this includes those who are partially vaccinated or those who are vaccinated with a vaccine not accepted by UMBC) will need to quarantine for 7 days when they arrive, and be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after travel. This guidance may change as the health situation evolves, but we encourage you to plan to arrive at least 7 days before the start of classes in case you need to quarantine.

## What are my accommodation options for quarantine once I arrive?

- New students were emailed a UMBC housing guide from ISSS with information on Fall 2021 short term accommodation options. Please review this information as you consider your accommodation options for quarantine upon arrival.
  - To view the email, [click here](#)

# Visa Process and Pre Departure Orientation

Tuesday, July 27th. 10 - 11:30 AM Eastern Standard Time

Invitation will be sent via email

Learn about:

- The visa interview and next steps
- The process at the U.S. border/airport
- Transportation from the airport
- What to pack and not to pack
- What to expect during your first few weeks in the U.S.

# COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Questions? Use the Q & A or email [isss@umbc.edu](mailto:isss@umbc.edu) or [www.isss.umbc.edu](http://www.isss.umbc.edu)



# Vaccine Requirements

## Is a vaccine mandatory?

- Yes. UMBC (& the University System of Maryland) are requiring a COVID-19 vaccination for all faculty, staff, and students. The University will provide medical and religious exemptions to this vaccination mandate. More information about this requirement can be found [here](#).

## How do I provide proof of vaccination?

- Please use one of the forms available [here](#).

## Which vaccines will UMBC accept?

- UMBC is accepting all vaccines authorized by the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#). This includes: Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna. UMBC is also accepting vaccines authorized by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). This includes AstroZeneca and COVISHIELD and several others. Vaccines may go by additional/alternative names. Please refer to the WHO for a complete list. Additional vaccines may be accepted as WHO updates their approvals.

# Vaccine Requirements

## Will UMBC help me get a vaccine when I arrive?

- If you don't have access to a vaccine, UMBC will help you get vaccinated when you arrive in the US.

## What should I do if I have previously received a non-WHO approved vaccine?

- If you received a vaccination that is not accepted by either the FDA or WHO, you will need to be vaccinated as soon as it is safe to do so after you enter the United States. At this time, according to the CDC, this will be 28 days after your last vaccination. In the meantime, you will be required to [symptom track](#) and regularly submit a COVID-19 test. We will provide tests on campus. Provided you fulfill all monitoring and testing requirements, you will be allowed to live on campus and/or attend classes.

## What should I do if I am partially vaccinated when I arrive?

- In this situation you are not considered fully vaccinated and you will need to get vaccinated with two shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one Johnson and Johnson as soon as it is safe to do so after you enter the United States. At this time, according to the CDC, this will be 28 days after your last shot ([Read the current CDC guidance](#)). This guidance may change in the coming weeks as more information becomes available. In the meantime, you will be required to symptom track and regularly submit a COVID-19 test. We will provide tests on campus. Provided you fulfill all monitoring and testing requirements, you will be allowed to live on campus and/or attend classes.

# Resources

International Student and Scholar Services: [www.isss.umbc.edu](http://www.isss.umbc.edu)

UMBC Covid-19 Information: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/>

Vaccine info: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/vaccine/>

FAQ for International Students: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/faq-for-international-students-fall-2021/>

Classroom safety: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/fall-2021-classroom-safety/>

Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.umbc.edu/calendars/academic-calendars/>

IATA COVID-19 Travel Regulations:

[www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm)

# International Student Orientation

All three sessions are mandatory

Registration shared via email

[www.iss.umbc.edu/orientation](http://www.iss.umbc.edu/orientation)

