



UMBC International Student and Scholar Services

Fall 2021 Continuing Student Town Hall

September 3rd, 2021



CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Meet the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Team



Adam Julian - Director, ISSS



Dave Anguish - Acting Assistant
Director



Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International
Student Advisor



Natalie Lobb - Graduate International
Student Support Specialist



Candice Gilreath - General Assistant



Questions? Need assistance?



Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:



CPT: Off-Campus
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Applying for a Maryland
Driver's License or State ID



OPT: Post-Graduation
Work Authorization



STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program
(I-20)



Change of Immigration
Status



New Students!
Fall 2021 International Student
Arrival Guide



COVID-19: Fall 2021 Options for
New and Continuing F-1 Students



Something else?
See how to contact ISSS

Monday - Thursday: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Appointment required:

issss.umbc.edu/contact/
University Center, 207



Stay connected with ISSS



ISSS email list:
Read your email!



ISSS Portal:
iss-portal.umbc.edu



myUMBC Group:
ISSS Marketplace



Advising Appointments
iss.umbc.edu/contact/



ISSS website:
iss.umbc.edu

Answers to most
of your questions
can be found here!



Follow us on social media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about ISSS activities.



Facebook:
umbcisss



Twitter:
@umbc_iss



Instagram:
@umbc_iss

✧ **Tag us** in your ✧
adventures on ✧
campus and the U.S.



📌 Agenda 📌

- Fall 2021 On Campus Reminders
- F-1 Regulations During COVID-19
- Employment options for F-1 International Students
- Scams
- Health Insurance
- Unibuddy
- Contacting ISSS



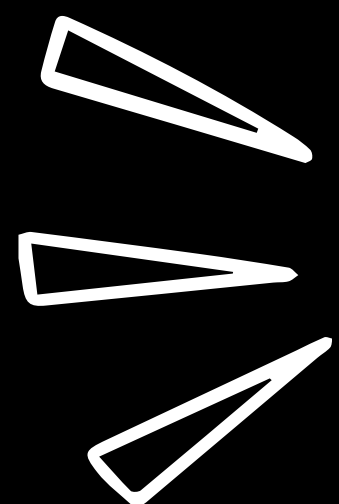
Reminder:

Please **type questions in**
the Q&A not in the chat

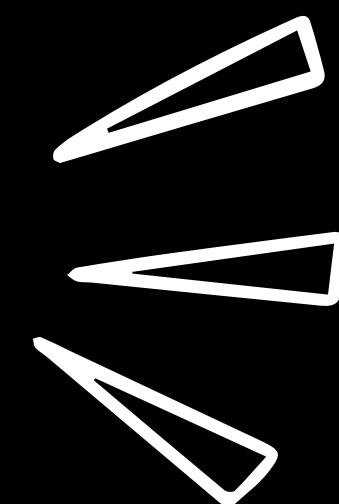
Our team is monitoring the Q&A during this session. The chat is for links we share, but it is not monitored for questions.

Your patience is appreciated as we answer your questions!





Fall 2021 On Campus Reminders



COVID -19 Protocols

www.covid19.umbc.edu

- COVID-19 vaccination is **required** for all students, faculty, and staff on campus
 - Vaccination status and how to comply found in COVID Compliance Card on your myUMBC Profile
 - If you are not yet vaccinated, please follow Health and Safety Requirements on covid19.umbc.edu
- Masking and physical distancing is required indoors at all times
- UMBC is following CDC's guidelines for international travel and quarantine
 - Unvaccinated individuals should quarantine for 7 days and be tested 3-5 days after travel
 - Unvaccinated includes those who are partially vaccinated or those who are vaccinated with a non-FDA or WHO approved vaccine
- Please refer to the FAQ for International Students on www.covid-19.umbc.edu site

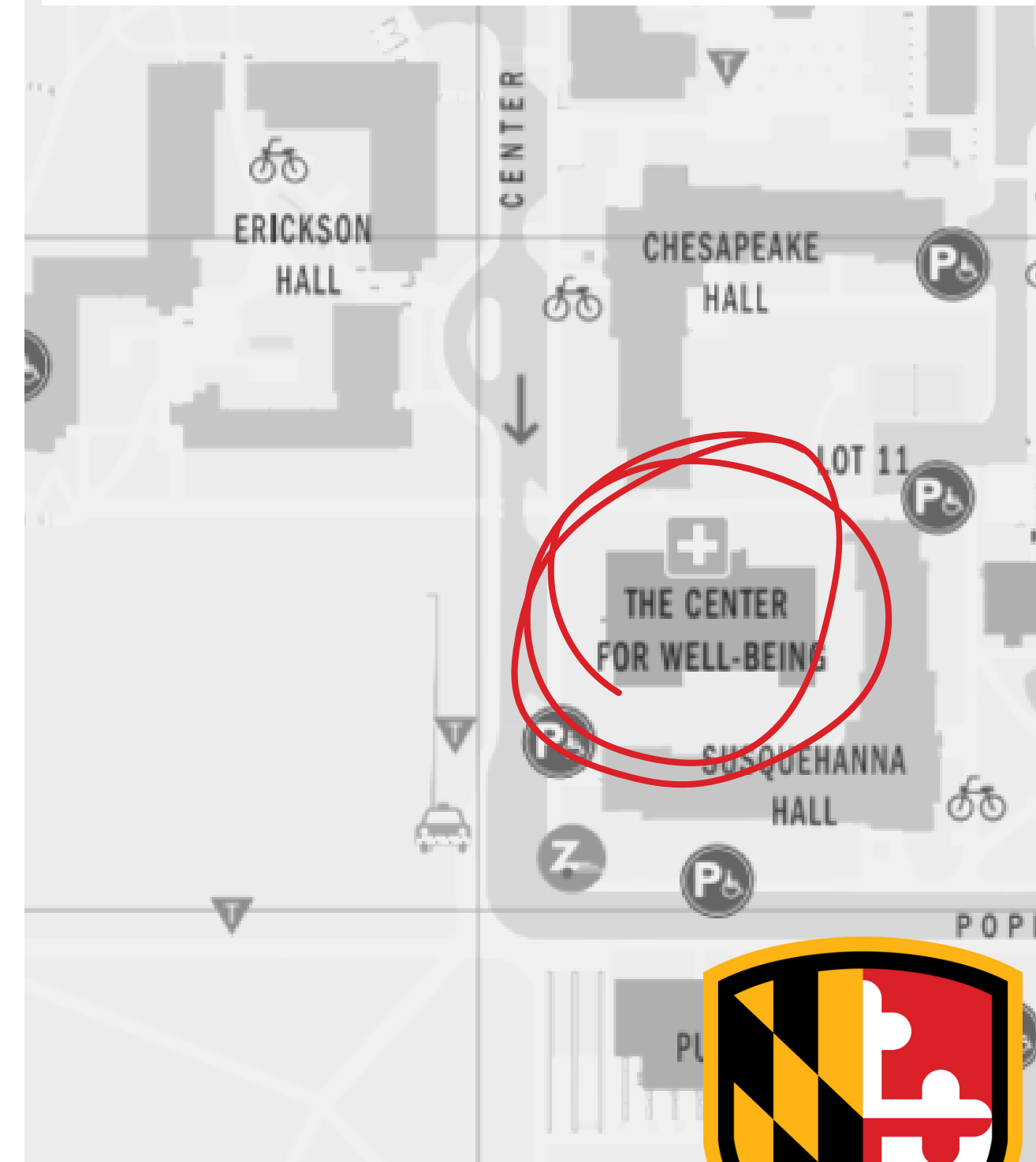
Direct all COVID-19 Questions to covid19@umbc.edu



Retriever Integrated Health (RIH)- University Health Services (UHS)

- UHS is UMBC's on campus student health services center. You'll be able to visit the doctor here as a student at UMBC.
- UHS is part of Retriever Integrated Health (RIH) which also includes the Counseling Center and Office of Health Promotion.

UHS is located in The Center for Well-Being (D7 on campus map). Signs with the location are on campus



Connect to Campus Wireless

- While on campus you will need to log in to Eduroam
- Instructions on : [UMBC Eduroam Wiki](#)
- DoIT Help Desk:
 - 410.455.3838

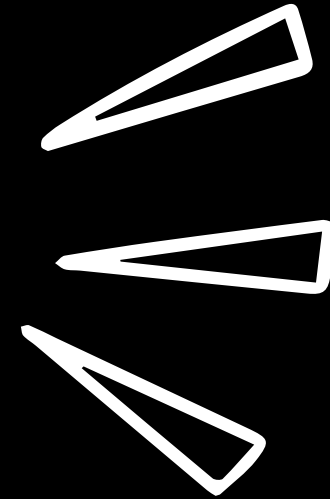
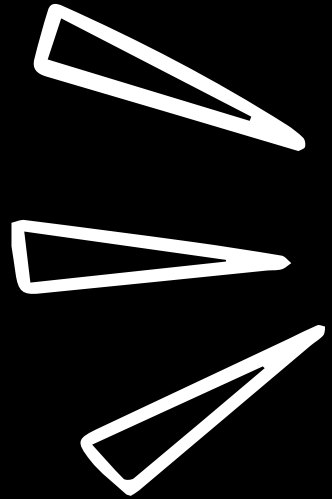


International Student Fee

- Changes to when international student fee is applied
- The fee itself has not changed
- Now applied **after** the schedule adjustment deadline
- Fall 2021 adjustment deadline is 9/14/2021 - avoid late fees



F-1 Regulations During COVID-19



Maintaining your F-1 Status:

Course Registration

- You have to be registered at UMBC!
- Optional to register during Summer and Winter breaks - not required
- Must be registered “full time” during Fall and Spring semesters – ✨ we check! ✨
- May take a class at another campus also (must speak with academic advisor first)



Online Courses

- Generally F-1 students can take only **one** online class per semester
- Exceptions to this rule due to COVID-19 for continuing F-1 students
 - Must have spent 1 semester or more in the US
 - Eligible to take **ALL** online courses
 - Hybrid classes are considered “in-person,” not “online”



Definition of “Full-Time Enrollment” at UMBC

- **Undergraduate students:**

- 12 credit hours minimum Fall and Spring semester

- **Graduate Students:**

- 9 credits per semester in fall and spring semester.
- Full-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 4 academic credits
- Part-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 6 academic credits



"Reduced Course Load"

- Few exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement:
 - Medical (physical or mental health challenges)
 - Deadline December 13th
 - Academic (can only be approved once):
 - First Semester Academic Difficulty (English language, reading requirements, adjustment challenges)
 - "Improper Course Placement"
 - Deadline November 10th
- MUST be approved by ISSS before dropping below full-time



Maintain Your Status!

- Register full-time
- Keep I-20 current
- Follow employment guidelines closely
- Don't break U.S. laws
- Keep in touch with the ISSS Office



Remember...

**Your immigration status is
your responsibility!**

We are here to assist you in maintaining it so your
experience in the US is enjoyable and fruitful.



Brief Overview **of Work Options**

Employment is limited under F-1 status

**The employment rules are very strict
and must be followed carefully**

Types of Employment

- On-Campus Employment
- Practical Training (off-campus)
 - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
 - Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Need-based employment (off-campus)
 - Severe, Unexpected, Documented Economic Hardship (USCIS processing fee of \$410)



On-Campus Employment

- Must be on UMBC's campus **ONLY** – BW Tech Park, for example, is NOT on campus
- Must be paid by UMBC
- May work **no more than 20 hours per week** during semesters
- May hold more than one job on campus so long as total hours are no more than 20
- May work full-time (More than 20 hours per week) outside of semesters



On-Campus Employment

Find an on-campus job:

- The Career Center website – UMBCWorks
- Career Center guidance on documents (CV, cover letter); best practices
- Apply in person
- Network!



Off-Campus Employment: CPT

CPT: Curricular Practical Training

- Paid internships while a current student
- Eligible after 2 academic semesters in US
- **Must be authorized by ISSS, noted on I-20**
- Must be related to your degree program, and noted on transcript

1st Semester at UMBC	→	CPT Eligibility
Spring 2020	→	Winter 2020 Late December 2020 - January 2021
Fall 2020	→	Summer 2021 Late May - August 2021
Spring 2021	→	Winter 2021 Late December 2021 - January 2022



Off-Campus Employment: CPT

Find an internship:

- Career Center!!
 - Review their communications
 - UMBCWorks
 - Events
 - Guidance
 - PRAC Deadline for Fall 2021: October 5th
- Academic Department
- Network with other students



Off-Campus Employment: OPT

OPT: Optional Practical Training

- Usually after graduation
- 1 Year of work authorization
- Can work for any employer/change employer, work has to be related to academic field studied at UMBC
- Requires application to USCIS, plan for 3-4 months processing time

Xtreme OPT Workshop September 17th



Off-Campus Employment: STEM OPT Extension

- STEM Extension – possibility of 24 months additional OPT
- STEM-eligible degree completed
- Requires E-Verified employer, I-983 Training Plan
- Can change employers



Off-Campus Employment: Economic Hardship

- For students in unexpected financial hardship
- Have to prove source of unexpected difficulties
- Not often approved, have to make a very strong case
- Application to USCIS costs \$410
- Don't rely on this option!



...but where can I find a job?!

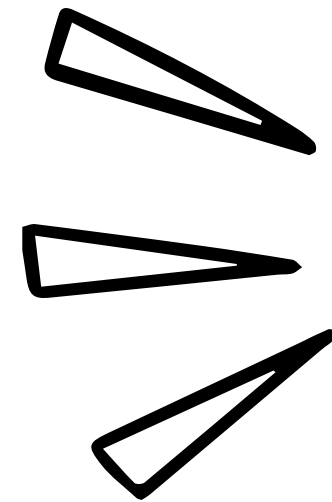
- Again, the Career Center is a great place to start
 - Career Center events
 - Career Center Services
 - UMBCWorks
- ALL available at careers.umbc.edu



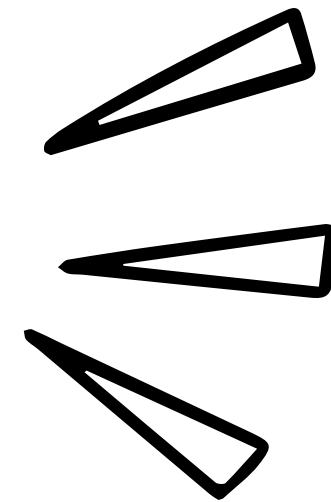
Work Options Summary

- On-campus work (immediate)
- Off-campus work:
 - CPT (after 2 semesters in US)
 - OPT (after graduation)
 - STEM OPT Extension
- Career Center





Scams



What's a scam?

- Scams are usually in the form of phone calls or emails from fraudulent individuals trying to obtain personal information or money from you.
- These individuals are trying to take advantage of you and use your information for harmful purposes.
- It happens to everyone! Be prepared and don't freak out. These are criminals trying to steal your money or identity.



How do I know if a phone call is a scam?

- The callers claim to be from a government organization, such as USCIS, the IRS, or a court – **these organizations will never call you!**
- The caller uses high-pressure tactics to try to get what they want, threatening you with things like deportation, arrest, and more.
- The caller will not let you off the phone to verify if it is a legitimate call.
- If you were in enough trouble that these were things that might happen to you, it wouldn't be a surprise to you, and you would NOT get a call about it.
- The caller does not sound professional.
- The caller asks or demands money or personal information – this is certainly a scam!!



How do I know if an email is a scam?

- Check the email address of the sender. For example, a recent scam claimed to be the “UMBC WebMail Program” but had a non-UMBC email address.
- Is the language professional? Many scammers are not native English speakers, do not write in professional English, or make many mistakes.
- The email asks for money or personal information. US government organizations will not ask for personal information or money via email.
- The email is threatening.
- The email doesn't make sense. For example, the “UMBC WebMail Program” email would clearly be a scam because UMBC does not use WebMail. You can google search UMBC Webmail Program and won't be able to find anything – this tells you it is likely a scam.



Common Scam #1: USCIS, SSA, IRS Phone Scams

- Student receives a call from someone from USCIS with the USCIS National Customer Service Center number.
- The “representative” provides personal identifiable information about academic status and immigration/visa records including passport number.
- The “representative” insists that the student is out of status and he/she must wire money to “USCIS” to fix the problem. Otherwise, the student must leave the country immediately.
- The “representative” provided a batch ID number and told the student to go to the airport after the wire transfer.



Common Scam #1: USCIS, SSA, IRS Phone Scams

- Remember, the USCIS, IRS, SSA will **never** call your personal phone.
- Your international student advisor can always confirm your status by accessing your SEVIS record.
- USCIS would never request money over the phone to “fix” your status.
- Never handle money before I-9 process and onboarding



Common Scam #2: Email Scams

- These most commonly appear to be from UMBC and ask you to click a link to verify your email account, at the risk of it being disabled.
- If the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) needed something like this to be done, they would alert the campus community in advance.
- Offers to work as a “personal assistant” as an F-1 student.
- Offers to make extra cash through money transfers
- **Anything that seems too good to be true almost certainly is!**



How do I protect myself from scams?

- Block calls, or don't answer calls from numbers you don't know (iOS option)
- Some network providers/phone OSs offer services to help screen calls
- Important legitimate callers will leave a voicemail message
- Know the signs of a scam - don't be a victim! Hang up, or better yet, waste THEIR time but don't give them anything!
- If you are truly concerned it might be legitimate, take a call-back number and consult with ISSS.



How do I protect myself from scams?

REMEMBER:

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER CALL YOU, NEVER DEMAND MONEY OR PERSONAL INFO, AND NEVER THREATEN YOU. Hang up, it's a scam!

- If you hang up once, don't pick up the number again.
- The scammer will eventually give up and move on.





Health Insurance



Is health insurance required?

YES



- International students are required by law to hold a US health insurance policy. **There is no exception to this rule**



All students are automatically enrolled in UMBC's comprehensive health care plan

- Plan name: Aetna Student Health
- Coverage begins at the start of the semester
- The cost of insurance will be billed to you (this is your premium)
- For services rendered at UHS, deductible is waived & covered medical expenses are paid at 100% (after copay)



Review your Aetna Student Health Plan

- Basic policy benefits from University Health Services: Click [here](#)
- [Aetna Student Health full benefits summary](#): Click [here](#)



However, if you choose a different plan:

- The plan must meet certain minimum requirements. All policies will be audited by Student Health to ensure that they meet the requirements.
- You'll need to waive your UMBC insurance.
- The deadline to waive your insurance if you choose to do so, is **Sept 30**. If you do not waive you will not be refunded.
- These instructions only apply if you choose to purchase and use another insurance plan



Reminder:

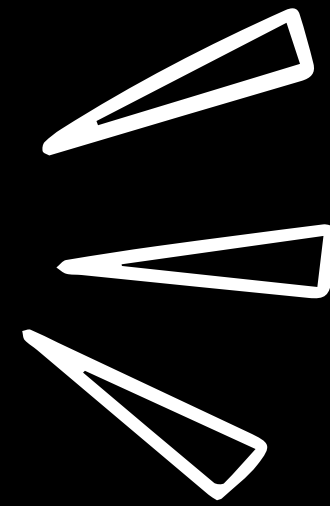
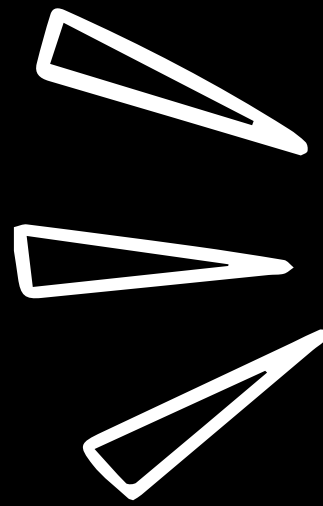
- You do not need to waive anything if you **keep** the university health insurance plan.
- Students not currently in the US do not need health insurance
- ISSS will email if we have questions about your current location - **it is your responsibility to let us know whether you are in or out of the US**



Ask

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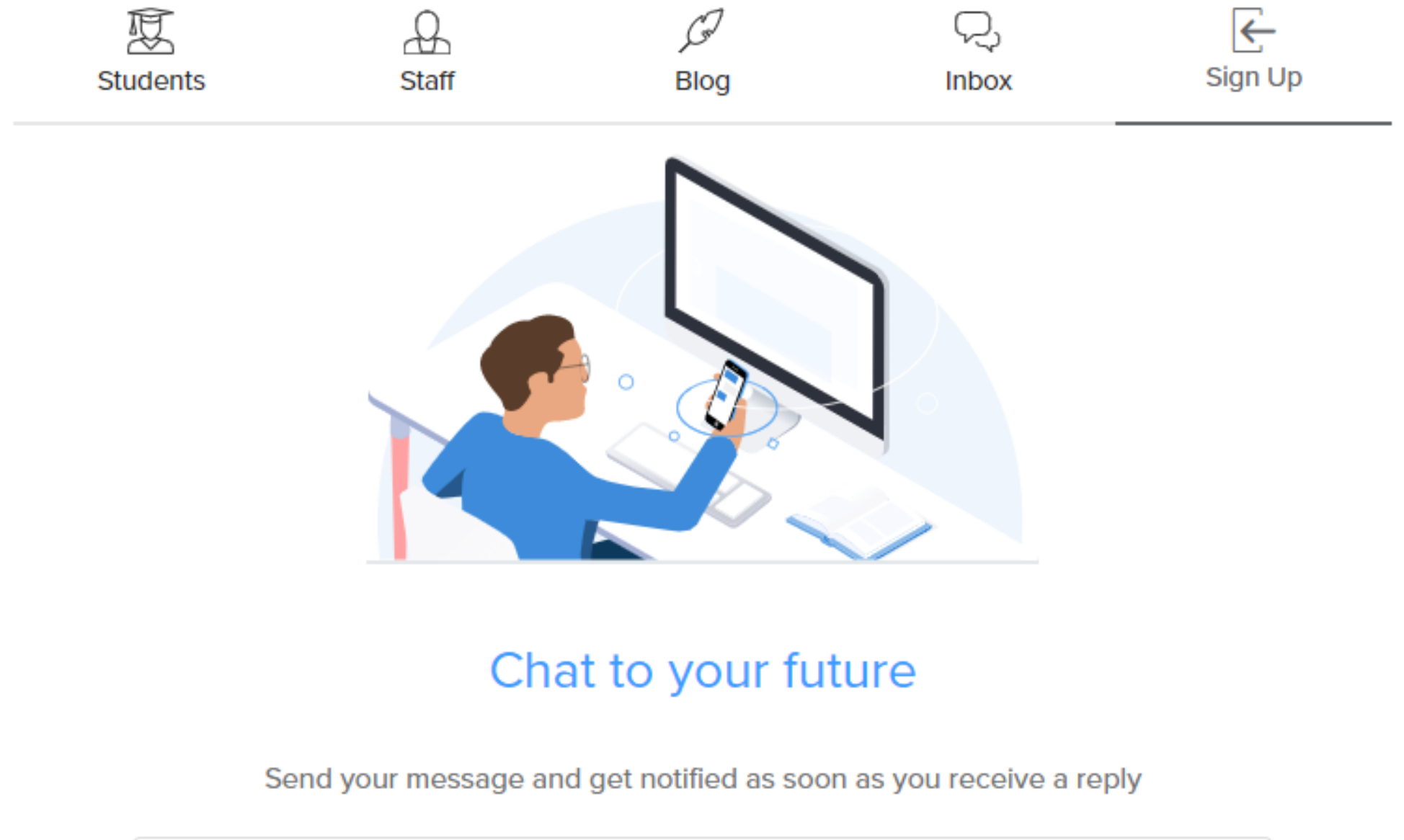
Student!



Ask a current student on Unibuddy!

Have a question about student life or navigating UMBC?

- Global Ambassadors answer your questions about student life and the campus experience at UMBC!
- There are 11 student ambassadors from different home countries, areas of study and with a wide variety of personal interests



[Click here to meet and chat with the Ambassadors!](#)



How Global Ambassadors can help

Global Ambassadors can:

- Discover more about UMBC campus life
- Connect you with UMBC resources
- Learn about US & UMBC classroom culture and student life in the US!

Global Ambassadors cannot:

- Provide immigration support
- Help you get a job or provide CPT/OPT advice
- Offer academic advising or pick your classes for you

✧ ...BUT they can connect you with teams who will help you with these things! ✧



Upcoming Events



UMBC SUITS YOU

PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING CLOSET



Select one dry-cleaned or new professional outfit for FREE!

Susquehanna
Community Room

9/16, 10AM-6PM

9/17, 9AM-12PM

For more information visit careers.umbc.edu/suits

XTREME OPT!

**FRI, SEP 17
2-3:30 PM**

**In your final semester? Come
learn about the OPT application
process.**



UPCOMING FRAGOMEN & INTERSTRIDE WEBINARS



VISA & IMMIGRATION Q&A

Aug 26, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89030089161?tk=Hr631L711Fmdst1e-nsGy5IMuYQC4VWpE9y9NQ04NhEg.DQIAAAAUuptZyRY4UetzR3VLTIFENk9OemRRbXMySG93AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA>

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Webinar ID: 890 3008 9161

Participant ID: 394115

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kjzdKqabY>

UNDERSTANDING H-1B WORK VISAS

Sep 21, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82537108341?tk=UNjLzq79o9VjUpNlc3m6jyEI6tAjMLZy_R-veiKpSX0.DQIAAAATN5hTidRZtb1FDc2pmdFRteVf1U01sWWUxRTBnAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Webinar ID: 825 3710 8341

Participant ID: 423084

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcbmR3sJ2J>

VISA & IMMIGRATION Q&A

Oct 26, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82497143185?tk=Bny0XQVFcwo43KMpRinWb0auc2T46vjj9LtbhULiCH8.DQIAAAATNTaBkRZ2Vvk5telFod1QxaVJCUWVVSQ1N4ZXNBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA>

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Webinar ID: 824 9714 3185

Participant ID: 193359

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kb2p1Ne2hy>

WORK VISA ALTERNATIVES TO H-1B

Nov 18, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436408831?tk=LZ4lrPs1r8UKfpInAvMHqhYE6biaGbzaOBUw96IkJYw.DQIAAAAU0tNL_xZLVIBGRJEweFN0dWdDSXVFZ0ExNk1RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Webinar ID: 894 3640 8831

Participant ID: 348740

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/klivzwgVV>

Fragomen Immigration Webinars

A series of virtual webinars from the
Immigration Law Firm Fragomen:

- September 21
- October 26
- November 18



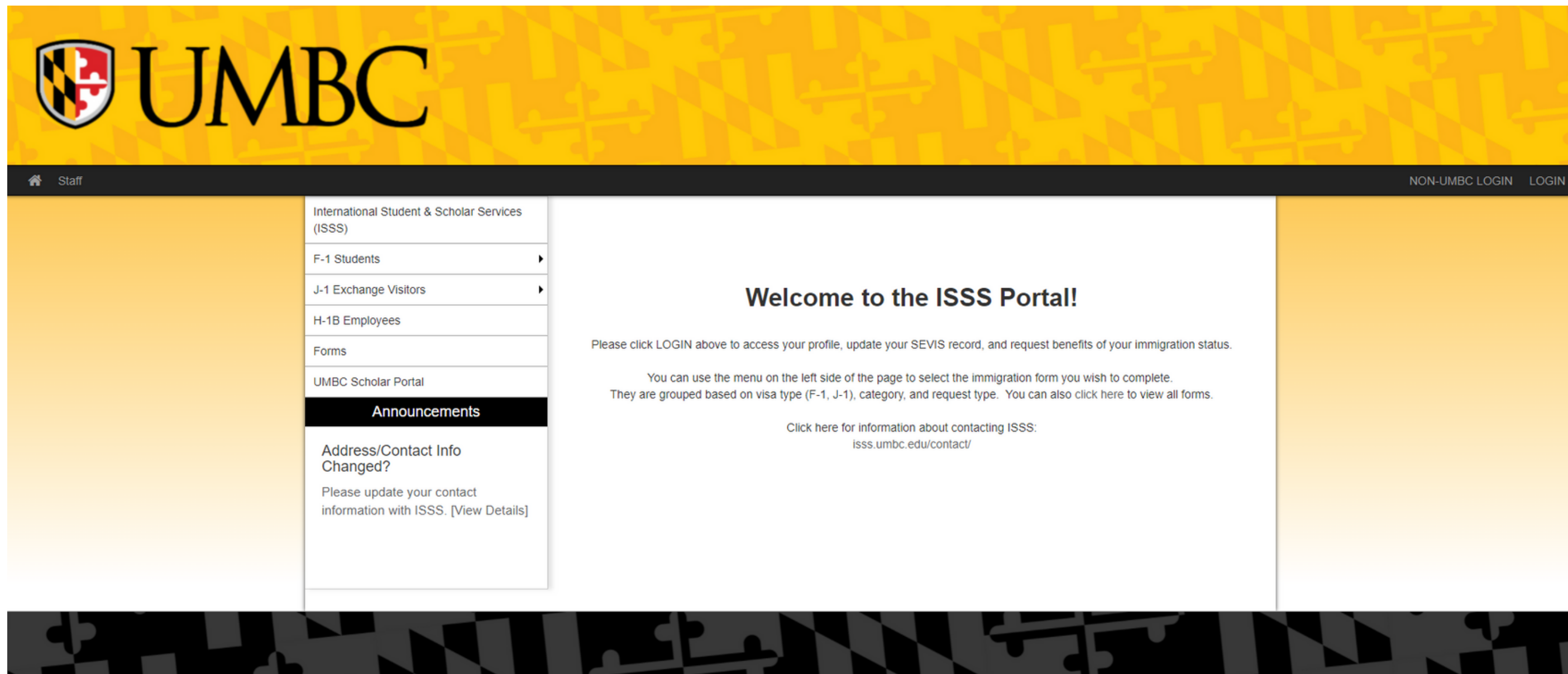
Contacting ISSS



ISSS Portal

ISSS has gone paperless!

Complete all electronic applications via the ISSS Portal



Questions? Need assistance?



Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:



CPT: Off-Campus
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Request a Letter



OPT: Post-Graduation
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STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program
(I-20)



Change of Immigration
Status



New Students!
Fall 2021 International Student Arrival Guide



Something else?
See below to contact us!

The answer to most inquiries
are available here:
issu.umbc.edu/contact/



Office Hours

The answer to most inquiries are available here: issss.umbc.edu/contact/

- Monday – Thursday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- By appointment only
 - To make an appointment, visit issss.umbc.edu/contact/ or use the QR code below!



Document Drop Off/Pick Up

The answer to most inquiries are available here: issss.umbc.edu/contact/

Documents can be dropped off or picked up at the front desk of the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), located on the second floor of the University Center (above Starbucks and Chick-fil-A).

Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- CGE is open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday
- Only come to pick up a document when you have been notified it is available
 - 24 hours
- You must bring your UMBC Campus ID card
- You cannot meet with an ISSS advisor when you pick up a document



Contacting the ISSS Team

The answer to most inquiries are available here: iss.s.umbc.edu/contact/

- If inquiry is not resolved by methods above, email our shared inbox iss.s@umbc.edu
 - Remember to email iss.s@umbc.edu **NOT** individual staff members
 - Remember response time - 3 **business** days
 - Do not send multiple or reminder emails
 - **Include full name and campus ID**
 - Include relevant information so we can best advise you



Follow us on social media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about ISSS activities.



Facebook:
umbcisss



Twitter:
@umbc_iss



Instagram:
@umbc_iss

✧ **Tag us** in your ✧
adventures on ✧
campus and the U.S.





Welcome Back!

 **We wish you a wonderful Fall semester!** 