



UMBC International Student and Scholar Services  
**Off Campus Housing at UMBC**

March 28, 2022



CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

# 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!



# 📌 Agenda 📌

- About ISSS
- About Off Campus Student Services (OCSS)
- Resources Available at OCSS
- Overview of Housing in U.S.
- FAQs
- Q&A



# Meet the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Team



Adam Julian - Director



Dave Anguish - Assistant Director



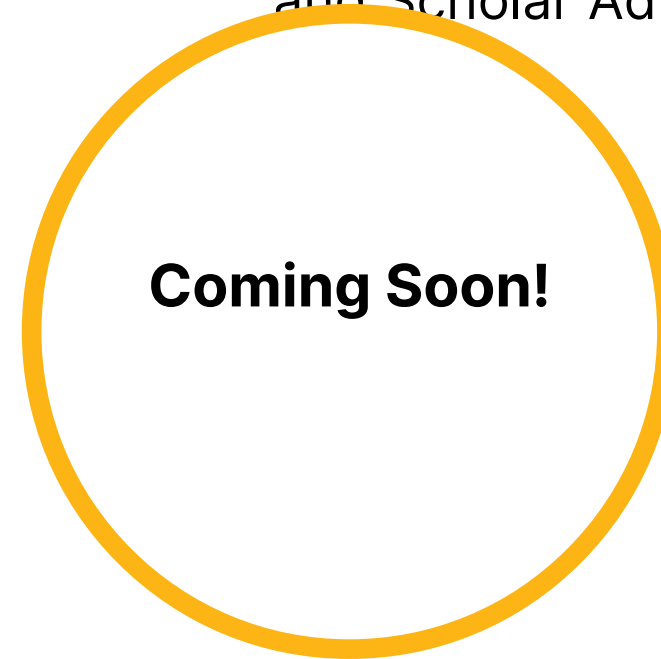
Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International Student and Scholar Advisor



Natalie Lobb - Graduate International Student Support Specialist



Mercedes Arias - International Student and Scholar Advisor



Sarah Cockcroft - International Student and Scholar Advisor





# About ISSS

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a branch of UMBC's Center for Global Engagement, is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community and helping them achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. ISSS offers a variety of programs and services to aide students in these endeavors:

- **Immigration Advising** - ISSS helps international students and scholars navigate the U.S. visa process and maintain valid immigration status by providing the guidance, knowledge, and necessary resources.
- **Community Building** - ISSS offers programming designed to help students make important connections within the UMBC community. These opportunities for intercultural exchange and mutual understanding enhance the UMBC international student experience.
- **Work and Internships** - ISSS works with current students and alumni to help them access the many employment and internship opportunities available to them by facilitating the use of benefits such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and other employment authorizations.



# 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  
Work Authorization



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!

**University Center 207**

**8:30 - 4:30**

**Mon - Fri**

**[issss.umbc.edu](https://issss.umbc.edu)**





# ISSS Spring 2022 Advising Hours



## Live Chat (all times Eastern US Time)

**Monday/Thursday:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**Wednesday:** 10:00 AM -12:00

**Tuesday/Friday** 10:00 AM -12:00, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

[Live Chat](#)

► [When should I use Live Chat?](#)



## ISSS Advising Appointments

**Monday:** 10:00 AM- 12:00 noon

**Wednesday:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Thursday:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[Book an Advising Appointment](#)

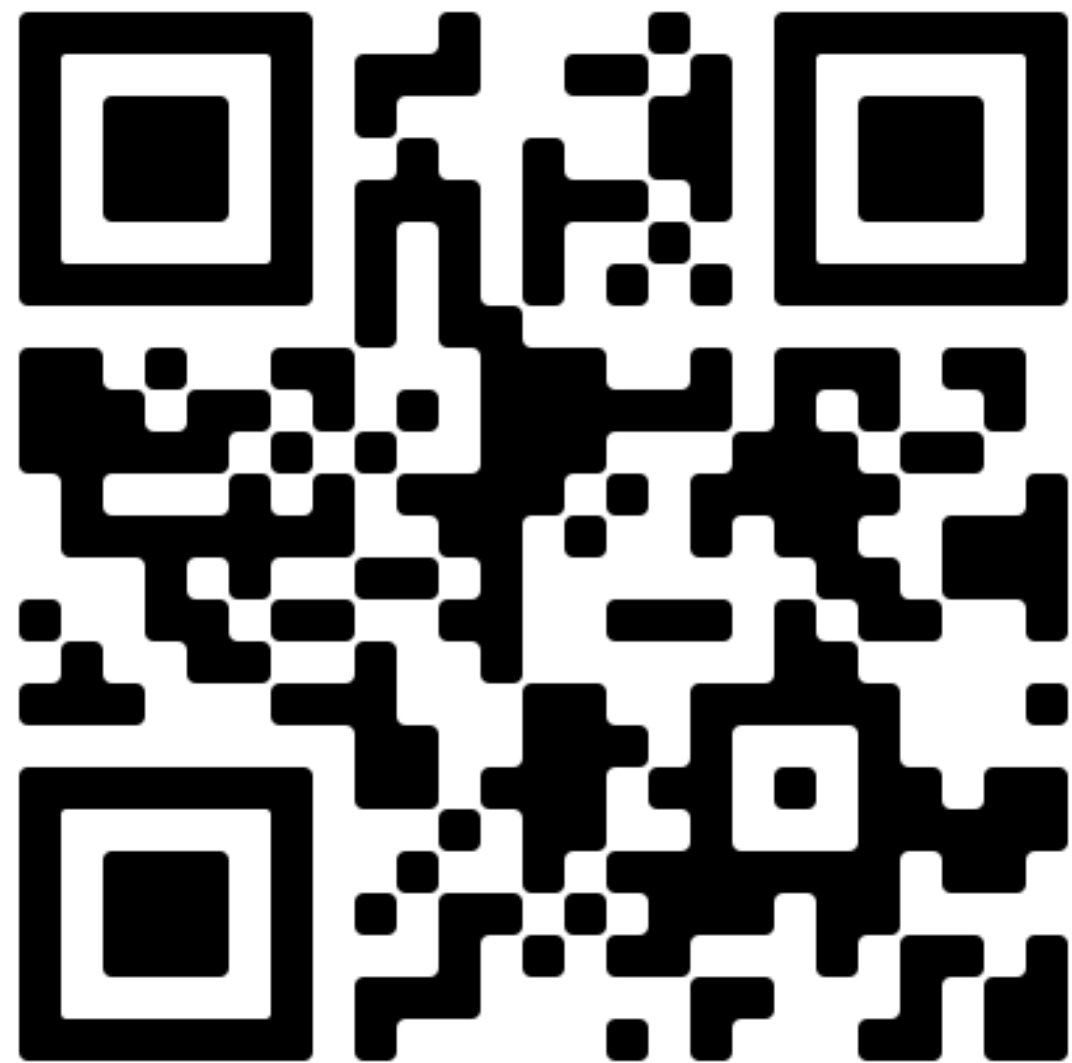
► [When should I book an appointment?](#)

## Getting in Touch By Email

If you have a question or issue that you cannot resolve using any of the methods above, please email ISSS. We aim to respond to inquiries within 2 – 3 **business** days. ISSS advisors respond to emails during business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



# Speak with an Advisor



[\*\*issss.umbc.edu/contact/\*\*](https://issss.umbc.edu/contact/)





# Stay connected with ISSS



**ISSS email list:**  
Read your email!



**ISSS Portal:**  
[iss-portal.umbc.edu](https://iss-portal.umbc.edu)



**myUMBC Group:**  
ISSS Academy



**Advising Appointments**  
[iss.umbc.edu/contact/](https://iss.umbc.edu/contact/)



**ISSS website:**  
[iss.umbc.edu](https://iss.umbc.edu)

Answers to most  
of your  
questions can be  
found here!





# Off Campus Student Services (OCSS)



# M. Antonio Silas, Ph.D.



Director of Off-Campus Student Services



# Off Campus Student Services (OCSS)

## Resources available:

- Programming and events specifically for commuter/off campus students
- Support and guidance for students renting apartments for the first time
- An online portal with apartment listings
  - <http://umbc.och101.com>
- Discounted Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) digital bus passes

## Contact Information:

- [www.ocss.umbc.edu](http://www.ocss.umbc.edu)
- [ocss@umbc.edu](mailto:ocss@umbc.edu)
- In person - Commons first floor (by the bookstore)







# When and How to Find Housing

- It can take months to secure an apartment, especially the closer you are to campus; these are typically the first spaces to go. The moment you learn that you will be going to UMBC, it's best to begin researching surrounding areas. You can use our apartment portal to look for apartments, or you can use a search engine (such as Google, ApartmentFinder.com, Apartments.com, etc.) to look for rental properties near UMBC.
- Off-Campus Student Services does not have the ability to reserve or procure housing for students, but we can provide assistance in navigating the process.



# U. S. Apartment/Lease Information



## Typical lease terms

- Most leases are for a 9 or 12 month period. In some cases, shorter leases (such as month-to-month) are also available, but in many cases require you to have been a resident at that respective property for a certain amount of time (in some cases, a year). Leasing terms can vary widely, so it's always best to get in contact with a leasing office for more information.



# U. S. Apartment/Lease Information

## Guarantor Requirements

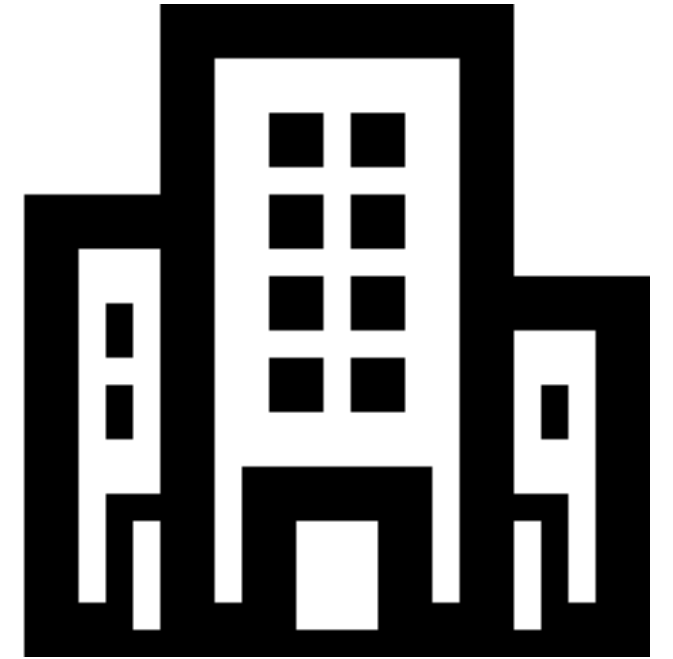
- A guarantor is someone that can assist you with obtaining credit, such as a loan or a mortgage. The guarantor “guarantees” your debt by agreeing to pay it if you are unable to. Professional guarantor services support international students that may not have the required financial documentation or history necessary to rent an apartment.
- Guarantors are not required in all cases. If you are able to provide proof of financial assistance (including those in the form of loans and scholarships), you may not need a guarantor. You can also provide a higher security deposit; this sometimes lessens the associated risk if you do not have a financial history and a guarantor.
- You can also get a close relative or family member to act as a co-signer for you; this is a very similar arrangement to that of a guarantor, as that person would assume the debt if you were unable to pay.



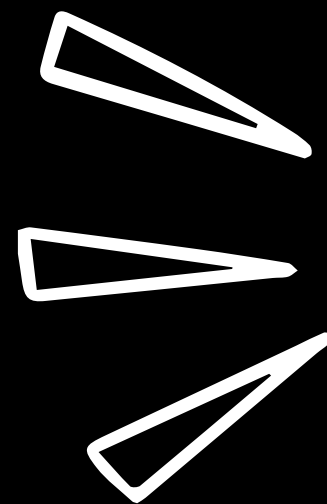
# U. S. Apartment/Lease Information

## Included/not included expenses

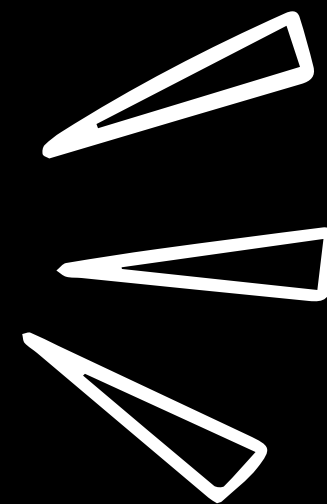
- Expenses for living off-campus can vary based on different factors, including the location and amenities included. Three things you can expect to pay for include utilities (water, electricity, gas, internet, etc.), monthly rent, and renter's insurance. Depending on your specific situation and preferences, you may also need to pay for parking, trash disposal, transportation, (gas, car payment, or transit), or other considerations.







**Q&A**



# Frequently Asked Questions?

What are some of the more common red flags to look out for to avoid a bad landlord, aka slum lord?

What documents will I need to sign a lease?

Will some apartment companies require proof of employment or work history? How do I provide this as an international student?



# Frequently Asked Questions?

What are my rights as a tenant? Where do I go if I believe my rights are being violated?

Does UMBC provide temporary housing?

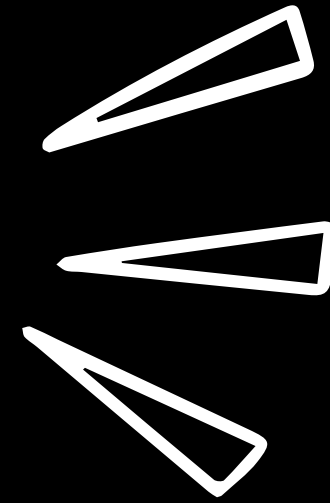
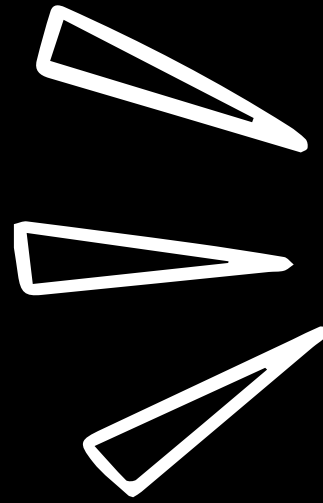
What is a typical security deposit amount?



**Ask**

**a**

**Student!**

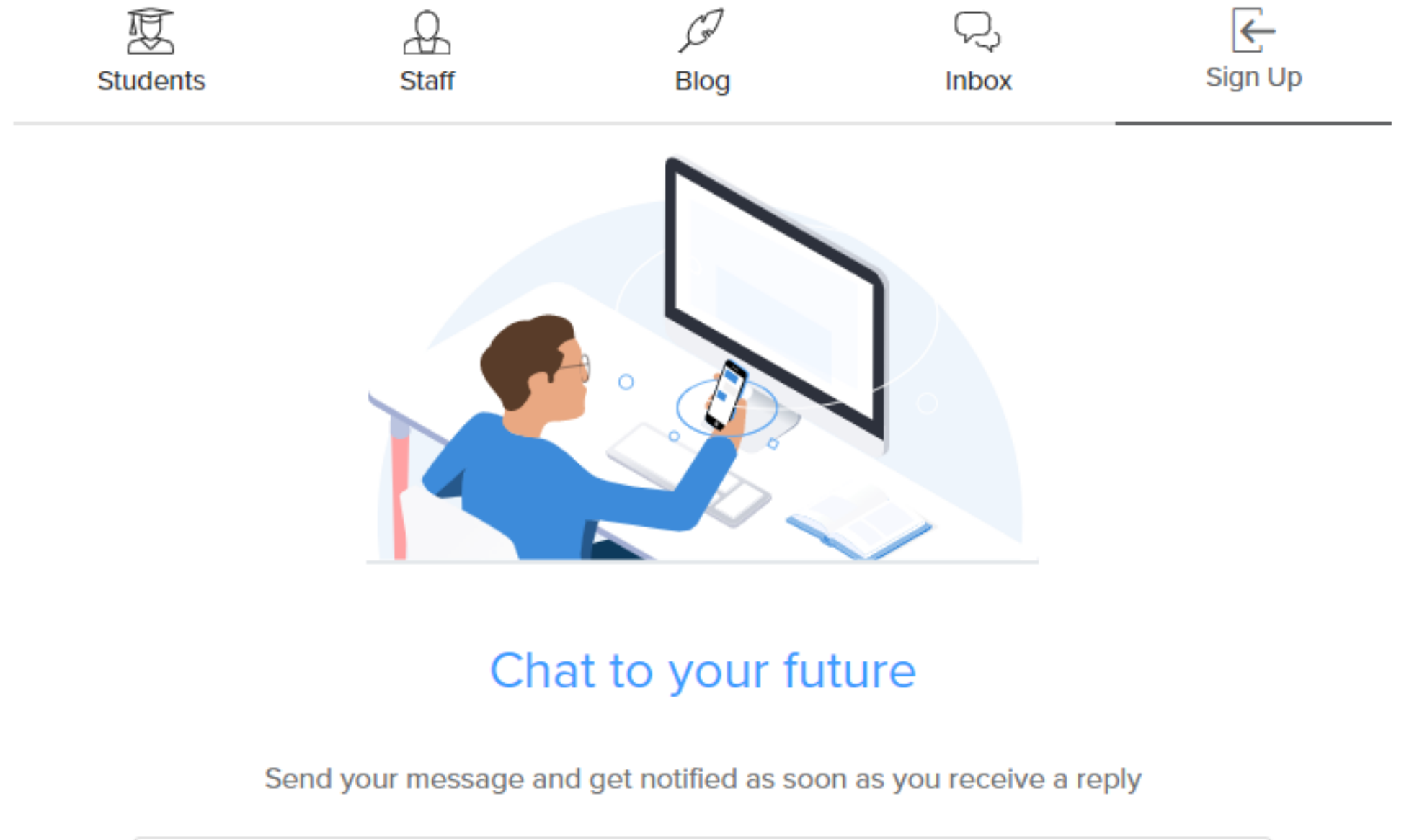




# Ask a current student on Unibuddy!

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! ✧**



# Follow us on social media!

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



**Facebook:**  
umbcisss



**Twitter:**  
@umbc\_iss



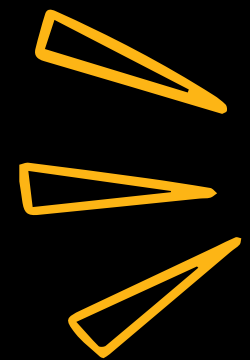
**Instagram:**  
@umbc\_iss

✧ **Keep up** with events at ✧  
✧ UMBC ✧





# Congratulations!



**We look forward to seeing you in Fall 2022!**

