



UMBC International Student and Scholar Services

# Fall 2022 Predeparture Orientation

June 27th, 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

- Working With ISSS
- Overview of student visa and entry process
- Scheduling the visa interview appointment
- The visa interview appointment
  - What to expect and how to prepare
  - Advice and tips
  - Possible outcomes
- Traveling to and arriving in the U.S.
  - What to expect
  - How to prepare
  - Settling In
- Resources
- Q & A



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



Adam Julian - Director



Dave Anguish - Assistant Director



Adwoa Hanson-Hall - ISSS Advisor



Natalie Lobb - International Student Support Manager



Mercedes Arias - ISSS Advisor



Sarah Cockcroft - ISSS Advisor



# Meet our Global Ambassadors



**Rokhaya - Biological Sciences (BS)**

Level of Study: Undergraduate

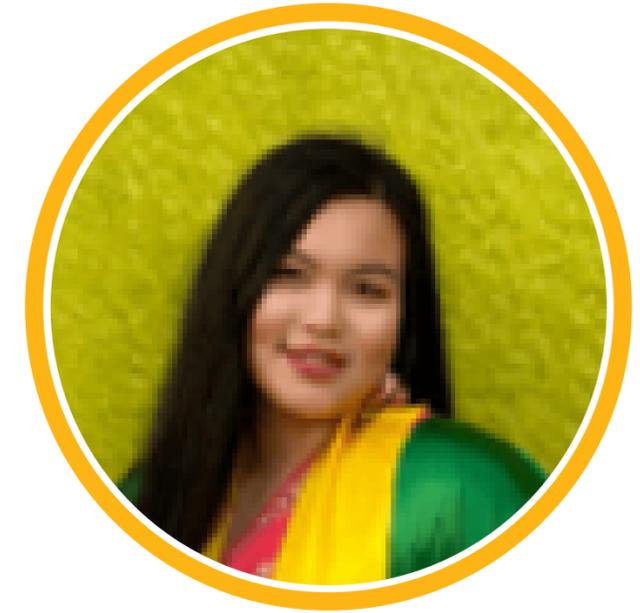
Hometown: Dakar, Senegal



**Nazia- Data Science (MPS)**

Level of Study: Graduate

Hometown: Chittagong, Bangladesh



**Ceila- Information Systems (MS)**

Level of Study: Graduate

Hometown: Kathmandu, Nepal



# 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

[iss.s.umbc.edu](https://iss.s.umbc.edu)



International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

# International Student Arrival Guide

Refer to the International Student Arrival Guide for information on campus services, contacts and resources!

- Student organizations and events
- Campus facilities, programming and activities
- Rent & Off- campus housing information
- Shopping & budgeting
- Using UMBC platforms and email
- Directory of campus contact details



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#### Access the Arrival Guide anywhere!

Scan the QR code to download the Arrival Guide and share it with friends.



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### Guide Extras

**Look for the light bulb!**  
Find important tips & reminders here!



Learn what other students think! UMBC Global Ambassadors will share their top tips & advice for students!



**Info for UMBC at Shady Grove**  
Pay attention to this icon if you are studying at UMBC at Shady Grove.



Check out our [new student arrival guide](#).





# ISSS Summer 2022 Advising Hours



**Live Chat** (all times Eastern US Time)

**Monday:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday:** 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

[Live Chat](#)

▶ [When should I use Live Chat?](#)



**ISSS Advising Appointments**

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

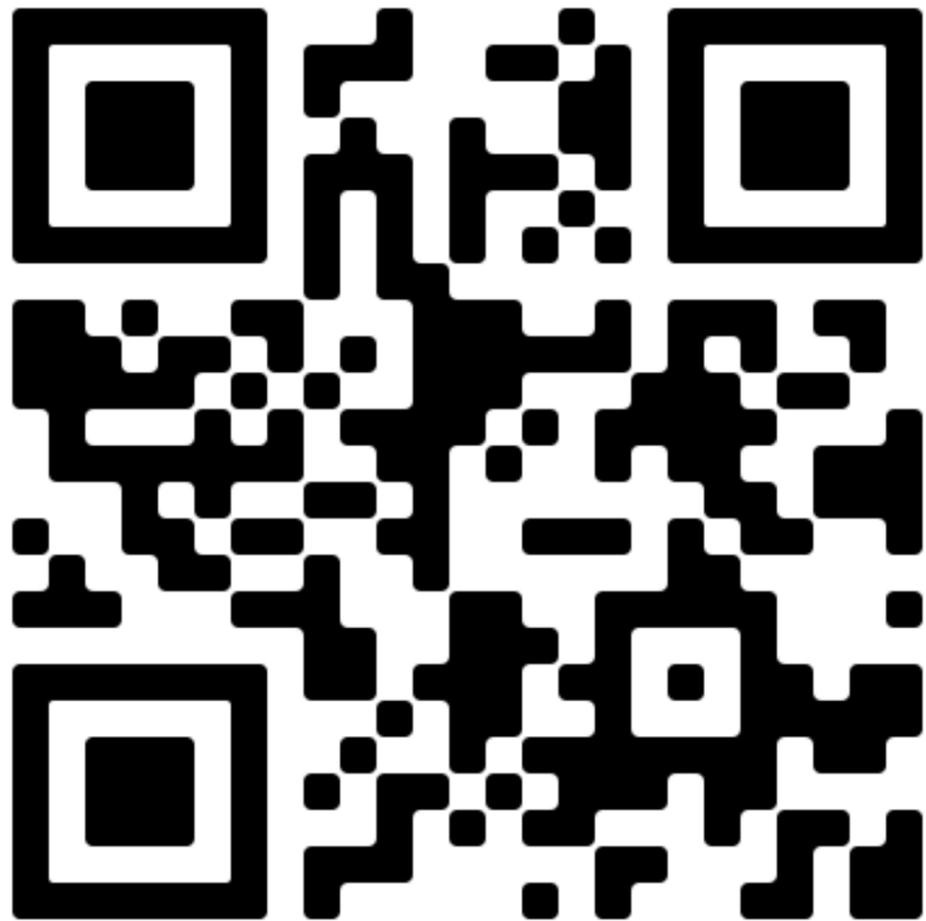
**Wednesday/Thursday:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[Book an Advising Appointment](#)

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



# Speak with an Advisor



[iss.s.umbc.edu/contact/](https://iss.s.umbc.edu/contact/)



# Stay connected with ISSS



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



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



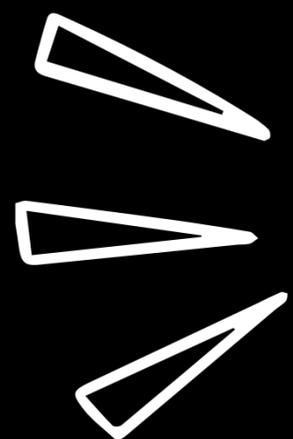
**ISSS website:**  
[iss.umbc.edu](https://iss.umbc.edu)



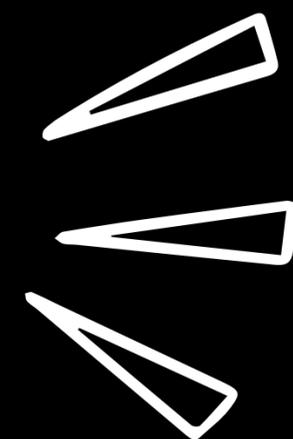
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Answers to most  
of your  
questions can be  
found here!

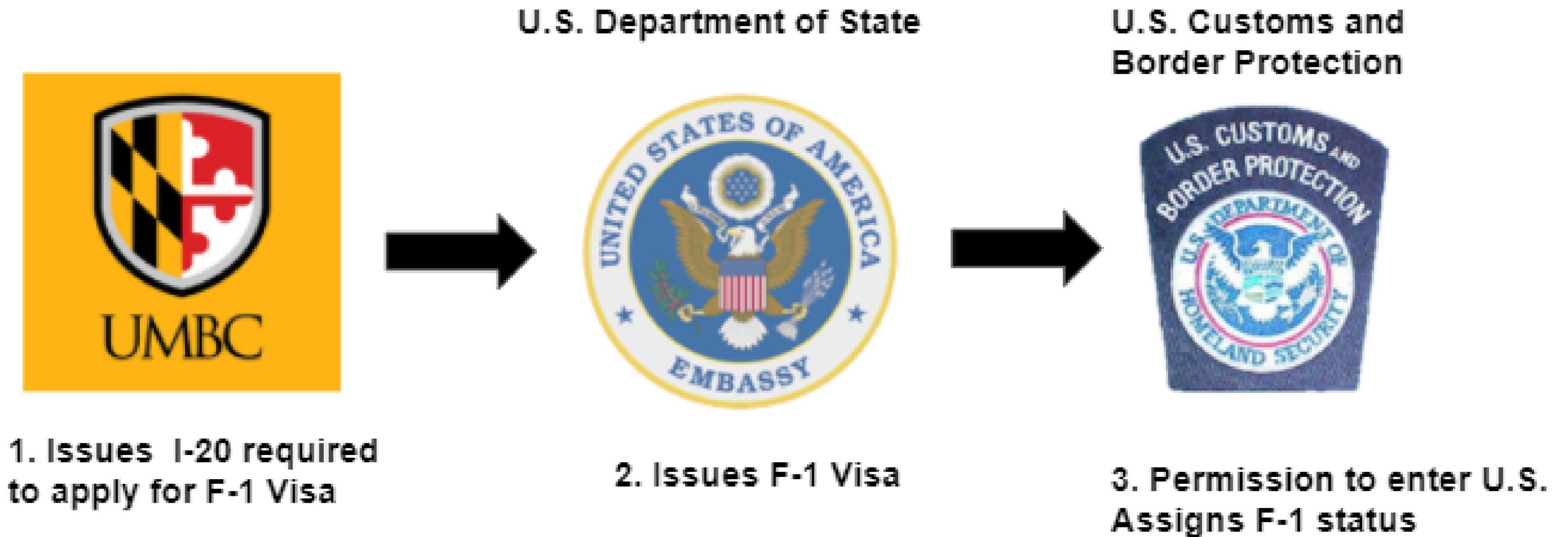




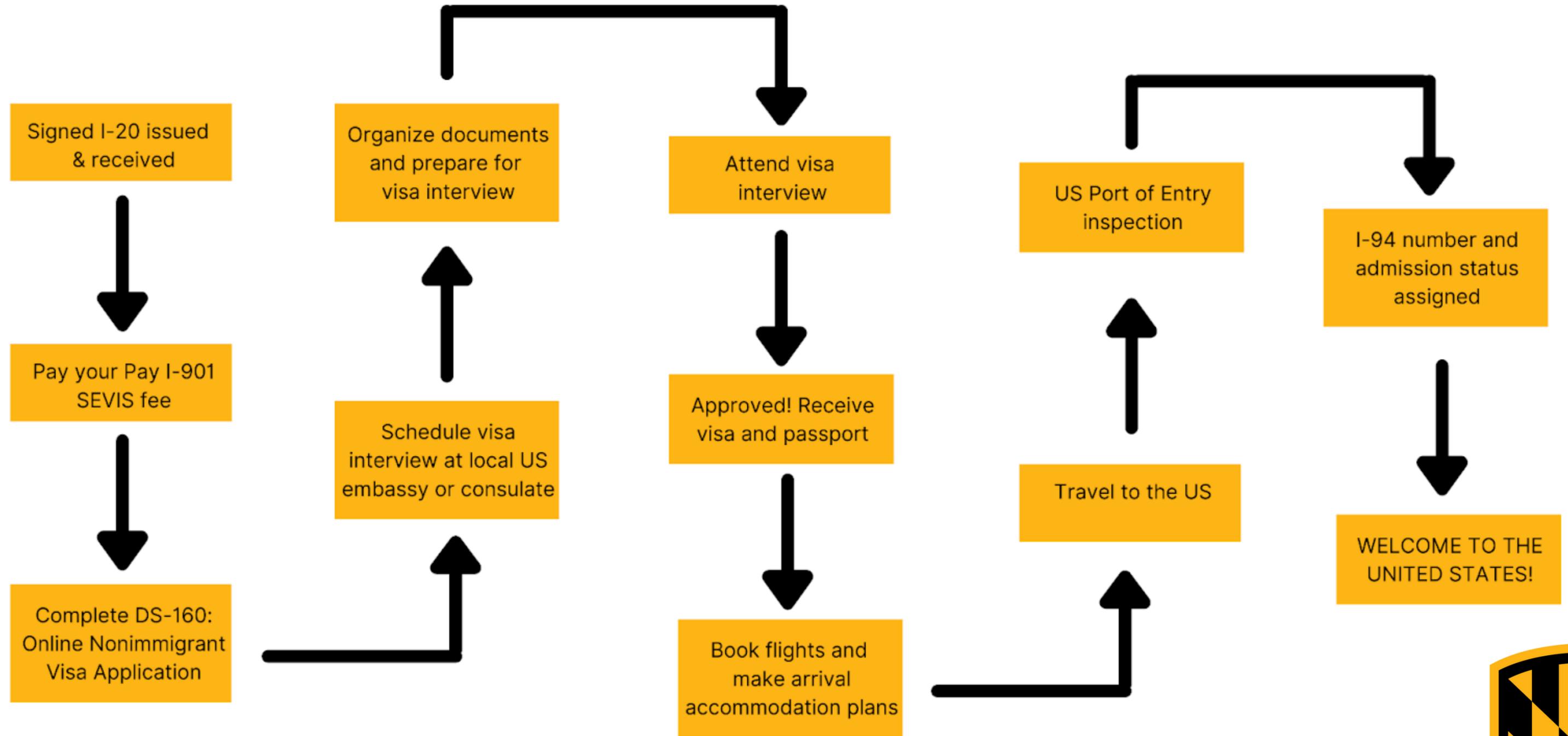
# The Student Visa Process



# The Student Visa Process



# Next Steps: I-20 through Entering U.S.



# The Visa Interview Appointment

Consular officer may ask:

- What do you intend to do after completing your degree?
- About your family's business in your home country or in the U.S.
- Why UMBC and why this particular program and degree?
- What are your long term career and academic goals?
- Where is UMBC?
- How will you support yourself while in the U.S.?
- How will you support your family in the U.S. or at home if they stay?



# Tips for a Successful Visa Interview Appointment

- Be prepared to establish **ties to home country** and **nonimmigrant intent**
  - Do you or your family own property?
  - Investments or inheritance in home country?
  - Did you apply to the visa lottery in the past?
  - Do you have close relatives who are U.S. citizens or permanent residence?
- Do your research
  - What is UMBC? Where is UMBC? Why UMBC?
  - What do you know about Maryland? Baltimore? Baltimore County?
  - Be prepared to explain your academic program/field of study in layman's terms
  - Why did you choose UMBC and not a different university?
  - What are your career plans and how does this program help you achieve them?



# Tips for a Successful Visa Interview Appointment

- **Practice, Practice, Practice**
  - Most interviews conducted in English
  - Speak for yourself
  - Be brief and be positive
- **Be honest**
  - A lie (however immaterial) will likely result in denial
- **Be concise and prepared**
  - Organize supporting documents in advance
  - Remember, you have 2-3 minutes (if you are lucky)



# What if I Can't Get a Visa in Time?

- Must receive visa and enter U.S. by August 31st
- Options if you cannot make this deadline:
  - **Defer** your admission to a future semester. Directions to defer your admission are here:
    - Graduate Students: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/students/forms/>
    - Undergraduate Students: email admissions@umbc.edu
  - Begin your program **enrollment remotely** from outside of the US, if your department has online classes available, and can come to the US at the beginning of a future semester.
    - Check with your department directly about availability
    - Must be physically in US for two academic semesters for CPT/OPT
- Can I enter the U.S. with a visitor visa and study? No. B1/B2 visas do not allow the holder to study full time



# Deferring Your Admission

## Undergraduate Students

- Processed by Undergraduate Admissions
- Must ask for scholarship to be deferred and cancel any on campus housing reservations
- Please email [admissions@umbc.edu](mailto:admissions@umbc.edu) with questions or requests about deferring your admission to another semester
- Drop all classes by September 14th, 2022

## Graduate Students

- Processed by your program, and the Graduate School
- Spring 2023 Deferral:
  - Complete a Deferral of Admission form here: [Graduate Student Forms](#)
- Fall 2023 Deferral:
  - Deferral Request available in September 2022
- Drop all classes by September 14th, 2022

## Deferral Deadline - September 14th, 2022

- Review Refund schedule here: [Tuition Refund Schedule](#)

## Deferral Processing Time:

- 1 month minimum
- Notified directly when completed



# Entering the US after Deferring To Spring 2023

## What happens to your I-20?

- Program dates must be adjusted
- Updated financial documents required if originals are over 6 months old
- SEVIS fee is valid for one year
- Cannot request new I-20 until your deferral is processed by the Undergraduate/Graduate Admissions

## Graduate Assistants (RA, TA etc)

- Work directly with department on updating your GA offer

## Entry to the US

- Spring 2023 semester begins January 31st
- Only able to enter the U.S. 30 days before the start of Spring 2023
- “Earliest Admission Date” section on your I-20



**Traveling to the U.S.**

# Traveling to the U.S.

- **A visa is not a guarantee of entry to the U.S., it is only permission to apply**
- F-1 Visa holders can request entry to the U.S. up to 30 days before I-20 start date
  - August 31st Start Date = August 1st Earliest Entry
  - August 2nd Start Date (GAs only) = January 3rd Earliest Entry
  - **Must enter by August 31st**
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has broad authority at U.S. Ports of Entry
  - All arriving “applicants for admission” are inspected by CBP to determine admissibility
- Can enter at any U.S. airport



# Traveling to the U.S.

**Did you receive your visa with another school's I-20 but plan to attend UMBC?:**

- Apply for a SEVIS Fee Transfer. Instructions on completing this are available here: [SEVIS Fee Transfer Request](#) under the title "How do I ask SEVP to transfer the I-901 SEVIS fee payment information from one SEVIS ID number to another?"
- Enter the US with your UMBC I-20
- This should be done **before** entering the U.S.



# Inspection at Port of Entry

## Primary Inspection

### Required documents:

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

### Suggested documents:

- Admission letter/academic transcripts
- Evidence of financial support



# Inspection at Port of Entry

## Secondary Inspection

- Not a cause for alarm
- Applicants to taken to secondary:
  - SEVIS technical issues
  - Efficiency
  - Extra screening
  - Review documents
  - Officer training issue
- Call UMBC Police at +1 410-455-5555 and ask to speak with an international student advisor



# Admission to U.S.

Assigns I-94 number and admission status:

- F-1
- D/S
- May or may not stamp your passport

I-515A

- Temporary admission
- Must contact a DSO (ISSS team) to comply



## Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 51415565885

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 25

Class of Admission : F1

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname :

First (Given) Name :

Birth Date :

Passport Number :

Country of Issuance : China



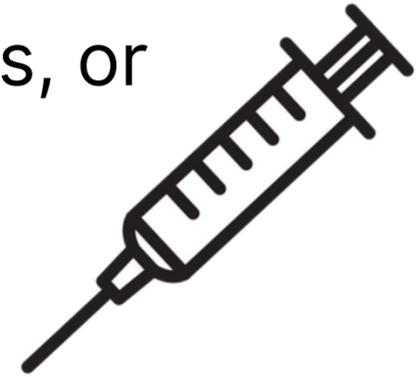
# Port of Entry Tips

- Review International Student Arrival Guide
- Remain calm
- Keep your documents in your carry on luggage
- Ensure your passport has six months of future validity
  - Present F-1 visa foil, not B-1/B-2
- Do not lie to a CBP officer
- Know how to contact UMBC in case of emergency
  - After hours: 410-455-5555 ask to speak to “ISSS”
- Check your I-94 record



# COVID -19 Vaccination Requirements

- Proof of vaccination **BEFORE** traveling to the U.S. is now required
- Present vaccination information to airline and/or U.S. Customs and Border Protection, **NOT** ISSS or during visa interview
- Effectively vaccinated = **two weeks after** single dose series, 2 - dose series, or accepted mix and match series 17 days apart
- Exemptions for countries with "limited availability"



Please note guidance around COVID-19, and COVID-19 requirements are always evolving. UMBC, and ISSS will communicate with students when any new developments occur.



# Approved Vaccines

- Effectively vaccinated = two weeks after single dose series, 2 - dose series, or accepted mix and match series 17 days apart

## Accepted COVID-19 Vaccines

	Vaccines Approved or Authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	Vaccines Listed for Emergency Use (EUL) by the World Health Organization
Single dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Janssen/J&amp;J</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Janssen/J&amp;J</li></ul>
2-dose series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pfizer-BioNTech</li><li>Moderna</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pfizer-BioNTech</li><li>Moderna</li><li>AstraZeneca</li><li>Covaxin</li><li>Covishield</li><li>BIBP/Sinopharm</li><li>Sinovac</li></ul>



# Limited Availability Exemption

- Must provide proof plan to get vaccinated within 60 days of arrival.
- UMBC will provide this.

## Citizens of the following countries are not exempt:

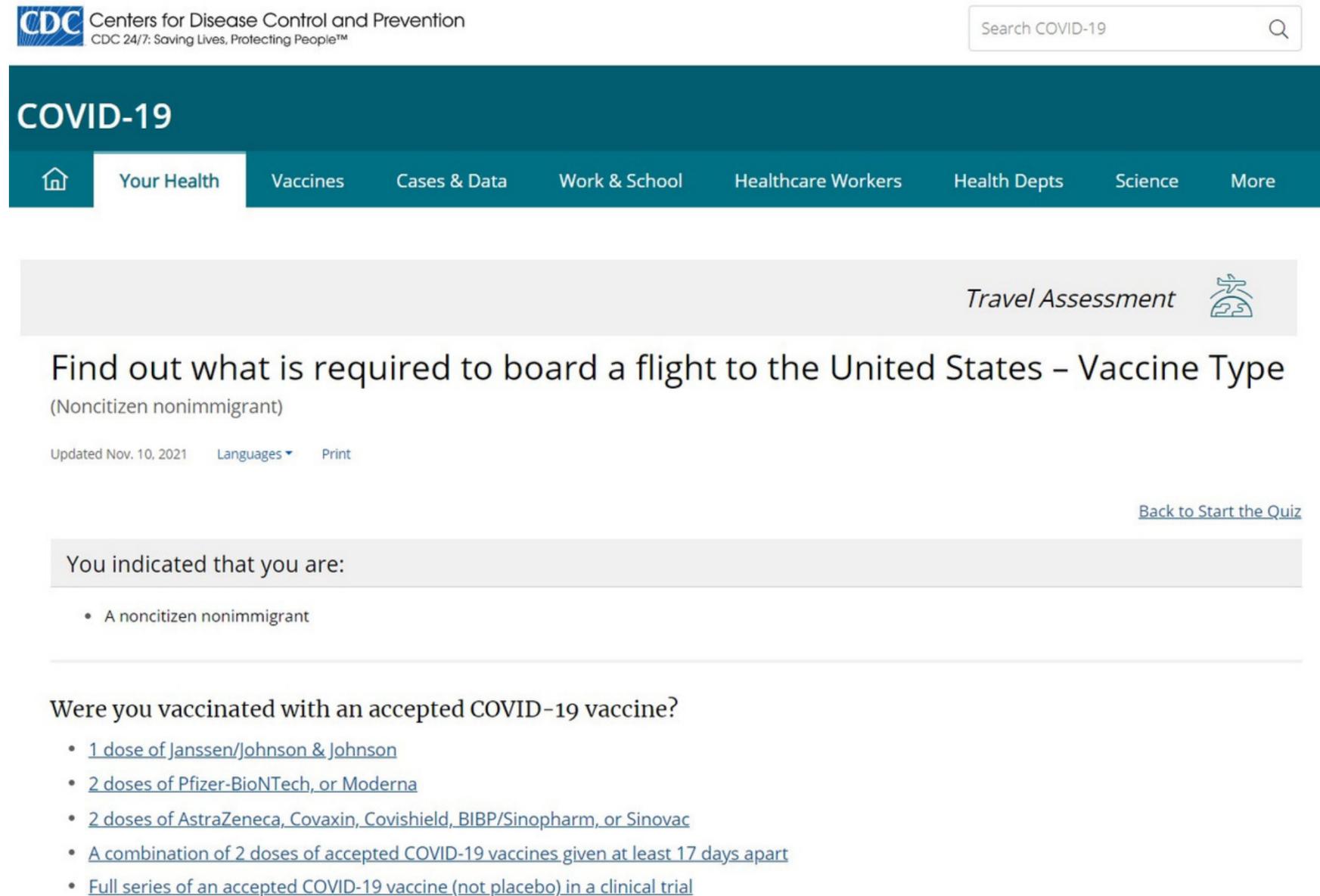
- China
- India
- Bangladesh
- South Korea

Afghanistan	Djibouti	Libya	Sierra Leone
Algeria	Egypt	Madagascar	Solomon Islands
Angola	Ethiopia	Malawi	Somalia
Armenia	Gabon	Mali	South Sudan
Benin	Gambia	Mozambique	Sudan
Burundi	Ghana	Myanmar	Syrian Arab Republic
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Namibia	Togo
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Uganda
Central African Republic	Haiti	Niger	United Republic of Tanzania
Chad	Iraq	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Congo	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Yemen
Cote d'Ivoire	Kiribati	Senegal	Zambia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Liberia		



# Questions about your vaccination?

- Complete U.S. CDC's Travel Assessment



The screenshot shows the CDC's COVID-19 Travel Assessment page. At the top left is the CDC logo with the text "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" and "CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™". To the right is a search bar labeled "Search COVID-19". Below this is a teal navigation bar with "COVID-19" on the left and menu items: "Your Health", "Vaccines", "Cases & Data", "Work & School", "Healthcare Workers", "Health Depts", "Science", and "More". A secondary navigation bar below it features "Travel Assessment" with a suitcase icon. The main heading is "Find out what is required to board a flight to the United States – Vaccine Type (Noncitizen nonimmigrant)". Below the heading are options for "Updated Nov. 10, 2021", "Languages", and "Print". A link "Back to Start the Quiz" is on the right. A grey box contains the text "You indicated that you are:" followed by a bullet point: "• A noncitizen nonimmigrant". Below this is the question "Were you vaccinated with an accepted COVID-19 vaccine?" and a list of five options: "1 dose of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson", "2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, or Moderna", "2 doses of AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Covishield, BIBP/Sinopharm, or Sinovac", "A combination of 2 doses of accepted COVID-19 vaccines given at least 17 days apart", and "Full series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine (not placebo) in a clinical trial".



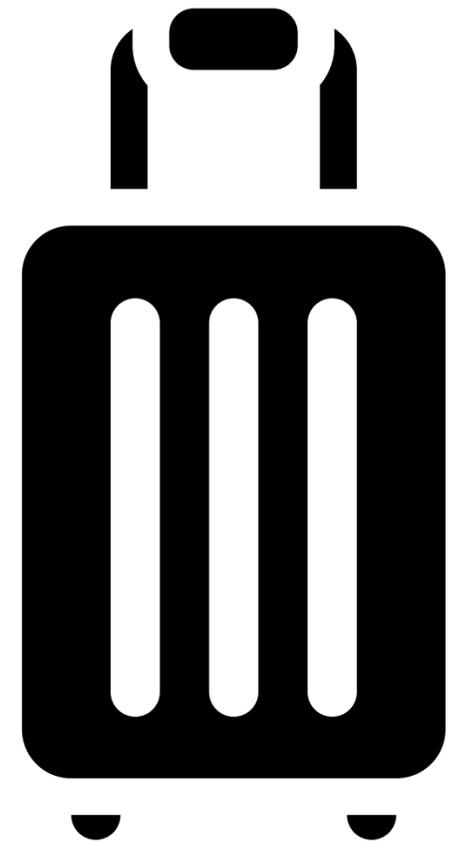
# Resources

- [NAFSA Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa](#)
  - Be sure to checkout the videos at the bottom!
- [International Student & Scholar Services- “F-1 Visa Process” www.issss.umbc.edu](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Student Visa Page](#)
- Your local embassy or consulate is always the best source of information



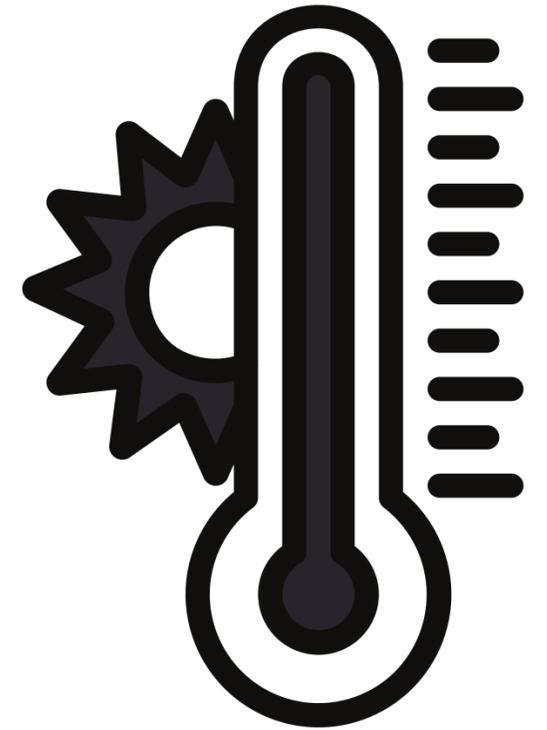
# What To Pack

- Clothing: Baltimore has **4** distinct seasons
  - It will be summer when you arrive. Prepare for the hot weather!
  - Summer clothing can be purchased at reasonable prices in the US.
- Personal items: books, music, something that reminds you of home
- Food: no live agricultural products! Dried spices are usually acceptable.
  - [CBP General Food List](#)
  - Many local stores carry foods from around the world
- Documents: in your carry-on luggage, NOT checked luggage!
- Cell phone: will you need a SIM card? Phone plan?
  - More information: [Packing Tips](#)



# Arrival Weather

- It will be summer!
- Make sure you have clothes with you that will help you feel comfortable in temperatures averaging around 28.5°C
- In August in Maryland, most people would wear cool, loose clothing. Shorts, t-shirts, and light clothing to stay cool.
- Occasionally, Maryland also experiences summer storms. Make sure you have appropriate footwear/prepare to move indoors if storms are predicted



# Getting From the Airport

- UMBC does not provide transportation from the airport
- You can arrive at ANY airport in U.S.
- The following airports are the closest to UMBC:

■ **BWI (Baltimore Washington International Airport)**

Distance to UMBC: 7 miles

Uber/Lyft/Taxi:

- Average trip cost: \$30-40 USD
- Taxi pickup on lower arrivals level
- Uber/Lyft meeting point on upper departures level

Super Shuttle:

- Average trip price: \$55 USD
- Must book in advance online [here](#)

■ **DCA (Washington Ronald Reagan National Airport)**

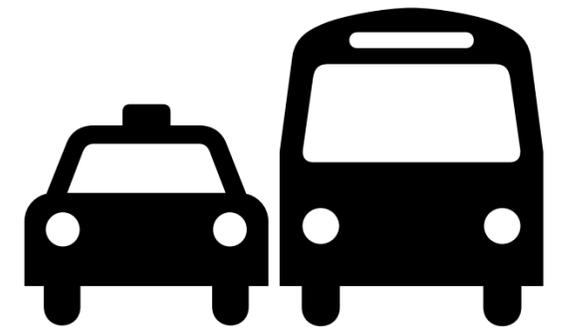
Distance to UMBC: 40 miles

Uber/Lyft/Taxi average trip cost: \$100 USD

■ **IAD (Washington Dulles International Airport)**

Distance to UMBC: 55 miles

Uber/Lyft/Taxi average trip cost: \$140 USD



# Accommodation

Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation. This should be completed **before** departure from your home country.

## On Campus Housing

- UMBC Residential Life [reslife.umbc.edu](http://reslife.umbc.edu)
- Undergraduate Housing:
  - [Residence Halls](#)
  - [Walker Avenue Apartments](#)
- Graduate Housing:
  - [Walker Avenue Apartments](#)

## Off Campus Housing

- [UMB Housing](#) - UMBC's sister professional school
- UMBC Off Campus Student Services [ocss.umbc.edu](http://ocss.umbc.edu)
- Available to all students
- [Apartment Search](#)
- Roommate Search
- Assistance with understanding US renting practices

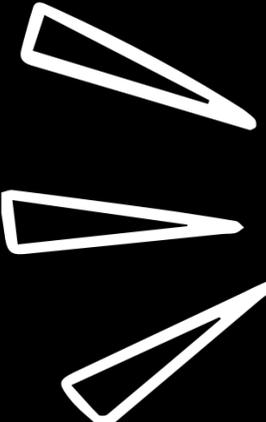
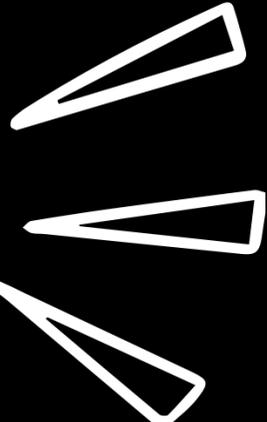


# COVID-19 Best Practices

- Must be vaccinated to travel to US
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times.
- Comply with all health and safety protocols of the airline and airport
- Quarantine requirements:
  - **Fully vaccinated** (with an FDA or WHO approved vaccine): not required to quarantine but **self-isolation for a few days and a COVID test are recommended, especially after international travel**
  - **Unvaccinated or Partially vaccinated:** (this includes those who are vaccinated with a non-FDA or WHO approved vaccine) will need to quarantine for 7 days when they arrive, and be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after travel.
- View FAQ's for international students [here](#)

For more information see [Maryland Department of Public Health Notice](#)



 **Settling In** 

# International Student Arrival Guide

Refer to the International Student Arrival Guide for information on campus services, contacts and resources!

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- Campus facilities, programming and activities
- Rent & Off- campus housing information
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- Using UMBC platforms and email
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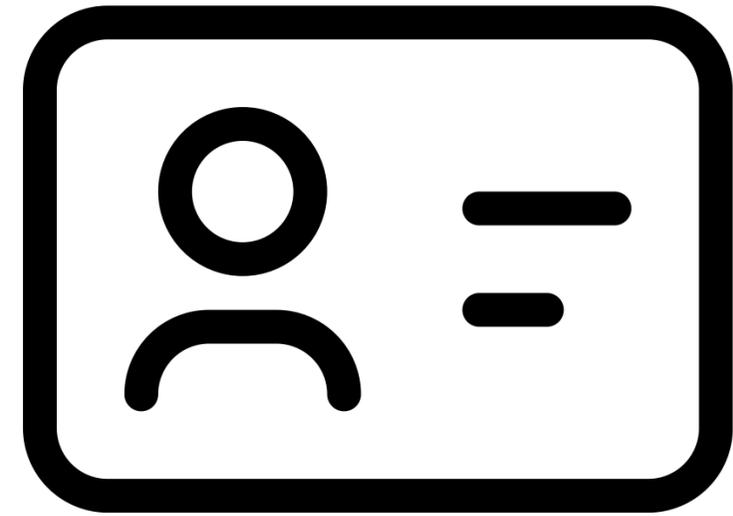


Check out our [new student arrival guide](#).



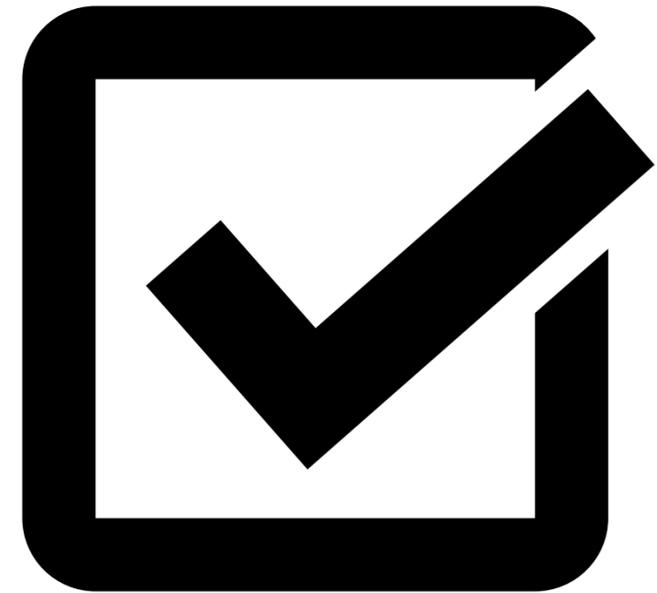
# Campus ID

- You'll need your campus ID for most things on campus
- Request process is electronic - can do this from outside U.S.
  - [submit photo here](#)
  - receive a confirmation from Campus Card and Mail services
  - pick up campus card when you arrive on campus
- Campus ID is required to ride the UMBC shuttle
  - UMBC transit will accept a print out of your confirmation email until you have a physical campus ID card



# How to Check In with ISSS

- All new international students must confirm arrival with ISSS via the ISSS Portal. Please check in through the ISSS Portal and not in person.
- Complete “New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in” in the ISSS Portal
  - **Select your Term:** “Fall, 2022”
  - **Upload documents:** Visa stamp page, I-94 record
  - **Update your personal information on myUMBC:** U.S. address, Foreign address, U.S. phone number, Foreign phone number, Emergency contact
- Check In can be completed **only** via the ISSS Portal - not at the ISSS Office



# Orientations: Important Dates

- International Student Orientation (online): **Both sessions are mandatory**
  - Wednesday, August 24 (9am -12pm EST)
  - Friday, August 26 (9am -12pm EST)
    - Links and more information will be sent to you directly 2 weeks prior
- University Orientations:
  - Graduate School Orientation (online via Blackboard)
    - [gradschool.umbc.edu/students/orientation/](https://gradschool.umbc.edu/students/orientation/)
  - Undergraduate Orientation for Freshman or Transfer Students
    - Scheduled individually (more information: [Freshman or Transfer Undergraduate Orientation](#))
- Graduate Department Orientations:
  - Graduate Students, please check with your department directly for information and requirements regarding any orientations



# Register For Classes

- Freshmen and Transfer Undergraduate students: register during orientation
- Graduate students: register via myUMBC
  - **Make sure your myUMBC account is active**
  - Step by step registration instructions
  - Registration Tutorial Video

**Students new to the US:** must enroll in at least 1 in-person or hybrid class in your first semester!

More information: [Registering for Classes](#)



# Paying Your Tuition + Fees

- Bills are available via your myUMBC account
- Payments can be made via your myUMBC account
- Monthly payment plans are also available: Payment Plan
- Fall 2022 Billing Schedule:

Fall

Register By	E-Bill Date	Due Date	Late Fee Charged
07/31	08/01	08/20	08/25
08/31	09/01	09/20	09/25
09/30	10/01	10/20	10/25

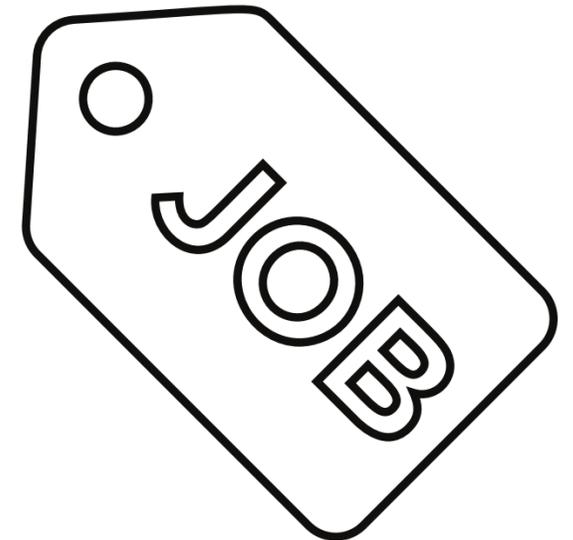


- Please contact Student Business Services with any questions or concerns



# Getting an On Campus Job

- Can begin working as soon as you arrive in U.S.
- Positions on campus and paid by UMBC
- Apply through UMBCworks - make sure to visit the Career Center's online resources!
- If you're new to the U.S. you'll need a SSN after getting a job offer. ISSS will help you with that process
- How much can you work a week?
  - During semester: 20 hours
  - During summer/winter break: 40 hours
- Off Campus work is prohibited until you have completed two academic semesters



# myUMBC - Navigating Your Account

- Access MyUMBC at [my.umbc.edu](http://my.umbc.edu)
- Profile
  - Overview of common needs; COVID compliance; personal information
- Guide
  - More in-depth access to various campus services
- Events
  - Featured, trending, new, and more!
- Shortcuts
  - Alerts, Email, BlackBoard, Google Suite



# myUMBC - Navigating Your Account

The screenshot displays the myUMBC user interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes the myUMBC logo, a search bar, and links for Profile, Guide, Events, Groups, and Help. A yellow banner below the navigation bar contains the text "Retriever Ready" and "UMBC is open, with most employees working remotely. Campus building access is restricted to those approved to work, live, and take classes on campus this fall." A "FALL 2020 DETAILS" button is also present.

The main content area features a weather forecast for Monday, November 30, 2020, showing heavy rain and a temperature of 61.6°. Below the weather is a large graphic for "24 Hours of Anime Fall 2020" starting on Dec 4 at 7:00 PM. To the right of the graphic are three promotional buttons: "Course Evaluations Now Available", "RETRIEVER ESSENTIALS", and "Get the app".

The "Guide" section is divided into three columns: "Thank you" (a message from President Hrabowski), "TRENDING" (links to Campus Solutions, HR System, PeopleSoft, Advising Center, REX Reports, and REX Finance), and "DEADLINES" (Last Day of Classes, Study Day, Undergraduate Commencement, and First Day of Winter Session 2021).

The "Events" section at the bottom shows a "TODAY" filter and a row of event thumbnails. A "View More" link is provided for the events section.

On the right side, a "Notifications" sidebar is open, showing categories like "GROUP INVITES", "HELP REQUESTS", "TRAINING", and "UMBC FITNESS AND WELLNESS". Specific notifications include group invites, help requests about mail delivery and PeopleSoft fields, training content like "Motivational Monday TEDx of the Week", and fitness/wellness content like "Strength Training at Home" and "UMBC Eats Community Cookbook".



# myUMBC - Updating Your Information

- Profile - About - View More
- Update the following:
  - Student Mailing Address, to your US address
  - Phone Numbers, once you set up a US number
  - Emergency Contacts - this is who UMBC will communicate with should you have a serious emergency
- Use the “edit” link to make changes to each field.

It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** to update this information, which we need to make your immigration record active once you arrive, and is required by immigration law!

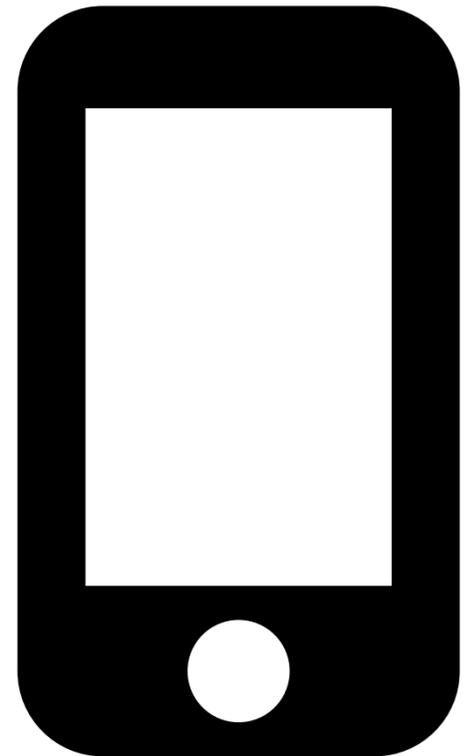


**Life in the U.S.**

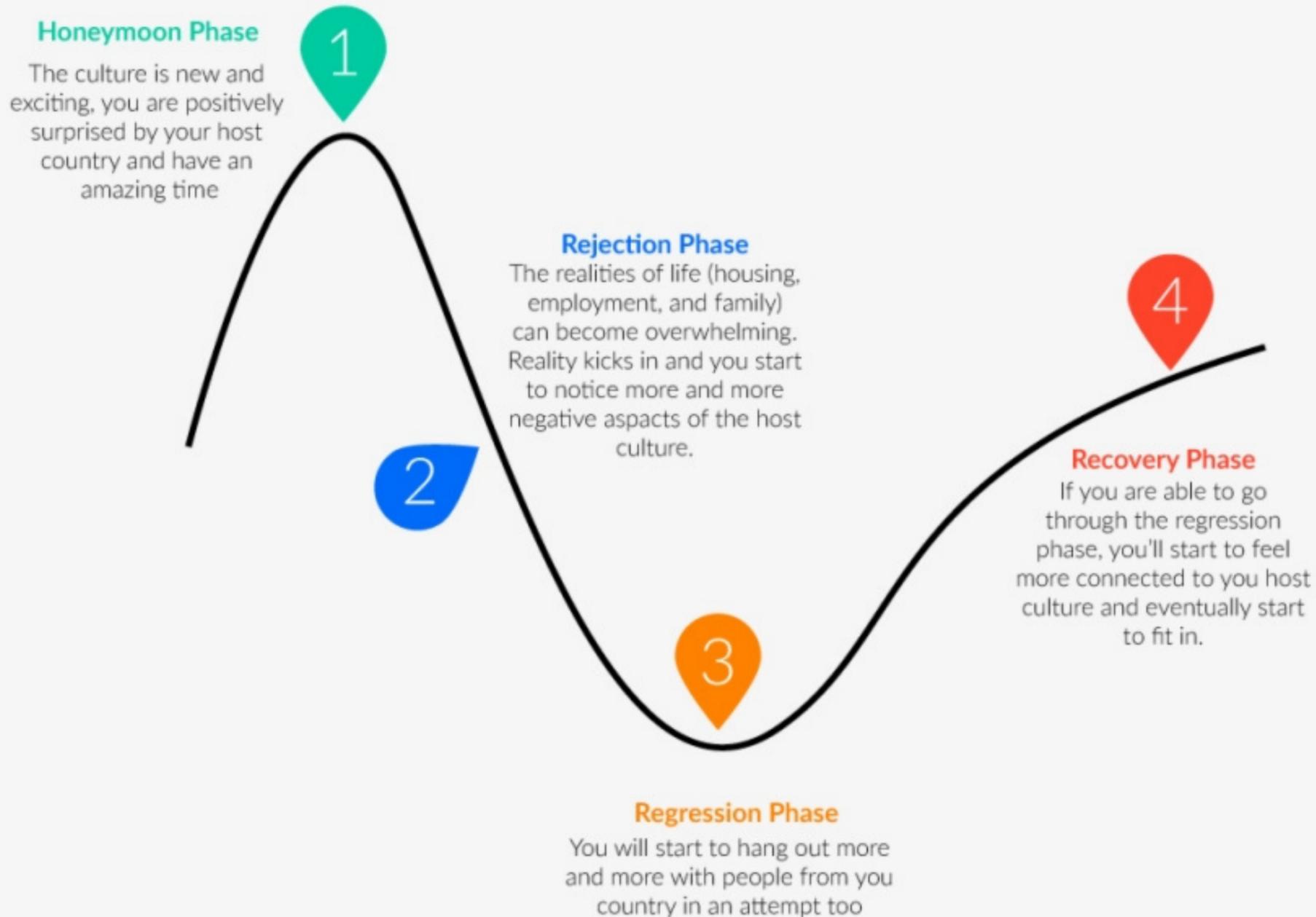
The text "Life in the U.S." is centered in a bold, yellow font. It is surrounded by a decorative graphic consisting of six white, hollow trapezoidal shapes. Three shapes are arranged on the left side, pointing towards the text, and three are on the right side, also pointing towards the text. The shapes are arranged in a fan-like pattern, creating a sense of radiance or focus on the central text.

# Phone Access/SIM Cards

- Able to use WiFi for using WhatsApp and other free communication tools
- If you want a U.S. number upon arrival, SIM Cards are the way to go!  
CampusSims is a SIM card you can purchase before arrival
- ISSS has SIM cards available for students who might need them- can be accessed **after** orientation



# Culture Shock



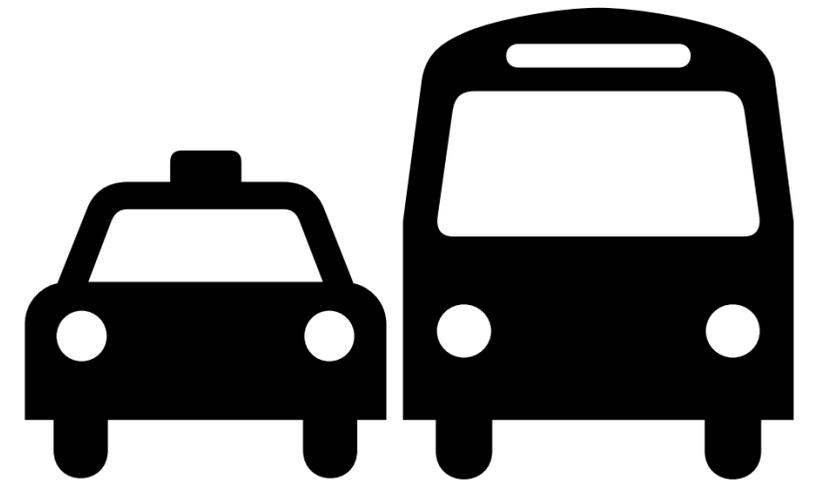
- Navigating a new culture can be challenging
- Everyone experiences culture shock
- If you're feeling overwhelmed let us know!



# Getting Around - Transportation Off Campus

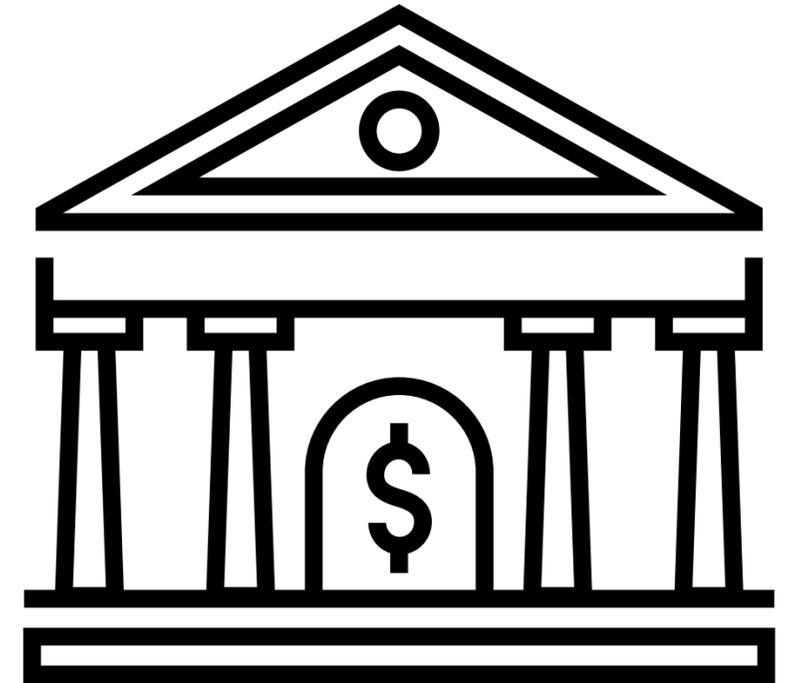
\*Keep COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in mind when using public transportation\*

- Public Transportation: Maryland Transportation Authority
  - Bus: takes you throughout Baltimore, and surrounding cities
  - Metro: takes you throughout Baltimore
  - Light Rail: takes you throughout Baltimore
  - Fare: \$1.90 per trip, All Access College Transit Pass: \$52.90 per month
- Free Options:
  - Charm City Circulator (downtown Baltimore only)
  - UMBC shuttle
- Getting your License:
  - SEVIS record MUST be registered
  - Complete S.A.V.E Verification
  - Visit MVA's website
  - On campus parking permits are free. Please apply here: Parking Permits
- Traveling further outside of Baltimore and Maryland? Check out the arrival guide for long distance options



# Banking

- Banks near campus (call ahead to find out COVID restrictions or changes)
  - PNC Bank - on campus ATM
  - Bank of America
  - Wells Fargo
  - Maryland State Employees Credit Union - on campus ATM
- Financial Smarts:
  - Joint resource from UMBC and PNC Bank
  - Find banks and ATMS on campus
  - Learn how to budget, save and invest
  - Website: Financial Smarts
- Opening a Bank Account:
  - Each bank has different requirements
  - Passport, I-20, proof of address, initial deposit



# Food + Shopping Near Campus

\*Keep COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in mind when visiting grocery stores and other establishments\*

- Local Grocery stores near campus accessible by foot
- Weis Market
- Giant Food
- Local Grocery Stores Near Campus accessible by car/bus
  - H-Mart Korean Grocery
  - Lotte Plaza Asian Market
  - Great Wall Asian Supermarket
  - Wal-Mart
  - Patel Brothers Indian Market
- More information here: Grocery Stores in Downtown Baltimore
- Contactless food delivery and grocery delivery available via apps like: Instacart, UberEats, Doordash
- Find more information about grocery stores and shopping in the Arrival Guide



# Living Costs - Plan Ahead

- Budgets/costs vary for each student
- UMBC Tuition Calculator (select "Out of State" for residency)
- Do you have a scholarship?
  - Make sure you understand what your scholarship does/does not cover
- Do you have a Graduate Assistantship?
  - Make sure you understand what is included in your assistantship
  - Understand your stipend and how that affects your costs
- Will you live alone? With family? Roommates?



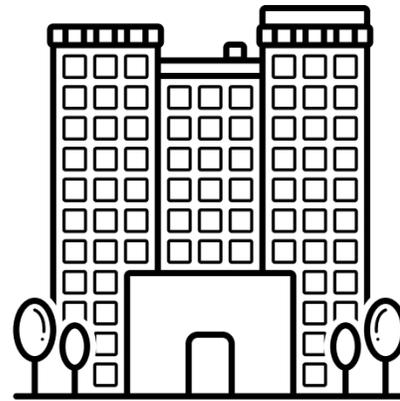
# Example Costs in Maryland



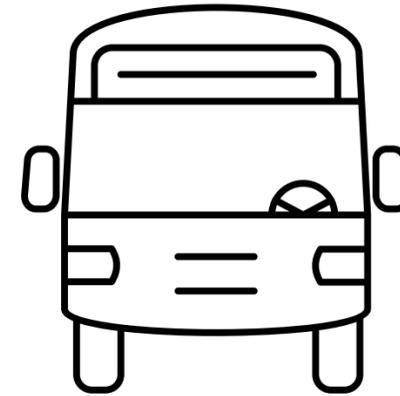
**\$12.20**  
Min. Wage



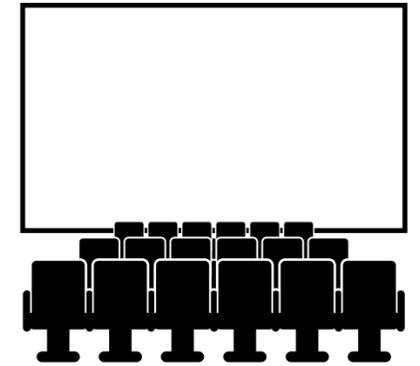
**\$300**  
Monthly



**\$1000**  
1 bedroom



**\$1.90**  
One way



**\$14**  
1 Ticket

Please note these are estimates. Exact costs will differ for each individual.



**Ambassador Chat:**  
**Cost of Living &**  
**Campus Life**

# Ambassador Tips

Can you share a bit about how you budget during your time in the U.S.?

What are some general tips you have for students about planning living costs?

Is there something you wish you had known regarding making a budget or living costs before arriving in the U.S.?

If you live on campus, can you share what that experience is like?

How do you all get involved in events and organizations on campus?

Please share some tips about getting settled on campus and about campus life at UMBC



# COVID-19 Websites + Resources

- UMBC Retriever Ready - covid19.umbc.edu
- ISSS COVID-19 Page - isss.umbc.edu/covid-19-information
- Baltimore City Health Department (@BMore\_Healthy)- health.baltimorecity.gov
- Baltimore County Health Department (@BaltCoGov) - baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/health
- Maryland State Travel and Public Travel Advisory
- Maryland State Government (@StateMaryland) - maryland.gov
- Maryland Department of Health (@MDHealthDept) - health.maryland.gov & coronavirus.maryland.gov
- COVID-19 International Student FAQ



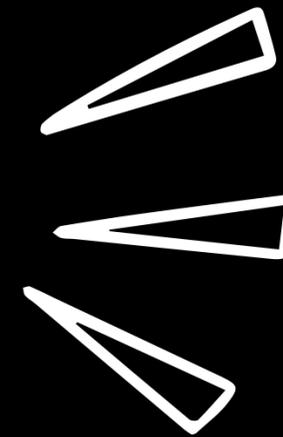
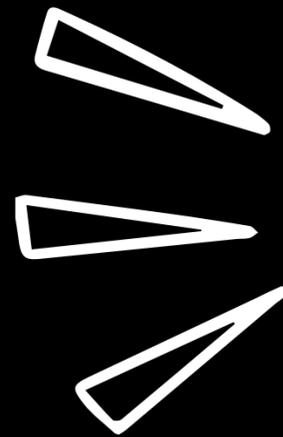
Please note guidance around COVID-19, and COVID-19 requirements are always evolving. UMBC, and ISSS will communicate with students when any new developments occur.



**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

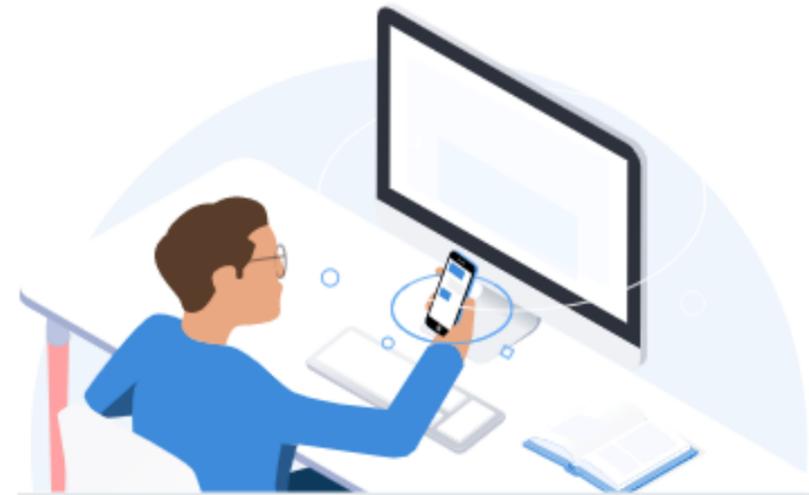
  
Students

  
Staff

  
Blog

  
Inbox

  
Sign Up



Chat to your future

Send your message and get notified as soon as you receive a reply

[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! ✱**



# Meet other new students on Unibuddy Community!



Welcome to

## UMBC Fall 2022 Admitted Students

Join this community to start chatting with  
other students as well as university staff  
and ambassadors!

Let's go!

[Click here to join the Fall 2022  
UMBC Admitted Student Group](#)

- Chat with other admitted students as well as our UMBC Global Ambassadors
- Get to know your classmates and talk about student life at UMBC!
- Ask current student questions about starting at UMBC

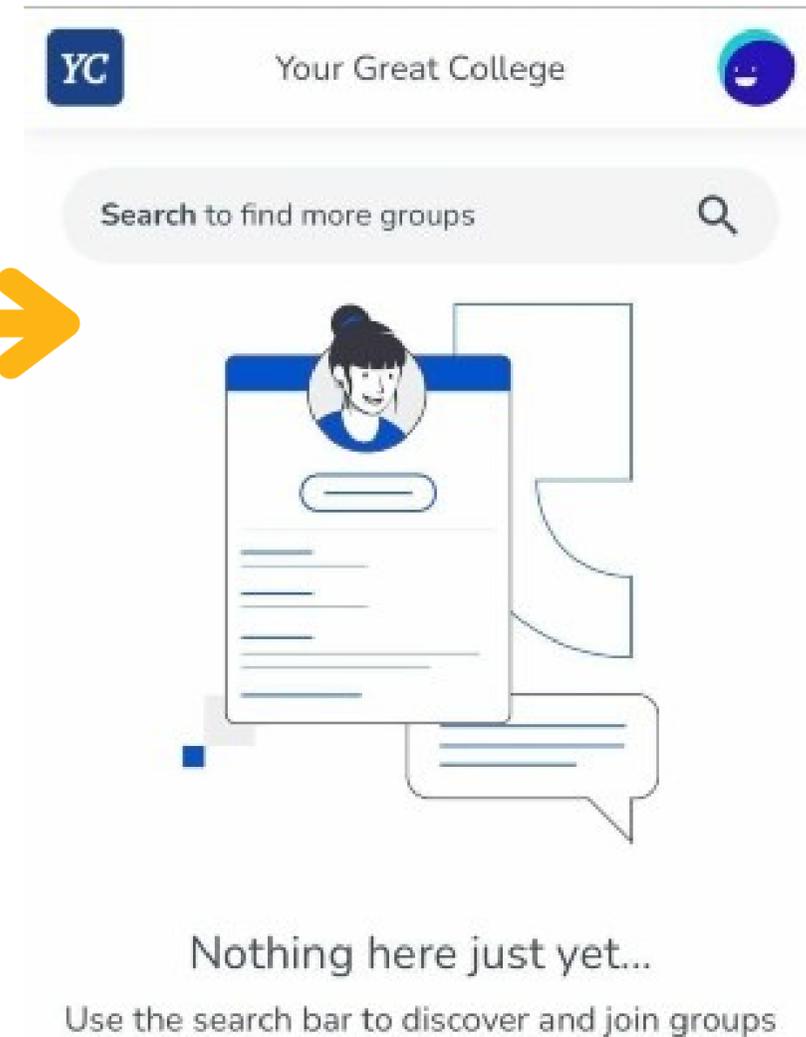


# Getting started with Unibuddy Community

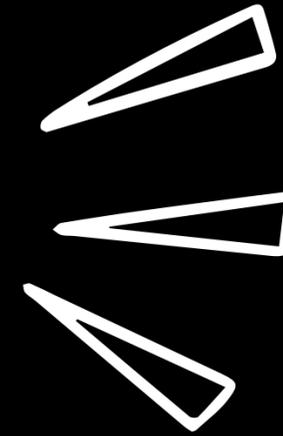
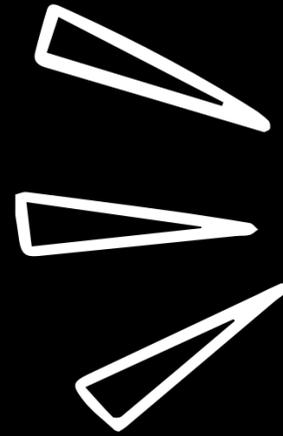
Using the UMBC Admitted Students Unibuddy Community group

## How to start chatting:

- To see all the channels, select the **search** bar
- Choose a channel and **start chatting with other students!**



# Upcoming Events



# Upcoming Information Sessions

## Fall 2022 Predeparture Orientation (2)

Monday, July 18th at 9:00am EST

\*This is a repeat of our first predeparture orientation for students who could not attend on June 27th\*

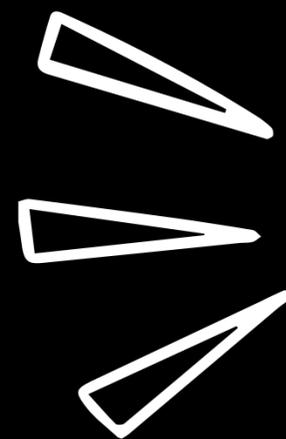
## International Student Orientation Session 1 + Session 2

Wednesday, August 24th at 9:00am + Friday, August 26th at 9:00am EST

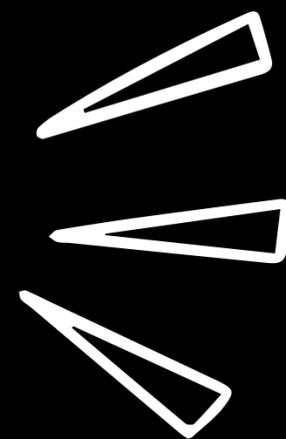


Check out our [new student arrival guide](#).





**Q&A**



# Follow us on social media!

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



**Facebook:**  
umbcisss



**Twitter:**  
@umbc\_iss



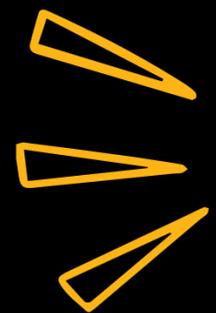
**Instagram:**  
@umbc\_iss

✦ **Keep up** with events at ✦  
✦ UMBC ✦





# Congratulations!



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

