Welcome
Thanks for joining us today!

Mute your microphone

Type any questions in the Q&A box

This webinar is being recorded
Today’s Agenda

- Introductions
- Update on Spring 2021 Mode of Instruction
- F-1 Student Immigration Considerations
- Student Support and Resources at UMBC
- OCSS
- Student Chat - Cost of Living

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

Adam Julian - Director, International Student and Scholar Services

Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International Student Adviser

Brahmani Thota - Global Ambassador, EKTA President

M. Antonio Silas, Ph.D. - Director, Off-Campus Student Services

Natalie Lobb - Graduate International Student Support Specialist
Spring 2021

- **Retriever Ready: COVID-19 Response** (covid19.umbc.edu)
- Majority of instruction will continue remotely
  - Face to face and hybrid classes will be offered on a case by case basis
  - UMBC has committed to making a non-online class available for new international students entering the country in Spring 2021
- Full course list will be available October 26th
- Most employees will be working remotely for the Spring 2021 semester
Spring 2021 Options

- Enter the US to attend UMBC for Spring 2021
- Enroll Online from Outside the U.S.
- Defer Admission to a Future Semester

COVID-19 Information For International Students
Option 1: Enter the US to attend UMBC for Spring 2021

Things to consider:

- You should already have a visa or plan to have a visa interview appointment by early January.
- New international students are able to enter the US and attend classes BUT at least one credit must be in person or hybrid format (US Entry Requirements).
- 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.
- 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).

**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 Spring 2021? Please email us at ies@umbc.edu.
Option 2: Enroll Online for Spring 2021 from Outside the U.S.

- Applies to: New students outside the U.S.
- No F-1 course enrollment requirements
- What happens to your I-20?
  - 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
  - 1st week of January: Begin processing Fall 2021 I-20s
  - Your SEVIS fee is valid for one year
- Things to Consider:
  - Reliable internet connection
  - Time difference and Synchronous (students sign on at the same time) vs Asynchronous (students sign on at their leisure) classes
- Tuition/Fees: [Student Business Services](#)
  - No final decision made on continued reduction of tuition of courses for the Spring 2021 semester
  - Payment due dates vary depending on class registration date
Option 3: Defer Admission to a Future Semester

- Defer: requesting your admission be changed to another semester
- Can defer for one academic year without having to reapply
- How to Defer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ● **Deadline: January 31st**  
● Email admissions@umbc.edu  
● In your email, confirm your new semester - Fall 2021  
● Receive confirmation of deferral  
● Enrollment deposit will be deferred  
● Applied for housing? [Cancel Housing Here](#)  
● Receive updated admission letter  
● [DROP ALL CLASSES](#) Deadline: TBD  
● UG Scholarship Recipients Only: [Request Scholarship Deferral](#) | ● **Deadline: As soon as possible**  
● Visit this website: [Graduate School Forms](#)  
● Read deferral instructions  
● [Complete Deferral Form](#)  
● Questions? Email GradSchool@umbc.edu  
● [DROP ALL CLASSES](#) Deadline: TBD |
Entering the U.S. after Deferring to a Future Semester

● 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 Spring 2021 I-20s for newly admitted and deferred students
  ○ 1st week of January: Begin processing Fall 2021 I-20s
  ○ 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
    ■ Spring 2021 semester - late January
    ■ Fall 2021 semester - late August
Effects on Work Authorization

- **Work types:**
  - On-Campus
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- **Immigration rules for off campus work (CPT and OPT):**
  - Must complete 2 full-time academic semesters in the U.S.
  - Full-time academic semester = Fall or Spring semesters

- **OPT eligibility timeline:**
  - Must complete 2 full-time semesters in US
  - OPT authorization is for AFTER graduation and won’t be impacted by starting your UMBC career online
## Example Work Authorization Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Work Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>Online / Optional</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>Full time Physically in the US</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
<td>Full time Physically on-campus in the US</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2022</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Part-time/Full-time CPT, On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td>Full-time on campus (Part-time if last semester to graduate)</td>
<td>Part-time CPT, On-campus, Full-time CPT if 4 credits or less required to graduate by end of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Part-time or Full-time CPT, On-Campus, OPT (only if you graduate in Spring 2022)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connecting with the UMBC Community

● Still have access to UMBC resources virtually
  ○ Academic tutoring
  ○ GSA
  ○ myUMBC
  ○ Student Clubs
  ○ Women’s Center
  ○ Off Campus Student Services
  ○ i3B
  ○ Student Events
  ○ RAC - exercising
  ○ Student Business Services
  ○ Career Center

● #UMBCTogether
UMBC Student Business Services

- Website: sbs.umbc.edu
- Handle tuition, billing and payment plans
- E-Billing Schedule

### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Register By</th>
<th>E-Bill Date</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Late Fee Charged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31</td>
<td>01/01</td>
<td>01/20</td>
<td>01/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/31</td>
<td>02/01</td>
<td>02/20</td>
<td>02/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/28</td>
<td>03/01</td>
<td>03/20</td>
<td>03/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Payment Plan Options
Career Center Support

● Finding an on-campus job for Spring 2021
● Virtual Career Fairs
● Resume review services
● Other career preparation
● Website: Careers.umbc.edu
IES Office Support

- General Questions and Advising
- Updated I-20s:
  - Currently processing Spring 2021 I-20s
  - Students whose financial documents are over 6 months old will need to submit updated documents
- Information Updates
- Pre-departure Orientation for Spring 2021
  - December 2nd 2020
- Creating Community
  - Global Ambassadors
  - Social media and Facebook groups
Requesting Your I-20: Finances

- No cost to request a UMBC I-20
- No cost to update a UMBC I-20 after deferral
- 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 2020 Admission at UMBC that is:
  - Undergraduate: $40,624
  - Graduate: $35,982
Housing Options

- Students are responsible for securing their own lodging and accommodation
- Shady Grove
  - No on campus housing options available
  - UMBC Shady Grove Housing Guide
- Main Campus
  - On-campus options mainly for UG students
    - On campus housing capacity reduced due to COVID-19
    - Spring 2021 planning is ongoing but will most likely follow Fall 2020 methods
  - Off-campus options for all students:
    - UMBC Off Campus Student Services
    - Off Campus Housing Website
    - Other apartments near campus: Westland Gardens, Maiden Choice Apartments

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Off Campus Student Services

M. Antonio Silas, Ph.D. - Director, Off-Campus Student Services
Living Off-Campus

Off-Campus Student Services
www.umbc.edu/ocss
Off-Campus Student Services

● Mission
  ○ Off-Campus Student Services offers ongoing services, programs, academic and social support, and educational opportunities to help off-campus students successfully navigate UMBC and life after college.

● Populations we serve
  ○ Adult Learners
  ○ Veterans
  ○ Commuters
  ○ Transfers

● Services We Offer
  ○ Apartment Database
  ○ Discounted Digital MTA bus passes
  ○ Education about living off-campus
  ○ Programming, Support, and Information for our Four Populations
Important Information

● UMBC does not officially own or endorse any off-campus housing
● All students should monitor their myUMBC emails for information concerning university operations
  ○ [http://covid19.umbc.edu](http://covid19.umbc.edu) is a great resource regarding information about COVID/status of students currently allowed to be on-campus
● OCSS will work one-on-one with students via WebEx meetings to discuss their housing options and other important considerations
  ○ During this time, information is an incredibly important commodity; we want UMBC student to be in-the-know
  ○ If you have questions, please reach out to us at ocss@umbc.edu
Important Resources for Commuters

- OCH101 - Locate off-campus housing
  - http://umbc.och101.com
- Transit
  - http://transit.umbc.edu
- Parking
  - http://parking.umbc.edu
- Zipcar
The Commuter Checklist

- Identifying Needs
  - Budgetary (expected and unexpected expenses), furniture, length of lease, etc.
- Check the condition of the apartment
  - Obtaining check-in list from property owner
    - Go through it with them
  - Document, document, document
    - Keep copies of lease, photos of space
  - Familiarize yourself with surrounding areas
    - Crime statistics, resources, etc.
- Reviews from current or previous tenants
- Carefully review of lease agreement
The Commuter Checklist

- Rental Insurance
- Campus text alert system
  - https://my3.my.umbc.edu/alerts
- Meal Plans
  - http://campuscard.umbc.edu
Red Flags to Look for When Renting

- There is no rental agreement or application
- The price seems to good to be true
- The listing details of the property are vague
- They are not willing to show you the property prior to signing lease
- They do not perform credit/background checks for applicants
- The property is unkempt
Community Connections

● Maintaining property
  ○ Dispose of garbage appropriately
  ○ Lawn care (if applicable)
  ○ Picking up after pets (if applicable)

● Adhering to all parking rules

● Being mindful of your noise level

● Taking responsibility for guests
Community Connections

Be a good neighbor by:

- Making an effort to meet and get-to-know neighbors
  - Keeping an open line of communication
    - Can be helpful to remain abreast of news in the neighborhood
    - “Neighbor favors”
Safety Considerations for Living Off-Campus

● Tour the neighborhood prior to moving in (if possible)
  ○ Google Earth
● Check crime statistics in your area
● Remain observant and aware of your surroundings
● Keep the doors and windows of your apartment locked
● Never leave items unattended in your vehicle
● If leaving for an extended period of time, have someone periodically visit your home
● In case of emergency, contact Baltimore County Police Dept. or dial 911
Student Chat - Cost of Living

Global Ambassador: Brahmani Thota (Hyderabad, Telangana, India)
MPS Data Science
EKTA President
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

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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 IES 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 Deferral deadline: January 31st
  ○ Graduate: Deferral Form No deferral deadline but the sooner the better!

● I already received an I-20 for the Fall 2020 semester but deferred to Spring 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.
Questions?

- Advisers are always available via email at 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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