TODAY’S AGENDA

- Traveling to the U.S.
- Settling in On and Off Campus
- MyUMBC Overview
- Life in the U.S.

Remember To:

- Mute Your Microphone
- Type any questions in the Q&A box. Please do not use the Chat Box.
Today's Presenters

Adam Julian - Director, International Student and Scholar Services

Michelle Massey - Associate Director, International Student and Scholar Services

Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International Student Adviser

Dave Anguish - International Student and Scholar Adviser

Natalie Lobb - Graduate International Student Support Specialist
Today’s Global Ambassadors

Sampada B.
M.S. Information Systems
Mumbai, India

Ninad S
M.S. Information Systems
Mumbai, India
Be Prepared

- **Plane Ticket**
- **Passport**
  At least 6 months validity
- **F-1 Visa**
- **I-20**
  School name should match visa unless a Transfer Student
- **Monetary Funds**

- **Quarantine Plan**
  Understand quarantine and testing requirements
- **Housing**
  Make sure you have already secured housing or temporary accommodation
- **Health Insurance**
  Automatically enrolled via UMBC
- **Phone**
  SIM Card, WiFi, Device
- **Welcome to UMBC!**
What to Pack

- Clothing: Baltimore has 4 distinct seasons
  - Winter averages -1 to 4 degrees celsius - be prepared for this when you exit the airport!
- Personal items: books, music, something that reminds you of home
- Food: no live agricultural products! Dried spices are usually acceptable.
  - CBP General Food List
  - A lot of stores in the Baltimore/D.C. area carry foods from your home country
- Documents: in your carry-on luggage, NOT checked luggage!
- Cell phone: will you need a SIM card? Phone plan?

More information: Packing Tips
It will be cold!

Make sure you have clothes with you that will help you feel comfortable in temperatures around -1 to 4 degrees celsius!

In January in Maryland, most people would wear a heavy coat, thick pants, warm shoes and socks, a hat, scarf and gloves/mittens.
Global Ambassadors

Is there anything you didn’t pack the first time you came to the U.S. that you wish you would have?

Are there things you can’t buy in the U.S. you recommend a student brings from home?
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. 30 days prior to I-20 start date.
- 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.
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
Secondary inspection

- Not a cause for alarm
- Applicants to be taken to secondary:
  - SEVIS technical issues
  - Efficiency
  - Extra screening
  - Review documents
  - Officer training issue
Admission to the 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 (IES staff) to comply
Tell us about your experience(s) at U.S. Ports of Entry

What kind of questions have you been asked?

Have you ever been taken to secondary inspection?
Port of Entry Tips

- 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
  - After hours: 410-455-5555 ask to speak to “IES”
- Check your I-94 record
COVID BEST PRACTICES AND QUARANTINE

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times.
- Comply with all health and safety protocols of the airline and airport

The state of Maryland and UMBC strongly recommend:

- COVID-19 testing within 72 hours of arrival in Maryland and quarantine until receiving results
- Students living on campus will receive extensive support from the Office of Residential Life - that office will share additional details.
- Students living off-campus will be sent instructions this week on how to quarantine and test.

For more information see Maryland Department of Public Health Notice:

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/

“OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AND PUBLIC TRAVEL ADVISORY JULY 29, 2020”
Settling in on Campus

Orientation

Campus Resources

Spring Semester COVID realities

On campus jobs
Orientation Week

● Important dates:
  ○ Graduate School Orientation (online) https://gradschool.umbc.edu/students/orientation/
  ○ Scheduled Individually: Freshman or Transfer Orientation for Undergraduate Students
  ○ January 22, 2021: International Student Orientation - Mandatory
  ○ January 26, 2021: First day of classes
● Department Orientations:
  ○ Graduate Students, please check with your department for information on any orientations

More Information:
Welcome Week Events
Graduate School Orientation
Freshman or Transfer Undergraduate Orientation
### On Campus Resources

**Learning Resources Center**
- Workshops on time management and study and research skills
- Writing Center
- Free tutoring services for many level 100 and 200 courses
- Academic resources geared towards undergraduate students

**Graduate Student Association**
- Connects Graduate students to graduate level specific resources on campus
- Writing Adviser appointments
- GEARs - research symposium

**Student Business Services**
- Tuition and other payments
- Information on available payment options for students
- Website: [Student Business Services](#)
On Campus Resources

International Education Services
- Help International Students acclimate to the U.S. and UMBC campus
- Advise on maintaining F-1 status throughout time at UMBC and after graduation
- Available via email at ies@umbc.edu

More Information: International Education Services

Residential Life - all housing has very restricted capacity for COVID safety
- Undergraduate Residence Halls: Chesapeake, Susquehanna, Potomac, Patapsco, Harbor and Erickson Hall,
- Apartments (3rd and 4th year Undergrads only): Hillside, Terrace, Walker Avenue and West Hill Apartments
- Walker Avenue Apartments (Grad students and senior Undergrads): utilities included

More information: Residential Life

Off Campus Student Services
- UMBC Off Campus Student Services
  Resources for adult learners, commuters, transfer students and veteran students

- Off Campus Housing Website
  Lists local apartments and has a roommate finder

- Other apartments near campus: Westland Gardens, Maiden Choice Apartments
On Campus Resources

- Resume/CV review services
- Career fair – generalized and program specific
- Presentations from local businesses and potential employers
- Job search and job evaluation advice
- Interview preparation
- UMBCworks
- PRAC enrollment for participation in CPT
On Campus Resources

Free
For UMBC students only
Transit Tracker App
Convenient connections to public transportation
Helpful for thinking about housing options
COVID-19 protocols and restrictions in effect. Check umbc.edu/transit for up to date information

Bus Schedules & Maps

- **Courtney Rd**
  Serving the Arbutus & Irvington Community

- **Arundel**
  Serving the Arundel Mills Mall

- **Catonsville**
  Serving the Catonsville Community (Frederick Rd. business area)

- **Arbutus / MARC**
  Serving the Arbutus & MARC train stops

- **Rt 40**
  Providing connection to the Rt. 40 business district

- **Downtown**
  Providing connection from Downtown to UMBC
## Health and Wellness on Campus

### University Health Services
- Full service health center for all students
- Call to schedule a remote appointment
- Health Insurance Requirement

More Information: [University Health Services](#)

### Counseling Center
- Free and confidential services
- A support system to navigate academic life
- Remote counseling available to students in Maryland

More Information: [Counseling Center](#)

### Retriever Activity Center (RAC) - limited during COVID
- Exercise facilities available to students
- Online fitness classes
- Intramural Sports
- Free Bike Rentals

More Information: [RAC - Hours of Operation](#)
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: COVID-specific F-1 regulations require that you enroll in at least 1 hybrid class in your first semester!

More information: Registering for Classes
Paying your Tuition

- Billing Schedule for Spring 2021:

<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>
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<tr>
<td>02/28</td>
<td>03/01</td>
<td>03/20</td>
<td>03/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Bills are available via your myUMBC account
- Payments can be made via your myUMBC account
- Monthly payment plans are also available: [Payment Plan](#)
- Please contact Student Business Services with any questions or concerns

More Information: [Student Business Services](#)
COVID Realities for Spring 2021

● **Physical Campus:**
UMBC’s physical campus is only open to those that are approved to be on campus. No events, social gatherings, lectures, etc. are taking place on campus for the Spring semester, though there will be many remote opportunities for these kinds of experiences.

● **Extremely limited On-Campus Job Opportunities**
There are extremely few on-campus jobs with the physical campus mostly closed for COVID safety. Do not anticipate finding an on-campus job in the COVID environment.
COVID Realities for Spring 2021

- **Approved to be on campus?**
  For those that need to be on campus for a hybrid class, you will be required to complete daily symptom checks online; take an online training on COVID safely; and complete a [COVID test on or off campus](#) in the beginning of the semester.

- **Mental Health and Stress Relief**
  Make sure to maintain connections with family and friends, and try out remote ways to make new friends. Find activities to do at home that are fulfilling for you. The colder months will mean much time spent indoors at home, and you will need to be intentional about self-care and combating isolation.
Getting an On Campus Job - extremely limited during covid!

- Can begin working right away
- 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. IES will help you with that process
- How much can you work a week?
  - During semester: 20 hours
  - During summer/winter break: 40 hours
Global Ambassadors

What on- or off-campus resources have you found particularly helpful while at UMBC?

Are there any resources we didn’t mention that you think new students should know about?

Have you interacted with the Career Center at all so far? Which services have been useful to you?

What else should new students know about being on campus during the pandemic?
Navigating your Account

 Updating your Information

 Accessing your Google Suite

 Groups

 Requesting Help, including help accessing myUMBC

 Blackboard
Access MyUMBC at 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 - 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!
MyUMBC - Google Suite

Your MyUMBC account gives you access to a full range of google applications, including:

- Email
- Calendar
- Drive
- Groups
- Meet
- Chat

MyUMBC also includes access to Webex and BlackBoard
Find groups of interest!
- Click the “Groups” link from your MyUMBC homepage, and browse or search
- You will be automatically added to the “IES Academy” and “IES Marketplace” Groups

Change the “Notifications” settings in your groups to decide how often you hear from your groups, or what you hear about

Use the tabs in the group to see files, events, etc.

Group Events will provide details and links for online events
MyUMBC - Requesting Help

- Use the “Help” link from your MyUMBC homepage with questions or requests
- Choose from a series of topics to get your question to the right team
- UMBC Wiki articles for many offices as well:
  - [https://wiki.umbc.edu/display/faq/Find+Help](https://wiki.umbc.edu/display/faq/Find+Help)

- The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Resources:
  - DoIT also has a robust series of wiki articles to help you get quick answers to your technology problems, and offer you technology services and programs: [https://wiki.umbc.edu/display/faq/Software](https://wiki.umbc.edu/display/faq/Software) (use the side navigation to see many, many more options)

- Department/Office Websites are another great source of information!
Global Ambassadors

In what ways do you use myUMBC, or find it useful?

Do you have any advice for new students getting to know myUMBC and the related tools and services the platform offers?
Life in the US

Phone Access/SIM Cards

Culture Shock

Transportation

Getting involved (social groups + resources for free activities)

Weather

Banking

Shopping

Budgeting Tips

Important Apps & Websites
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
Culture Shock Cycle

- American culture
- It happens to all of us
- If you’re feeling overwhelmed let us know!

Photo Credit: World Relief Durham
Global Ambassadors

Did you experience any culture shock when you first arrived?

What were some ways you handled feelings of culture shock or homesickness?

Any advice for new students?
Getting Around - Transportation Off Campus

*Keep COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in mind when utilizing 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](#)

- Travelling Out of Baltimore:
  - Bus: BoltBus, Greyhound, PeterPan
  - Train: MARC Train, Amtrak
  - BWI Airport

- 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](#)
**Getting Involved**

*Keep COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in mind*

- There are over 200 student groups on campus
- You can also get involved off campus by volunteering, joining recreational, religious or cultural groups
- Check out Baltimore Events, Baltimore Rec and Parks for virtual and socially distanced opportunities to explore your surroundings!
Weather

- 4 distinct seasons
- Winter (December 21st - March 19)
  - Some snow
  - Average temperature range: 29.1°F (-1.6°C) and 42.4°F (5.8°C)
- Spring (March 19th - June 20th)
  - More periods of rain
  - Average temperature range: 50°F (10°C) and 72.8°F (22.6°C)
- Summer (June 21st - September 23rd)
  - Humid
  - Average temperature range: 56.8°F (13.8°C) and 89.1°F (31.7°C)
- Fall (September 23rd - December 21st)
  - Chilly
  - Average temperature range: 43°F (6.1°C) and 68.4°F (20.2°C)

Credit: weather-us.com
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
*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
Budgeting Tips

- Create a budget based on your monthly expenses
- Take advantage of free services and events
- Student Discounts
- Sharing is caring! - renting a room, splitting rideshare fares etc can keep costs low
- Rent textbooks
- Thrift Stores
- Coupons
  - Grocery store deals updated weekly
  - Weis / Giant
What’s your grocery and food shopping routine? Do you use any meal delivery or grocery delivery apps?

Do you have any personal tips/advice for budgeting you’d like to share?
COVID-19 Websites & Resources

- UMBC Retriever Ready - covid19.umbc.edu
- IES COVID-19 Page - ies.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
**Apps to Download**

**Transportation**
- Transit App
- TransLoc Rider
- Lyft
- Uber
- Charm City Circulator
- Bird
- ZipCar (rent a car for 1 hour to multiple days)

**Food**
- DoorDash
- Uber Eats
- Seamless
- Postmates
- Grubhub
- Yelp
- Instacart (Groceries)
- Google Reviews
Apps to Download

**Weather**
- Weather Underground
- Accuweather
- The Weather Channel

**Social**
- Meetup
- WhatsApp
- Facebook Messenger
- GroupMe
- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Twitter
Apps to download

Finances
- Venmo
- Cash App
- Banking apps

Academics
- UMBC Blackboard
  - Android
  - Apple

Entertainment
- Netflix
- Audible
- Spotify
- Hulu
- Disney+
- Kindle
- Maryland Digital Library
  (free with Maryland library card!)
- VPN
Questions?

Contact us at: ies@umbc.edu
Visit our website: IES Office