

## Tufts@BNU FAQs

### VISAS

**1. I am a continuing student who will attend Tufts@BNU this fall; will my visa and I-20 still be valid?**

Yes – we will continue to maintain the F1 SEVIS records of continuing students who are enrolled full-time during the Fall 2020 semester (regardless of whether they are in the BNU program or not).

**2. If I do take in-person classes in BNU, do I still need to renew my VISA?**

Students only need to have a valid F-1 entry visa to enter the US. A valid US visa is not required to participate in programs taking place outside the US.

**3. If I am attending the Tufts@BNU program, when do I have to make my appointment for F1 visa interview with US Embassy?**

It depends on when you are coming to or coming back to the US. Most students will usually have their visa appointments within 120 days prior to the start of the semester they are planning to come to the US to attend classes. But the decision will be based on the operating procedures set out by the US embassy.

**4. Will attending Tufts@BNU enable me to maintain my F-1 visa status?**

If you already had active F-1 status as a Tufts student in spring 2020, your status will be maintained if you enroll in the Tufts@BNU program.

**5. Will my F-1 remain in active status if I do NOT attend Tufts@BNU and instead take courses fully remotely from home?**

As long as you are enrolled full-time, yes.

**6. Am I still able to maintain active SEVID (SEVIS?) record and F-1 visa status even if I do not choose to attend Tufts@BNU and study fully remotely by myself?**

Same as above.

**7. Will the International Center issue new I-20s for us before we are able to safely return to Tufts?**

Yes. Contact the International Center about 2 months before your planned return date to Tufts.

## ACADEMICS

### **1. Will I receive Tufts credits for the courses I take at BNU?**

Yes, you will receive Tufts credits for your BNU coursework, as they are considered part of the Tufts Program and will be on your Tufts transcript. However, you will have to seek approval from your academic advisors and departments to assess how and/or if they can be used towards your major or degree.

### **2. What courses can we take at BNU that also count for Tufts credits and SHUs? How many courses are we able to take? How do we select courses?**

You may take a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 credits from BNU's course offerings; undergraduates must take a total of at least 12 credits/SHUs from Tufts and BNU combined, adding up to no more than 18 credits in total. We encourage new/incoming students to take the majority of their courses through Tufts' online course offerings. We advise that each student work with their major advisor or Advising Dean and Academic Grad. School Dept. to select courses. For School of Engineering graduate students, please discuss the course selections with your academic faculty adviser (who is assigned in SIS once you enroll).

Students may register for Tufts remote courses through SIS, while BNU course selections should be made via the course selection form. This should be submitted no later than September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **3. Will I be able to change my courses? Can I pass/fail, drop, or withdraw from a course?**

Students will be able to make minor changes to their course selections in the first week of classes. Once course selections are finalized, the usual course-change (P/F, drop, or W) policies and timelines for undergraduates will apply.

### **4. Is it possible to take 5 credit at BNU if taking 6 will surpass Tufts SHU limit?**

No- our agreement requires students to take a minimum of 6 BNU credits.

### **5. How many SHUs does one BNU course equals to?**

One BNU credit is equivalent to one Tufts SHU.

### **6. How should we manage our classes both taken online from Tufts and taken in-person at BNU? Would it be possible that part of my class-- for example an online Chemistry lecture- might be taken online, while its lab component might be taken in-person at BNU?**

When you register for courses at Tufts remotely online, you should be registering for courses that are all available \*fully\* online. No, you would not be dividing courses in that way.

All Tufts School of Engineering graduate courses are offered asynchronously and remotely. Any lab requirements will have remote options so all students can complete the work.

**7. Are MATH 51, MATH 70, and PHY 13 available online through Tufts or might equivalent courses be offered in-person at BNU?**

We have found a math 70 equivalent, but I do not know about the others. Students should communicate with their advisors and the math/physics departments to determine equivalency.

**8. Are we attending courses with BNU students? Or courses specifically for students of US colleges like us?**

Tufts students will attend classes along with BNU students.

**9. Can we take lab classes, such as Chem Fundamental w/lab? Does enrolling in the program mean that we'll take classes both during daytime and nighttime due to time difference?**

Re chem 1, I know students can do it remotely but not much beyond this. Students should communicate with their chem prof to find out about what the expectations are for synchronous vs. Asynchronous engagement.

**10. Can you please describe the specific modes of teaching we might expect for our courses? Will they be taught synchronously or asynchronously?**

You should expect your Tufts-taught, online courses to be adapted to remote-teaching methods, and whether the courses are taught synchronously, asynchronously, or in a hybrid format will depend on the courses you select. BNU courses are expected to be taught in-person, in a more traditional classroom-based format.

All Tufts School of Engineering courses are offered asynchronously and remotely to accommodate time differences. Tufts School of Engineering teaching assistants will have many office hours to accommodate students in different time zones.

**11. Can BNU provide any brief description of their courses, a list of professors who will be teaching those courses, and the estimated number of students enrolled in each course?**

Courses offered can be found here: <https://sites.tufts.edu/tuftsatbnu/courses/>

**12. Will Tufts and BNU let us know what BNU courses will be approved by Tufts to count toward our major requirement?**

In some cases, certain departments or schools may evaluate and approve course equivalencies in advance; however, any student who wishes a BNU course to count in a particular way can submit a course-equivalency request through SIS.

**13. Can the BNU courses account for undergraduate foundation or distribution requirements at Tufts?**

BNU courses may be approved for foundation or distribution if they fit the necessary criteria; undergraduate students can either submit course-equivalency requests through SIS or submit a petition: <https://students.tufts.edu/registrar/what-we-assist/petition-credit.>

**14. Are the courses in the "Graduate Course Listings" document for graduate students only?**

Yes, graduate courses are open to graduate students only.

**15. Can graduate students take undergraduate-level courses at BNU?**

Yes, BNU allows graduate students to take undergraduate-level courses. However, Tufts students need to check with their Tufts advisors.

**16. If there are no courses in my major in the BNU program, does that mean I have to take all my courses remotely even I live on the BNU campus? I chose the BNU program because I want to take courses in person.**

You need to take at least 6 credits from BNU. Not every course you take has to be in your major.

**17. For BFA students, can we use the facilities and art studio of BNU?**

Please email [globaleducation@tufts.edu](mailto:globaleducation@tufts.edu) and [liulingkun@bnu.edu.cn](mailto:liulingkun@bnu.edu.cn) and let us know your specific needs regarding studios.

**18. Regarding BFA distribution requirements: can we take a course like psychology at BNU and earn credit here to meet the social science requirement?**

Yes, if a course is approved for a Tufts equivalency, a BFA student may use it to satisfy the distribution requirement associated with the Tufts equivalent.

**19. Is it possible for undergraduates to take graduate-level courses if all pre-requisites are fulfilled?**

No, BNU does not allow undergraduates to take graduate-level courses.

**20. If the credits I get at BNU from its public courses add to my total credits, can I take as many major courses on Tufts campus as before? I'm worried that since I've get enough credits at BNU, Tufts won't let me take my major courses.**

You need to decide how many credits to take at BNU and how many SHUs from Tufts. Make sure the total number of credits/SHUs is within Tufts guidelines. Within the Tufts guidelines, and after you have satisfied the minimum of 6 credits at BNU, you can take as many courses in your major as you want. Students in School of Engineering graduate programs should discuss their course selections with their academic faculty adviser before they select and enroll in classes.

**21. Will the courses at BNU will be taught in Chinese or English?**

Courses will be taught mainly in Chinese, but there are some English courses as well.

**22. Are we able to choose courses across different majors? (For example, can I take one course under education major and another under philosophy major?)**

Yes, you can choose courses from different schools and majors at BNU.

**23. Which courses will be offered for graduate students in Computer Science?**

All Tufts School of Engineering courses numbered 100 or greater are available for graduate students. Computer science is designated by 'CS' or 'COMP.' The list of available graduate-level courses offered at BNU can be found here: <https://sites.tufts.edu/tuftsatbnu/courses/>

**24. I am a current dual-degree student (BFA/BA). Will enrolling in Tufts@BNU affect my programs? E.g. will it impact my ability to graduate within 5 years?**

Combined Degree students should work closely with their advising deans regarding course selection to ensure they can stay on track with their program.

**25. What guidance is available to help me navigate the BNU course-selection system (together with online courses at Tufts)?**

Undergraduate students should consult with their Advising Deans and/or major advisers regarding their course selections both at Tufts and at BNU.

School of Engineering faculty advisers are here to help guide each individual student on their own academic journey.

**26. Can we use BNU courses as required courses for our majors?**

BNU courses may be approved for major credit if they fit the necessary criteria; undergraduate students can submit course-equivalency or major-credit approval requests through SIS

Students in School of Engineering graduate programs should discuss their course selections with their academic faculty adviser about what courses are suitable toward the degree.

Studio coursework for BFA and Combined Degree students may be counted toward their studio art requirements if they are approved through the course equivalency process.

**27. Could the courses offered by BNU be counted as equivalent courses at Tufts? For example, if I take Calculus at BNU, do I still need to take Calculus at Tufts?**

BNU courses may be approved as direct equivalents if they fit the necessary criteria; undergraduate students can submit course-equivalency requests through SIS

**28. Also, for student planning to take internal transfer to Engineering college, do the courses offered by BNU fulfill the requirement of contribution to math, natural science and engineering?**

It depends. Likely so but students must work individually with Eliza Yuen regarding these questions.

**29. To what extent of portion can courses taken at BNU take up in the course selection of freshmen?**

6 to 12 credits at BNU

**30. Will the engineering courses at BNU be able to transfer back to Tufts?**

For undergraduate students: BNU courses may be approved as direct equivalents if they fit the necessary criteria; undergraduate students can submit course-equivalency requests through SIS.

For graduate students: only graduate-level courses can earn credit and students should verify with their SOE academic faculty adviser that the course counts towards degree requirements.

**31. Will we attend in-person classes at BNU with local students?**

Yes.

## **REGISTRATION/ARRIVAL AT BNU**

**1. When should students arrive at BNU?**

BNU will provide the information as soon as a decision is made.

**2. Can I arrive at BNU later than the registration date of September 9th?**

No; students must be on-site at BNU by the start of the program.

**3. If we choose to enroll in Tufts@BNU, are we supposed to stay at BNU for the entire 2020-2021 year, or do we still have the option to return to the Tufts campus or switch to online learning with Tufts (but no longer remaining at BNU) in the spring semester?**

This is for one term for now. For the spring semester, you can choose to switch to Medford or to study entirely online remote. We are hoping that our School of Engineering graduate students will obtain their visas and come to Medford as soon as they can.

**4. The fall/first semester at BNU ends in mid-January; how will we manage the overlap with the start of the spring semester in Medford?**

Tufts students may be able to leave BNU earlier once they complete their final exams, which usually take place in early January. Check the syllabi of your courses.

## HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

**1. Is it necessary to live in the Changping campus?**

Yes, this is the housing option available to us.

**2. Can we live off-campus?**

No. As per our agreement with BNU, students are required to live on campus in order to participate in the program.

**3. Will there be Wi-Fi and ethernet provided?**

Yes, WiFi will be available in the dormitory rooms.

**4. How often are students allowed to go out of the dorms? Will local students be able to return home for the weekend? Is there a curfew for students?**

It depends on the COVID-19 situation in the region at the time.

**5. Will I have access to facilities at both of BNU's two campuses?**

Yes.

**6. Will there be bus taking us from our dormitory to main campus every day? How often will it run?**

Yes, there is shuttle bus that will take students from the dorms to the main campus. See schedule at: <https://sites.tufts.edu/tuftsatbnu/files/2020/07/班车时刻表20190902.pdf>.

**7. Will we be able to form housing groups with friends or will housing assignment be totally random?**

You may either select a roommate or request that you be assigned to one. Students were given a housing form to complete.

## Health Insurance

**1. Will BNU help us to arrange medical insurance?**

No; it's your responsibility.

Both Tufts and BNU requires that all students make arrangements for sufficient medical insurance coverage while on Tufts@BNU. However, BNU will not be able to facilitate those arrangements, nor will any coverage be provided by International SOS. Students using private insurance will need to waive their Tufts Health Plan to avoid additional fees.

## **2. How do I waive my Tufts health insurance to avoid additional fees?**

Please download the form here:

<https://students.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/Health%20Insurance%20Waiver%20Form%20for%20the%20Tufts%20University%20Medford%20Campus%202020-2021.pdf>

Students must fill out the form and return it to Health and Wellness Business Office at 124 Professors Row, Medford, Ma or via their Tufts email account to [studenthealthinsurance@tufts.edu](mailto:studenthealthinsurance@tufts.edu).

For additional information, please visit Student Health Insurance at <http://go.tufts.edu/studenthealthinsurance>.