

Tufts@BNU Info Session: Questions and Answers

June 30, 2021

NOTE: The information presented here provides a general guide. As individual situation varies and things may change, please double check with relevant offices at Tufts and your academic advisor before any important decisions are made.

I. Visa Related Questions

Questions

1. My visa is still under checking. I cannot get the result before the deadline of this program.
2. I am not sure if I could obtain my visa before the school year starts. Should I still apply for the BNU program?
3. F1 Visa was rejected due to the president proclamation 10043.
4. If my visa is refused, must I choose BNU program? If my get my visa, can I still take the
5. My visas application was denied.
6. My visa application got rejected a week ago. If unfortunately, that I did not make it to campus before classes start, would it be possible to transfer from Tufts@BNU program to on campus (Medford) program once I get my visa issued?
7. I received my i20 and visa already. Are there any other procedures needed?
8. Can I give up this program and take part in the in-person classes in US as soon as I get the US Visa? For example, If I get the visa in October, can I be allowed to fly to US immediately to take part in the in-person classes in Tufts?

Answers

I-Center is offering the following guidance on visa related questions.

1. Students who plan to attend Tufts at BNU do not need to have a F-1 visa or I-20 to attend, since these documents are only needed to enter the US to study at Medford.
2. You may decide to choose Tufts @ BNU if you do not think you can get a visa in time to travel to the US by the start of the Fall 2021 semester.
3. If you are not able to get a F-1 visa to come to Tufts in Medford for September, you are not required to choose to attend Tufts @ BNU – this is only an option to help you get started or continue your program.
4. If you already have your I-20 and you received your F-1 visa, you are eligible to come to the US for the Fall 2021 semester. However, you are not required to come to Medford – you can still choose to attend Tufts @ BNU. It is your decision, but please notify the International Center if you do not plan to come to the US this September.
5. In general, you must be able to arrive in the US within the first two weeks of the semester; otherwise, your I-20 will need to be changed for Spring 2021 arrival. Even if you receive your visa in the middle of the semester, we do not think it is possible to drop your BNU classes and come to

Tufts. This is because once you arrive in the US, you must register in full-time classes and it may not be possible to do this in the middle of the semester if you only arrive in October or November.

The International Center has created a page on visa related issues for Tufts University students who plan to study at Beijing Normal University (BNU) during Fall 2021. Please visit the site at

<https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19/fall-2021-bnu/>.

For additional visa related issues, please email the International Center at internationalcenter@tufts.edu.

II. Curriculum (Tufts and/or BNU) Related Questions

Questions and answers

1. If we have to take online course, is that possible for us to get a recording?

Students taking courses through Tufts@BNU will take some of their courses face-to-face at BNU and some of their courses online at Tufts in Boston. Some of the Tufts/Boston online courses are live (happening at a set time two or three times per week) and some are asynchronous (recorded lectures, but there may be some live discussions). Some courses taught at Tufts/Boston may feature a blend of students attending face-to-face in Boston and students joining online from around the world. All online courses will be recorded, but some professors may still expect you to attend class with all the other students.

2. Can I select graduate courses at BNU? For example, I am interested in harmonic analysis in mathematic major. But the harmonic analysis courses are only available for graduate students in BNU. Can I select them?

Speak to your academic advisor if you are an undergraduate considering graduate level courses.

[I do not know if this is allowed at BNU. It is permitted at Tufts, but usually only for junior/senior students. Math may be different, as some advanced undergrads take graduate level math classes quite early.

If permitted by BNU, Tufts undergraduates may enroll in graduate-level courses if they have met the prerequisites or have a strong foundation in lower levels of the topic. Such courses will be considered part of your undergraduate record. Generally, we would recommend that undergraduates enroll in undergraduate courses that fulfill degree requirements or build the foundation toward a future major.

3. If we choose to defer to Spring semester, could we still be able to apply for the Tufts@BNU program?

Tufts@BNU is a program offered by Tufts; therefore, you must cancel your deferral with Admissions in order to be formally enrolled at Tufts in fall 2021 so that you may participate in Tufts@BNU.

4. Can economics master student attend our BNU program?

Yes. Your final enrollment will be confirmed with your program.

5. Are there any mandatory courses we have to take from BNU? Could we graduate students choose some undergraduate courses in computer science from the BNU program?

There are no mandatory courses that all students must take at BNU; however, each student should work with their adviser or faculty director to determine if there are any courses at BNU that you *should* take in order to stay on track for graduation from your specific program.

For Graduate Engineering, undergraduate courses do not count towards graduate requirements. If you want to take an undergraduate course at BNU in computer science, the credit will not transfer in as eligible credits towards graduation.

For Graduate School of Arts and Sciences students, any BNU course must first be approved with the program faculty director to count towards the graduate program. Undergraduate courses will not transfer as eligible credit towards the graduate program at Tufts.

6. How do we find out if a BNU course can count as a substitute to a Tufts course?

You should discuss possible course equivalents with your major adviser(s). There is a formal course-equivalent approval process in the student record system (SIS), where departments would review course content for equivalency.

For additional questions related to graduate curriculum, please email gradadmissions@tufts.edu.

III. Finance Related Questions

Questions and answers

1. When do we need to pay our tuition fee?

Tuition bills will be going out very soon, and all students (whether they plan to come to Medford or participate in Tufts@BNU) should pay the tuition portion of their bill ASAP. As for the Tufts@BNU “comprehensive fee,” this should be paid in full no later than 8/13/21.

2. If I join this program, do I still need to pay the American insurance? Are there any changes on the tuition fee?

You should be able to waive the US health-insurance coverage but would need to have comparable health insurance to cover you in China; tuition fees would be the same as if you were in Medford.

3. Will the Tufts@BNU program charge less than Boston?

The comprehensive fee (which covers housing and some student activities and excursions) will be \$4150; tuition costs will be the same.

4. Should I enroll in the Tufts’ Student Health Insurance Plan if coming to BNU? If no, and I do not have a comparable US insurance, how to waive the insurance plan?

You can waive the insurance through SIS:

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

5. How much is the tuition cost?

It will be the same as if you were here in Medford.

6. How much extra money do I need to pay in addition to the original Tufts tuition fee?

The comprehensive fee (which covers housing and some student activities and excursions) will be \$4150; you should plan to have additional money available for meals and personal expenses.

7. I have some questions about Tufts@BUN Program. The first question is should I pay the tuition fee to Tufts besides the program fee?

Yes, students will be charged the same tuition fees as if they were to be here on campus; the comprehensive fee will be adjusted based on if you participate in Tufts@BNU or if you come to Medford.

8. Will we take BNU classes together with BNU students or in a separate class?

With BNU students in the same classes.

9. Will BNU classes be recognized as tufts SHUs?

Yes. Make sure you discuss your course selection with your Tufts advisor.

10. Will we stay up late frequently to take Tufts classes held at midnight Beijing time?

It depends on when the Tufts courses are offered. Due to the 12-hour time zone difference, select your courses with the time zone difference in mind.

11. What percentage of the curriculum will BNU classes and tufts classes each account for?

You can select courses from both BNU and Tufts according to your needs. Please keep the following in mind:

- a. Minimum number of credits you have to take at BNU is 3.
- b. Maximum number of credits you can take at BNU is 12.
- c. The total number of credits/SHUs from both BNU and Tufts should not exceed the maximum allowed for your specific program by Tufts.

12. Will we be free to choose classes between BNU and tufts? For example, can I choose between the biology course of tufts and that of BNU, both of which provide the same SHUs?

You can select courses based on your needs. Do check with your Tufts academic advisor on your study plan and your course selections; courses that look similar are not always sufficiently similar to count as the *exact equivalent* to a course offered at Tufts, so if you need to take a specific course for your program/degree requirements, be sure to discuss with your adviser or program director at Tufts whether a course taught at BNU would suffice as the equivalent.

13. Will there be any major differences, except using the Internet, between taking classes at Tufts Boston campus and taking classes at BNU, such as the variety of courses available?
You gain valuable experience studying in the Tufts@BNU Program. In addition to a wide variety of courses offered by Tufts and by BNU, you also experience two different languages and cultures within the same semester.
14. Will Tufts@BNU program afford official English translation of each curriculum's title? I may want to use this to discuss with my academic advisor.
Yes, to facilitate advising discussions between Tufts faculty/advisors and their advisees regarding BNU course selections, Tufts Global Education (TGE) will provide English translation of BNU syllabi when requested. Both students and their academic advisors can request the service through the Qualtrics form set up by TGE at: https://tufts.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cUaHeT9eKwcR59I
15. Or we can take face to face session with professors in BNU? Will the courses in BNU same as those in Tufts?
Courses at BNU are taught in person and they are offered by BNU.
16. How will the combined degree program curriculum be like, and transportation related to studying in different schools?
a. You select courses based on your needs and your program requirements.
b. BNU has free shuttle bus service between Changping campus (where your dorm is) and the main campus (where most of the classes are conducted)
17. How will the classes be taught?
Classes at BNU will be taught in person.

IV. Registration Related Questions

Questions and answers

1. If I join the program, can I still get a Tufts transcript?
Yes, courses you take at BNU through the Tufts@BNU Program will be recorded on your Tufts transcript.
2. Is that mean I will spend all my two years in BNU?
We hope you can get your visa and finish your program here at Tufts.
3. To whom should I talk to before applying for defer.
Tufts admissions
4. Any procedure needed?
Yes. You need to follow the procedure required by Admissions if you choose to defer.

V. Housing Related Questions

Questions and answers

1. Will there be opportunities to change roommate if the given roommate does not make a suitable match?
Students can select their own roommates. Make sure you choose carefully. You can also leave the roommate selection to BNU. Check with Ms. Liu Lingkun at liulingkun@bnu.edu.cn if you have additional questions on housing.
2. What is the earliest date for moving in?
Early September. More details will be available during the summer.

VI. Other Questions or Comments Here

Questions and answers

1. Will all the credits which I get from BNU be transferred to Tufts?
Yes
2. What is the different between study in Tufts and BNU?
You get to experience two different languages and two different cultures within one semester through the Tufts@BNU Program.
3. Will we follow the same semester schedule of tufts Boston campus or that of BNU?
For your Tufts courses, you follow the Tufts schedule; for your BNU courses, you follow your BNU schedule; in fall 2021, the academic calendars are *roughly* similar, but not exactly.
4. If this BNU project failed (say there aren't enough people join in) but I've registered for it, will I be admitted to go to Boston campus like other students in September?
If the enrollments fall below 15, we will work with BNU to see how we can accommodate the needs of these students. You may only come to the Medford/Boston campus if you have received a valid student visa to arrive here in time for the start of the term (see visa questions above).
5. Does joining BNU needs to take COVID-19 Vaccines and the Meningococcal Quadrivalent vaccine?
BNU will provide additional information before students arrive on campus.
6. If I enroll this program, Is there any certificates or formal records about this experience after I finish it?
As this is considered a Tufts semester, your formal record of participation would be the Tufts transcript for the fall 2021 semester; if you would like a document from BNU confirming that you took coursework there in fall 2021, this could be available from BNU upon request.