Hello and welcome for today's information session for international applicants. My name is Raffi Muroy, and I am the Director of International Admissions here at Suffolk University, and I am based on our Boston campus. This information session is to sort of give you a quick glimpse of what Suffolk is all about and what we can offer to international applicant as yourself. I'm here with my colleague, Tom Biedermann. So, Tom, do you wanna introduce yourself very quickly? Yes. Hello, my name is Tom Biedermann. I am an Associate Director of Admission, and I'm based at the branch campus in Madrid, Spain. So we are coming to you from both sides of the Atlantic today. And to begin this presentation, we just wanna give you something a little bit more visual, so you could take a look at. So we're gonna introduce you to a very short video that gives you a glimpse of what Suffolk is all about. So please take just a minute or so to watch this video, and again, give you a sense of who Suffolk is. So, here we go. (upbeat music) <Narrator>There's a place for those who refuse to be defined. Who are more interested in changing the game than playing it. Who seek out opportunities, not only for themselves, but for the greater good. Who see the world in ways others haven't. Yeah. That place is this place. Suffolk University, right in the middle of Boston. (upbeat music) This is a place people come to from all over the world. To learn by doing and learn by living. To help businesses connect with their customers. To understand humanity's impact on the environment. To build bridges between cultures. To drive technology in new directions. To launch innovative ventures. To become leaders. At Suffolk, you'll master your major, as well as the people skills to put it to use in your career. You'll go farther, faster in our accelerated paths to graduate programs. We'll take a global approach to learning that opens doors to the world and join a powerful alumni network.
that will help you succeed in it. We'll gain insights and experience across the university and throughout the city, supported by mentors and advisors every step of the way. So look closely, you'll see there's no place quite like Suffolk University. It's the place where you belong.

(beat music) So as you can see from this video, we are located in the City of Boston. And Boston, as you can see is a very dynamic city that has a lot to offer to a young college student as yourself.

Boston is known for being a hub for a lot of different things. It is a hub for higher education. It is a hub for hospital and biotechnology companies, as well as pharmaceutical companies. There's also a very big banking and finance industry, insurance industry, as well as maybe things like a little bit more out of the cutting edge, like marketing, sports, entertainment. So there's actually a lot that you can offer a young student as yourself.

But by the way, for those of you who may not know, Boston is located in the United States, it's located right over here in the State of Massachusetts. We're probably the largest city before you reach the border with Canada, and that is where we are located.

But where is Suffolk specifically located? So let me start by introducing you to a macro view of where the City of Boston and kind of start introducing you to Suffolk. So this kind of green area that you see in the middle of this picture is the Boston Common and Suffolk pretty much surrounds this part, this area known as the Boston Common.

You can see some other areas of Boston, like the Prudential Center Tower, the Copley Square area, the Charles River, at the horizon of the South Boston and East Boston areas, as well as the Massachusetts Bay area.

I'm gonna now zoom in a little bit more into the area of Downtown that we are, so you can get a better glimpse of where we are located. And I love to introduce this picture to everyone because it really gives a very accurate description of where Suffolk is located.

So I'm speaking to you from 73 Tremont Street, this building right over here, which is right in front of Financial District of Boston. So again, your classes, your living environment, where you're gonna do your internships,
everything is just right in front of where we are located.
You can see one of our dormitory facilities,
Miller Hall located over here,
as well as Suffolk University Law School.
So there's actually, again, a lot that we offer,
because we're right in the middle of Downtown Boston.
To give you a better glimpse of how we're distributed
among the city.
We occupy about 13 buildings in the Downtown Boston area.
By the way, four of them being dormitory facilities.
So you have One Court Street over here,
Miller Hall, 150 Trauma Street,
as well as the 10 West and Modern Theater facility.
So five different dormitory spaces.
And by way, sometimes city schools get the,
kind of like bad reputation of being too spread out,
that it's too far to get from one location to the other.
That's not the case for Suffolk.
So even though we are, again, kind of have buildings
mixed within the Downtown Boston area,
it's not as spread out as people may think.
So let's say you're into exercising and going to the gym,
and you wanna go to this building number six,
the Ridgeway Building.
And you happen to live in one of these buildings,
number 12 or 13, which is the Modern Theater facility,
that only takes about 10 minutes to walk.
So it's really not as spread out as people may think.
This isn't a traditional college experience
and it isn't meant to be,
with our practical experiential approach to education,
Suffolk University give students the tools and power
to make real positive influence.
Suffolk is a mid-sized university.
We have about 4,400 undergraduate students.
And if you include our master's degree and law students,
that brings it up to around 7,000 students.
Students come from all over the country and the world,
and span the spectrum of race, gender identity,
sexual orientation, political persuasion, income level,
nationality, and other social identities.
We love being a mid-sized school,
ot too big, not too small,
because we feel like we have the best of both worlds.
Many times, universities are either really big
or really small, but we're right in the middle,
which makes us unique.
It feels like a larger school
with 70 plus academic programs, division three sports teams,
and over a 100 clubs and organizations,
but your average class size
is still gonna be about 17 students.
So your day-to-day life has the advantages
of a smaller size and individualized detention.
Another thing that defines Suffolk is our diversity factor. Suffolk is diverse. We have students from around the country, from almost every state in the United States, and around the world. About 17% of our students are from outside the US, from almost at 100 countries around the world. And for those international students like you, we have a number of cultural and affinity groups that you can get involved in. These groups foster pride and a sense of belonging to our community. There's the Vietnamese Student Club, the Russian Speakers, LatinX Association, Muslim Students Association. All these perspectives from around the world will broaden your view and add to some dynamic class discussions as well. Plus, you can study abroad at our partner institution in 34 countries around the world. You'll probably spend a semester or maybe a year at the partner institution. And those credits transfer back to your Suffolk academic program. Maybe a semester abroad doesn't fit with your schedule, you still have options. You can study abroad for a summer, join a week-long faculty led study tour, or take a course that includes a travel seminar, which would just be for a week. In addition, we have our own branch campus in Madrid, Spain, which is where I'm located. We've been here since 1995. We are in the university district of the city. There are different study options. You can start out as a first year student, spend up to two years here, and then make the internal transfer to Boston to complete your degree. You can come as a study abroad student after you've started in Boston. You'd come for a semester or a year, and then continue on in Boston. International relations majors can complete all four years in Madrid, if they wish. There's also a global gateway program for students who are in their first year to come to Madrid and spend a week here. There's a seamless transfer between these campus location. Your coursework is in English and everything is equivalent between Boston and Madrid. There are two housing options. If you wanna live with a host family or maybe stay in a student residence hall. There are organized trips and excursions.
so you can see other parts of Spain while you're here as well. So let's take a look at a video about Suffolk, Madrid, so you can see what things are like here. Welcome aboard, (indistinct). Experience a new global approach to learning in Madrid, by starting any of Suffolk's 60 majors in the College of Arts and Sciences, or Sawyer Business School. In Madrid or Boston, it's the same university. All your coursework is equivalent and follows the same liberal arts curriculum. At Suffolk, you can define your own experience. Spend up to two years or even complete your international relations major in Madrid. Enhance your knowledge by focusing on experiential learning, classes in museums, and science field trips. Learn by doing, learn by living. Studying here in Madrid gives me another point of view of the world, another point of view of different economy. Add to your program in English and take classes in Spanish through Suffolk Madrid's partnership with Universidad CEU San Pablo. What I learned here will power my success for years to come. Connect with people from all around the world. Take the challenge to do something different. Experience diverse perspectives, and immerse yourself in a new culture. Expand your studies and open your world around every corner. We look forward to welcome you soon to Madrid. Make your way to Suffolk, Madrid. Academically speaking, Suffolk is divided into three main areas. There are over 70 degree programs to choose from in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Sawyer Business School. Plus, there's a law school. So you can major in one area and minor in another, or double major in two different areas. For example, you can major in psychology, which is in the College of Arts and Sciences, and minor in marketing, which is in the Business School. Or you can major in business analytics.
and minor in social media.
You can participate in one of our interdisciplinary programs which is actually taught by our law school professors. You can also take an undergraduate and master's combination. So you can earn both degrees in less time.
There's a lot of connection between these academic units of the university, so you've got lots of options to choose from. It's also important to keep in mind that you're admitted to the university as a whole, so you don't need to apply to a specific program or department, you've got all these options available to you.
It's not just what you learn in the classroom, we take what you're learning and apply it to the real world. Our educational approach can be divided into three main pillars. The first is Experiential Learning. We take the theory that you're learning in class and apply it to the real world. For example, if you're going into political science or international relations, you can get an internship at the Massachusetts State House, which is five minutes away from where we're at. Or go to the Washington Center in Washington, D.C. and see what things are like on the international level.
If you're going into business, see what the office culture is like at the Fortune 500 firm, which is right down the street from where we're at. The next pillar is what we call Soft Skills. Soft skills are especially important as artificial intelligence and machines take over a lot of jobs. But there are skills that are difficult for a robot to learn like creativity, collaboration, adaptability, and emotional intelligence. All these skills will help you become successful in your future career. And you'll be improving them while you study at Suffolk.
And the third pillar is our Global Perspective. With students from around the world, as well as opportunities to study abroad, you've got lots of global perspectives options there. Plus, you've got our own branch campus in Madrid, Spain. And that approach to education is laying the groundwork for our graduates to enter the workplace, go on to graduate school.
As you can see here, 99% of our 2019 graduates are employed or in graduate school within nine months of graduation. So they're getting the skills they need to apply the theory and that hands-on learning to their future profession. So as you can see, Suffolk University cares deeply about the return on investment.
and the outcomes available for you.
So we have a whole division of the university
dedicated to career experiences and outcomes.
And for that, we have funded and created
that Center for Career Equity Development Success,
which has a multi-prong approach
to all of the different types of experiences
that you're gonna need in order to lead
to that success ratio that Tom just mentioned.
So, yes, there's internship resources.
There's job fairs and networking events,
there's career counseling.
There's making sure that your resume and cover letter
are well suited.
Making sure you know
about all these different job search tools,
but also making sure that you connect with alumni.
A lot about your success and what's gonna happen with you
is knowing the right people at the right time.
So maybe being able to make those networking connections.
Making sure that you are connecting
with the alumni we have out there.
Making sure that you take full advantage
of the City of Boston.
Making sure that you are actually there
at the right moment and at the right place
to sort of land that dream job
or that dream or career opportunity.
So that's something that we care deeply about.
Suffolk is, we have a phrase here that we call the,
"We are elite, but not elitist."
That there are many paths to a Suffolk degree.
And there's many ways that you can accomplish that.
And I think an attestation of that
is all the different recent accolades that we've received
throughout the different number of publications
that kind of attach to the quality of education
that is available over here.
Which is of course,
the main purpose you will be looking at an institution,
like Suffolk University.
So if you are interested, let's talk a little bit
about the admissions process now,
which also is important for those of you
who may be considering submitting an application,
which we highly encourage you to do so.
Please note that we are a common application school,
so you can apply of via the common application,
but we have our own application,
the Suffolk University application.
Which one we prefer?
Honestly, whatever's most comfortable for you
and whatever makes most sense for you.
I'll be really honest with you,
most guidance councils in most high schools are gonna prefer that you actually use the common application. So feel free to kind of follow their wants or their desires, and use the common application. We obviously would need to see your high school transcript through your first quarter or first term senior grades. But before that, we need to see at least the last three years of your high school education, whatever that may be. Now, some of you may be in countries in which high school is maybe only three years. So we certainly will adapt to those individual needs. But overall, we would like to see a transcript that contains the last three years of your academic grades, plus your senior grades available. This document has to be in English. And if it's not issued in English, then you would have to submit a translation that accompanies that document. In terms of testing, we are known as being testing flexible for international students. And I'll talk about that in the next slide, in a little bit more detail. But, testing flexible means that we only need one test and that is to prove your English proficiency. And again, we're gonna talk about that in just a second. To complete the application process, you also need a recommendation letter, ideally, one. But you can also submit two or three, it's up to you. And you can also, if you're interested in our Art School, that will be graphic design, visual arts, interior design, you do need a portfolio of 10 to 15 pieces of original artwork. So I promise you, I was gonna talk a little bit about English being testing flexible. So, what that means is that there's many different options in which how you can prove English proficiency to us. By the way, if you've decided to take the SAT and you wanna take the SAT, please note that at least a 520 on the EBRW score means that you're English proficient. So you can certainly submit the SAT, but we do not require it. You don't have to submit an SAT if you don't want to, as an international applicant. You do have to submit then again, a proof of English proficiency. Many times students submit the traditional exams, like the TOEFL or the IELTS exam. We also accept the Duolingo exam, and we've been accepting it for over five years now. Maybe you're in a bilingual program, like, you're taking AP English,
or you’ve done the IB Program, or you’re in the British IGCSE or AS Level programs. Those are bilingual programs that obviously means you are pretty English proficient, so there is a way that you can actually apply without submitting any testing, whatsoever. So flexibility, that’s what the word means. Having different options, having different paths, in which you can actually prove your English proficiency to us. Our approach to admissions is holistic. Meaning that we look at you as an individual, and we look about your individual circumstances, and we take a look at all the elements of your application. And that leads to a number of different approaches, or different types of admissions that we may be able to offer you. So you have regular admissions, which is the bulk of our applicants, the middle 50% of our applicant pool, which come with the details that we list over here in the slide. You also might be of highly qualified applicants and you might want an access to our Honors Program, which is our most competitive program. It’s the upper 30% of our applicant pool. So that gives you the sense of how we can treat your application. And maybe you’re a student who had a bit of a challenge to your first year. Maybe your GPA is not as strong as you may want it to be, but you have a very strong upper trend. For students in that transition time, we have our SU Advantage Program. Or maybe you’re an applicant who is in that category, but also has some issues with English and not being quite there at the proficient level. We actually still have a way to admit you through our INTO English Language and Pathway Programs, in which you actually will be doing a degree seeking program, but you also do some remedial English to sort of compliment that first year transitional period. So that’s what we mean that we have a holistic approach to admissions and a number of different pathways into how we can admit you to Suffolk. You might be wondering about what scholarships are available. Well, all applicants, regardless of their nationality, are automatically eligible for a merit scholarship. This is primarily based on your courses and grades along with a holistic evaluation of your application. The highest scholarship goes to the top students,
and it can cover over 50% of the tuition fee.
Unique to Suffolk is our Suffolk Tuition Promise.
Students who maintain at least a 3.6 GPA after their first year, will receive this Tuition Promise,
in which the annual tuition increase will not be applied.
After a student is enrolled for at least one semester, they're eligible to apply for other scholar programs on campus,
such as the Trustee Ambassador Program, Orientation Scholars, and Tutoring Scholars.
These positions are part-scholarship and part-stipend.
You can also earn Advanced Placement with 28 points or more on the IB diploma,
you can earn sophomore standing.
That's one year of university done before you even start.
You can also earn credit with A-Level exams.
With three A-Level exams, we can award transfer credit,
that's equivalent to one year of coursework as well.
Here are the application deadlines.
There's an early action round with a November 15th deadline,
and a regular decision round with a February 15th deadline.
Keep in mind that the early action decision is non-binding.
Some universities have an early decision program,
which requires you to sign a contract.
Suffolk is more flexible and allows you the option
to decide later, if you wish.
If you have any questions along the way,
you've got our contact information here,
if you wanna get in touch with the admission counselor
who handles the applications that we receive from schools in your particular country.
If you make a trip to Boston,
you can sign up for an in-person tour,
we'd love to show you around.
We also have a couple virtual options as well.
You can take a virtual guided tour with a student ambassador,
so you can ask questions along the way
or take the virtual tour anytime you'd like.
We hope this info session has been helpful for you,
both Raffi and I thank you for joining us today.
We'll sign off for now,
and we look forward to reading your application soon.