

MAY 2023

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

May is the last full month of the quarter and academic year. But before the year winds down, it feels like things pick up.

Campus is as lively as ever and change is in the air. This issue has a big OISS announcement in it!

We hope your month is filled with light and gratitude.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

In This Issue:

Processing Times	pg. 2
Financial Assistance	pg. 3
Summer Cancellation	pg. 2
Office Closure	pg. 2
Invitation Letters	pg. 2
Transferring Out	pg. 2
OISS Announcement	pg. 3
Spotlight	pg. 4
OISS Events	pg. 5
OISS Recommends	pg. 7

Alerts & Updates

OISS Processing Times

OISS is working diligently to serve thousands of international students — new students planning to arrive this Fall, current continuing students, and alumni on OPT, STEM OPT, and Post-Completion Academic Training.

Our student advising team is understaffed at this time, so requests are being processed by fewer advisors than before. This is the reality of our team's situation and we share it with you for transparency's sake. We are doing as much as we can to fill our vacancies and hope to be fully staffed as soon as possible. We underscore how much we appreciate your patience and perhaps modified expectations of our services at this time.

Financial Assistance – Apply by May 31

The International Student award is available to F-1 or J-1 degree seeking students who have experienced an unexpected expense during the 2022 - 2023 academic year. If you meet the eligibility requirements outlined on the application, please submit your application no later than May 31, 2023. Funding is limited and may not be available to all applicants.

[Apply online!](#)

Summer Session Cancellation

Need to cancel or withdraw from summer sessions? Instead of doing so on GOLD, submit the [form](#) linked on the [Summer Sessions website](#).

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Office Closure

OISS will be closed to the public on Monday, May 29 for [Memorial Day](#). Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, May 30.



Graduation – Congrats!

To the almost Class of 2023, we wish you an early Congratulations! There are several graduation-related terms that can get a little confusing. For a graduation terminology guide, check out [last year's newsletter](#) (page 4).

Invitation Letters

If you have friends or family traveling to your graduation ceremony, you may be wondering about invitation letters for their visa appointments.

Consular officials from the U.S. Department of State have stated that B-2 tourist/visitor visa applicants do not need an invitation letter from the school in order to process a visa application and that the letters are not helpful. Invitation letters are not a documentation requirement in order for visitors to apply for a tourist visa.

If you would still like to provide an invitation letter to your visitor(s) to present with their visa application, we suggest that you, yourself write a letter for the visitor(s). We have more information, including a letter template on our [website](#).

OPT Tutorial

It's OPT season! To maximize our advisors' processing and response efficiency, we ask that students read the [OPT tutorial](#) before contacting us with questions. The two main steps of applying for OPT are: 1) Submit an OPT application e-form in UCSBGlobal then 2) file form I-765 online on the USCIS website within 30 days after receiving your new OPT I-20 from OISS.

Transfer Out

Students who wish to [transfer](#) their SEVIS records to a new school must do so within the 60 day grace period. You must submit a transfer out request in UCSBGlobal and give OISS enough time to complete the transfer. Please note that transfer out requests take five business days to be processed.

Student Completion Form

The Student Completion e-form in UCSBGlobal is for those who will be graduating and leaving the US with no intention of applying for OPT/Academic Training or transferring their SEVIS records. When you submit this form, you are asking OISS to complete and close out your SEVIS record. If you wish to apply for OPT/Academic Training or transfer to another school (for Fall 2023 admission), then you should not submit the completion form.

OISS Announcement

Upcoming Retirement

After 25 years of valued service to UC Santa Barbara, Simran Singh, Director of the Office of International Students & Scholars, is retiring on June 29, 2023. The Division of Student Affairs is grateful for Simran's leadership, vision, and unwavering support of the international community.

Originally from India, Simran lived in Dubai before moving to the U.S. Her two daughters attended UCSB as international students. Before joining the OISS team, Simran worked in the Office of the Registrar on the student services team.



Showing long-term dedication to student success, Simran is a two-time recipient of the Margaret T. Getman Service to Students Award (2010 and 2018). When asked about her upcoming retirement, she had the following to say:

"Retiring is very bittersweet for me. Throughout my time at UCSB, I have met the most capable, motivated, and inspiring international students. I have worked with wonderful faculty and staff, some of whom have become lifelong friends. I have seen UCSB and OISS flourish and grow in

countless ways. I will miss my OISS team, our international students and scholars, our beautiful campus, and our warm Gaucho community. But I am very excited to spend more time with my family, especially my spunky granddaughter, Anaya. UCSB and the international community will always hold a special place in my heart."

If you have fond memories of Simran or well wishes for her, please email them to Madison Motomazie at mmotomazie@ucsb.edu. We will miss her!

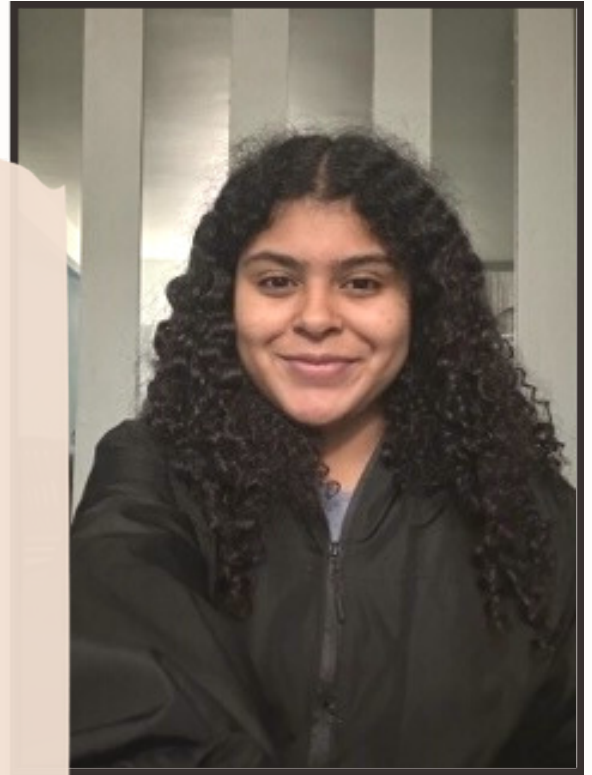


Spotlight

Mary Munoz, Administrative and Event Assistant

A new student worker has joined the OISS team! You may see her at the front desk and we hope you join us in giving her a warm welcome. You'll find a short introduction below.

Hello! My name is Mary Muñoz. I am a 3rd year Language, Culture, and Society major. I didn't go into UCSB knowing what I wanted to major in, but after taking a course on language variation within cultures, I knew it was the right major for me. I love learning about different cultures and hearing people speak of their own! I have volunteered to tutor and teach English to a Peruvian child. I love her drive to learn and hearing what she enjoys doing! I have had brief conversations with a few international students and scholars when they visited the office, but I would love to speak to more students and scholars! I will be joining a school for international students as a teacher very soon!



OISS Events



J-1 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP:

**On-Campus Work
and Academic
Training**

May 2
4:00 - 5:00
EAP Office
2431 South Hall



Scan QR code to register

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Education Abroad Program



F-1 STUDENT **ONLINE** EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: CPT & OPT

May 3
3:30 - 4:30

Zoom link provided
with registration



Scan QR code to register

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F-1 STUDENT **IN-PERSON** EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: CPT & OPT



May 30
3:30-5:00
SRB MPR



Scan QR code to register

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Int'l Grad Students, Let's Explore the Campus!

Who says campus tours are only for newly admitted students? Whether you missed the campus tours the first time around or need a refresher tour, this campus tour is for you! This campus tour is designed for current international graduate students who want to learn more about our beautiful campus.



Let's Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month: Asian Snacks, Social, & Discussion

In celebration of Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month join us for Asian snacks, drinks, and a conversation regarding the culture shock that we experienced when we first arrived. Your story and your journey deserve to be heard so let's celebrate our heritage together. In collaboration with Mental Health Peers, Graduate Student Association, & OISS.

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OISS Recommends

ISA Cultural Dessert Night

Get ready for a sweet evening of cultural immersion! On May 4th (Thursday) from 8-9 pm, come join us at the MPR (multi-purpose room) of the Student Resource Building for our annual Cultural Dessert Night!

What's more? All of the food is free! Also, we'll have live performances for you to enjoy as you sample our delicious desserts.

Indulge in the sweet flavors of Chinese Sesame Balls, Indian Gulab Jamun, Vietnamese Thick Jelly Cake, Japanese/Taiwanese Mochi, and Turkish Lokum. This is a perfect opportunity to experience new tastes and broaden your cultural horizons.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to satisfy your sweet tooth while also expanding your cultural knowledge. We hope to see you there!



Explore Fulbright Information Session and Lunch

Join us Tuesday, May 2 at noon for an information session on Fulbright programs followed by a lunch reception. Fulbright awards are available for teaching and research and can serve as a wonderful faculty development opportunity. There are over 400 unique opportunities available in over 135 countries awarded to 800 scholars annually.

The competition for 2024-25 awards is now open, so this is an ideal time for faculty to consider applying for an award.

A poster for the Fulbright Information Session and Lunch. It features the Fulbright Scholar Program logo at the top left. The title 'EXPLORE FULBRIGHT Information Session & Lunch' is in bold, orange and white letters. Below the title, it says 'TUESDAY, MAY 2, NOON-1:30 PM' and 'INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER, MCCUNE CONFERENCE ROOM 6020'. There is a section for 'RSVP ON SHORLINE' with four speakers: William Ellison (2022-23 Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar - Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India), Gustavo Poore (2021-22 U.S. Fulbright Scholar - Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada, Brazil), Meriem Boukhou (2023 Fulbright Visiting Scholar - UCSB Chemistry and Biochemistry), and Jeffrey Hoelle (2021-25 Fulbright Amazonia Initiative co-lead). The bottom of the poster features the UC Santa Barbara Office of International Students & Scholars and the UC Santa Barbara Global Engagement logo.

Overcoming Impostor Syndrome and a Sense of Academic Failure

If you're bothered by recurring feelings of failing or being an impostor (who's always right on the brink of being uncovered), in your professional and/or your personal life, this workshop is for you. We'll start right from the beginning, with what you actually feel, and we'll build up a systematic framework for doing far more constructive things with the feelings than our defaults tend to allow for.

Email Aili at apetterssonpeeker@ucsb.edu to sign up.

UCSB'S TRAUMA-INFORMED PEDAGOGY PROJECT PRESENTS:

OVERCOMING IMPOSTOR SYNDROME AND A SENSE OF ACADEMIC FAILURE

A WORKSHOP ABOUT FAILURE LED BY DR. EMILY TROSCIANKO

Are you bothered by recurring feelings of failing or being an impostor (who's always right on the brink of being uncovered)? Then this event is for you. We'll cover:

- why failure and impostor syndrome matter (in academia), and how they relate to anxiety and perfectionism;
- what you want to be different;
- how to start classifying your feelings into useful categories;
- how to put failures into perspective;
- failure and fraudulence: you, your career, and other people;
- shared and individual actions that make a difference;
- how you'll know when you've succeeded in making a difference.

To prepare for the event, you'll be asked to complete a failure/impostor-related tracking exercise and to follow the instructions provided to create your own **CV of failures**.

During the event, it'll be important for you to be as open as you can about your realities. The difficulty of doing this is part of the problem the event is addressing. Your willingness to overcome the secrecy and the associated shame and stasis will be crucial to achieving anything. The event will be configured so as to make this kind of openness feel as safe and supported as possible.



DR. EMILY TROSCIANKO
Research Associate at Oxford University, creator of a writing program for humanities graduates and postdocs at Oxford

DATE
May 2, noon-3pm

LOCATION
South Hall 2655

SIGN UP

The event is open to all graduate students. Places are limited to 20. Refreshments will be served.

Email Aili at apetterssonpeeker@ucsb.edu by April 25 to sign up.

For more info, contact apetterssonpeeker@ucsb.edu and follow us:   [ucsb_tip](#)

Meetup – Business, Technology and Professional Networking in SB

The [Business, Technology and Professional Networking in SB](#) group on Meetup was recently founded by a current student, Amarsh Anand.

Group Description

A casual in-person meetup for Professional and Business networking in Santa Barbara. We welcome people from the industry, academia, startups or any other walk of life. It's an informal hangout of like-minded professionals in the beautiful town of Santa Barbara. We hope many new friendships, companies, employment and other professional connections will come out of this group.

[Join the group on Meetup!](#)



Thanks for Reading!

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the OISS Newsletter. Past newsletters can be viewed on the OISS [website](#).

Questions?

If you are a current international student with questions regarding immigration, advising and other requests, email oiss@sa.ucsb.edu.

J-1 Scholars should reach out to j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu. For those with questions related to employment-based visas; please contact longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu.

For any inquiries regarding upcoming OISS events, or collaboration opportunities, contact oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu.

If you are a UCSB department or organization and would like to publicize any information or upcoming events to international Gauchos, contact mmotomazie@ucsb.edu.

Let's stay in touch!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with everything happening at OISS.

