

AUGUST 2023

OISS Newsletter



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Dear International Gauchos,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and Fall quarter begins next month!

We hope your summer has been refreshing and full of rest — our students and scholars certainly deserve it. With Fall right around the quarter, the anticipation of a new academic year is starting to build.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back or for the first time soon!

In community,

The Office of International Students and Scholars

Alerts & Updates

International Travel

If you are traveling internationally, make sure you have the proper documentation before returning to the US. Detailed information is available on our [International Travel page](#).

All travel signatures should be requested in UCSBGlobal at least five business days before your return to the US. Remember, travel signatures are not needed to leave the US, but they are needed to come back in. Safe travels!



Transferring Out of UCSB

[Transfer Out](#) requests are required for students wishing to send their SEVIS record to another institution. When selecting your transfer out date, do not select a date in the past. Only select a date that is at least five business days in the future from the day you are submitting your Transfer Out e-form.

As noted on our [Transfer Out page](#), OISS does not complete Transfer-in forms from other schools. The full policy is available on our [website](#).

Unemployment on OPT

Unemployment days begin accruing on the actual OPT Start Date on your Employment Authorization Document (EAD), which may be different from your requested OPT Start Date.

Students get 90 days of unemployment on Initial OPT. Students on the STEM OPT Extension get an extra 60 days of unemployment in addition to any unused unemployment days from their Initial OPT period.



Our New OISS Director, Erik Williams

We are excited to share that our new OISS Director is Erik Williams! Erik has been at OISS for seven years and brings a wealth of immigration expertise to his new position. We are confident that under his leadership, OISS will flourish, thrive, and progress.

Did you know Erik is a Gaucho himself? After graduating with a degree in Anthropology, Erik went on to work in various functional areas of the immigration field. He came to OISS as an International Student Program & Advising Assistant Coordinator before being promoted to Assistant Director. After the previous OISS Director retired, Erik became Interim Director. Which brings us to today, an exciting time ushered in by new leadership under Erik Williams.

OISS extends a big thank you to the hiring committee for their time and effort selecting our new Director.



A few words from Erik:

I am so thrilled to be selected as the next Director of OISS! I look forward to expanding the internationalization efforts both at UC Santa Barbara and in the community. Over the past 7 years I have worked at OISS, it has been my mission to modernize our office to ensure compliance with the federal government as UC Santa Barbara welcomed more international students and scholars than ever before. We have successfully transitioned to UCSBGlobal which has streamlined processes and access to OISS for our stakeholders. My hope is this modernization will allow OISS staff to increase advocacy efforts on behalf of our international community,

expand on program offerings and find more time to make quality connections with our students, scholars, departments and community members. I hope you will join us as we embark on an exciting next chapter whether that is partnering with our office or providing insight as to how OISS and UC Santa Barbara can better serve our international community and build a global network here in Santa Barbara. You can always email me directly at erikwilliams@ucsb.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

OISS Recommends

Student Mental Health Oversight Committee Representative

The Student Mental Health Oversight Committee (SMHOC) seeks two graduate and two undergraduate student representatives who possess aspirations to pursue a professional career in the behavioral health field, have lived experience, and/or general interest in the field to serve a one-year term.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide guidance and recommendations on systemwide coordination of holistic student mental health and well-being efforts, including policy, programs, and best practices to reduce health equity gaps from an undergraduate/graduate perspective.
- Collaborate with campus behavioral health directors, coordinators, researchers, and faculty to gather data and reports.
- Provide guidance and recommendations on common issues and concerns raised by students, staff, and faculty.
- Attend virtual and in-person quarterly SMHOC meetings, as needed.
- Provide updates to the UCOP behavioral health coordinator and/or SMHOC committee on projects.

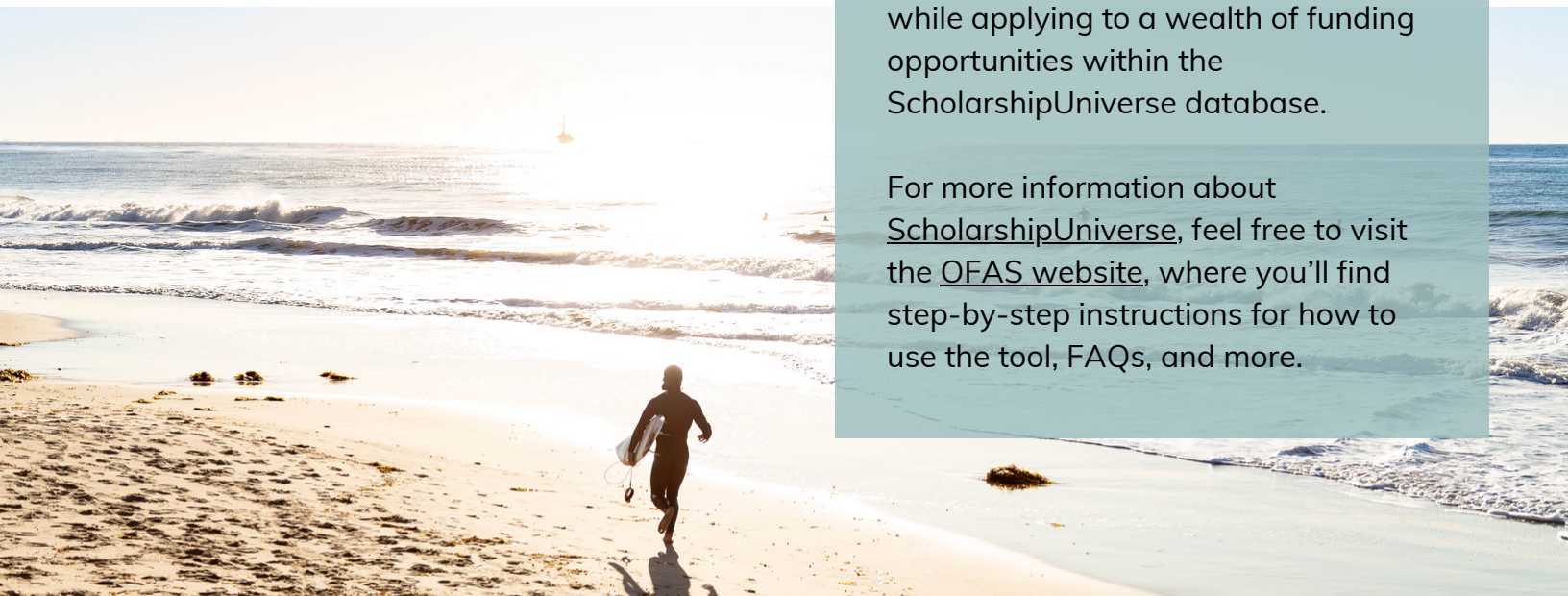
Please click [here](#) to apply. The deadline to apply is **August 18**.

ScholarshipUniverse

Students have access to [ScholarshipUniverse](#), an easy-to-use, personalized hub that makes applying for external scholarships and UCSB-specific scholarships quicker and easier.

To activate your account, simply login using your UCSB Net ID and password. You will then be prompted to answer some questions about yourself, which [ScholarshipUniverse](#) will use to match you with scholarships tailored to your unique profile. All scholarships on the site are vetted for legitimacy, so you can rest assured that your information is safe while applying to a wealth of funding opportunities within the ScholarshipUniverse database.

For more information about [ScholarshipUniverse](#), feel free to visit the [OFAS website](#), where you'll find step-by-step instructions for how to use the tool, FAQs, and more.



Old Spanish Days – Fiesta!

Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to honoring and preserving Santa Barbara's history, spirit, culture, heritage and traditions. This 90+-year-old organization produces an annual five day festival — Fiesta — that is widely regarded as Santa Barbara's premier festival.

Fiesta is August 2 - 6. To see all the Fiesta events, go to their [website](#).

El Mercado de la Playa

[El Mercado de la Playa](#) is a family-friendly event featuring a full carnival with rides and games, food and merchant vendors, live music, dancing, and the Crazy Horse Cantina! This family-friendly Mercado has a little bit of everything for everyone!

Hours are as follows for August 3 - 6:

Thursday-Saturday 12pm -10pm
Sunday 11am to 6pm

Indie Film Festival

A [film festival](#) by filmmakers, for filmmakers. There will be two days of screenings at the historical Alhecama Theater in Downtown SB. There will be a networking / filmmaker party on Saturday after the screenings hosted by the festival and it's a great chance to meet fellow filmmakers. This festival is focused on independent filmmakers and youth filmmakers so they can have an outlet for their cinematic art.



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 oiiss@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 oiissprograms@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.

