

SEPTEMBER 2023

OISS Newsletter



Dear Global Gauchos,

The 2023 - 2024 academic year begins this month! We look forward to meeting our new students and scholars while welcoming back our returning students and scholars.

One sign that everyone has returned to campus is the buzz of bikes whizzing through campus. The lively bike culture is something UCSB is known for. To our new Gauchos, remember that bikes have the right of way!

We wish you all safe travels on your way to beautiful Santa Barbara!

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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Alerts & Updates —

Friday Closures Ending

Friday, 9/1 will be the last Friday that the OISS doors are closed.

Over the summer, we were operating remotely on Fridays so advisors could process e-form requests efficiently.

Beginning the week of 9/4, OISS will be open Monday - Friday from 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4 pm.

Upcoming Closures

- Monday, 9/4 full closure for Labor Day
- Wednesday, 9/6 partial closure from 10 am - 12 pm
 - OISS is open that day from 1 - 4 pm
- Tuesday, September 26 partial closure from 3 - 4 pm for Convocation
 - OISS is open that day from 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 3 pm

UCSBGlobal e-Form Statuses, Explained



So you've submitted an e-Form in UCSBGlobal — now what? You can view the status of your e-Form in UCSBGlobal to track its progress. Here is what those statuses mean.

Incomplete/Draft - your e-Form has not been submitted yet

Pending - your e-Form has been submitted and is awaiting OISS review

Routed to Third Party - your e-Form is not ready for OISS to review it yet because the e-Form is awaiting a confirmation from a third party (financial sponsor, academic advisor, etc.). Check in with your third party to move the process along.

Approved - your e-Form is approved and you may have received a confirmation email at your UCSB email address

Denied - your e-Form was not accepted and an OISS advisor has sent you an email explaining why

Social Security Issues with Electronic DS-2019s

On April 27, 2023, the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) implemented a regulatory change permitting digital signatures and electronic transmission of the Form DS-2019.

Following this regulatory change, some exchange visitors experienced difficulties with the Social Security Administration (SSA) denying Social Security Number (SSN) applications with digitally signed Forms DS-2019.

SSA recently issued an [Emergency Message](#) (EM) to all its offices and technicians instructing Social Security field offices to accept digital signatures on Forms DS-2019 as part of exchange visitors' SSN applications.

If J-1 students or scholars have issues with the SSA accepting digitally signed DS-2019s, please refer to the EM linked above.



A.S. Bike Shop

In addition to functioning as a full service bicycle repair shop, the A.S. Bike Shop is dedicated to empowering our campus' cycling community. The shop also partners with a number of organizations focused on bicycling and sustainability, participating in annual events on campus such as Bike to Work Day, the Zero Waste Festival, and the Bike Fair. Learn more on their [website](#).





New Student Online Check-in

All new students must check-in via UCSBGlobal by **October 13, 2023**. Failing to submit all check-in e-forms will result in the **auto-termination** of your SEVIS record and you will have to depart the US.

Follow these steps to complete your online check-in:

1. Log into [UCSBGlobal](#)
2. Navigate to Required Check-In Forms for New Students
3. Submit the New Student Local Address e-form
4. Submit the New Student CALI Quiz e-form
5. Submit the New Student Arrival Documents e-form
 - a. This will require [downloading your Most Recent I-94](#) and uploading it to the e-form

Thank you and welcome!

New Employment Policy

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) will be implementing a new employment policy for international students, effective starting September 28, 2023.

Starting this Fall, international students may work 20 hours on campus **and** 20 hours off campus when school is in session. For example, F-1 international students may work on campus for 20 hours per week and do CPT for 20 hours per week during the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters.

International students may:

- work 20 hours on campus when school is in session
- work 20 hours off campus (CPT or Pre-Completion Academic Training) when school is in session
- work 20 hours on and 20 hours off campus when school is in session
- work over 20 hours on campus when school is not in session (during break periods)
- work over 20 hours off campus (CPT or Pre-Completion Academic Training) when school is not in session (during break periods)

International students may not:

- work over 20 hours on campus when school is in session
- work over 20 hours off campus (CPT or Pre-Completion Academic Training) when school is in session

Please contact oiss@sa.ucsb.edu with any questions.

Farewell, Trevor!

After five years of dedicated service, OISS Student Advisor Trevor Brandt, will be leaving UCSB. He has accepted a position with UC Scout, another University of California organization with a mission to provide college preparatory curricula and courses to educationally underserved students.

Trevor has been a valuable member of the OISS team, providing excellent and empathetic advising services to our students. He was hired as a Front Desk Intake Advisor in 2018 and later promoted to an International Student Advisor. Trevor has helped countless students over the years, never losing sight of the OISS mission. We congratulate him on his new role and wish him the best of luck.

His last day advising and processing requests will be September 1st. Trevor will be taking a vacation during the first few weeks of September prior to returning for his final few days before formally leaving UCSB on September 20th.

For students with family names that begin with N, O, T, U, V, W, X, and Z:

Your new temporary designated advisors are Cristina Carney and Madison Motomazie. Please refer to the [chart on our Student Advising page](#) for your exact advisor assignment. You may contact Cristina or Madison directly via email or schedule appointments with them. OISS advisors work as a team, so some of your e-forms or requests may be processed by other advisors.

There will be no breaks in service, so your previously submitted or new requests will be processed either by Trevor or another staff member once he has departed. All of our advisors add notes to students' records for complex situations, so your new advisor will be able to read through these notes to become familiar with your situation, if needed. It might take our team longer than normal to process requests during this transition so we appreciate your patience.

If there are any parting sentiments you wish to share with Trevor, you may email him at trevorbrandt@ucsb.edu.



A Personal Message from Trevor

Hi,

To all the students I have worked with over the years, I am sincerely grateful to have met each and every one of you and feel as though my life has been enriched by getting to work with international students. I have grown so much and found so much joy from engaging with all of you, learning about your lives, your cultures, and your experiences.

I love being of service to others, and I have found so much fulfillment and purpose in serving the international community during my time at UCSB. One of my favorite parts of my job is helping students through difficult situations and guiding students through the often confusing realm of immigration requirements, so I hope that I was able to help you in a small way by providing you with some clarity, answering a last minute request, or perhaps indirectly by creating a resource that you used.

I believe international students are incredibly brave and inspiring, as it can be highly challenging to take a risk and live in a new country where so much is different from the rest of your life thus far. I also believe that international students are extremely important, as you bring different perspectives, experiences, skills, and cultures to our campus and our country that help us all become more kind, respectful, and wise individuals.

Thank you for the time that I was able to spend with you and I sincerely wish you all the best with everything in your bright futures.

With gratitude,

Trevor

WE'LL MISS YOU,
TREVOR!

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.

