

MARCH 2024

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

Community, compassion, and resilience are guiding principles that take on heightened significance in the current era of global conflict and political uncertainty. Recognizing the beauty and invaluable assets found in UCSB's rich cultural diversity, we encourage reflection upon our campus' Principles of Community as a means to navigate these challenging times. It is crucial to embrace our differences, fostering a spirit of curiosity rather than distrust and promoting empathy over judgment. Through these collective efforts, we can work towards creating a more resilient and understanding community. Remember, we are all in this together.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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In light of recent global events, please remember

UCSB's Principles of Community



- We affirm the intrinsic dignity in each of us.
- We seek to cultivate understanding among the diverse parts of our whole.
- We believe in every individual's right to freedom of expression, including the ability to disagree with and/or counter another's point of view, limited only by University regulations governing time, place, and manner.
- We hold one another accountable to the highest standards of civility, respect, and decency in all of our interactions.
- We do not tolerate acts of bigotry, harassment, or other harm to individuals by anyone in our community on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, age, physical or mental ability, size, language, religious beliefs, political affiliation, gender identity, service in the uniformed services, citizenship, pregnancy, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, or national origin among other personal characteristics. We affirm that the responsibility for opposing such behavior lies with all members of the community whenever they encounter such behavior.
- We celebrate our differences and recognize and honor diversity as vital to the excellence of our University.
- We strive individually and collectively to make UC Santa Barbara an inclusive environment in which to live, work and learn.
- We affirm that UC Santa Barbara, as a public institution, extends these Principles of Community through public service work.
- We affirm our individual and collective responsibility to uphold in words and actions the highest values of Scholarship, Leadership and Citizenship.

OISS Announcements



Apply in
UCSB Global
by March 25!

New Scholarship Opportunity for International African & Asian Students in STEM!

The Office of International Students and Scholars is delighted to share that we have recently received a generous scholarship donation to share with our international community! Multiple scholarship will be dispersed for eligible recipients, up to \$5,000 each.

To be eligible you must meet the following requirements:

- Be an undergraduate or graduate student earning a degree from UC Santa Barbara
- Be from a country in Africa or Asia on an F-1 or J-1 Visa
- Be in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) major
- Have at least a 2.5 GPA

Due to limited funds, submitting an application does not guarantee you will receive a scholarship. All applications will be reviewed by a committee in OISS for eligibility.

UC SANTA BARBARA
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OISS Announcements

Spring Break: Remote Operations

The Student Resource Building will be closed March 23-31. OISS will be available during normal business hours and can be reached via phone and email March 25-28

Happy
Spring Break!



Day Light
Savings Time
Begins March 10

Office Closures

UCSB and OISS
will be closed on Friday,
March 29 in honor of
Cesar Chavez Day.



SEVIS Fee Increase

USCIS has announced that they will implement filing fee increases on April 1, 2024. The fee increase is an adjustment for inflation, and to increase the efficiency of USCIS petition adjudication. The following are the fee increases for commonly-filed petition types:

- I-765 (Request for Work Authorization/OPT) will increase from \$410 to \$470 for electronic filings and from \$410 to \$520 for paper filing
- I-539 (Request to change status) will increase from \$370 to \$470

More information can be found on the [USCIS website](#).

sprintax



Click here to register

Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar
Tuesday March 5, 1pm (PST)
Open to International Students and Scholars!
For more information see OISS' webpage

OISS Events

Exciting News!

OISS is expanding our language programs!

Starting Spring 2024
ECP will be offered 3 days/week



All are Welcome

We are adding an
All Languages Language
Exchange 2 days/month

English Conversation Program

Spring 2024 Schedule
Now on Shoreline



Register on
Shoreline

- Starting April 8, 2024
- Mondays, 12-1pm, SRB Room 3153
- Wednesdays, 4-5pm, Storke Family Housing Community Center
- Thursdays, 10:30 am-12pm, SRB Room 1103

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA
Education Abroad Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
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UCSB All Languages Language Exchange

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday
@ 4-6pm

Student Resource Building
Multipurpose Room

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

Events will be held on
4/4, 4/18, 5/2, & 5/16



Thank you!

To all the volunteers and
campus partners who help bring
these programs to campus!



OISS Events

International Student Day

Join us at 12pm on March 5th for free food and activities aimed at connecting international and domestic students in a casual and fun setting! This is an opportunity to learn more about cultures from around the world while making new friends! Food will be provided on a first come first serve basis so we hope to see you all there!



Register on
[Shoreline](#)

International Student VENT Circle

Validating, Empowering and Navigating Together

Casual and safe weekly space for international students to discuss (or vent) their daily challenges. Students can use this space to connect, support, and validate one another, AND receive guidance and resources.

Wednesdays 2:30 pm - 4 pm
feel free to join any time during the group!

OISS Conference Room
Student Resource Building (SRB), third floor



Sign up on UCSB CAPS website to receive updates!

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

UCSB | Counseling &
Psychological Services
caps
caps.sa.ucsb.edu 805.893.4411

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DAY

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF ALL CULTURES

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

MPR IN STUDENT RESOURCE BUILDING
MARCH 5TH
12-1 PM

FOOD PROVIDED!
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!



MORE DETAILS HERE ^

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

International Student VENT Circle

This weekly social circle provides a casual and safe space for international students to connect and support one another. International students will have the opportunity to discuss (or vent) about their daily challenges (e.g. belonging, home-sickness, academic difficulty, challenges related to visa, financial stress, fitting-in) and so much more. This is also a space for students to recognize their strengths and receive guidance and resources from other participants and co-leaders.

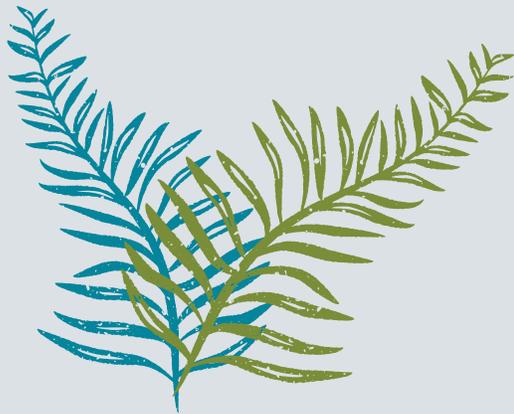
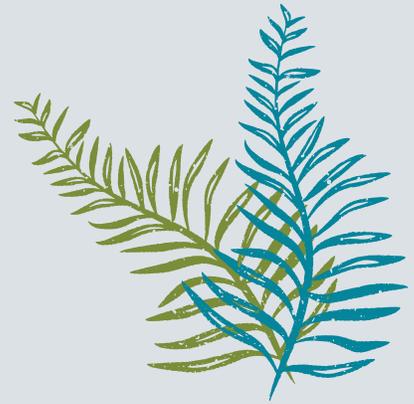
Check out the promo video [here!](#)

OISS Recommends

Financial Literacy Graduate Student Tax Basics for Domestic & International Students



This is NOT a tax preparation workshop.
For detailed tax questions, you should contact a tax expert.



The Department of Health & Wellness NOW HIRING International Student Wellbeing Intern 2024-2025 Academic Year.



[Click here for more details!](#)



Let's Explore the campus!

A campus tour for
current International
Graduate Students

THURSDAY

MARCH 7, 10AM



RSVP on
Shoreline



RSVP on
Shoreline

Looking for
globally-minded events on campus?

Use Shoreline's Event Tag

"International"

Upcoming	Group	Group Type	Category Tag	Event Type
International	Location Type	From Date	To Date	

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

International Tea Time



Community Connections



CELEBRATE
**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**
at our Sip & Shop Pop-Up.

.....
MARCH 8TH | 5-7PM
.....

Ladies! Bring a friend
and celebrate
International Women's
Day downtown!

Enjoy live beats by DJ Darla Bea and
wine pours from La Lief Wines
while perusing handcrafted self-care
goods by Golden Arrow Goods, The
Grape Seed Company, Wild Precious
Life Fragrances, My Happy Floppy
and The Girlie Pop Shop.


Click here for
more details



Hello, My name is Kristal Melton and I work with an organization called International Students, Inc. (ISI). ISI is a Christian organization that welcomes students from all religious and ethnic backgrounds, seeking to create a community!

Weekly Connections both on and off campus are available including Friday night dinners, local excursions and MORE!

Email Kristal for more details!



Staff Recommendation by Ashley

Favorite local hangout?

Chaucer's Book and Renaud's Patisserie!
Both are **incredible local business** offering unique settings
with exceptional selections of books and pastries!

Located at 3315 & 3321 State Street

Wellness Reminders



Wellness Resources

OISS acknowledges the far-reaching effects of global political conflict, which weigh heavily on us at this time. We understand how concerned many students and scholars must feel, especially those with friends and family in affected areas. We want to make sure you are aware of some support systems on campus.

- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) promotes the emotional well-being of students through individual and group psychotherapy, crisis intervention, and stress management services.
- [Mental Health Peers](#) are current students trained to help other students develop tools to better manage stressors related to school as well as relationships to family, friends, romantic partners, and roommates.
- [Student Mental Health Coordination Services \(SMHCS\)](#) is a readily accessible single point of contact for individuals concerned about a student in distress.
- [International Student VENT \(Validating, Empowering, Navigating Together\) Circle](#) is a weekly social circle that provides a casual and safe space for international students to connect and support one another.
- [Academic & Staff Assistance Program \(ASAP\)](#) supports the health and well-being of faculty, staff, and family members. They offer confidential short-term therapy, consultation, wellness workshops, and assistance with threat management.
- [Student Health Service \(SHS\)](#) provides comprehensive and integrated healthcare services that treat illnesses efficiently, promote physical and psychological well-being, and enable students to have a healthy and successful University experience.
- [Basic Needs Resources](#) assist you with all aspects of your basic needs, including (but not limited to) food, finances, and housing.
- [The Office of International Students and Scholars](#) is always here to offer support as well. There are several ways you can get in touch with an OISS advisor, which are detailed on our [website](#).



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 ashleyrifkin@ucsb.edu.

Let's stay in touch!

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

