

FEBRUARY 2022

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

This month has a lot to offer! February kicks off with Lunar New Year, followed by Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and two noteworthy sporting events — the 24th Winter Olympics and the 56th Super Bowl. Black History Month is celebrated all month long!

Although the Olympic Games are the world's preeminent sporting competition, they also represent global exchange and international celebration. Whether or not you're a sports fan, we hope the warmth and excitement of international celebration embraces you.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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For Students & Scholars

Tax Season

Tax season is upon us! OISS cannot advise on taxes as we are not tax professionals. But we can connect you with helpful resources. The Sprintax [blog](#) has numerous articles about everything tax-related. From “How to Prepare for the 2021 US Tax Season,” to “The Dangers of Not Filing a Tax Return,” they have you covered. If you have tax questions, please consult a trained tax professional.

Everyone Needs Duo by 2/7/22

Beginning February 7, 2022, all international students and scholars will need [Multi-factor Authentication \(MFA\) with Duo](#) to log into UCSBGlobal. UCSBGlobal is the OISS hub where all requests are made (e.g. travel signature requests, program extensions, employment requests, etc.).

Visit [UCSB Information Technology's MFA page](#) for more information, including how to enable Duo.

Tax Workshop with California Tax Franchise Board

March 8, 2022 at 4pm

Details will be emailed once confirmed. This is only regarding California State Tax filings. It will not cover Federal filings, please refer to Sprintax or other tax professional for assistance.

Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinars

In these free webinars, international students, scholars and professionals will learn everything they need to know about nonresident tax for the 2021 tax season.

Topics will include: who must file, tax residency, FICA, State returns, implications of misfiling as well as how to use Sprintax to prepare a compliant tax return.

- Tuesday February 8th @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Thursday February 24th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Tuesday March 1st @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Monday March 14th @ 3pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Tuesday March 22nd @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)

Office Closures

OISS will be closed in the afternoon on February 4 from 2 - 4 pm. OISS will also be closed all day on February 21 in recognition of Presidents' Day.



Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month. The Black History Month 2022 theme, "[Black Health and Wellness](#)," explores "the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well."

We encourage you to take time to reflect on Black excellence, Black love, Black stories, Black futures, and how you can contribute to the Black community.

Super Bowl LVI

The 56th Super Bowl will be played on February 13, 2022, at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. The Cincinnati Bengals will play the Los Angeles Rams to determine the National Football League (NFL) season 2021-2022 champions. This American pastime is often the most watched televised program of the year in the U.S. — CBS reported over 91 million viewers for last year's Super Bowl. While many who tune in are football fans, others associate the Super Bowl with viewing parties, the half-time show, or [Super Bowl food](#).



SEVP Scam Warning

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is reminding students to beware of a scam involving individuals using the SEVP Response Center (SRC) phone numbers (703-603-3400 and 800-892-4829) and claiming to be SRC representatives. See [this advisory](#) on Study in the States as well as [this handout](#) from the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility. See this [06/02/2021 SEVP Broadcast Message](#).



For Students

STEM Extension for Academic Training

The Directorate of Private Sector Exchange (Private Sector) announced an initiative for College and University Student-category exchange visitors participating in academic training in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Eligible exchange visitors must be undergraduate and pre-doctoral degree-seeking J-1 College and University students who are pursuing or recently completed STEM-related studies. The maximum total length of their academic training is capped at 36 months (including a single extension); non-degree seeking students are not eligible to apply. The initiative will run for the next two academic years (2021-2022 and 2022-2023) for exchange students who meet the academic training requirements.

What This Means

For the next two academic years, J-1 bachelors and masters degree students in STEM will be eligible for a maximum of 36 months of Academic Training. All J-1 doctorate students are already eligible for up to 36 months of Academic Training, so this does not apply to them. ******All J-1 EAP students are non-degree seeking and are therefore excluded from this initiative.***



President's Work Study Program

We are now accepting applications for the University of California President's Work Study Program for the 2021-2022 academic year. If you receive a President's Work-Study award through OISS, any department that hires you only has to pay 40% of your salary. The Office of the President pays the other 60%. This makes you a more attractive job candidate since departments do not have to use as much of their annual budget to support your position. You can receive up to \$1,100 as a Graduate student and \$500 as an undergraduate student for each quarter that you are enrolled during the President's Work-Study award year. For more information including how to apply, head to the OISS [website](#).

For Scholars



ECP Launches Feb 1

The English Conversation Program (ECP) is now open to international graduate students, scholars, and their family members.

For more information, please visit the [ECP page](#) on our website.

Lengthy H-1B Processing Times

H-1B processing times have gotten longer in the past few months — USCIS processing time for H-1B applications is currently posted at 7.5 months. For this reason, H-1B employees may consider filing applications with premium processing, in order to reduce that processing time to a few weeks.

OISS reminds employees that H-1B applications/extensions should be initiated six months before they are to begin (USCIS will not accept H-1B applications any earlier than six months before the begin date). Less lead time can increase the potential for delays, lapse in payroll, or result in requirements to leave the US for consular processing of immigration applications.

OISS Events



A CALL FOR STUDENT ARTISTS

A Showcase of Culture

Are you an international student or someone who wants to showcase your international perspective and culture through different art forms? We want to highlight the wonderful and unique experiences of the international community here on the UCSB campus.

The International Student Advisory Board is looking for students who want to submit their art for a gallery exhibition in the MCC for spring quarter!



Submission Deadline: March 1st 2021
Submit here or scan QR code:
<https://tinyurl.com/yw7v3xy>





DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



The International Student Advisory Board invites all international students to take a brief survey to share their personal experiences at our university! Collected data will be anonymously used to create a guidebook for future international students.



 @ISABUCSB





International TA Appreciation Social

Date: Feb 4

Time: 4pm - 5:30pm

Location: Arts 1332

RSVP on Shoreline [here](#)

Hosted by Graduate Div and Instructional Devlpmt.

Meet and socialize with fellow international TA in this fun, confidence-boosting exploration of your “inner teacher”! Food and refreshments will be provided. This session will be facilitated by Dr. Mindy Colin from Instructional Development, and will be held in-person (*subject to change, keeping campus regulations in mind).

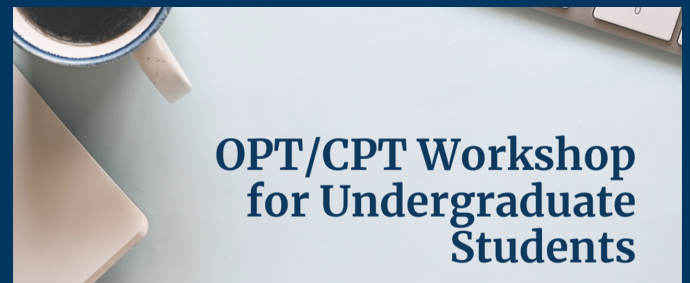
OPT/CPT Workshop – Undergrad

Date: Feb 9

Time: 3-4 pm

Zoom link [here](#)

RSVP on Shoreline [here](#)



Are you interested in gaining work experience in the US? Want to learn about work authorization via Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training? Join OISS for a CPT + OPT Workshop covering the details and differences in these work authorizations, followed by Q&A.



OPT/CPT Workshop – Grad

Date: Feb 25

Time: 3pm - 4pm

Location: OISS Conference Room

Zoom Link [here](#)

RSVP on Shoreline [here](#)

Hosted by Graduate Division and OISS

Ever wondered how one can work and gain experience as a student in the US? Learn more about different options International Students can use to gain work and practical training experience, while they are students, and after. This session will be facilitated by Cristina Carney from OISS, and will be delivered in a hybrid mode — in-person and virtually. This event will not be recorded.





OISS Recommends



Chinese Lunar New Year TALK Event (茶话会)

Mental Health Peers at CAPS now present the Chinese Lunar New Year TALK event (茶话会)!

Come share your favorite traditional foods, stories, and laughter with us. Talk and connect with other Chinese students! You are welcome to bring snacks to the event as well.

The event is in Mandarin (活动全程使用中文). Join us on Feb 1st at 3pm PST. Zoom link: <https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/87842155542>

Staff Suggestions

Lake Los Carneros Park

We recommend checking out Lake Los Carneros Park in Goleta. Located within biking distance from campus, Lake Los Carneros Park is a hidden treasure that is a great place for a short walk, longer hike, a picnic, or simply to sit and find some peace in nature. The park is immersed in the beauty of Goleta's natural landscape and is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including ducks, swans, and turtles that can often be seen in the lake. You can also find the Stow House located in the park, a US historical landmark that was built in the 1880's.



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.

