

MAY 2022

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

Some people say the month of May opens our eyes to the beauty of the world. With flowers blooming on our sunny campus by the sea, we can't help but agree. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place and hope you find a moment to soak it all up.

May this month bring you joy and delight!

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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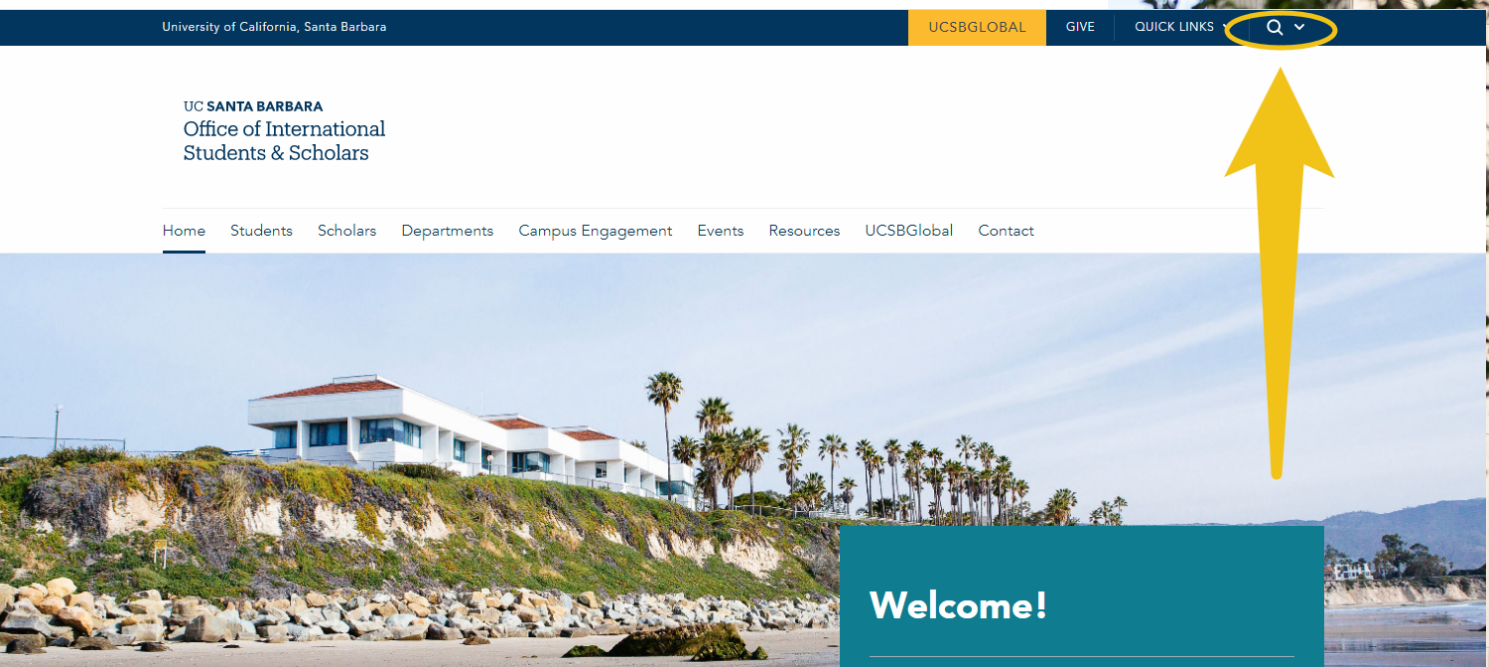
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Alerts & Updates

Outdated OISS Forms

In February of 2021, the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) switched to a new online operating platform, [UCSBGlobal](#). We appreciate how well the campus community has adapted to UCSBGlobal and value your feedback about the system. One of the biggest benefits of UCSBGlobal is that all international student requests can be made using e-forms.

Lately, we have noticed our old forms circulating among some departments and students. Please note that all requests should be made through the e-forms in UCSBGlobal. Digital versions of forms (i.e. fillable PDFs) are not accepted by our office for student requests. If you or a student are looking for information about submitting a request, please use the search function within the OISS [website](#) (pictured below) as opposed to a search engine.



60 Day Grace Period Ending for Winter Graduates

Did you complete your academic program as an F-1 student in Winter quarter? If so, then you have 15 days left in your 60 day grace period. For all F-1 undergraduate students who completed the last class needed for their degrees during Winter quarter, your program end date is 03/18/22. Even if your I-20 was set to end at a later date, it has now been shortened to 03/18/22 and your grace period began on 3/19/22. During the grace period, you must do one of the following to maintain a valid visa status:

- Apply for OPT - File form I-765 online on the USCIS website to apply for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT). If USCIS has received your OPT application before your 60 day grace period expires, then you may remain in the US until your application has been approved. *** You must apply for an OPT I-20 in UCSBGlobal before you can file form I-765 online. Your application will be denied if you file form I-765 online without an OPT I-20 issued by OISS within the past 30 days.
- 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 transfer out requests take five business days to be processed.
- Depart the US - If you will be returning home, then you should depart the US during the grace period. Students will usually fly back to their home country. But right now, flight availability can be limited based on the destination. Although it may not be the most desirable option, students can fly to another country instead of their home country, so they can leave within the grace period. Consult an OISS advisor if you find yourself in this position.
- There are a few other options, but the aforementioned are the most common.

CPT Application Reminder

Be sure to submit your CPT application at least three weeks before your job or internship is set to begin. Per federal immigration regulations, students need a CPT authorization prior to beginning employment. If OISS doesn't have enough time to process your CPT application before the anticipated job start date, then students must delay their employment. Plan ahead and submit your CPT authorization in UCSBGlobal early.



Graduation – What Does It Mean?

Are you graduating this quarter? Congrats!!! As your time at UCSB comes to an end, you may find yourself a little confused about all the graduation-related terminology. We have provided some definitions below, noting which terms affect your immigration status.

Graduation - This is a broad term that can be conflated with any of the terms listed below. Whether or not it affects your immigration status depends on how it's being used. We recommend using the terms below for the most specificity.

Commencement - This is the campus-wide ceremony that celebrates students who have recently completed their degree programs. Participation is optional, although many students enjoy celebrating with friends and family. If you prefer not to participate you can still obtain your degree. "Walking" at commencement refers to participating in the commencement ceremony, which usually involves walking across a large stage in your graduation regalia (i.e. cap and gown). More information can be found on UCSB's official commencement website. Whether or not you participate in commencement does not affect your immigration status. However, if commencement takes place after your 60 day grace period ends and you do want to participate, speak with an OISS advisor to discuss your options.

Declaring Candidacy - This is how you let the university know that you will be completing your degree program. You are declaring that you will be finishing all your degree requirements in a specified quarter. There are deadlines associated with declaring candidacy, which are noted on [this page](#). The quarter in which you declare candidacy does not affect your immigration record. What does affect your immigration record is your program end date, which is defined next.

Sometimes, students miss the deadline to declare their candidacy and end up declaring candidacy in the quarter after they have actually completed their degree program. The 60 day grace period begins after the program end date, not after the last day of the quarter in which you declare candidacy. For example, a student completes all their degree requirements in Spring quarter, but they miss the deadline to declare candidacy for Spring quarter. The student declares candidacy for summer quarter. This student's 60 day grace period begins after Spring quarter ends, not after summer quarter ends.

Program End Date - For undergraduate students, the program end date is the last day of the quarter in which you complete your final degree requirements. For graduate students, this date is more flexible and can be the date of thesis defense or filing date, for example. The program end date has the most direct impact on your immigration status; it is the date your I-20 will be shortened to. You may not work past this date until your OPT gets approved. Your 60 day grace period begins the day after your program end date as well. If you ever have questions about this date, don't hesitate to contact an OISS advisor.



Financial Assistance – Apply by May 13

The Holly Jennings award is available to F-1 or J-1 degree seeking students who have experienced an unexpected expense during the 2021-2022 academic year. If you meet the eligibility requirements outlined on the application, please submit your application no later than May 13, 2022. Funding is limited and may not be available to all applicants.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/4pMkDHyYsP74ETSx6>



Office Closure

OISS will be closed to the public on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, May 31.

USCIS Premium Processing

Processing times at USCIS are currently very long for certain types of applications, but USCIS has announced that they intend to bring relief to applicants by reducing processing times, and expanding their premium processing program. The current processing times for applications such as I-129 (for H-1B), I-539 (change of status) and I-765 (for non-OPT work authorization) range up to 10 months, but USCIS has posted an intended processing time of 2-3 months. In addition, they plan to offer premium processing for I-539, I-765, and I-140 (green card) applications in the coming fiscal year. The announcement can be found at [this link](#).



OISS Events



Practice English with ECP

The Office of International Students and Scholars offers an English Conversation Program (ECP) for international graduate students, scholars, and their family members. You do not need to be an enrolled UCSB student to participate. ECP provides an opportunity to practice speaking and refining English language skills in a casual, social, and supportive environment.

There is no academic credit for this program, which is intended to improve your English skills while you make friends. ECP teachers are volunteers who enjoy meeting and working with people from other countries. If you have any questions, please contact the ECP coordinator, Lisa Hammock at lisahammock805@gmail.com. Click [here](#) for more information and the link to the sign up form.

Language Exchange: Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, & Mandarin

Join OISS and EAP to practice your language skills in a fun, casual environment while enjoying free international snacks! Converse with Japanese, Korean, & Mandarin Chinese beginners to native speakers! Register on [Shoreline](#).

 UC SANTA BARBARA
Education Abroad Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

**INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE EXCHANGE**
**Cantonese, Japanese,
Korean, Mandarin**
Wednesday, May 11
@ 12-1pm
SRB Multipurpose Room
ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

REGISTER HERE:





Graduation Events!




Undergraduate Celebration

You did it 2022 Undergraduates! Congratulations on your upcoming graduation. OISS, International Student Advisory Board, Career Services and Office of Development would like to invite you and your fellow graduating international friends to join us for an end of year celebration.

Bring your graduation cap to decorate and enjoy food and drinks before becoming Gaucho Alumni! Register on [Shoreline](#).



End of Year Graduation Celebration
For undergraduate international students
May 13, 2022
4 - 6 pm
SRB MPR
Register on [Shoreline](#)



Bring your graduation cap to decorate!
Creative supplies will be provided.

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International Students & Scholars
UC SANTA BARBARA
Career Services
UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of Development
International Student Advisory Board



Graduate Student Celebration

Are you an International Masters or PhD student graduating in Spring / Summer 2022? Join GSRC, OISS and GSA for a celebratory evening over dinner. Register on [Shoreline](#).

Friday, May 20
GSA Lounge (Above MCC & Opposite Corwin Pavillion)
5 - 7 pm

Spotlight

Janin Guzman-Morales, International Scholar

I grew up in Mexico City in the 90's. I was entirely schooled in the public Mexican education system (from first grade to college) and at 26 years old I moved to California when I joined the Earth Sciences doctoral program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. Today, I work as a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Geography, UCSB, where I study Central America regional climate and weather extremes and their connections with migration to the U.S.



I thank every mentor, professor, fellowship manager, graduate and scholar administration personnel that have offered their support on my path of a career in science. I have encountered true friendship, and let me specially acknowledge those first-generation friends, who have made me feel safe and appreciated in this country.

In this spirit, I would like to express my gratitude to the International Student and Scholar Offices at UCSB and across the University of California's ten campuses. Your offices are the first stop in welcoming us – international students and scholars – to the University of California. You are a continuous resource and support system in helping us navigate our visa statutes and transitions.



OISS Recommends

Lavender Graduation

Hosted by the Resource Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, Lavender Graduation is open to all graduating students who identify as LGBTQ+. The registration deadline is May 22, and the event will be held on Sunday, June 5 from 3-7pm in the SRB Foyer.

Register on Shoreline [here](#).



Thinking on Your Feet: Improv Skills for Interviewing

Join the GSRC and UCSB Beyond Academia on May 9 for a special workshop with Bri McWhorter!

During an interview, you need to be confident, articulate, and able to quickly think on your feet. Luckily, these are

skills that you can practice in advance. This interactive workshop on Monday, May 9 will teach you how to be an active listener, keep the dialogue going, and impress your interviewer. This workshop is helpful for preparation in both academic and non-academic interview settings.

Register on Shoreline [here](#).



Staff Suggestions

I Madonnari Italian Street Painting Festival

This Festival presents the rare opportunity to view artists of all ages create street paintings ranging from classical to original images. The annual, three-day festival held on the Memorial Day Weekend is returning to the Old Mission Santa Barbara after two years online. Check out their [website](#) for more information.



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.

