

MARCH 2023

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

Although Spring quarter doesn't begin until April 3, Spring Equinox is March 20! The season of Spring also brings the season of Taxes.

We recommend checking out the [OISS Tax page](#) and attending the upcoming State Filing Tax Webinar on March 7. Go to page 5 for more information, including the webinar's zoom link.

We hope your Winter quarter comes to a close smoothly and peacefully.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Office of International
Students & Scholars

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Taxes

Tax season is upon us! OISS cannot advise on taxes as we are not tax professionals. But we can connect you with helpful resources, which are listed on our [Tax page](#). If you have specific tax questions, please consult a trained tax professional or attend the following webinar.

The California Franchise Tax Board is hosting a State filing webinar on March 7 from 2 - 4 pm.

Zoom link: <https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/84752820047>

We would strongly encourage students and scholars to review any Federal Tax information or resources prior to attending the CA State webinar. The webinar cannot be recorded per Franchise Tax Board policy.

Reduced Course Loads

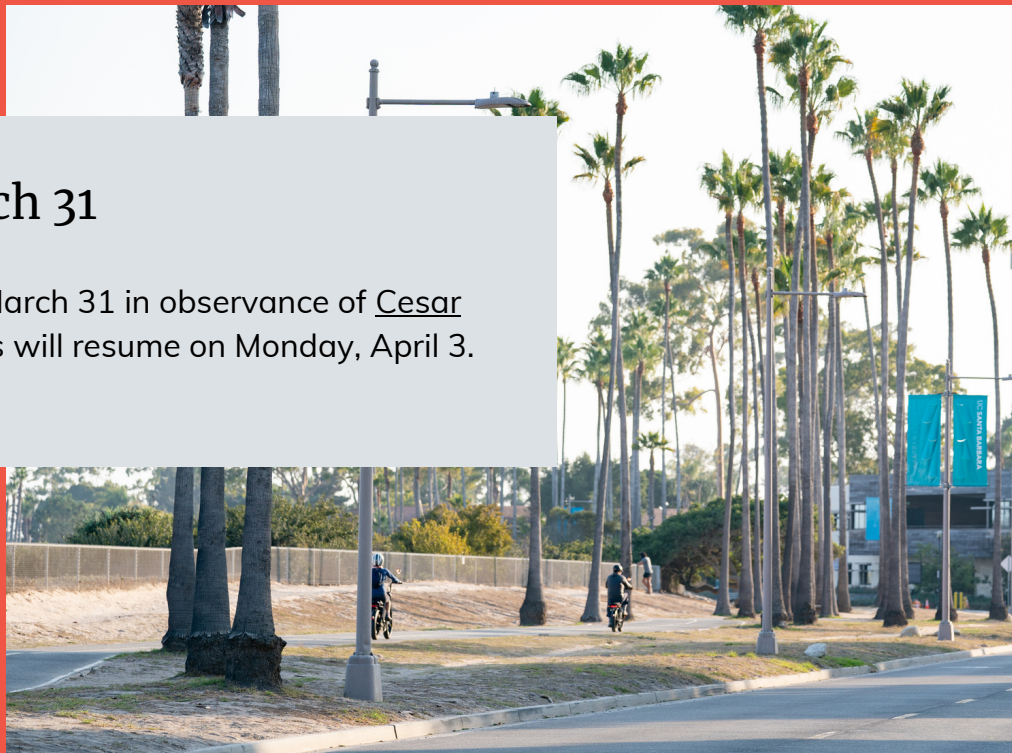


As your degree program comes to an end (Congrats!), you may find that you do not need to enroll in full-time units. If you would like to drop below a full-time course load, head over to our [academic requirements page](#) to read about eligibility and how to apply. Students in their final quarter before graduation can be approved for an Academic Reduced Course Load (RCL).

To apply for a deficit load, which is different from an Academic RCL, please consult your academic college. OISS does not process deficit load petitions.

Office Closure – March 31

OISS will be closed on Friday, March 31 in observance of [Cesar Chavez Day](#). Normal operations will resume on Monday, April 3.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is March 8! There are many ways you can celebrate women's accomplishments, raise awareness against bias, and take action for equality. Check out the [IWD 2023 website](#) for educational resources, events, zoom backgrounds, and more.



Join the Women's Center and OISS for an evening meditation in celebration of International Women's Day followed by tea and snacks.

Wednesday, March 8
SRB Health & Wellness and Women's Center
5 - 6:30 pm

Register on [Shoreline](#).

Daylight Savings - 3/12

Don't forget to "Spring forward" on March 12, when [Daylight Savings Time](#) begins.



Spotlight

Towela Phiri

Hi everyone! I hope you are having an amazing winter quarter.

My Role in RHA

My name is Towela and I'm a second-year Computer Science major from South Africa. I work with the Residential Housing Association (RHA) as the International Student Engagement Chair Coordinator (ISECC for short). My role as the ISECC focuses on advocating for and building community among international students in the residence halls.

Make sure to check out the [RHA Instagram](#) account for more information about upcoming events! If you have any questions or comments feel free to email me at rha.ucsb.isecc@gmail.com.



About Me

My name means beautiful in Tumbuka which is a language from Eastern Zambia. I love my name because of its meaning and because it is my grandmother's and great-grandmother's name. Something I have learned from the international community on campus is how diverse and unique we all are. I have met students from countries I've never heard of and speak languages that come from all corners of the Earth. I love learning about and eating food from different regions. The international community here has really taught me the true meaning of being a Global Gaucho.



OISS Events

UC SANTA BARBARA
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TSC
UCSB Transfer Student Center

RHA

UCSB | Counseling & Psychological Services
mental health peers
csp@ucsb.edu | 805.953.4411



Building a Community: Mental Health Panel + Potluck for International Students

Free pizza & snacks from all over the world will be provided! Feel free to bring your own international snacks/food too!



Friday, March 3 @ 5 p.m.
San Rafael Residence
Hall Lounge

RSVP here!

Let's take the bus to THE ZOO!

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 11, NOON
MEETING LOCATION: NORTH HALL BUS STOP

Hey, international graduate students!

Did you know UCSB students ride the Santa Barbara MTD bus for free? So let's take the bus together to the Santa Barbara Zoo!

A limited # of free zoo tickets will be available on first come, first served basis

Shoreline link with more info:



Graduate Student Resource Center

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Tax Webinar

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March 7

2 - 4 pm

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OISS Recommends



UC Student Regent Application

Shape the future of the University of California by participating in policy and budget decisions, plus gain valuable professional experience and leadership skills. Tuition and fees will be waived during your two years of service. [Apply now to be the next UC Student Regent.](https://ucal.us/studentregent)

Applications for the 2024-25 year are due March 12.

More Information, a recorded webinar, the application and FAQs are online at ucal.us/studentregent.

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.

