

NOVEMBER 2023

# OISS Newsletter



## Dear International Gauchos,

Every November, universities throughout the U.S. celebrate [International Education Week \(IE Week\)](#). This initiative led by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education gives us the opportunity to celebrate our international students and scholars. Indeed, international education and global exchange lead to a more prosperous world.

Please join us in thanking our international community for their vast cultural and academic contributions to our campus. Read on to see how you can participate in IE Week this year!

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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

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# Alerts & Updates

## Holiday Travel Signatures

Traveling abroad for the holidays? This is a good time to request a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019. Travel signatures are only needed for re-entry to the U.S. from another country. You also always need a valid visa to re-enter.

If you're traveling to another state within the U.S., you do not need a travel signature. For students currently on OPT, travel signatures are valid for 6 months from the date they were issued. For all other students, travel signatures are valid for 12 months from the date they were issued.

All travel signature requests can be submitted in UCSBGlobal either under "I-20 Changes and Request e-forms" or "DS-2019 Service Request: Travel Signature." Please refer to either the [F-1](#) or [J-1](#) student travel information page prior to traveling as well.

If you already have a travel signature and it will not be expired at the time you wish to re-enter the US → you do not need to request a travel signature

If you do not have a travel signature and you are not traveling outside the U.S. during the holidays → you do not need to request a travel signature

If you are traveling outside the US during the holidays and you have never received a travel signature → submit a travel signature request

If you are traveling outside the U.S. during the holidays and your current travel signature will be expired at the time you wish to re-enter the U.S. → submit a travel signature request

Travel Signature parties are on the way! Stay tuned for more information about when and where you can get an immediate travel signature!

## Scholar Walk-ins

Offered every Tuesday 2-4 and Thursday 10-12.

Walk-in hours are set time frames when a J-1 scholar advisor will be at the OISS reception area to answer questions that take less than 5 minutes to address. Please do not forget to sign in using the iPad posted on the front reception desk so that J-1 scholar advisors attend to you in the order you arrived. If you believe you need more than 5 minutes with an advisor, please send an email to [j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu) to schedule either a virtual or an in-person appointment.

No Walk-ins on Tues 11/2 2-3 pm or 11/28 2-3 pm

## F-1 New Student Check-in

All new F-1 students must check-in via UCSBGlobal as soon as possible. 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. This will require [downloading your Most Recent I-94](#) and uploading it to the e-form

Thank you!

## November Closures

Nov 10 for Veterans' Day

Nov 23-24 for Thanksgiving





## Let's talk about CULTURE SHOCK

01

### What is it?

It is the feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture, way of life, or set of attitudes.

02

### How does it occur?

It can occur when people move to a new city or country, go on vacation, travel abroad, or study abroad for school.

03

### Common symptoms

Some of its common symptoms are homesickness, feelings of helplessness/dependency, isolation, disorientation, depression, sadness, sleep and eating disturbances, etc.

04

### How long does it last?

Some people may experience culture shock within a few days, while for others, it might last for weeks or even months.

05

### Ways to cope with culture shock

Some ways to cope with culture shock are to stay busy and get involved, get to know and learn about your new surrounding culture, express your feelings and write them down, seek out local friends, etc.

 UCSB | Counseling & Psychological Services

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## Let's talk about VENT

01

### What is it?

It is a social circle that provides a casual and safe space for international students to connect and support one another.

02

### What does it stand for?

VENT stands for Validating, Empowering, Navigating Together.

03

### What do you do in this circle?

International students will have the opportunity to share (or vent) their daily experience or/and challenges. This is also a space for students to recognize their strengths and receive guidance and resources.

04

### Where and when does this group meet?

This social group meets on Wednesdays, 2:30-4pm at the OISS Conference Room located at the SRB 3rd floor.

05

### Link to sign up if interested

This link allows you to sign up for the social circle and notifications where they also accept drop-ins as well.

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# Holiday and Winter Break Operations

Date(s)	Operation Status	Can I process requests and speak with an advisor?	How?
12/1 - 12/15	Normal	Yes	In-person and Remote
12/18 - 1/7	Remote Only	Yes	Remote Only
1/8 and on	Normal	Yes	In-person and Remote
12/25, 12/26, 12/29	Closed	No	Not available

Students - Schedule an appointment with your assigned advisor using [this link](#)

Scholars - Schedule an appointment with an advisor by emailing [j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu) or [longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu)

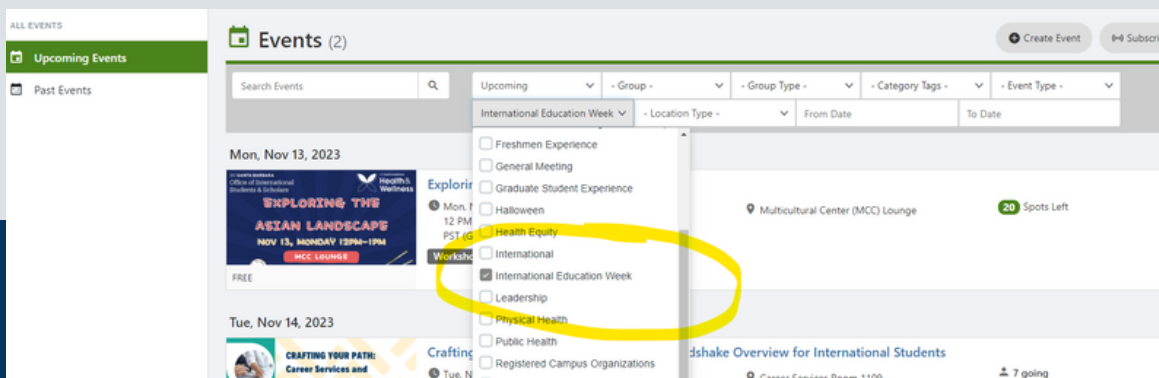


# OISS Events

## International Education Week (IEW): Nov 13 – 17!

International Education Week (IEW) is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, which will be celebrated at UCSB this year! OISS and campus partners are hosting IEW events throughout the week.

Filter Shoreline Events to “International Education Week” to see all that is available.



# OISS Recommends

Hi Global Gauchos! We are excited to share some information about the valuable resources offered by the Rapid Rehousing Program at UCSB. In our efforts to combat housing insecurity, we are committed to connecting students with essential housing resources.

Visit our website, [basicneeds.ucsb.edu](https://basicneeds.ucsb.edu), to access a diverse range of resources related to housing and other basic needs. We encourage all international students to [watch our informative video](#), which provides detailed explanations of the resources available to you. Additionally, we have prepared a comprehensive [resource guide](#) to assist you in identifying resources that are available.

Stay updated with the latest resources by following our Instagram account @ucsbrapidrehousing. We regularly post ongoing resources and information to support you during your time at UCSB.

Your well-being matters to us, and we are here to support you throughout your journey at UCSB. Explore these resources and feel free to reach out if you have any questions to our email: [ucsbrapidrehousing@gmail.com](mailto:ucsbrapidrehousing@gmail.com).

Warm regards,

UCSB Rapid Rehousing Program





# YOSEMITE *Timeline*

Date: **11/23 - 11/26**

Location: Yosemite National Park

Payment Methods: Cash, Money  
Order, or Venmo

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

**THE REGISTRATION LINK IS  
ON OUR BIO!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, DM US ON OUR IG  
OR CONTACT UCSB.ISA@GMAIL.COM

OCT 22 - NOV 1:

Register and pay early bird price  
(\$520) to secure your spot!

NOV 2 - NOV 15:

We only accept regular price (\$599)

NOV 16 - NOV 20:

We have last minute price (\$615)

NOV 23 - NOV 26:

ENJOYING OUR TRIP!!!

## YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK THANKSGIVING



4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS  
11/23-11/26



Isla Vista  
Community  
Relations  
Committee

## Tote Bag Art Contest

Submit a black and white design that  
reflects your favorite things about  
Isla Vista!

Winning design will be printed on  
totes for IV Week

**SUBMIT BEFORE NOV.3RD**



Free Meal in  
IV Prize!



# 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](mailto:oiss@sa.ucsb.edu).

J-1 Scholars should reach out to [j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu). For those with questions related to employment-based visas; please contact [longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu).

For any inquiries regarding upcoming OISS events, or collaboration opportunities, contact [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mmotomazie@ucsb.edu).

## Let's stay in touch!

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

