

OCTOBER 2021

OISS Newsletter



Dear International Gauchos,

October is the month of pumpkins and they're everywhere! Pumpkin patches have popped up around town, jack-o-lanterns are appearing on doorsteps, and everything is pumpkin-flavored. You'll find even more pumpkins at our upcoming event, Halloween with OISS, on October 27 (details to come).

We hope your first few weeks of the quarter have been filled with excitement, encouragement, and of course, pumpkin spice lattes. As always, thank you for reading this month's edition of the OISS Newsletter.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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Alerts & Updates

Travel Ban to be Lifted for Vaccinated Travelers

In November, the Biden Administration will lift the COVID-related travel bans for international travelers who are fully vaccinated. The policy change is due to go into effect in November.

H-1B Scholars

A federal district court has set aside a final rule that would have replaced the H1B lottery registration system with one that prioritizes cases filed based on wage level. The rule had been finalized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the final weeks of the Trump Administration, but was never implemented. Email LongTermVisa@sa.ucsb.edu with any questions.

Need a Social Security Number?

Have you recently gotten a job? Congrats! If you have never been issued a Social Security Number (SSN) before, you can apply for one soon. Start by reading either the [F-1 Students SSN information](#) or the [J-1 Students SSN information](#) on our website.

For those employed on campus, you will submit an on campus employment request in UCSBGlobal to receive an employment verification letter from OISS. You may use the letter (along with [other documents](#)) to apply for an SSN through our local Social Security Office.

For those with CPT or Academic Training authorizations, refer to the [Social Security website](#) for the list of documents needed to apply.

The local Social Security office is located at
122 W Figueroa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone number: 866-695-6285



We Appreciate Your Patience

At this point in time, OISS remains understaffed, but is headed towards a fully-staffed team soon!

After submitting a request in UCSBGlobal, you may refer to the processing times listed on our [Student Request Guide](#). We appreciate your patience as it may take us a few extra business days to process your request. While your request is under review, if there is anything that requires follow-up or more information, we will reach out to you via your UCSB email address.

Please do your best to plan ahead so that your requests are approved ahead of any important deadlines. We ask that you refrain from emailing our general inbox (OISS@sa.ucsb.edu) to check the status of your request if the standard processing time, plus a few extra days, has not passed yet. Thank you!

COVID American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant Consideration

International Students ARE eligible to fill [this form](#) out for consideration. This consideration form will remain open until all remaining funding has been exhausted.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), which established and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), directs institutions to use this new federal funding to provide direct emergency financial grants to students for expenses related to any component of their cost of attendance, including: tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health) and child care.

American History & Institutions Waiver

From the College of Letters & Science's International Students [FAQ page](#): "We strongly encourage you to take a course to satisfy this requirement. However, if you find that you cannot fit a course into your schedule, you may ask to be excused from this requirement by sending an email to intl_students@ltsc.ucsb.edu."



Sprintax Webinar Recording – An Introduction to US Taxes for Nonresidents

Access the recording from Sprintax [here](#). We often receive tax questions from students and we don't blame you for having questions — taxes can be confusing. However, OISS staff legally cannot provide tax advice; our student and scholar advisors are not trained to advise on taxation forms. We currently do not have the resources available to hire tax professionals within OISS. By sharing information like this webinar with you, we do our best to provide support for content that is beyond our area of expertise.

We encourage you to provide feedback to campus leadership about needs for more resources. While we do our best to convey this need, messaging from students and scholars can be heard louder and stronger.

Driver's Licenses

If you would like to drive a car or motorcycle in California, you will need to apply for a California Driver's License (CDL). Driver's Licenses are issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Our [Driving in the U.S.](#) webpage has information about when, where, and how to apply.

Student Housing

As noted in the latest [Student Housing Update](#), if you or someone you know is without housing, please contact University & Community Housing Services by phone at 805-893-4371 or by email at housinginfo@housing.ucsb.edu. [Basic needs resources](#) have also been communicated to students.



Meet Athith Krishna!

Graduate Student Resource Center International
Peer Advisor

Hi Global Gauchos, I'm Athith Krishna and I'm an international student from India finishing up my PhD in Electrical & Computer Engineering. I'm from Bangalore, India, and I moved to the US for undergraduate studies at Cornell University, in 2013.

During my time at UCSB, I've been involved with various student groups and programs - International Students Association (Join them [here](#)), UCSB New Venture Program, Beyond Academia Conference, and Indian Association @ UCSB. Some of my most memorable times at UCSB have been during these programs - like when ISA organized an International Night Market at Storke Plaza in 2019. I presently work with the Graduate Student Resource Center & Graduate Division as their International Peer Advisor.



What does an International Peer advisor do?

As the International Peer advisor, I mainly help with advising international students and scholars with regards to student life on- & off-campus. I also help answer any questions they may have during their time at UCSB, and direct them to the right campus resources with regards to different aspects including - campus involvement, mental health, professional development, financial planning, etc.

During the academic year I work with various on-campus resources to host workshops, activities and info-sessions that will be helpful for international students - for example, this quarter we have the International TA workshop, Non-Academic Jobs workshop, International Student Barbecue, coming up (<https://www.gradpost.ucsb.edu/events>). In the future quarters, we will have workshops with regards to Taxes, Employment, and Immigration.

If you have any questions about life at UCSB, please feel free to send me an email at graddiv-internationalpeer@ucsb.edu to set up an appointment. And, if there are any workshops or events you would like to see on-campus, please feel free to email me with suggestions, and I will try my best to put those events together on-campus.



International Student Association (ISA) Spotlight

As the new school year kicks off and most classes return to in-person instruction, many international students are excited yet at the same time, might find themselves seeking a sense of community. Recognizing the importance of re-connecting with one another, the International Student Association (ISA) serves as a warm and safe space for all students to enrich their college experience. We strive to promote global friendship and cultural diversity on campus.

ISA organizes a variety of cultural, social, and recreational events throughout the school year that foster community bonding and cultural appreciation among the student body. This quarter, we welcomed international gauchos from more than 20 countries and regions with an exciting Sunset Hike to Sands Beach during Week 0 (pictured above), where many enjoyed the beauty of Isla Vista as well as the delight of new friendship. ISA continuously works to help create a fulfilling UCSB experience for international students with a wide range of activities and programs.

Some of our upcoming events include:

- Explore Santa Barbara Downtown
- Universal Studio Day Trip
- Thanksgiving Adventure Program (1-3 days)

If you are interested in knowing more about ISA, we warmly invite you to our *Open House* at 8 PM October 12th, SRB room 1103. Come hangout with us over fun games and activities!

We kindly invite you to join our global community and participate in our future events! You can find more about our past events on our official [Facebook](#) page and [Instagram](#) account. Do not forget to join as a member on [Shoreline](#) to receive updates about our future events!

OISS Events



International Education Week (IEW): Save-the-Dates!

International Education Week (IEW), November 15-19, 2021, 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 is joining campus colleagues to host international programs throughout International Education Week. More information is forthcoming, but for now, save these dates and enter the Writing Contest!

CLAS International Education Week Essay Writing Contest

Have you studied abroad? Are you an international student at UCSB? Would you like to share your experiences with the UCSB community? Well why don't you participate in the International Education Week Writing Contest! You can share your unique perspective about experiences in 1,000 words or more!

Have Questions? Please contact Kristen Ikeda Yoza at kdunkinson@ucsb.edu. Enter the contest [here](#)!

EAP Employment Workshop

EAP Reciprocity students are invited to an employment workshop hosted by OISS, Career Services, EAP, and the Capital Internship Program. Join us to learn about on campus employment authorizations, Academic Training (off campus employment) authorizations, how to find an internship, participating in the UC Washington Center (UCDC) or UC Center Sacramento (UCCS) programs, and more.

Click [here](#) for zoom link.

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars



NOVEMBER 2
2:30 - 4 PM

EAP Employment Workshop

Hosted by:

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA
Education Abroad Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
Capital Internship Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
Career Services

[ZOOM LINK](#) →



Halloween with OISS

Join us to celebrate Halloween! We will have pumpkins to carve and pumpkin-flavored treats to enjoy. More information will be shared on our OISS [Shoreline events page](#) and social media accounts.

Date: 10/27/21

Time: 7-9 pm

Location: Student Resource Building MPR

OISS Recommends

International Student Success Community Group

Join the [International Student Success Community Group](#), hosted by Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). This group is designed to provide a safe and confidential space for international students to receive and provide support through exploring and navigating cultural differences, making connections with each other, and sharing available resources to promote success at UCSB. This is also a space to affirm your strengths as international students.

The group meets on Fridays from 2 - 3:30. [Registration](#) is required.



Fall CLAS Workshops

During Fall 2021, CLAS Academic Skills will offer twelve synchronous (in-person and on Zoom) and six on-demand, online study skills videos and self-guided exercises, covering a variety of academic skills topics. Students can find the on-demand offerings [online](#) and in the events calendar on [Shoreline](#). You can register for synchronous workshops at myclas.sa.ucsb.edu.

In addition, CLAS offers individual academic skills consultations in which students receive guidance to:

- develop their study plans for specific courses, including plans to catch up if they have fallen behind;
- identify strengths and weaknesses in their study habits;
- get more out of lectures, readings, assignments, and problem sets;
- organize their time;
- strategize around issues of focus, motivation, confusion, and confidence.

If you wish to schedule brief, weekly appointments as accountability check-ins or to do long-term work on a particular area of learning, you can go to myclas.sa.ucsb.edu, click "my appointments," and then click "academic skills."

Pearman Fellowship

Applications have opened for the Pearman Fellowship, which is the best way for new students interested in Associated Students to become involved.

The program includes a mentorship in an A.S. entity, as well as information sessions guided by students, staff, and elected officials. The mentorship program will begin later in the quarter, and prospective Fellows will be given an elected official mentor. They'll be available to answer questions, provide hands-on experiences, and demonstrate their daily duties.

The Fellowship program is intended to establish a basis for incoming students so that they can spend their time thriving in any ASUCSB office through the coming years. As a Pearman Fellow in an office, you'll have the opportunity to network with elected officials in A.S, as well as other individuals working to help improve UCSB. Some Fellows even get the chance to develop their own project within A.S.!

Applications are due on October 22.

Interested in Associated Students?

BECOME A PEARMAN FELLOW!

- Get involved in student government
- Develop your own passion project to improve UCSB
- Become a part of an A.S. entity
- Expand your professional network
- Boost your resume

HOW DO I JOIN?



Fill out the interest
Form by October 22nd!
tinyurl.com/pearmanfellows

Attend a Zoom
Informational meeting
on October 16th or 17th!

Adventure Programs

UCSB Adventure Programs is proud to offer a number of virtual and in-person programs this quarter, from now until December 10. Register for programs [here](#), check out their [Shoreline page](#), or follow their social media accounts.

What kind of adventures are out there? Kayaking at Santa Cruz Island. Backpacking in Yosemite. Canoeing down the Colorado River. SCUBA or Wilderness First Aid Certification. Aerial Silk or Surfing Instruction. Rock Climbing at Gibraltar. Or simply go out with your team using the Rentals or Adventure Pass.

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.

