

MAY 2021

OISS NEWSLETTER

Immigration updates, announcements, and recommended events for Global Gauchos



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Dear International Gauchos,

Dear International Gauchos,

We hope that Spring quarter is going well for you! OISS continues to be amazed and inspired by all of our International Gauchos and your resilience during this difficult year. We hope that as vaccinations become more available, you and your families will be able to move towards a more “normal” life. Please continue to stay safe and follow guidelines to keep you and the community healthy! In this issue, you will find information for new, current, and graduating International Gauchos. Please read the information thoroughly as it will help answer many questions and provide important resources!

In community,

The Office of International Students and Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

Alerts & Updates

Help Us Help You!

Spring quarter is always the busiest time for OISS. As we welcome our newly admitted students to the international community, the population we serve grows by at least fifty percent. COVID complications and shifting travel advisories have doubled the amount of inquiries and requests to our office. Our team of advisors are working hard to answer your questions and fulfill your requests in a timely manner. Let's partner together to operate at the highest level possible. Below are some tips for you to help us help you, faster and more efficiently!

1. Please refrain from emailing us to ask about the status of your request if it is within the processing window. We understand waiting is hard, especially when you need your document for a visa appointment, but asking for an update creates more work for the advising team to look into your request, slowing down processing times for everyone. It also adds more emails to our queue, delaying responses to time-sensitive inquiries. As a reminder, new I-20 requests take 3 weeks from the date the e-form is submitted.

2. Please **READ** instructions. The instructions on our website and the e-forms are there to guide you in successfully submitting a request. If your request is missing something, an advisor will need to email you for additional information or documentation. This once again slows the process down for all students. Please make sure you read the instructions thoroughly before submitting your request.

3. Use our website as a resource for general information about your status or a process. It is a great place to start before sending an email to the advising team for more information.

4. Utilize our Virtual Front Desk Drop-Ins if you have quick questions that need no more than five minutes to answer. If you feel you need more than five minutes, please book an appointment with your assigned advisor.

5. Please reply to the same email thread about the same issue. Only create a new email if it pertains to a new, unrelated question to your previous questions. This helps with continuity and prevents further time being spent researching a prior conversation.

OISS is always here to help, but we ask that you help us, too. During this busy time, please do your best to review provided information, resources, and instructions so our advisors can help everyone in a timely manner. Thank you so much!

Vaccination Questions?

If you have any questions about vaccinations, please refer to the UCSB Student Health information page on all things vaccine related. Please also review the FAQ's for students!



What is Going on with Travel Restrictions?

We understand how complicated and confusing the travel restriction guidance is. You can read more about the recent Travel Restrictions [here](#). All decisions regarding travel authorization and entry to the United States are at the discretion of US Government officials. OISS can provide information, but we do not have the authority to determine the success of your entry to the US. We recommend that any student, new or continuing, who is affected by the travel restrictions plan on arriving to the United States after **August 1** to avoid any complications. Use the following guide to understand who to contact:

Department of State: Oversees the issuance of visas at embassies and consulates. Please contact the United States consulate or embassy in your home country regarding any questions about receiving a visa or visa applications.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Oversees the entry of international visitors into the United States. The CPB has a page with [contact information](#), should you want to ask questions about your eligibility to enter the United States. Please note you may or may not receive a personalized response.

OISS: We issue your I-20 or DS-2019 and help you maintain your student status. We do not have the power to contact the US embassy or consulate on your behalf regarding visa appointments or applications. We can submit general inquiries to CBP, but no case-specific inquiries.

What is the Plan for Fall 2021?

The plan for all UC campuses is that the majority of courses will be held in-person. Details surrounding alternative options for students who cannot attend in-person are still being worked out and information will be provided once there is more concrete information. We advise all students who are unsure about their ability to arrive in the US in-person to contact their professors to ask about the mode of instruction for the course in Fall quarter. All decisions regarding the mode of instruction are at the discretion of the professor but it is good for them to know there is an international student in their class.

UCSBGlobal Reminders

Remember you do not need to request access to [UCSBGlobal](#), you only need to activate your [UCSB NetID](#)! Once your UCSB NetID has been activated please allow 3 business days before you attempt logging in to UCSBGlobal. Most student requests can be found in UCSBGlobal.

UCSBGlobal Reminders continued...

If you are a J-1 student applying for Academic Training, please reach out to your assigned advisor for assistance.

As always please provide any constructive feedback you may have about UCSBGlobal; we are always looking to improve it so that it serves our community the best it can!



Graduation 2021

We are so thrilled that UCSB is able to hold a form of in-person Commencement for this year! This commencement is open to the graduating Class of 2020 and Class of 2021! Please make sure you read the requirements for participation. If you are outside the United States, have already graduated, and are not on OPT or Academic Training, your student status has been completed. If this applies to you, then a tourist visa is necessary in order to re-enter the US for commencement. Unfortunately, OISS is not able to assist with tourist visa applications. Congratulations to all our graduating International Gauchos!

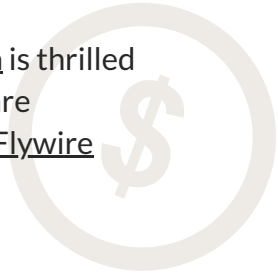
Optional Practical Training (OPT) Online Filing

As many of you are aware, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has released an online filing option for OPT applications. OISS is still developing resources related to this change but if you are interested in using this option we fully support you in doing so! Please make sure you receive your OPT I-20 from OISS before you submit your online application through USCIS. Reminder: USCIS can receive your application no earlier than 90 days before your graduation date and no later than 60 days after your graduation date.

Standard OPT filing information can be found here on our website.

Scholarship Opportunity!

From our partners at Flywire: "Attention students! The Flywire Charitable Foundation is thrilled to announce that our academic scholarship applications are now open! Students who are studying social justice, global health and global citizenship can apply now. Apply here: Flywire Charitable Foundation #FlywireScholarships"





UCSB PD Q&A

May 18 @ 5 pm PDT

**MAY 18
5 PM PDT
Q&A**

**With the UCSB
Police Department**

Officers will answer your pre-submitted questions followed by a live Q&A. All are welcome! Webinar will be hosted on Zoom.

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

Submit your questions!

OISS is teaming up with the UCSB Police Department (UCSB PD) for a Q&A on May 18 at 5 pm PDT. Enter the webinar on zoom [here](#). Passcode: 298068

Although themes of Asian racism are particularly emergent as of late, we recognize that all Global Gauchos can be affected. We invite all international students and scholars to anonymously submit questions or concerns for UCSB PD to address. No identifying information will be recorded with your submission. Use [this form](#) to submit.

We want to underscore that anything you're feeling is valid. No question is too big and no concern is too small. We welcome all submissions.



Internships & Experiences for F-1 Students

May 19 @ 4 pm PDT

Sign Up For Zoom Link [here!](#)

Join OISS Advisor, Trevor Brandt and Career Services Coordinator, Carol Huang for a live, online workshop offering insights to Internships and Experiences in the US workplace. This workshop will also provide an overview of immigration guidelines pertaining to employment and your F-1 visa and will be followed by a live question and answer session. Come ready to participate and learn from others.

**OISS +
CAREER SERVICES**

**INTERNSHIPS & EXPERIENCES
for F-1 Students**

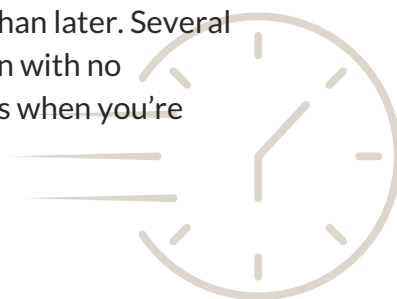
Curricular Practical Training

UC SANTA BARBARA
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Career Services

Looking for a Faster Response?

It's no secret that everyone gets a lot of emails, students and departments included. Sometimes you just have a quick question and it's nice to talk to someone sooner rather than later. Several departments at UCSB offer "Drop-in" advising for students to virtually drop-in with no appointment required. We are highlighting a few services here for those times when you're looking for a faster response.



OISS Front Desk Drop-Ins

If you have quick, general questions, consider using this OISS service for immediate access to an advisor. Here's how you drop-in:

1. Check the schedule to find a time that works for you
2. Click [this link](#) to enter the zoom room when drop-ins are happening
3. Get an immediate answer to your question

No appointment needed!

College of Letters & Science International Drop-Ins

Mondays - Thursdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Fridays from 9 am - 11:30 am

Email academic_advising@ltsc.ucsb.edu for the Zoom link

Registrar's Office

Click [here](#) to join the line!

If you do not have a working U.S. phone number, email registration@sa.ucsb.edu to schedule a Zoom appointment

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

SPRING 2021

Front Desk Drop In Schedule





All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

Monday 10 am - 12 pm 4 pm - 6 pm	Tuesday 5 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am - 11 am 5 pm - 7 pm	Thursday 2 pm - 4 pm
Friday 10:30 am - 12 pm	Use the same zoom link for all times Pro tip: use a time converter

@UCSB_OISS @UCSBOISS @UCSB_OISS

UC SANTA BARBARA
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OISS Recommends

He sings, he dances, and when neither are enough, he tells jokes.

Abish Mathew

Live @ UCSB
May 15th, 2021
7 PM - 8 PM PST



Meet with India's most well known comedian with over 2 million followers & enjoy an hour of Stand-up

Zoom Link in the Bio Linktree & Facebook Page

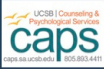


ASIAN RESOURCE CENTER
COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Resiliency & Community Building for APIA Students

You're invited to join us in our weekly, drop-in community space for APIA students. We invite you to come as you are and learn how to support ourselves in our experiences of racial trauma.

Wednesdays from 3-4:30pm (PST)

First 15 registered participants will receive a self-care gift package in the mail. [Click here to register!](#)

MAY

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

5/7: [UCSB Asian Coalition Town Hall](#)

5/8: [TASA's 805 Night Market](#)

5/10: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)

5/14: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)

5/17: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)





5/18: [ARC Cultivating Community Care Event](#)

5/21: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)

5/24: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)

5/28: [ARC APIA Storytellers IG Series](#)

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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 ASIAN COALITION TOWN HALL	8 TASA'S 805 NIGHT MARKET
9	10 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	11	12	13	14 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	15
16	17 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	18 ARC CULTIVATING COMMUNITY CARE EVENT	19	20	21 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	22
23	24 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	25	26	27	28 APIA STORY-TELLERS IG SERIES	29
30	31					

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