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
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. The SRB will be closing right after finals conclude, so be sure to pick up anything you need from OISS before then. More details on OISS holiday closures are forthcoming.

Travel signatures are only needed for re-entry to the U.S. from another country. 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 UCSBGlocal 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
President Biden announced this week that a COVID-19 vaccine requirement will replace existing travel bans that were in place in many countries, allowing global travel to resume on November 8. CDC guidelines will determine documentation and requirements for approved vaccination.

Travel Update

Electronic I-20

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has issued an official policy guidance stating:

"In response to Executive Order 14012, — Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans," SEVP identified recommendations to increase efficiency in the immigration system and reduce unnecessary burdens. Accordingly, SEVP has formally adopted the use of electronic signatures and transmission for the Form I-20."

This means F-1 students will never need to pick up a physical copy of their I-20s. All I-20s will continue to be emailed to F-1 students. Please read the full policy guidance for more information.

We hope to receive the same news for J-1 students in the future.
Some of you may recall OISS previously used paper forms — hard to imagine, now! We have been seeing students trying to turn in old paper forms lately.

Although these paper forms have been removed from our website, you can still find them using a search engine, like Google. Therefore, if you’re looking for information about a certain request, you’ll get the best results by using our Student Request Guide or the search function within our website.
Meet Our New Student Advisor, Matthew Williams!

When interviewing someone, I ask them to describe their life using three colors. Though a bit odd, the prompt disrupts their normal bio-giving process, leading them to tell incredible stories about their lives—and, as a student of literature, I am unable to resist a good story. Thus, it was perhaps inevitable that I would be drawn into the world of international education and its community of truly fascinating individuals.

Born in Seattle, I moved to Los Angeles in 2016 to attend Loyola Marymount University (LMU), where I received my bachelor’s in English with a specialization in gay and bisexual men’s literature. During my time at LMU, I served as a manager at the OISS office, where I met a plethora of people: an Israeli alumnus working to improve international healthcare access while managing two businesses in Tel Aviv, a student from the Philippines with a Spanish passport studying muons, and a Florentine with whom I attended a professional piercing conference in Las Vegas, to name a few.

Their stories inspired me to take steps to become a global citizen myself—leading me to embark on trips to Italy and Japan while also pushing me to study Italian, Portuguese, and several other languages—and my experience left me with a lasting desire to remain connected to the international world.

After graduating in 2020, I, like many others, had to change my plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I am incredibly excited to be joining the OISS team at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I look forward to serving the international community here, and I am even more thrilled about the opportunity to hear their stories. (And, for those wondering, my colors would be red, black, and white.)
International Education Week (IEW): Nov 15 - 19!

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 is joining campus colleagues to host international programs throughout International Education Week.

### Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time &amp; Place</th>
<th>Host(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15 Writing Contest Winner Announced</td>
<td>Online announcement</td>
<td>CLAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15 Preparing for the Future: A Framework for Campus Internationalization</td>
<td>6 - 8 pm @ SRB MPR</td>
<td>ISAB, EMS, OISS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16 Global Gaucho BBQ</td>
<td>5 - 6:30 pm @ San Clemente</td>
<td>GSRC, GSACC, GSA, OISS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 18 International Transfer Student Resource Fair</td>
<td>11:30 - 1:30 pm @ SRB Bike Path Lawn</td>
<td>TSRC, OISS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 19 Ellwood Mesa Sunset Hike</td>
<td>2:30 pm - 4:30 pm @ Corner of Del Playa and Camino Majorca</td>
<td>MHP, Adventure Programs, OISS</td>
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</tbody>
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Preparing for the Future: A Framework of Campus Internationalization

6 - 8 PM
November 15
Multi-Purpose Room at the SRB

Join us for a night of meaningful discussion among different organizations on campus! Featuring a brief presentation from the director of English for Multilingual Students Program, Karyn Kessler. Register for the event on Shoreline!

Global Gaucho Barbecue

Time: 5 pm - 7pm (Pacific Time)
Date: Nov. 16th (Thursday)
Location: San Clemente Center (BBQ Pit)
RSVP on Shoreline

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International Students & Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA
Graduate Student Apartment Community Council

UC SANTA BARBARA
Graduate Student Association
International Transfer Student Resource Fair
11:30 am-1:30 pm
November 18th
Student Resource Building: Bike Path Lawn

Come to our event to socialize and learn more about which resources are available for transfers and International students on campus.

Food will be available 😊

Ellwood Mesa Sunset Hike
Time: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Date: Friday, Nov 19
Meeting Point: Corner of Del Playa Dr and Camino Majorca in Isla Vista

RSVP on Shoreline
OISS Recommends

School Anxiety Program

The School Anxiety Program is a structured program that integrates a peer-to-peer model, where students work directly with a Mental Health Peer to learn tangible skills around managing their academic anxiety. The structure includes three 1-hour long sessions with a Mental Health Peer. Topics covered include psychoeducation on stress and anxiety, cognitive behavioral strategies, imposter syndrome, procrastination and time management, self-compassion, and self-care strategies.

We recognize navigating school can include periods of high pressure and stress. Students who experience anxiety related to their academics may feel like their ability to complete tasks, maintain a schedule, and prepare for midterms are impacted. The School Anxiety Program aims at supporting students and sharing tangible skills that help with academic anxiety.

Sign up for the School Anxiety Program here.

Earn a $50 Amazon Gift Card from UCSB Library

Would you like to earn a $50 Amazon Gift Card for an hour of your time!? UCSB Library is seeking participants for a usability study of instructional video tutorials geared towards UCSB undergraduate students. If you like to participate, read on!

Selected participants will meet with a UCSB Library staff member online for one hour via Zoom between (November 10th - November 19th). During this usability study, you will be asked to perform a small number of tasks and watch the instructional video tutorials provided to you by the staff member. Your feedback is valuable to improve the instructional video tutorials.

Are you interested in helping UCSB Library with this study? If so, please complete the Usability Study Survey Form by November 4th. You will be notified via email before November 10th if you are selected to participate.
The International Students Association (ISA) would like to introduce an exciting event for the holiday season: a one-day trip to the Universal Studios on Veteran’s Day (November 11th). If you are interested, please check out this registration form for more instructions on how to secure your spot. Please note, spaces are limited! Contact ISA through social media or via email with any questions.

Facebook: facebook.com/ucsb.isa
Instagram: @ucsbisa
Email: ucsb.isa@gmail.com
Shoreline: International Students Association

International Student Survey

Health & Wellness + Mental Health Peers want your opinions! They created a survey specifically for our international community so that they could incorporate your opinions into our future programming. Please take 5-8 mins to fill out this anonymous survey. Here is the link to the survey!

Please click on the link below to access our survey
https://forms.gle/iggMYcK7zoSD7Txu5
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.