Dear International Gauchos,

Our hearts have been hurting lately. Violent tragedies have devastated, traumatized, and angered communities throughout the U.S. Everyone processes events like these in their own way and OISS is here to support you in your process.

Please don’t hesitate to contact our office to talk to someone, get connected with resources, or find community with other folks.

In solidarity,

The Office of International Students & Scholars
Reminders

Update Local Address

Don't forget to update your local living address within 10 days of moving. This is a federal immigration requirement.

To update your address, log into UCSBGlobal and navigate to the Personal Information Update e-form. You will see an option to update your local living address.

Thank you!

Protect Your Status by Reading Thoroughly

Unfortunately, OISS advisors occasionally meet with students or scholars who have fallen out of status due to either not reading emails (sent to their UCSB email address) from OISS or not closely following directions provided to them.

Email is the official way for UCSB departments to communicate with students and scholars; OISS will notify you of crucial information via email, which you can view in your UCSB email inbox or UCSBGlobal.

When we see that students or scholars have opened messages, but failed to take the required action to maintain their status, they sometimes tell us it’s because they skimmed the message or thought it was a scam. Please read our message carefully and always ask if you would like any clarification or have follow up questions. Similarly, if you are ever wondering if a certain message is a scam, please contact our office and we would be happy to take a look. You can also check your UCSBGlobal account to verify an email is legitimate - if you receive the same message in both your email and on UCSBGlobal, then it checks out!

Closure – February 20

OISS will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Normal operations will resume on February 21.
Spotlight: Diego Ratto

International student, Diego Ratto, was recently featured in the Current! Ratto was awarded the 2022 Prix Russolo, a prestigious international musical award for electroacoustic composition.

Check out his recent electroacoustic composition, "KOM."

Scam Warning

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is reminding students to beware of a scam involving individuals using the SEVP Response Center (SRC) phone numbers (703-603-3400 and 800-892-4829) and claiming to be SRC representatives.

If you receive a call "from SEVP or SRC," hang up and refer to the following resources.

More information is available at:
- Study in the States Blog post
- Advisory on Study in the States
- Handout from the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility
- 06/02/2021 SEVP Broadcast Message
OISS Events

Finding Funding Workshop for International Grad Students

F-1 Student In-Person Employment Workshop: CPT & OPT
Scan QR code to register
Feb 9
3:30-4:30
SRB MPR

SUPER BOWL LVII!
Watch Live
February 12 In the Hub
International Student Superbowl Party
Introducing a Quintessential American Experience!
Everyone’s Welcome to this FREE Event! Doors open at 2:30pm
Sponsored by OISS, RHA and the Hub

Arabic/Hindi
Wednesday, February 15
12-1 PM
SRB SRD Floor Forum
All Levels Welcome!
OISS Recommends

International Paint Night with CARE

Join for a calming and healing paint night to meet more international students and learn about CARE. Register on Shoreline

OISS Recommends

CULTURE SHOCK WORKSHOP

Learn more about the different phases of culture shock and how to ease the transitional period. Let's discuss how to be empowered by your strengths as an international student!

Please RSVP on Shoreline:

OISS Recommends

LUNAR NIGHT MARKET

Organized by the Hong Kong Student Association. Performances by USBSK: Vanish,做个梦, and Heavenly Bear.
Happy Lunar New Year everyone. I hope you all get to enjoy lots of good food and spend time with friends and loved ones.

I want to take some time to address the devastating event in Monterey Park during the Lunar New Year 2023. My heart goes out to all the families and people affected by it. Health & Wellness wants you to know that we are here to support you and that you are loved and cared for. If you need someone to talk to, please reach out to a friend, an advisor, a counselor, a family member, and anyone that can bring you comfort and strength. You can also reach out to me through my email at Belinda.Lu@sa.ucsb.edu, I am more than happy to help and provide support for you.

With that said, I would like to share with you a beautifully written message from Michael Takahara, a Health Education Specialist here in Health & Wellness. “There will be events we can't prevent, events that don't make sense, horrible events. While we suffer, we can also be loved. We still can care for one another. We still can love each other.” This is a hard time for many of us, especially when it is a time that we gather, celebrate, and enjoy the company of one another. However, I believe together, we can get through this.

Additionally, I want to mention that Health & Wellness has a podcast called Wellness Pod, you can either search up Wellness Pod on Spotify, or go on our Health & Wellness official website, and you can find it under the podcast tab. I am going to record an episode in Mandarin Chinese with Xin Sui from CAPS. Please keep an eye out for it if you are interested in learning about Xin's international student journey and what mental health means to both of us. Lastly, please feel free to email me with any suggestions on how I can better provide support to you all, or if you just want to chat!
The Santa Barbara County Black/African-American community comes together to celebrate the historical achievements Black/African Americans have made for our region and the nation. Juneteenth Santa Barbara (JSB) brings together Black/African-American-led organizations to continue the tradition of providing Black History Month (BHM) events in February and year-round in Santa Barbara County.

The 2023 theme of Black Resistance tells the story of how this community resists, rises above, and thrives, despite historical and continued oppression.
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.