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. 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 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.

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, 2:30-4:00 pm at the OSS 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.
# Holiday and Winter Break Operations

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<th>How?</th>
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<td>Closed</td>
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Students - Schedule an appointment with your assigned advisor using [this link](#).
Scholars - Schedule an appointment with an advisor by emailing j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu or longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu.
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.
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, 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.

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 ucsbisa@gmail.com

Oct 22 - Nov 1:
Register and pay early bird price ($520) to secure your spot!

Nov 2 - Nov 16:
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

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.

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.