

JANUARY 2024

# OISS Newsletter



## Dear International Gauchos,

Happy New Year Global Gauchos!

As we look to the year ahead, OISS wishes you a sense of optimism, peace and purpose. If you are one who set new goals at the start a new year, consider the words of South African human rights and anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu, “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world”.

Happy winter quarter everyone!

Be well,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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# Welcome New Students

OISS extends a warm welcome to our new international students. We hope your travels went well. Please be sure to complete your required immigration check-in and register for our Winter Welcome Events



Complete the [Cali-Training pages](#) (This is required and will appear as below in [UCSB Global](#))

## Required Check-In Forms for New J-1 Students

Welcome new International Gauchos! These forms are to be used after you have entered the United States for your first quarter at UCSB.

You must upload your new student arrival documents and enter your local Santa Barbara living address on these forms within the first 10 days of your arrival.

### E-Forms

- ☐ **REQUIRED**  
[New J-1 Student Arrival Documents](#)
- ☐ **REQUIRED**  
[New J-1 Student CALI Quiz](#)
- ☐ **REQUIRED**  
[New J-1 Student Local Address Update](#)



Register for a Winter Welcome [Campus Tour](#)  
Wednesday, 1/10, 9 am–10 am and 3:30–4:30 pm, meet in front of the Student Resource Building



Attend EAP's Winter Welcome Reception  
(for Winter 2024 reciprocity students only)  
Thursday 1/11, 3–5pm, meet in front of Student Resource Building,  
See email from EAP for registration details

# Alerts & Updates

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## Full course load reminder

Are you enrolled full-time yet? Be sure to register in a full course load to maintain your visa status this quarter. Grad students need at least 8 units and undergraduate students need at least 12 units. If you need assistance registering for classes, please contact an academic advisor in your college.

There are only a few government-approved exceptions to the full-time enrollment rule. Learn more about academic reduced course loads, medical reduced course loads, and filing leaves eligibility on our [Academic Requirements page](#).

Students must obtain approval from OISS before dropping below full-time enrollment.

If you qualify, be sure to submit your request via [UCSB Global](#) at least two weeks before the end of the quarter. The sooner, the better!

## OISS Closed on Jan 15

OISS will be closed on Monday, January 15, in honor of [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#).

Operations will resume on Tuesday, January 16.

## Employment reminder for J-1 visa holders

Employment authorization is mandatory for all J-1 students (EAP or grad student) for any type of work. Before beginning an on campus position or off campus (Academic Training) position, employment authorization is required.

All requests can be submitted via [UCSB Global](#).

# Alerts & Updates

## USCIS Announces Inflation Adjustment to Premium Processing Fees

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced on 12/27/2023 a [final rule](#) that will increase the filing fee for Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing, to adjust for inflation. The fee change will go into effect on Feb. 26, 2024. If USCIS receives a Form I-907 postmarked on or after Feb. 26, 2024 with the incorrect filing fee, we will reject the Form I-907 and return the filing fee. For filings sent by commercial courier (such as UPS, FedEx, and DHL), the postmark date is the date reflected on the courier receipt.

Form	Previous Fee	New Fee
Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker	\$1,500 (H-2B or R-1 nonimmigrant status)  \$2,500 (All other available Form I-129 classifications (E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-3, L-1A, L-1B, LZ, O-1, O-2, P-1, P-1S, P-2, P-2S, P-3, P-3S, Q-1, TN-1, and TN-2))	\$1,685 (H-2B or R-1 nonimmigrant status)  \$2,805 (All other available Form I-129 classifications (E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-3, L-1A, L-1B, LZ, O-1, O-2, P-1, P-1S, P-2, P-2S, P-3, P-3S, Q-1, TN-1, and TN-2))
Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker	\$2,500 (Employment-based (EB) classifications E11, E12, E21 (non-NIW), E31, E32, EW3, E13 and E21 (NIW))	\$2,805 (Employment-based (EB) classifications E11, E12, E21 (non-NIW), E31, E32, EW3, E13 and E21 (NIW))
Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status	\$1,750 (Form I-539 classifications F-1, F-2, M-1, M-2, J-1, J-2, E-1, E-2, E-3, L-2, H-4, O-3, P-4, and R-2)	\$1,965 (Form I-539 classifications F-1, F-2, M-1, M-2, J-1, J-2, E-1, E-2, E-3, L-2, H-4, O-3, P-4, and R-2)
Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization	\$1,500 (Certain F-1 students with categories C03A, C03B, C03C)	\$1,685 (Certain F-1 students with categories C03A, C03B, C03C)



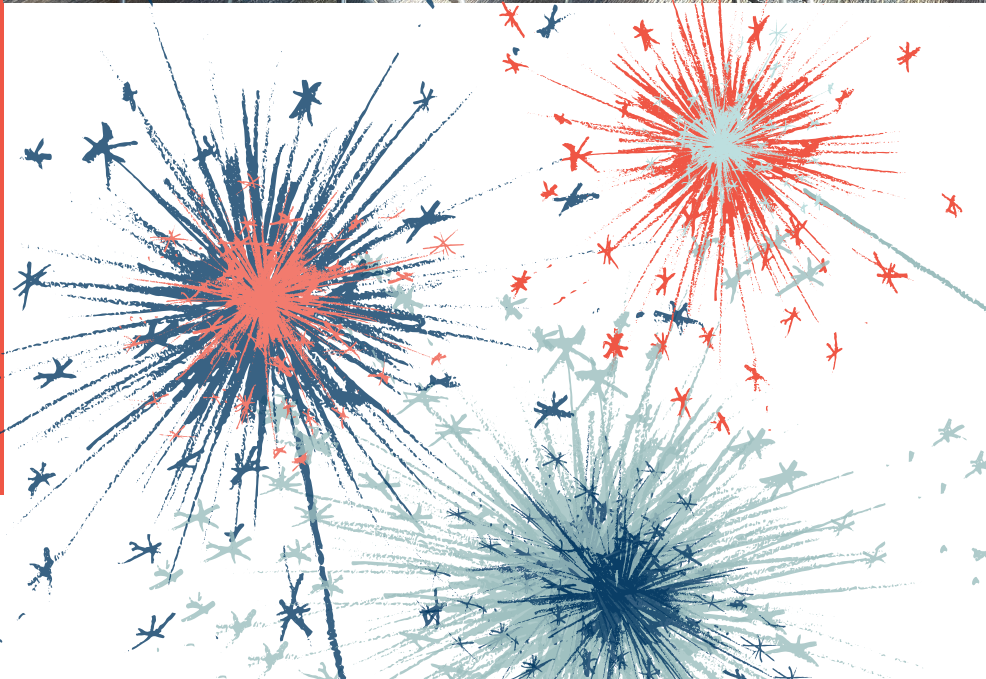
## English Conversation Program

OISS offers an English Conversation Program (ECP) for international students, scholars and adult family members. You do not need to be an enrolled UCSB student to participate. ECP provides an opportunity to learn about cultures, practice speaking and refining English language skills in a casual, social, and supportive environment.

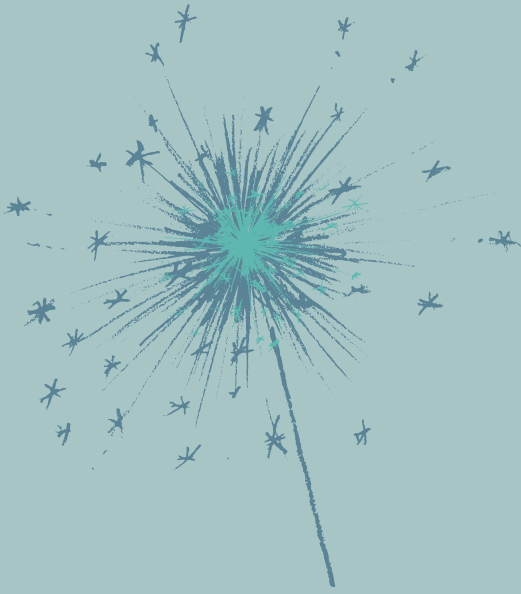
Classes will begin on January 17, 2024 and will be hosted on Wednesdays afternoons and Thursdays mornings.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu)

Click [here](#) for more information and the link to the sign up form.



# OISS Student Spotlight



## Reflections by Insung Shim

My name is Insung Shim, but I go by Richard. I have always firmly believed in the saying, 'Heaven helps those who help themselves.' This phrase embodies the importance of hard work in achieving life goals. Despite facing many challenges, I have never wavered in my commitment to my dreams. To move to the United States, I served in the Korean Army for eight years, reaching the rank of Sergeant First Class. Raised by a single mother, I couldn't immediately afford college, so I joined the military to save for my education. Initially, I planned to serve for four years. However, when my younger sister left unexpectedly, abandoning her baby, I had to take care of my niece and mother. This responsibility led me to extend my military service. During my army tenure, I dedicated myself to self-improvement—physically, mentally, and intellectually. I engaged in daily exercise and extensive reading, completing 50 books a year, which significantly altered my life and outlook.

In 2016, following my sister's return and subsequent marriage, I decided to leave the military and arrived in the United States with limited English skills. Throughout the hardships in my military service and life, I maintained optimism and focus on my goal to study in the United States. Believing in myself, I aimed to attend a prestigious U.S. university. That dream has now been realized; I am studying Statistics and Data Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

We may not have control over our parents or place of birth, but our choices can profoundly shape our future. Therefore, never surrender your dreams and goals, regardless of what the skeptics say. Dismiss them, follow your own star, and chase what you truly desire. Once you discover your purpose, seek assistance and take action. This approach can lead you to achieve anything you set your mind to. If you persist, you will discover a new world—believe me. I achieved exactly what I envisioned while atop a mountain in a General Out Posts between South Korea and North Korea.



# OISS Events

## New International Students' Campus Tours

New International Students' Campus Tours

Wednesday January 10, 9-10 am and 3:30-4:30 pm

Click [here](#) to register on Shoreline



Welcome to our Education Abroad Reciprocity Students! We are excited to offer two Campus Tours on Wednesday Jan 10. Join us and meet fellow international students while touring UCSB's beautiful campus by the sea with the Gaucho Tours Association. Explore your new home with this 60 minute tour that will take you to key campus locations such as the Student Resource Center, the library, University Center (UCen), Multicultural Center (MCC), College of Creative Studies, College of Engineering, College of Letters and Science, Student Affairs and Administrative Services Building and more. Bring comfortable shoes and meet outside the north-facing entrance to the Student Resource Center (closest to the bike path). Register for a tour via Shoreline.

## F-1 Employment Workshop

January 18 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Student Resource Building, OISS Conference Room 3135

In-person event - click [here](#) to register on Shoreline

Hey F-1 visa holders! Are you interested in gaining work experience in the US? Want to learn about work authorization via Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training? Join OISS for a Curricular Practical Training (CPT) + Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshop covering the details and differences in these work authorizations, followed by Q&A. This event is open to undergrad and grad F-1 visa holders.



# OISS Recommends

## Connecting with Career Services

Career Fairs (register on Handshake)

### Winter Job + Internship Fair

- Wednesday Jan. 24th, 10am-2pm for STEM
- Thursday, January 25th, 10am-2pm for SHEF @ Corwin Plaza)
- On-Campus Opportunities Fair
  - Wednesday, February 7th from 3pm-4:30pm in SRB MPR

Grad Students Focused:

- Stand Out in Industry: Resumes + Cover Letters
- Stand Out in Industry: LinkedIn and Reaching Out



## New year, New hobbies

If you're aiming to start the new year off with healthy habits, meeting new people or trying a new hobby, UCSB's Recreation Center is the place for you. [Click here](#) to discover the classes Rec Cen is offering during Winter 2024!



# OISS Recommends, Continued

## UCSB's Burmese Student Association

Interested in Burmese culture? Connect with BURSA! BURSA's mission is to promote awareness of Myanmar and build a community of students who are Burmese or are interested in Burmese culture through the celebration of traditional events and holidays, as well as education on various issues in Myanmar.

We hold bi-weekly meetings with free Burmese food, as well as collaborative events with other cultural clubs on campus! Members can gain opportunities to learn about the rich history and culture of Myanmar through holiday-themed events and Burmese dance and language workshops, establish meaningful connections, and join the 2024-2025 executive board for open positions!

[Join us on Shoreline](#) to receive email announcements. Time and location details for specific events will be mentioned in emails and on our social media!

### ***UCSB Burmese Student Association***

Join a welcoming community to learn about Burmese culture and form meaningful connections, while gaining a cultural understanding of Myanmar!



***Bi-weekly meetings!***



**@ucsb bursa**



**BURSA at UCSB**



Scan the QR code to join BURSA on Shoreline!

***For further questions, reach out to us at [ucsb bursa@gmail.com](mailto:ucsb bursa@gmail.com)***

# 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 [oiiss@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oiiss@sa.ucsb.edu).

J-1 Scholars should reach out to [j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu). For those with questions related to employment-based visas; please contact [longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu).

For any inquiries regarding upcoming OISS events, or collaboration opportunities, contact [oiissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oiissprograms@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](mailto:mmotomazie@ucsb.edu).

## Let's stay in touch!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with everything happening at OISS.

