

FEBRUARY 2024

OISS Newsletter



Dear Global Gauchos,

This month has a lot to offer! February kicks off with Lunar New Year, followed by Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, plus Black History Month is celebrated all month long!

Looking for ways to lift your spirit with Valentine's Day just around the corner? [Learn how cultures around the world celebrate their love and friendships.](#)

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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OISS Staff Update



OISS is excited to share that we have a new Assistant Director, Adam Hanson. Adam comes with over 6 years of experience in immigration and international employment advising from the University of North Dakota and the University of Minnesota.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Adam completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth, during which time he studied abroad in England and Spain. Adam went on to obtain his master's degree at Concordia University Irvine in Global Studies and taught English for several years in South Korea and China. Adam comes to UCSB with a wealth of cross-cultural expertise and a passion for international education. His extensive travels have taken him to 27 countries and we are thrilled to welcome him to our team.

A few words from Adam:

I am happy to join UC Santa Barbara as the Assistant Director in the Office of International Students and Scholars. I'm looking forward to getting to know the campus, my new colleagues, as well as the international community. I am pleased to be able to join an office that is focused on supporting its international students and scholars. Maintaining compliance with federal regulations is a critical part of OISS' work; ensuring academic and professional success for UCSB's international community. Beyond regulations and compliance work, I aim to advocate for international students and scholars through campus collaborations and partnerships. Feel free to reach out to me directly at adamhanson@ucsb.edu.

Also, Santa Barbara will be a new city to me so I welcome any recommendations you may have. Looking forward to seeing you on campus!

OISS Announcements

Seeking Focus Group Participants



The Committee on International Education (CIE) in collaboration with the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) would like to invite you to participate in a focus group regarding your experience at UC Santa Barbara. This focus group will be conducted in February and comprise 8-10 students from a variety of backgrounds and education levels. We are looking for individuals who will be comfortable answering open ended questions about specific aspects of their experience at UC Santa Barbara. These focus groups will help inform the CIE and OISS on how to better serve our international student community (or continue doing what is working). Your insight and lived experiences are vital to creating an international campus that serves all students regardless of your place of origin. Please complete this short survey to indicate your interest. Due to limited spots, we cannot accommodate all students who want to participate. All participants will receive a beach towel and light refreshments will be available.



“Comparison of Asian Identity for American and International Students”

Looking for participants that self-identify as Asian and are interested and available for a 60-90 minute in-person focus group discussion.

Digital gift cards available for participants.

Please email zirui@ucsb.edu if interested

OISS Announcements

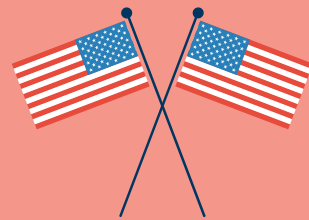
It's Tax Season!

Tax season is upon us! Although OISS cannot advise on taxes as we are not tax professionals, we can connect you with helpful resources such as Sprintax to Glacier Tax Preparation software. Review [OISS' Tax page](#) to learn more. If you have tax questions, please consult a trained tax professional.



Office Closures

OISS will also be closed February 19 in recognition of Presidents' Day.



Traveling for Spring Break?

Be sure to get a travel signature for your I-20 or DS-2019. Submit your request via [UCSB Global](#) today. Travel signatures are valid for 12 months

Signature

UCSB
BEYOND
ACADEMIA

International Student Visa Workshop for MA/PhD/Post- docs: Working in Industry (Virtual event & in-person watch party)

Come get your questions answered about transitioning to working in industry in the U.S. after graduation!

Light refreshments provided @ watch party

Wednesday, Feb 28 @ 2-4 p.m.
SRB Multipurpose Room for the watch party
RSVP for a Zoom link

[Click here to
register](#)



Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar

Feb 8, 2024 10:00 AM PST

[Click here to
register](#)



OISS Events

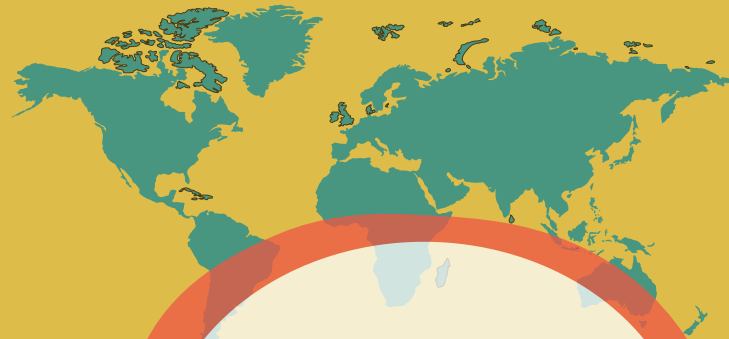
English Conversation Program

OISS offers an English Conversation Program (ECP) for international students, scholars and adult family members. ECP provides an opportunity to learn about cultures, practice speaking and refining English language skills in a casual, social, and supportive environment.

Classes are now open on Wednesdays afternoons and Thursdays mornings.

If you have any questions, please contact us at oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu

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



Interested in finding globally-minded events around campus? Search “[International](#)” in Shoreline’s Event Tags!



Feb 21
3:30 – 4:30
SRB CONFERENCE
ROOM 3153, 3RD
FLOOR

J-1 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP:

**On-Campus Work
and Academic
Training**

[Click here to
register](#)

Campus Events



Happy Lunar New
2024

Looking for ways to
celebrate the Lunar New Year?
Check out [Shoreline](#)
for campus event!

Learn more about
Lunar New Year traditions [here](#)

Happy Black History Month

February is Black History Month
Check out campus community events
on [Shoreline](#)

[Click here to](#)
[Learn more about Black History Month](#)



OISS Reminders

President's Work Study Program



We are now accepting applications for the University of California President's Work Study Program for the 2023-2024 academic year. If you receive a President's Work-Study award through OISS, any department that hires you only has to pay 40% of your salary. The Office of the President pays the other 60%. This makes you a more attractive job candidate since departments do not have to use as much of their annual budget to support your position. You can receive up to \$1,100 as a Graduate student and \$500 as an undergraduate student for each quarter that you are enrolled during the President's Work-Study award year.

For more information including how to apply, head to the OISS [website](#).



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.

ICE Fraud Advisory

SEVP is reminding school officials and students to beware of a scam involving individuals using the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Response Center (SRC) phone numbers **(703-603-3400 and 800-892-4829)** and claiming to be SRC representatives. Remember, never give out your personal or financial information. If you are contacted by anyone claiming to be a government official, US or international, contact OISS immediately.



Housing Scam Warning



OISS, in partnership with University and Community Housing Services (UCHS), would like to remind everyone to stay alert and diligent in your search for local housing. We have seen a large uptick in housing/rental scams so please proceed with caution! [University and Community Housing Services](#) recommends checking with their office directly before signing leases or sending money for deposits.

Remember, housing options that look too good to be true are likely scams. Take the extra step and email housinginfo@housing.ucsb.edu and read OISS' webpage for more tips and information on [avoiding scams](#).



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 ashleyrifkin@ucsb.edu.

Let's stay in touch!

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

