

APRIL 2024



# OISS Newsletter



## Hello International Gauchos,

Spring is a season of renewal and exploration, a time to embrace new opportunities and bask in the extended daylight hours. As we prepare for the months ahead, let's pause to appreciate the vibrant beauty of Southern California's flourishing natural surroundings. Consider immersing yourself in nature with a hike along the bluffs of Isla Vista, meander through Santa Barbara's Earth Day Festival, or joining fellow International Students and Scholars for a sunset hike on April 11.

In community,

The Office of International Students & Scholars

## In This Issue:

End of the Year Checklist	pg. 2
History of Earth Day	pg. 3
OISS Events	pg. 4
OISS Announcements	pg. 6
OISS Recommends	pg. 7
Student Spotlight	pg. 8



# OISS Reminders

## End of Year Checklist

### Immigration Documents

1. Travel signature
2. Immigration documents are up-to-date
3. I-20 has not expired and has correct major (contact OISS if not)
4. Passport will have at least 6 months remaining at all times
5. Visa is unexpired for travel and re-entrance to U.S.

As you head into the final quarter of the 2023-24 Academic Year, be prepared!

Submit OISS Request in UCSB Global



### Immigration Procedures: UCSB Global Requests

1. In your last quarter and don't need a full unit load? Submit a Reduced Course Load request for a partial fee reduction (undergrad, degree-seeking students only)
2. Summer internships? Request CPT
3. Graduating and seeking employment in the US? Request OPT (for F-1 students)
4. Finishing your degree-seeking or short-term studies as a J-1 visa holder? Request Academic Training
5. Graduating and returning home? Submit Program Completion form
6. Transferring to another school? Submit transfer of I-20 form

### Academic Affairs

1. Summer internship? Meet with academic advisor & enroll in a summer internship course
2. Graduating?
  - a. Meet with academic advisor to ensure all necessary coursework has been completed
  - b. Declare candidacy
  - c. [Register for Commencement](#)
  - d. Submit cancellation form for the next term

### Personal Affairs

1. Register with [UCSB Alumni Office](#)
2. [Meet with a Career Services' Advisor](#)
  - a. [Job Search Strategies](#)
  - b. [Cover Letter](#)
  - c. [Resume](#)
3. [Be aware of reverse culture shock \(because it's very real\)](#)
4. Review lease?
5. Close bank account?
6. Sell car, bike, books, furniture, etc.?
7. Plan to say good-byes



Bee Prepared!





Earth Day is coming up! Did you know that

# Earth Day Started in Santa Barbara!



Ever wondered what the oil platforms off the coast look like up close? The image to the left is of Union Oil's Platform A which blew out on Jan 29, 1969 spilling approximately 3.8 million gallons of oil into the ocean along the coastlines of Goleta and Santa Barbara. This single catastrophe eventually led to the first ever Earth Day.

[Santa Barbara Oil Spill of 1969](#)  
Local activism has been an integral part of our community's history, from addressing local environmental devastation to influencing national policy changes. Learn more about the origins of Earth Day



[Celebrate Earth Day](#)  
April 27 & 28  
Downtown

[Click here](#)

## Local Environmental Fact

The striking yellow flowers seen around campus are California Coastal Sunflowers, also known as Californica Enceila or California Brittlebush.

To learn more about how indigenous people used the flower and stems, [click here](#)



# OISS Events



Register on  
Shoreline

## What's all the buzz about?!

OISS is expanding our  
language programs!

All are  
Welcome

English Conversation Program  
Classes are now offered  
3 days per week

All Languages Language  
Exchanges now offered  
2 days per month

**English Conversation Program**  
Spring 2024 Schedule  
Now on Shoreline

Starting April 8, 2024

- Mondays, 12-1pm, SRB Room 3153
- Wednesdays, 4-5pm, Storke Family Housing Community Center
- Thursdays, 10:30 am-12pm, SRB Room 1103

Register on Shoreline

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Education Abroad Program

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

**UCSB All Languages Language Exchange**  
Every 1st and 3rd Thursday  
@ 4-6pm  
Student Resource Building  
Multipurpose Room

**ALL LEVELS WELCOME!**  
Events will be held on  
4/4, 4/18, 5/2, & 5/16

REGISTER HERE

OISS, Health & Wellness and Graduate Student Resource Center are teaming for an English Conversation Program Burrito Picnic April 12, 5-6:30pm

Register Here

**BURRITO PICNIC WITH OISS**

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Health & Wellness

Graduate Student Resource Center



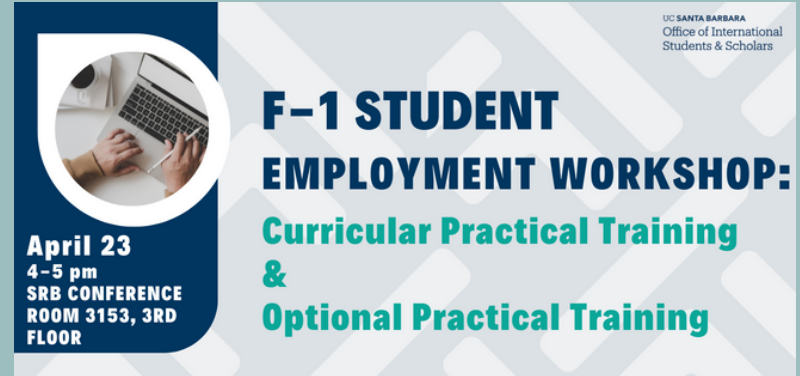
# OISS Events



UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars  
UC SANTA BARBARA  
Education Abroad Program

**J-1 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP:**  
**On-Campus Work and Academic Training**

**April 16**  
4-5 pm  
SRB CONFERENCE ROOM 3153, 3RD FLOOR



UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

**F-1 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP:**  
**Curricular Practical Training & Optional Practical Training**

**April 23**  
4-5 pm  
SRB CONFERENCE ROOM 3153, 3RD FLOOR



**International Student VENT Circle**

*Validating, Empowering and Navigating Together*

Casual and safe weekly space for international students to discuss (or vent) their daily challenges. Students can use this space to connect, support, and validate one another, AND receive guidance and resources.

Wednesdays 2:30 pm - 4 pm  
feel free to join any time during the group!

OISS Conference Room  
Student Resource Building (SRB), third floor



Sign up on UCSB CAPS website to receive updates!

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

UCSB | Counseling & Psychological Services  
**caps**  
caps.sa.ucsb.edu 805.893.4411



**International Student Sunset Hike**

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

Graduate Student Resource Center

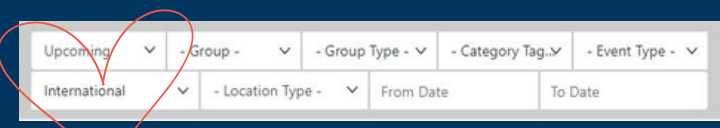
UC SANTA BARBARA  
Health & Wellness

International Students and Scholars step into spring! Join Health & Wellness and OISS for a fun, easy hike around the UCSB lagoon and a beach sunset. Meet new people and explore our beautiful blooming campus.

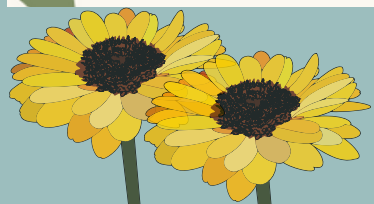
April 11, 6-7:30 pm

**Sign up here!**

**Looking for globally-minded events on campus?**  
**Use Shoreline's Event Tag "International"**



Upcoming	- Group -	- Group Type -	- Category Tag, v	- Event Type -
International	- Location Type -	From Date	To Date	



# OISS Announcements

## OISS Scholar Advising Update!

New drop-in hours  
OISS' Scholar Services advising hours  
are changing.

Starting April 1 feel free to stop by OISS  
**Tuesdays** 10am-12pm  
**Thursdays** 2-4pm



## Holly Jennings Award Now Accepting Applications

OISS' annual Holly Jennings Award is now accepting applications. The award is open to F-1 or J-1 degree-seeking students who have encountered unforeseen medical and/or emergency expenses during the 2023-2024 academic year. If you meet the eligibility criteria specified in the application, kindly submit your application via UCSB Global by May 10, 2024. Please note that funding is limited, and not all applicants will receive assistance.

Apply  
Here



### Staff Recommendation by Sarah Favorite local hangouts?

[Douglas Family Preserve!](#) It's a nice stroll that gets you out in nature and the view at the end is beautiful, especially if you get there right as the sun is setting.

I would also recommend [Kin Bakeshop](#) for a latte/donuts fix! They have a Hojicha Einspanner that is so good and their Brioche donuts have very unique flavors as well.





# OISS Recommends



RSVP on  
Shoreline

## UC SANTA BARBARA CAREER SERVICES

### Career Closet Day for International Students

April 30, 3-4pm

Are you in need of professional attire for upcoming interviews or jobs? Come to Career Services to access our Career Closet where you can search for an outfit to prepare and compliment your next career fair or professional endeavor!

All students are allowed one full outfit per quarter.



### Applying for OPT? Need a passport photo?

Did you know the Recreation Center can take your photo? Appointments offered twice a week.

[Schedule here](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Department of Recreation



### Health & Wellness Hiring Info Session on Zoom!

Wednesday, April 3, 6-7pm

Join us for a virtual open house to learn more about the available internship positions for the 2024-25 school year! Don't miss the chance to connect with advisors and current interns and take the next step towards a fulfilling internship opportunity in promoting well-being on campus!

They are still accepting application for our International Wellbeing Position!

[Zoom link here!](#)

# Student Spotlight



Hello international students and scholars! My name is Stephanie Luong and I am a third year biochemistry major with an applied psychology minor. I currently serve as the [Stephen S. Goodspeed intern in the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs](#). I coordinate a variety of events aimed at connecting the student affairs executive board with student leaders on campus to aid in conversation about the betterment of student life. Along with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, I help convene the VCSA Student Cabinet in which a collection of diverse students serve as a think tank for improving Student Affairs' overall services to students.



I am particularly passionate about food insecurity and food access and so I authored a [cookbook](#) that lists out all the Asian grocery stores in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area as well as recipes students can replicate using ingredients from the respective stores. I also hosted a workshop that demonstrated one of the recipes, Kimchi Jjigae, and allowed for students to try some. I moved to the US from Singapore when I was 14 and although I am not an international student, I have come to realize the significance of community and having a supportive network. I believe it is important for students to feel as though their culture and identities are being represented at their institution and ensuring that they can access foods that are familiar to them is an integral part of building that sense of belonging. Some of my closest friends are international students and I aspire to one day achieve their tenacity and courageous attitude towards life.





**HAVE YOU HAD A POSITIVE, ENRICHING EXPERIENCE WITH A PARTICULAR STAFF/FACULTY MEMBER OR DEPARTMENT?**

**NOMINATE THEM FOR THE MARGARET T. GETMAN OR WILLIAM J. VILLA SERVICE TO STUDENTS AWARD!**



**MARGARET T. GETMAN AWARD**



THE MARGARET T. GETMAN SERVICE TO STUDENT AWARD BEGAN IN 1985 AND SEEKS TO RECOGNIZE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN EXTRAORDINARY COMMITMENT TO THE OVERALL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY.

**WILLIAM J. VILLA AWARD**



THE WILLIAM J. VILLA DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE TO STUDENTS AWARD BEGAN IN 2001 AND THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES ONE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO STUDENTS.

**SUBMIT NOMINATIONS AT**

**<https://www.sa.ucsb.edu/getman/Home.aspx>**

**BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024**



# Thanks for Reading!

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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](mailto:oiss@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 [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ashleyrifkin@ucsb.edu).

## Let's stay in touch!

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

