

MAY 2024

OISS Newsletter



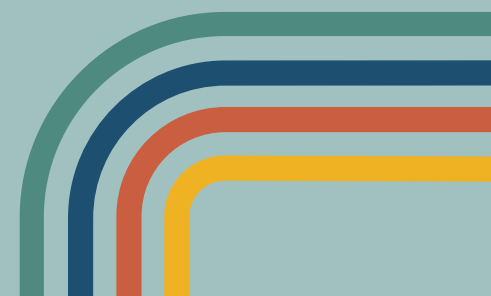
Hello International Gauchos,

Spring quarter is in full swing! The flowers are blooming, the sand is warming up and UCSB is bustling with opportunities to connect with fellow Gauchos! Checkout Shoreline's "international" event tag for globally-minded events happening around campus. OISS is excited to highlight several student-led programming initiatives in this month's newsletter. We hope you will sign up and join us!

"May flowers remind us why the rain was necessary" ~Xan Oku

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OISS Alert

Be Alert and Be Prepared

Scams are common. Being prepared and knowing common scams tactics is critical to avoiding them. We encourage everyone to carefully review [OISS' web page](#) for more information.

If you believe someone is trying to scam you, please contact OISS (805.893.2929) or UCSB Police Department (805.893.3446)

Common Scam Tactics

- People posing as authority
- Unexpected phone calls (No US federal immigration office will ever call you)
- Intimidation or Urgency, scammers often create a sense of urgency
- Poor Language: misspelled words and poor grammar are common
- Scammers may refuse to meet you in person
- Too good to be true: be skeptical of offers that sound too good to be true
- Promise of easy money
- Unusual payment requests
- Request to click on a link

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 UCHS to verify any questionable housing posts- housinginfo@housing.ucsb.edu and read OISS' webpage for more tips and information on [avoiding scams](#).

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.

Staff Spotlight



New Team Member Alert!

Please allow us to introduce the newest addition to our team, Jeremiah Cortes! We're so excited!

“Hello! I am Jeremiah Cortes, the OISS Intake Advisor! I am a Gaucho who was born and raised in Southern California and recently completed my Communication degree summer of 2023. Prior to my studies, I was a Weather Forecaster for the USAF and have traveled through the majority of the US and briefly overseas. I love finding new ways to expand my culinary skills by experiencing and tasting new ingredients and dishes, and I love competitive games like Valorant, Overwatch, and Street Fighter!

I chose OISS because I was drawn by their mission to help international students and scholars come to the US so that they may pursue their academic goals. As an individual who served in the military in order to enroll in higher education, I look forward to providing support for those seeking academic opportunities. Hope I can be of assistance!

After spending years away from home working towards a goal, I hope to be another point of understanding and empathy for our students and scholars that are embarking on their academic journeys and who can understand the struggles of working towards a goal when far away from family, friends, and loved ones.”



OISS Events

Success at the All Gaucho Reunion

Did you know that OISS regularly participates in campus-wide events to highlight the diverse cultural and academic contributions of the international community to our university. Speaking with domestic students, parents, and alumni, OISS strives to raise awareness for the unique challenges faced by international students and scholars. By promoting cross-cultural understanding and inclusivity, OISS aims to foster an environment where everyone feels supported and valued.

Pictured below is our team at the 2024 All Gaucho Reunion. We invited attendees to join us for Global Trivia and enter a chance to win a gift basket. See how well you can do at Global Trivia on the next page!



OISS Global Trivia

1. True or False: UCSB's Chancellor Yang came to the US as an international student.
2. Name one of the 3 top countries where UCSB's international students come from.
3. How much do undergraduate international students pay per year to attend UCSB?
4. Can international students apply for financial aid at UCSB?
5. How much do international students contribute to our local economy?
 - a. 100 Million
 - b. 250 Million
 - c. 400 Million
6. How many jobs are created by UCSB international students?
 - a. 500
 - b. 1500
 - c. 3000
7. Name the countries these currency comes from:

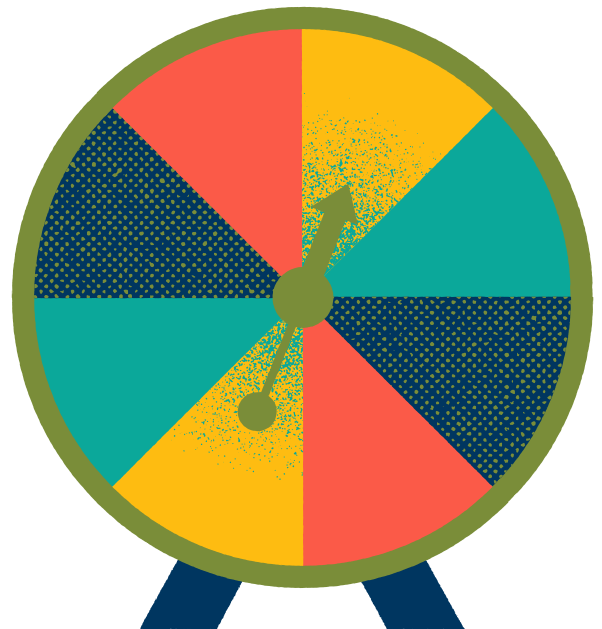
a.



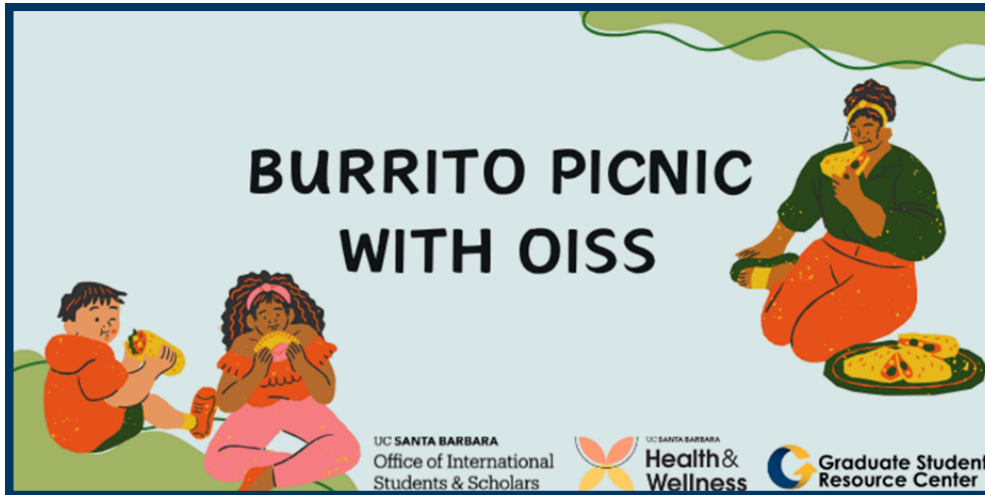
b.



c.



OISS Events



New Date and Time!
**Student Health
Lawn**
Wednesday, May 8
4-5:30 pm

[Register on
Shoreline](#)

Dear ECP Participants,

You're invited to join OISS, GSRC and H&W for a burrito picnic! Meet new friends, practice English and and enjoy one of Isla Vista's favorite Mexican restaurants, Super Cucas! Partners and family members are welcome. Burritos will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. If you prefer to bring your own food, you are still welcome to join us!

Calling All Multi-Lingual Students & Scholars!

All Languages Language Exchanges
Thursday, May 2 and 16
4-6 pm

Student Resource Building, MPR

[Register on
Shoreline](#)

All levels
welcome

International
Snacks Provided



UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
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OISS Events



Embark on a botanical adventure with fellow international graduate students! Courtesy of OISS and GSRC, discover the enchanting Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and immerse yourself in the charm of your new home, all against the backdrop of nature's beauty.

This event is limited to international graduate students only. Transportation not provided. [Learn more here about the gardens.](#)

May 10, 11:45 am - 3pm

[Click here to register on Shoreline](#)

OISS Announcements

Attention UC International Students,

We invite you to participate in our survey focused on understanding the post-graduation plans of international students within the UC system. This study aims to unravel the challenges faced by international students in pursuing opportunities in higher education in the United States, specifically related to their citizenship status. By gathering insights into intended career paths, further studies, and professional pursuits, we hope to identify barriers and issues that international students encounter, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of their experiences. Your participation is crucial in shaping policies and support mechanisms for a more inclusive environment within the UC system. The survey is anonymous, and your input will be confidential. We appreciate your time and valuable contribution to this important initiative.

[Click Here](#)

OISS will be closed Monday May 27 in honor of Memorial Day



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

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

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](#)

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OISS Announcements



International Student Association is celebrating their annual International Dessert Night!

May 16, 8-9pm, Student Resource Building, MPR

Come join the fun and enjoy International snacks, Performances from Culture Clubs and Gather with fellow students around the world to socialize



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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.

