

NOVEMBER 2024

# OISS Newsletter

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Dear Global Gauchos,

Wow! Fall quarter is shaping up to be an exciting one! OISS is thrilled to have welcomed 1100 new international students and 20 visiting scholars to campus, representing 73 countries. We're also excited to share the launch of a new International Wellness Group, made possible with the incredible leadership of our partners at Health and Wellness, Mallory Russell and Xin Sui with Counseling and Psychological Services. This group, comprised of students and staff from 13 departments and student organizations across campus, is working to create a more efficient, collaborative approach to supporting the international community at UCSB. If you or your campus organization are interested in joining us, please contact [malloryrussell@ucsb.edu](mailto:malloryrussell@ucsb.edu) or [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu).

The Office of International Students & Scholars

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# Staff Spotlight



OISS is incredibly proud to spotlight our director, Erik Williams, for his outstanding leadership within NAFSA: the Association of International Educators. NAFSA is the largest nonprofit association committed to fostering international education and exchange worldwide. NAFSA advances policies and practices that create a more interconnected, peaceful world for current and future generations. For the past two years, he has dedicated himself to serving as chair for this year's Regional Conference for international educators from California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands, which took place October 21-23 in Orange County. Thank you, Erik, for your remarkable commitment to international education and for representing UC Santa Barbara with excellence!

Erik with OISS Immigration Advisors, Rosa Lopez Nakashima (left) and Sarah Lin (right) at NAFSA

# Local Economic Impact of Global Education

| <b>Benefits from International Students</b> |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION</b>               | <b>\$284.1 million</b> |
| <b>JOBS SUPPORTED</b>                       | <b>2,856</b>           |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLED</b>       | <b>5,740</b>           |



**TOP HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (DOLLARS AND JOBS)**

|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| <b>University of California-Santa Barbara</b>                  | <b>1</b> | <b>\$249.7 million supporting 2,698 jobs</b> |
| <b>California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>\$16.7 million supporting 78 jobs</b>     |
| <b>Santa Barbara City College</b>                              | <b>3</b> | <b>\$16 million supporting 72 jobs</b>       |
| <b>Westmont College</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>\$1 million supporting 5 jobs</b>         |
| <b>Ventura College</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>\$691,129 supporting 3 jobs</b>           |

# OISS Announcements

**F-1 STUDENT  
IN-PERSON  
EMPLOYMENT  
WORKSHOP:  
Curricular  
Practical Training**



Scan QR code to register



Nov 12  
3:30-4:30pm  
SRB 1103

**Date  
Change!**

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## Traveling outside the US?

Be sure to get a travel e-signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 before returning to the US. Submit your request online via UCSB Global.



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Education Abroad Program

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Office of International  
Students & Scholars

**UCSB All Languages  
Language Exchange**  
All Levels and Languages Welcome  
Open to Students, Staff & Faculty



Register on Shoreline for Fall 2024  
Events will be held in the Third Floor Forum in the  
Student Resource Building from 4-6pm

Oct 3



Oct 17



Nov 7



Nov 21



Have questions? Contact: [oissprograms@ucsb.edu](mailto:oissprograms@ucsb.edu)

## English Conversation Club Fall 2024 Schedule



Wednesdays, 12-1pm, SRB Room 3153  
Thursdays, 10:30 am-12 pm, SRB Room 1103  
~Open to all~

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# Campus Events

Check out the links  
below to find the  
events and register!

Nov 06

UCSB Women's Basketball

Nov 13

Introduction To Career Services for  
International Students

Nov 15

International Student Ministry  
presents "The Good Life"

Nov 16-18

Sky Happiness Retreat

Nov 28

Yosemite Thanksgiving With ISA



Looking for ways to meet new people on campus? Check out UCSB's official campus engagement platform, Shoreline. Use the Event Tag "International" to find all OISS events!



# Global Gaucho Friendship

## WELCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Welcome to UCSB, an institution that loves international students, also known as Global Gauchos. Every part of the UCSB community is enriched by the perspectives and contributions of our Global Gauchos. Read on to see how you can advance Global Gaucho friendship.

## Being a Friend to a Global Gaucho

- Ask Global Gaucho what name they prefer to go by, and don't be hesitant to ask them how to pronounce it
- Ask them how their experience in the U.S. has been so far
- Understand that they may be experiencing feelings of loneliness, culture shock and homesickness
- Explain jokes, idioms, and cultural references used in class that may only be understood by domestic students
- Understand that these students are attending a high-ranking research university with English as their second (or third or fourth!) language, while adjusting to a new education level, environment, country, etc. Try imagining if you were in their shoes.
- Ask them about their own culture
- Include them in and out of the classroom (i.e. socials, group projects, etc.)

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## Making Friends as a Global Gaucho

- Take a moment to remember that UCSB is happy to have you. You are welcome here!
- Introduce yourself to your fellow classmates. This can be helpful for making friends and if you miss a class
- Attend events on campus. There are tons of events offered at UCSB, where you can meet people with similar interests. Shoreline has an Events page!
- Consider joining a Registered Campus Organization (RCO), also known as student organizations. These are groups created by students, which you can find on Shoreline.
- Some students feel familiarity with those who are similar to them, while others embrace the opportunity to get to know students from the U.S.
- Working on campus with your peers is another way you could meet friends
- Give yourself time and grace. Friendships don't always happen immediately and it may take time to find community.

# 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](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.

