



International Education Week Toolkit

SUPPORT | LEARN | ADVOCATE

Dear UCSB Community,

International Education Week 2025 (IEW) is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate! Join OISS [January 21-24](#) as we highlight the incredible contributions of our international students and scholars who enrich our campus community with their diverse perspectives, cultural traditions, and innovative ideas. Their presence strengthens our academic and cultural fabric, reminding us of the transformative power of global education.

IEW is a time to reflect on the importance of coming together across differences to foster mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world. It's about celebrating the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences that unite us as a global community.

Throughout the week, we'll be honoring the academic achievements and cultural insights of UCSB's international community through a variety of engaging events and activities. Join us in recognizing the profound impact of international education, and the shared values that bring us all together. Let's make this year's IEW a vibrant celebration of global connections and unity!

Did you know
UCSB is home
to...

4400
International Grad
and Undergrad
students

250
Visiting
Researchers and
Scholars

Individuals from
more than 75
countries around
the globe

110
H1-B Scholars

6
Nobel Prize laureates,
4 of which were
born outside of the
US

Support



Attend events

Get involved in [IE Week events](#)! We are teaming up with various UCSB departments to host or promote an array of cultural and educational events throughout the week.



Share your spoken languages

If you are multilingual, indicate this in your email signature or on your departmental website's people directory. This lets others know you're able to communicate with them in a language that may feel comfortable, nostalgic, or useful (for practice) to them.



Share your name pronunciation

Names are often intrinsic to our identity, so it's important that we do our best to use the correct pronunciation. By using a "hear my name" tool, you can proactively share your name pronunciation anywhere your name appears (think email signature, social media, LinkedIn, etc.). You can [create your personal name badge](#) on Name Coach for free.



Show your support on Zoom

Show your IE Week support with the [Zoom backgrounds](#) we created. Download the backgrounds, then open a zoom meeting. Click on the carat next to "Start Video" at the bottom of the screen. Then select "Choose Virtual Background" and hit the "+" sign to upload an image. Select the IE Week background you just downloaded and voila!

The official IE Week website also has downloadable Zoom backgrounds, which are linked within our [Box folder](#). Send a screenshot of yourself using our Zoom background to OISS Programs (oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu) so we can share your show of support on social media!



An Open Mind, Opens Hearts and Doors

Inviting an international student or scholar to dinner or a cultural event can be a meaningful way to foster mutual understanding and connection. Such invitations may enhance global awareness, broaden cross-cultural perspectives, break down stereotypes, and create opportunities to form lifelong friendships. These shared experiences enrich everyone involved, promoting a sense of unity and collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world.



UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars



Fostering Global Connections

UCSB is an institution that is proud of our international students and scholars, 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 meaningful global connections.

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 about their own culture
- 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 and scholars 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
- Include them in and out of the classroom (i.e. socials, group projects, etc.)

Making Friends as a Global Gaucho

- Take a moment to remember that UCSB is happy to have you.
- Introduce yourself to your fellow classmates and colleagues. This can be helpful for making friends
- 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
- Attend an OISS English Conversation Club meetings found in Shoreline
- Attend an OISS All Languages Language Exchange Event, also found in Shoreline
- Consider joining a Registered Campus Organization (RCO), also known as student organizations. These are groups created by students, which you can find on Shoreline
- 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

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars





Learn

Understand the issues

While international students' economic and innovative contributions are vast, they also bring immeasurable academic and cultural value to our campus and local community.

[NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#) is the leading professional organization in the international community. The [Policy and Advocacy](#) section of their website contains informative [Policy Trends and Data](#) and [Reports](#). These resources will show you the facts about international issues.



International students studying in the US contribute

\$ 43.8 billion & 378,175 jobs

to the US economy. For every three international students, one U.S. job is created and supported by spending occurring in the higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance sectors.

NAFSA Econ Values 2024



Immigrants have been awarded nearly 40% of the Nobel Prizes

won by Americans in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000.

Did you know...

Nearly one-quarter of the founders of the \$1 billion U.S. startup companies first came to America as international students.

Source: [International Students Contribute to Our Economy and American Innovation](#)

Research shows that H-1B workers complement U.S. workers, fill employment gaps in many STEM occupations, and expand job opportunities for all. The United States faces challenges in meeting the growing needs of an expanding knowledge-based innovation economy.



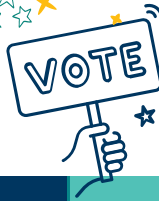
For America to remain the leader in scientific discovery, we must continue to attract the best and brightest from around the world.

Source: [H1B Visa Program Fact Sheet](#)





Advocate



Political Involvement

Folks in the international community are not always able to vote, yet must abide by federal laws and policies. In general, it's important to be an informed voter. Our request is that you keep the international community in mind when casting your ballot. NAFSA publishes [Congressional Recommendations](#) that address the legislative policy changes which would lead to a more globally engaged and welcoming United States.

[Take Action](#) by urging your lawmakers to support and protect international education, using the message templates provided by NAFSA.

Bystander Intervention

Let's look out for one another and ensure every Gaucho feels safe. Join the effort by scheduling a [Gaucho Green Dot Bystander Intervention workshop](#) through the [Campus Advocacy Resource Center](#). These trainings equip you with the skills to safely respond to bullying or threatening situations. Schedule a session for your team, student organization, or Greek life group today and make a difference in creating a safer, more supportive campus community!



Explore



Interested in the field of International Education?

International education is woven into the fabric of our increasingly interconnected world. If you are interested in learning more about the field, feel free to reach out to [OISS Staff](#). We welcome the opportunity to share more about the work that we love.

Other great resources to explore include:

- [NAFSA](#)
- [Institution of International Education](#)
- [The Forum on Education Abroad](#)
- [American Immigration Council](#)
- [US Fulbright Program](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

Happy International
Education Week
UCSB!

Thank you for supporting
our Global Gauchos

Why is international education important to you?

"International education, especially the study and the lived practice of foreign languages, opens up enormous possibilities to know other people UC Santa Barbara welcomes students, staff and faculty from all corners of the world, which is one of the many things that makes our campus community so special. I take great pride in serving an institution that values and celebrates the cultures, contributions and lessons brought to us from such a diverse collection of countries all across the globe. International education is to be celebrated and cherished and my hope is that UC Santa Barbara will continue being a world leader in the areas of teaching and learning. Future generations will benefit from the work, collaboration and dreams born here on our campus, which is something we should all celebrate. es, other cultures, and new ways of thinking and of living (not to mention job opportunities). I cannot imagine myself without it."

- Michael Miller, AVC,
Student Enrollment and Success

"International education, especially the study and the lived practice of foreign languages, opens up enormous possibilities to know other peoples, other cultures, and new ways of thinking and of living (not to mention job opportunities). I cannot imagine myself without it."

-Fabio Rambelli, Faculty Director,
UCSB Education Abroad Program

"International students and scholars continually remind me of the vastness and richness of the world. Their perspectives broaden my understanding beyond my own cultural lens, and I deeply admire their courage and determination to leave their comfort zones, overcome challenges, and contribute to UCSB's vibrant community. Our Global Gauchos are truly inspiring."

-Ashley Rifkin, International Programs Specialist, OISS

"International education and global exchange are vital to build a more inclusive, innovative, and peaceful world. They nurture global citizens who are equipped to lead with compassion, creativity, and a profound understanding of the interconnectedness of all cultures. Global exchange helps you not only understand other places and cultures but also provides profound reflections on your own culture."

- Erik Williams, OISS Director

"Global exchange strengthens the educational environment for all of our students at UCSB and enriches the learning experience. We are proud to invite scholars from all over the world to our beautiful campus and are grateful for the skills and knowledge that our international scholars bring to us."

- Margaret Klawunn,
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

"Studying abroad was one of the most transformational experiences of my life. There's nothing quite like the learning of a new place, a new language, and new people. I feel a similar joy and excitement and gratitude when I meet international students in my classes. The more we share the more we grow."

-Mark D. Shishim, Associate Dean,
Student Academic Support Services

"I am always so inspired by our global gauchos and the enrichment they bring to our campus. International education plays an important role in broadening our horizons, giving us opportunities to learn about new languages, cultures, and experiences."

~ Rosa Lopez Nakashima,
OISS Student Advisor