

APRIL 2025

# OISS Newsletter



Dear International Community and Allies,

We hope this message finds you well. As we spring into a new quarter, the Office of International Students and Scholars would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible cultural and academic contributions of UCSB's global community.

OISS is proud to support more than 4500 students, researchers, and scholars from **103** countries. Our **Global Gauchos** bring so much richness to campus life. UCSB simply wouldn't be a top-ranked institution without you. Thank you for choosing UCSB as your home away from home—**we're grateful you're here.**

We also want to gently remind those on UCSB-sponsored visas to stay on top of communications from our office. With ongoing changes to immigration policy and practice, it's more important than ever to stay informed and to maintain your visa status. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your [assigned advisor](#)—**we're here to help!**

**To our allies:** if you're looking for ways to support international education and exchange beyond UCSB, we encourage you to check out [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#).

Thank you all for being part of this vibrant, global community.

Warmly,

The Office of International Students and Scholars

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# Office Hour Updates

Effective April 2nd, 2025, OISS will be closed to the public every Wednesday to allow our staff dedicated time to process immigration requests for students arriving in Fall 2025.

During this time, our team will still be available via phone and email during standard business hours.

We expect to follow this modified schedule through late June 2025 and appreciate your understanding as we work to support our incoming international students.

Please visit our [People Director](#) for contact information.



## Standard Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Student Walk-In Advising** is available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10 am -12 pm & 1 -4 pm

**Scholar Walk-In Advising** is available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-4 pm

Find OISS on the [3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Student Resource Building](#)





# International Student and Scholar Weekly Friday Social

Dear Global Gauchos!

You are cordially invited to OISS's Weekly Friday Social! Join your fellow Global Gauchos and OISS for tea, treats, and conversation. Whether you're looking to catch up with friends or make new connections, this is the perfect space to relax and enjoy the global vibes. OISS staff will also be available for support needs. Feel free to bring your own lunch.

**All international students and scholars are welcome!** Come as you are and bring a friend—we can't wait to see you there!



**Fridays , Spring Quarter**



**11:30 am -1:00 pm**



**Student Resource Building,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Forum**

Starts this week!



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Office of International  
Students & Scholars



# International Events



## UCSB GLOBAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2025 spring

Interested in becoming a mentor/mentee, and meeting other global gauchos who share similar interests and academic pursuits? Scan this QR code to join us!



SCAN ME



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SEARCH CLUB



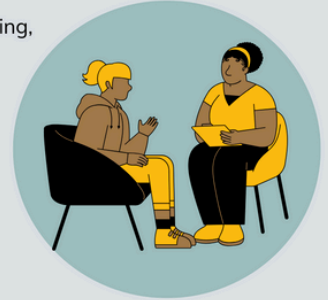
Student Resource Building,  
3rd Floor, Room 3153



Every 2nd and 4th  
Monday of the month



1 - 2:30pm



Are you an international student looking for jobs or internships? Join the Employment Search Club for personalized help from a Career Counselor and International Student Advisor. Get tips on job searches, interviews, internships, and CPT/OPT guidance—all in one place. Take the next step in your career journey!

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Career Services

## A QT International Brunch

with OISS & the RCSGD



Friday, April 11 | 9:30-11AM | OISS Conference Room

Make new friends, enjoy free brunch foods, and learn about being a QT student from around the world.



Register Here

## Leveraging Your Graduate Experience for Job Searching

This event brings together former international graduate students from the Humanities, STEM, and Social Sciences to share their experiences finding positions inside and outside of academia. While open to all, this discussion will be especially helpful for international students exploring career paths after graduate school.

### Panelists



Dr. Olga Faccani  
(Humanities)



Dr. Hector Andrade  
(STEM)



Dr. Tymoteusz Chajdas  
(Social Sciences)



Thursday, April 17 (Week 3 of Spring Quarter)



12-1pm



Scan the QR  
Code to Register



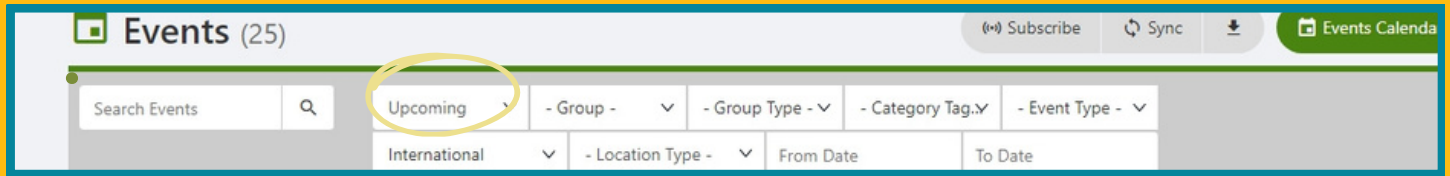
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Career Services



# International Events



To find international-oriented events, select the "international" event tag on the main Shoreline events list.

A poster for the English Conversation Club. It features a group of diverse students posing around a globe. The text 'English Conversation Club' is at the top. Below the photo, it says 'Thursdays 10:30 AM- 12 PM' and 'Student Resource Building, First Floor, Room 1103'. At the bottom, it says 'Scan the QR Code to Sign Up' with a QR code. The UC Santa Barbara Office of International Students &amp; Scholars logo is in the bottom left corner.

A poster for the UCSB All Languages Language Exchange. It features a colorful illustration of students sitting around a table, with a clock tower and a building in the background. The text 'UCSB All Languages Language Exchange' is at the top, followed by 'All Levels and Languages Welcome' and 'Open to Students, Staff &amp; Faculty'. Below this, it says 'Register on Shoreline for Spring 2025' and 'Events will be held in the Third Floor Forum in the Student Resource Building from 4:30-6pm'. There are five QR codes for different dates: Apr 3, Apr 17, May 1, May 15, and May 29. At the bottom, it says 'Have questions? Contact: oissprograms@ucsb.edu' and 'Bonus Event' with an arrow pointing to the QR codes. The UC Santa Barbara Office of International Students &amp; Scholars logo is in the top right corner.

At English Conversation Club participants have the opportunity to practice and improve their English language skills while gaining insights into American culture through interactive discussions and activities

All Languages  
and Levels  
Welcome

Register now  
on Shoreline

Open to international students, scholars, and  
their adult dependents

# Campus Events

Check out the links  
below to sign up  
for campus events



Wed, Apr 9      [Mindful Meditation with Asian Resource Center Community](#)

Mon, Apr 14      [UCSB Reads + Health & Wellness Speed Friending Event](#)

Tue, Apr 15      [Pass the Plate: Chicken & Dumplings with AdCRC and BSU](#)

Wed, Apr 16      [Managing the Industry Job Search for Graduate Students](#)

Wed, Apr 17      [LinkedIn Lab + Professional Photos](#)

Sat, Apr 26      [Communication Career Day 2025](#)

## Interstride Events



Wed, April 9th      [Using Interstride to optimize your job and internship search](#)

Thu, April 10th      [Interstride International Student Career Summit](#)

Tue, April 22nd      [Immigration Q&A: International students in a time of change](#)

# Holly Jennings Award



## Holly Jennings Award Now Accepting Applications

OISS is excited to announce that the annual Holly Jennings Award is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 academic year. Through the generosity of Holly Jennings, this award is specifically designed to assist F-1 or J-1 degree-seeking students who have encountered unforeseen medical expenses and/or emergency financial situations during the course of this academic year.

To be considered for the award, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the application guidelines. If you believe you are eligible and have experienced unexpected challenges that have impacted your financial situation, we strongly encourage you to submit your application through UCSB Global no later than **May 10, 2025**.

Please note that funding is limited, and not all applicants will receive assistance.

We wish you the best of luck and hope that this support helps to alleviate any challenges you may have faced during this academic year.

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Students & Scholars

[Apply Here](#)





# Happy Earth Day!

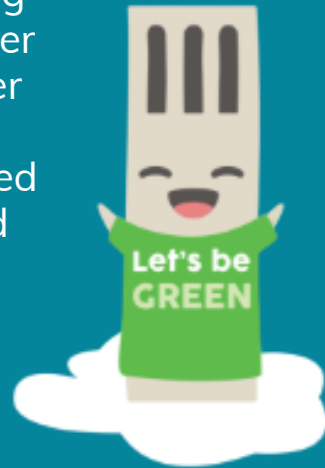


*April 22*

Did you know?...



Earth Day began in 1970 at UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) as a response to the devastating Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969, which spilled millions of gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean, killing marine life and polluting the coastline. This environmental disaster galvanized students, activists, and politicians to push for stronger environmental protections. UCSB played a crucial role in the movement, hosting one of the first Earth Day events, which helped spark a nationwide movement for environmental awareness and policy changes, leading to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and landmark legislation like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.



## Celebrate Earth Day Downtown



Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival Returns to  
Alameda Park on April 26 & 27, 2025



Take the 24x bus for transportation to  
Downtown SB by using your student ID



Click [here](#) for  
bus schedule



# OISS and Career Services



OISS, in partnership with Career Services, is thrilled to announce the launch of Interstride, a platform designed to enhance the career development journey of both international and domestic university students. Interstride offers a wealth of resources tailored to meet the unique needs of students navigating the global job market.

## What does Interstride provide to International Students and Scholars?

- **Job Search Optimization:** Access a curated database of employers open to hiring international talent and tools to tailor your job search to specific countries and industries.
- **Cultural Adaptation Resources:** Gain insights into cultural nuances, communication styles, and workplace etiquette to better integrate into new environments.
- **Visa and Immigration Support:** Interstride provides up-to-date information on visa regulations, work authorization, and immigration policies, helping you understand and manage the complexities of working abroad.

## What does Interstride provide to Domestic Students?

- **Global Opportunities:** Explore international internships and job postings to broaden your career horizons and gain global experience.
- **Cross-Cultural Competence:** Utilize resources that enhance your understanding of global markets and cultural diversity, skills highly valued by employers.
- **Networking Expansion:** Connect with a diverse community of students and professionals worldwide, expanding your professional network beyond borders.



# 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 [mmotomazie@ucsb.edu](mailto:mmotomazie@ucsb.edu).

Let's stay in touch! Follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with everything happening at OISS.

