

MAY 2025

OISS Newsletter



Dear Global Gauchos,

As we've witnessed time and again, **raising our collective voices** can make a real impact in supporting international students and scholars. This momentum reminds us that **advocacy matters** and it works. We encourage our campus to keep that energy going: reach out to your congressional representatives, share credible information to raise awareness, and show up for civic events that promote inclusion and equity. **Advocacy resources** provided below.

We recognize that this is only the beginning. OISS remains committed to creating and promoting opportunities for students, staff, and faculty to engage in advocacy both on and off campus. Together, we can help shape a more welcoming and just environment for our international community.

Thank you for the extra care, intention, and action you bring during these uncertain times.

Standing in community!

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

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Travel Reminders



OISS advisors are here to support you, please note that we cannot definitively advise whether you should travel outside of the U.S.. Instead, we can provide guidance based on your individual circumstances, and the final decision will ultimately be yours.

Here are some important tips to keep in mind if you are planning to travel internationally:

- Ensure all your immigration documents are valid and up to date, including your I-20 or DS-2019 with a travel signature, passport, and visa.
- Be prepared for possible additional screening at the U.S. border. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are permitted to search electronic devices.
- Share your travel plans with a trusted friend or contact in the U.S. so they can assist you in case you experience travel delays.
- When in doubt, schedule a meeting with an OISS advisor before traveling to discuss your specific situation.
- If traveling within the U.S., be sure to have your Real ID or Passport

Your safety and peace of mind are important to us. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your assigned OISS advisor with any questions.

F-1 undergraduate & submission of candidacy requirement



Please note that degree candidacy and program completion are not the same when it comes to your F-1 status. Your F-1 status ends once you have completed all degree requirements, even if your candidacy is still pending or it's the summer quarter.

- Summer is not considered a free period to continue taking classes after completing your degree requirements.
- After completing your program, you enter a 60-day Grace Period. During this time, you may:
 - Apply for Post-Completion OPT
 - Transfer your SEVIS record to another school
 - Remain in the U.S. to prepare for departure or travel within the country

If you're unsure of your timeline or next steps, we strongly encourage you to meet with an OISS advisor.

Bias and Harassment Reporting —

OISS is deeply disturbed by recent *Timely Warning: Hate Crime Motivated by Bias* alert, and we recognize that receiving such a message may have been unsettling for many of our international students and scholars.

We want to take this opportunity to remind you that you are not alone, and there are campus resources available to support you and address any concerns you may have. If you experience or witness any incidents of bias or discrimination, we encourage you to report them and seek the support you need.

UCPD reminds the campus community of the following **safety tips** and resources:

Safety Tips

- Follow your instincts. Safety is the first priority.
- If you feel you are in danger, take action. Move away from the threat, cross the street, increase your pace, or run to safety.
- Join a group of people or enter an open business establishment.
- Do not delay in calling 911. UCPD strongly encourages the reporting of suspicious activity so we can intervene in potential criminal activity and apprehend suspects.

UCPD shares these Safety Tips while recognizing that perpetrators, and not the victims or survivors, are solely responsible for their actions.

Resources

- For a list of on- and off-campus resources for those impacted by hate- or bias-motivated incidents, visit [Student Life](#). Additional resources are provided by the [Office of Title IX Compliance and Discrimination and Harassment Prevention](#).
- To report bias or discrimination you may [submit a report](#).
- UCPD encourages the community to use safety services, such as the emergency phones identified by a blue light. When walking to and from campus and Isla Vista locations, you can request a CSO escort by calling (805) 893-2000 or by calling on the emergency phones located throughout the UCSB Campus. For more information can also be found on the [UCPD website](#).





Advocacy Resources for Staff and Faculty



[5 Ways Campuses Can Support Non-Citizen Students and Employees Post-Election](#)



[Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education \(CARE\)](#)



[Advocacy Toolkit on International Graduate Students and OPT](#)

Advocacy Resources

(The resources below are meant to help you advocate for exchanges in your own community. Click the underlined links to access these resources.)



[How to write to your Members of Congress](#)

Write your Members of Congress in support of international exchange programs by following just a few easy steps.



[How to visit a Member of Congress' state or district office](#)

Meetings at a state or district office of your Member of Congress can be a particularly effective way to convey your message.



[How to engage your own network in advocacy](#)

Engaging your broader stakeholders and professional/personal networks in simple ways can be an effective complement to the targeted advocacy of writing a handcrafted letter and visiting your Member of Congress' local office.



Actions To Take

University of California

Federal Immigration Enforcement Actions on University Property



Click Here
for More Info

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

International Allies

Push Congress to Advance
International Education



Click Here
for More Info



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CALIFORNIA

Benefits from International Students

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

\$6.4 billion

JOBS SUPPORTED

55,114

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLED

140,858



TOP HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (DOLLARS AND JOBS)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 University of Southern California
\$880.6 million supporting 9,563 jobs | 6 University of California-Davis
\$413.5 million supporting 4,190 jobs |
| 2 University of California-Berkeley
\$575.9 million supporting 5,418 jobs | 7 Stanford University
\$291.6 million supporting 3,126 jobs |
| 3 University of California-San Diego
\$466.7 million supporting 4,712 jobs | 8 University of California-Santa Barbara
\$254.4 million supporting 2,567 jobs |
| 4 University of California-Los Angeles
\$419.2 million supporting 4,107 jobs | 9 San Jose State University
\$150.3 million supporting 1,658 jobs |
| 5 University of California-Irvine
\$418.3 million supporting 4,174 jobs | 10 University of California-Riverside
\$123.5 million supporting 1,234 jobs |

THE NATIONAL BENEFITS BEYOND CALIFORNIA

International students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contribute **\$43.8 billion** to the U.S. economy and support **378,175 jobs***. 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.

The economic contributions of international students are in addition to the immeasurable academic and cultural value these students bring to our campuses and local communities. For a more detailed analysis, access NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool at

nafsa.org/economicvalue rachel.banks@nafsa.org



Sharpening Our Edge: Enhancing U.S. Competitiveness

BY ATTRACTING AND RETAINING GLOBAL TALENT

The best and brightest from around the world help fuel U.S. innovation and our economy despite comprising less than 6 percent of overall U.S. college enrollment.

International students and scholars provide domestic students with exposure to other countries and cultures — an essential component of career readiness in today's world. The national security, economic vitality, and workforce development of the United States will benefit from international students and scholars having streamlined visa processing and a pathway to a green card after graduation.

International Students Strengthen the U.S. Economy



One-quarter of U.S. start-up companies worth \$1B+

have a founder who first came to the United States as an international student.¹



International student enrollment contributed \$43.8 billion to the U.S. economy in the 2023 – 24 academic year.²



International student spending created or supported 378,175 U.S. jobs. That's one job for every three international students.³

Global Talent Helps Fuel American Innovation



40% of U.S. Nobel Prize Winners in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000 have been immigrants.⁴



42% of the founders of top AI companies studied in the United States as an international student.⁵



An international student invented the technology that makes Zoom and FaceTime possible.⁶

Losing Talent Hurts America's Interests



A Turkish international student was unable to stay after graduation. He took his ideas to China,

enabling Huawei to lead in 5G technology and secure 10 times more patents than its closest competitor.



Not enough American students graduate with the STEM skills

needed to meet the demands of the 21st-century knowledge economy.



More than half of international students in the United States pursue STEM fields of study⁷ and



70 percent of full-time graduate students in AI-related fields are international students.

Enrolling more international students leads to an increase in the number of STEM bachelor's degrees

awarded to U.S. students

Holly Jennings Award



Holly Jennings Award Now Accepting Applications

OISS is excited to announce that the 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.

[Apply Here](#)

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Office of International
Students & Scholars



OISS Collaborations

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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UC SANTA BARBARA
Career Services

J-1 STUDENT ACADEMIC TRAINING WORKSHOP





May 13th, 2025



4 PM - 5 PM




OISS Conference Room;
3rd Floor SRB 3157



J-1 visa holders, Interested in working? Find out how to gain work experience in the U.S. while staying in status! EAP Reciprocity and J-1 degree-seeking students are invited to an informative employment workshop. Join us to learn about on-campus employment authorizations and Academic Training (off-campus employment).

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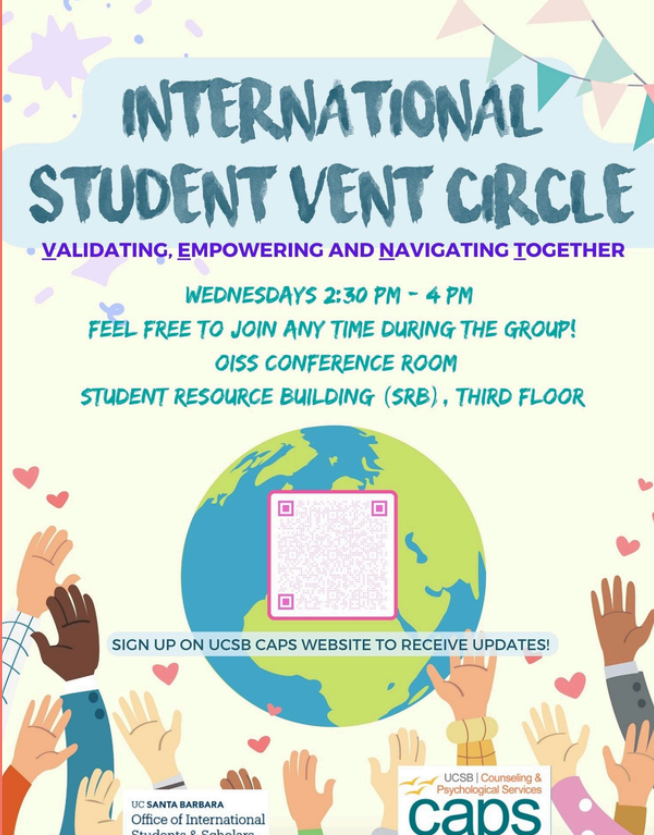
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VENT CIRCLE

VALIDATING, EMPOWERING AND NAVIGATING TOGETHER


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!



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

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Sign in

UCSB Accounts
Use your school login

Sign in with UCSB Net ID

All others: Sign in below

❗ Sign-in instructions for UC Santa Barbara

UC Santa Barbara affiliates (students, faculty, and staff) should log in with their campus credentials (Net ID and password) to log in. Do not sign in as a non-campus user.

New-ish to UC Santa Barbara? We refer to two weeks for your account to be activated. Use your UCSB Net ID. Newly admitted students should use this platform to get involved.

Encountering sign-in trouble? Sign in with your Net ID.

Welcome to Shoreline!

Use
Event Tag
"International"

OISS Events



English Conversation Club

Thursdays
10:30 AM - 12 PM

Student Resource Building, First Floor, Room 1103

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up

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

All Levels and Languages Welcome
Open to Students, Staff & Faculty

Register on Shoreline for Spring 2025
Events will be held in the Third Floor Forum in the Student Resource Building from 4:30-6pm

Apr 3	Apr 17	May 1	May 15	May 29
				

Have questions?
Contact: oissprograms@ucsb.edu

Bonus Event

Interstride Events

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Thu May 1st | <u>Job search strategy for international students</u> |
| Tue May 6th | <u>Exploring H-1B cap exempt roles in higher ed and non-profit landscape</u> |
| Tue May 13th | <u>Using Interstride to optimize your job and internship search</u> |
| Thu May 22nd | <u>Top 10 mistakes made by international students in their job and internship search</u> |

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:

[Ashley Rifkin, Editor or Maddie Crafton, Senior Contributing Editor](#)

Let's stay in touch!

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

