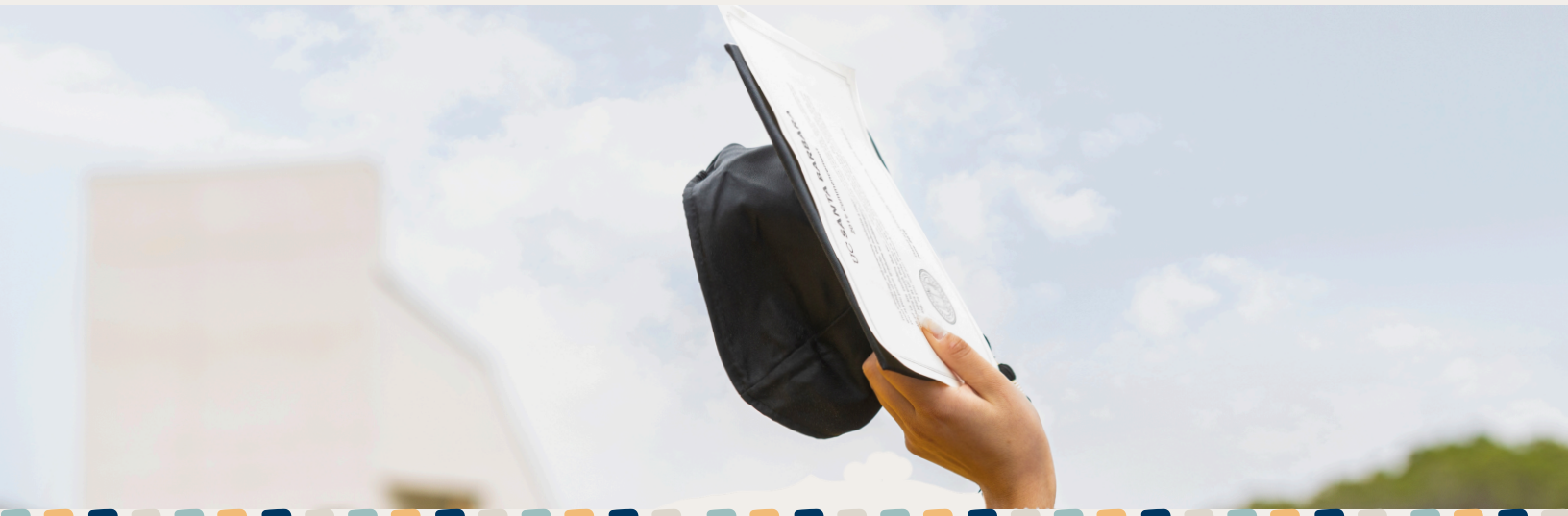


JUNE 2025

OISS Newsletter



Dear Global Gauchos,

This time of year is filled with celebration, reflection, and anticipation. To all of our graduating international students—congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! We recognize the hard work, resilience, and determination it has taken to complete your studies. We are proud of you!

While this season brings joy and a well-earned sense of accomplishment, we also acknowledge the uncertainty that comes with what lies ahead—particularly for those navigating rapidly evolving U.S. immigration policies. Please know that our OISS team is monitoring changes closely and remains committed to keeping our global community informed with timely, accurate updates.

To stay informed about the latest federal policies impacting UCSB's international community, we encourage you to check our [News & Announcements](#) page regularly and monitor your UCSB email for time-sensitive updates. [Our staff](#) remains available to meet with you individually to discuss your specific circumstances.

Warmly,

The OISS Team

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Staff Spotlight

Name: Cristina Carney, aka “CeCe”

Title: Assistant Director

Department: OISS



OISS is thrilled to announce that our lead international student advisor, Cristina “CeCe” Carney, has been promoted to **Assistant Director** of International Student Services.

For the past 10 years, CeCe has steadfastly led UCSB’s international student advising team with consistency, compassion, and a wealth of industry knowledge that is second to none. Her dedication to student success, her collaborative spirit, and her depth of experience have made a lasting impact on our office and UCSB’s international community.

CeCe’s career in international education spans more than two decades and includes five years living overseas as an English instructor and curriculum developer; serving as Director and Compliance Officer for Kaplan International Programs in Southern and Central California; and working as an International Student Advisor at Penn State University while earning her Master’s degree in Lifelong Learning. Since joining UCSB, she has spent the past decade as International Student Program Coordinator, leading the advising team and advancing the support structures for UCSB’s international student population. In addition to her advising work, CeCe has also serves campus as a Mental Health First Aid Advocate and Instructor since 2013.

Please join us in congratulating CeCe on this well-earned promotion and thanking her for her ongoing commitment to supporting our international students!





Travel Reminders



OISS advisors are here to support you though 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.

Sticking Around?

Check Out These Local Summer Spots



[Old Spanish Days – Fiesta](#)
[Santa Barbara, CA.](#)
[July 30 - August 3, 2025](#)

[Solvang Things To Do](#)



[Festivals & Major Events in Ojai, CA](#)

[Visit Pismo Beach](#)



[Visit Channel Islands National Park](#)

(Click the Links Above for More Information)



Sticking Around?

Map of Local Areas

Santa Barbara → Solvang 34.4 Miles Away • 45 Minute Drive

Santa Barbara → Ojai 33.1 Miles Away • 48 Minute Drive

Santa Barbara → Pismo Beach 83 Miles Away • 1.5 Hour Drive

Santa Barbara → Ventura 32.1 Miles Away • 35 Minute Drive → Channel Islands
→ 2-3 Hour Ferry Ride



Thanks for Reading! —

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the OISS Newsletter. Past newsletters and current News and Announcements 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.

Special thanks to our Senior Contributing Editor, Maddie Crafton for her incredible work on this newsletter. Maddie you're a lifesaver!

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

