

DECEMBER 2025

OISS Newsletter



Dear Global Gauchos,

As the year comes to a close, December offers a moment to pause, reflect, and look ahead. In this edition of our newsletter, you'll find upcoming OISS events, highlights of holiday happenings around Santa Barbara, and helpful travel reminders and tips as you plan for winter break. Whether you're celebrating locally, traveling home, or exploring somewhere new, we hope these resources help you feel supported and informed.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and restorative winter break filled with warmth and well-deserved rest.

Warmly,

The OISS Team

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Immigration Reminders & Travel Tips

Obtaining a Travel Signature on my I-20 or DS-2019

All travel signatures from OISS immigration advisors are electronic

- Students should print I-20/DS-2019 and sign with a pen
- To obtain an electronic travel signature, log into UCSB Global
 - ▶ Select F-1/J-1 Student Request (top left or right for mobile phones)
 - ▶ Select Travel E-Signature/Updated I-20 Request (F visa holders)
 - ▶ Select DS-2019 Service Request: Travel Signature (J visa holders)



Scan to Access



UCSB's After Hours Emergency Phone Line

If you have an urgent situation such as travel issues at the U.S. Port of Entry and you or a government official/law enforcement officer need to speak with an OISS staff member you may call



805-893-3446
(UC Santa Barbara Campus Police).

They will contact OISS staff.

Returning to the U.S.

- Keep your I-20 in your passport and ready for customs
- Memorize a trusted U.S. contact's phone number
- Only provide documents if the officer asks
- Check your I-94 for correct status (F-1/J-1) and admit-until date
 - ▶ If sent to Secondary, stay calm — it may be routine
 - ▶ CBP can check your electronic devices



International Events

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 Winter 2026
Events will be held in the Third Floor Forum in the
Student Resource Building from 4-5:30pm

Jan 8 Jan 22 Feb 5 Feb 19 Mar 5



Have questions?
Contact: oisprograms@ucsb.edu

English Conversation Club



OISS' English Conversation Club brings together international students, scholars, and their adult dependents in a welcoming space to practice English, explore U.S. culture, and share their own. Through group discussions, cultural exchanges, and community activities, the club fosters cross-cultural understanding and meaningful connections in a fun, inclusive environment.

 **Thursdays**
10:30 AM - 12 PM
**Student Resource Building,
First Floor, Room 1103**

[More details on Shoreline](#)

 **International
Students Inc.**

Weekly Connections

Wednesdays from 12–1:30pm in the UCen for lunch, conversation, and community

Events & Adventures

From hikes and beach days to game nights, festivals, downtown art events, small groups, and a spring break trip.

Friday Night Dinners

Twice a month, enjoy a FREE home-cooked dinner with American hosts and fellow international students. (Winter 2025 starts Jan. 9 - March 6)

Friendship Partners

Get matched with an individual or family for a dinner, hike, or other activity to build meaningful friendships.

If you are interested, please fill out this form





HOLIDAY EVENTS IN SANTA BARBARA



ZooLights



Christmas Mariachi Festival
featuring El Mariachi
Estrella de Mexico



Honor Hanukkah at
The Revere Room



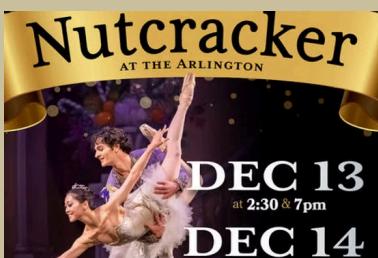
Santa Barbara Parade of Lights



Sip n' Dip Hot Chocolate & Game Night



50th Anniversary of The Nutcracker



Christmas Patch



Snow on the Coast



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

Let's stay in touch!

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

