

MARCH 2026

# OISS Newsletter



## Dear International Gauchos,

Whether you're heading across the globe or exploring your own backyard, travel is a powerful way to broaden your horizons. OISS shares your optimism for the journey ahead, but we also advocate for a healthy dose of caution to ensure your trip remains memorable for the right reasons.

### Global Readiness and Safety Reminders

The key to a stress-free international experience is proactive preparation. While OISS encourages you to immerse yourself in new cultures, remember that being prepared is your best defense against the unexpected.

- Contingency Planning: Always have a "Plan B." From securing travel insurance to keeping digital copies of vital documents, a solid backup plan reduces unnecessary anxiety.
- Immigration Reminders: Review [OISS' website](#) for crucial immigration reminders before departing the U.S.
- Have a Plan: Check the [Department of State's Travel Advisories](#)
- Regional Advisories: For those traveling to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), please strictly adhere to the [UCOP Travel Advisory](#). Staying informed on these specific regional guidelines is essential for your safety and security.
- Keep your emergency contact informed of your travel plans and contact them with any updates or changes.

### The Beauty of Staying Local

If you're staying close to home, Santa Barbara offers endless discovery. We highly encourage you to revisit well-known landmarks like the County Courthouse, but don't forget our "best-kept secrets." Take time to explore the hidden tide pools at Thousand Steps or the quiet serenity of the Botanic Garden. Adventure isn't defined by distance, but by your willingness to explore. Travel smart, stay mindful, and enjoy the experience.

## In This Issue:



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# Travel Reminders



Planning to travel internationally for Spring Break?  
Have fun but don't forget...



- to ensure your passport is valid
- to ensure your visa is valid
- to ensure your I-20 has a valid travel signature from OISS on page two
  - you can request an e-travel signature via [UCSB Global](#)
- check [Travel.State.Gov](#) for current travel advisories
- for air travel inside the U.S. you'll need your passport or a [Real I.D.](#)

## Staying local during spring break?

Discover Central Coast's History through Ancestral Voices.  
Visit the Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center

Open  
Thurs - Sundays  
10am-5pm  
Tickets available  
online



33 miles north of  
in beautiful  
Santa Ynez  
Take a day trip!

## 22 Fun and Unusual Things To Do in Santa Barbara

Megan Singleton's [Blogger at Large](#)

### OISS Staff Top Picks include

- Stroll the weekly Arts and Crafts Show (every Sunday)
- Take Amazing Sunset Photos
- Climb up the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Bell Tower
- Go Horseback Riding
- Visit Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
- Explore the Natural History Museum
- Tour the Old Mission Santa Barbara

Your UCSB ID  
allows you to  
ride local buses  
for free!

# International Events





## MARCH

EA TOUR SANTA BARBARA

3  
MAR

**LAKERS**  
VS PELICANTS

\$199

7  
MAR

**LA CITY**  
SANTA MONICA, BEVERLY HILLS AND HOLLYWOOD

\$125

\$  
MAR

**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS**

\$275

\$  
MAR

**SIX FLAGS**

\$175

HOT DEAL

27  
MAR

**ROSARITO SPRING BREAK**

\$399

21  
MAR

**PALM SPRINGS / JOSHUA TREE**

\$320



## Spring Break 2026 International Travel Briefing

STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING TRAVEL DURING SPRING BREAK

  
**DATE:**  
March 20th

  
**SPEAKER:**  
Jeremiah Cortes

  
**TIME:**  
4-5 PM

WEBINAR AGENDA:

Zoom Link



- Obtaining a Travel Signature on my I-20 or DS-2019
- Possible reasons not to travel
- Weighing your options
- Returning to the U.S.
- Emergency Contacts

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International




BE A MENTOR FIND A MENTOR



GLOBAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2026

Starting  
March 30th

The Global Mentorship Program connects experienced UCSB students with new students to build community and support their transition as Global Gauchos.

  
[Register Here](#)



## English Conversation Club



Thursdays

10:30 AM - 12 PM



Student Resource Building, First Floor, Room 1103

[More Details on Shoreline](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

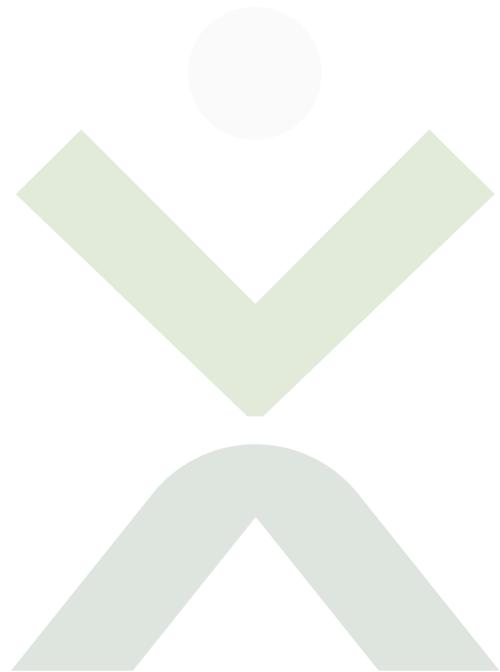
Upcoming  
Sprintax Webinars  
**WEBINARS**



## Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar

In these tax webinars, international students, scholars and professionals will be run through everything they need to know about non-resident tax for the 2025 tax season. Topics will include who must file, tax residency, FICA, state returns, implications of misfiling as well as how to use Sprintax to prepare a compliant tax return.

- > Dec 9th @ 12pm ET → Register here
- > Jan 20th @ 10am ET → Register here
- > Jan 28th @ 12pm ET → Register here
- > Feb 5th @ 1pm ET → Register here
- > Feb 10th @ 7pm ET → Register here
- > Feb 18th @ 3pm ET → Register here
- > Feb 24th @ 10am ET → Register here
- > Mar 5th @ 12pm ET → Register here
- > Mar 11th @ 1pm ET → Register here
- > Mar 16th @ 2pm ET → Register here
- > Mar 27th @ 11am ET → Register here
- > Apr 1st @ 1pm ET → Register here
- > Apr 7th @ 8am ET → Register here
- > Apr 14th @ 2pm ET → Register here



## Sprintax Nonresident Tax Overview for OPT/CPT

In these tax webinars, OPT/CPT participants will be run through preparing for their employment from a tax perspective. Topics covered will include residency for tax purposes, tax liabilities when on OPT/CPT and pre-employment tax forms when on OPT/CPT. The Sprintax team will also provide an overview of Sprintax Forms which can be used to prepare your pre-OPT/CPT employment tax documents.

- > Dec 1st @ 1pm ET → Register here
- > Jan 8th @ 2pm ET → Register here

**Important:**  
OISS does not  
provide tax advise.  
You are welcome to use  
any tax service you  
prefer.

# Maintaining Status



While OISS is here to support you, maintaining your immigration status is ultimately your responsibility. Be sure you understand your immigration obligations.



[Basics of Maintaining F-1 Visa Status](#)  
(For students)



[Basics of Maintaining J-1 Visa Status](#)  
(For students)



[Basics of Maintaining J-1 Visa Status](#)  
(For scholars).



Need to speak with an OISS Immigration Advisor?  
Check out the [OISS People Directory](#).

# Thanks for Reading!



We hope you enjoyed this issue of the OISS Newsletter. Past newsletters can be viewed on the [OISS website](#).

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).

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

