

APRIL 2026



OISS Newsletter

Dear International Gauchos,

Hope the week is treating you well and that you're finding a moment to catch your breath between classes, labs, and research. Whether you are still navigating the MTD bus schedules as a UCSB newcomer or you have been here long enough to have a "usual" order at the Arbor, we are glad to have you as part of our global community.

We recognize that life as an international student or scholar is a constant balancing act, and we are committed to providing the resources and updates necessary to help you succeed. Below, you will find important information regarding your status, upcoming campus events, and practical tips for navigating life on the Central Coast to ensure you get the most out of your time at UCSB.

Best regards,
OISS

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Attention International Graduates

Effective June 13, 2026, the **Filing Leave of Absence** is no longer an available option for international graduate students to maintain their F-1 or J-1 immigration status. This policy change has been implemented to ensure all international students remain in compliance with federal visa regulations, which require active enrollment or specific authorized categories to maintain legal immigration status. Students who are on a Filing Leave of Absence are not enrolled and therefore are not registered students with UC Santa Barbara. In order to protect international graduate student status, we must require an official registration status to remain in the United States while completing your degree.

What this means for you:

- **Registration Requirement:** International graduate students must now be fully registered or have an alternative OISS-approved status (such as an authorized Reduced Course Load) to remain in the U.S.
- **Degree Completion:** If you are in the final stages of your degree, you must work closely with your academic department and OISS to ensure you are enrolled in the necessary units during your final quarter.
- **Visa Status:** Filing for a Leave of Absence without prior consultation with an OISS advisor may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and the loss of your legal status in the United States.
- **Continuing Students:** As a reminder if you are continuing your enrollment at UCSB from Spring to Fall quarters, any summer enrollment remains optional unless you are wishing to pursue CPT during summer quarter.

We understand this may impact your academic planning. We encourage all students who are considering graduating in Summer 2026 quarter to discuss your academic plan with your department and consult with an OISS advisor as needed.



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

Submitting Requests with OISS

Spring is a busy time of year for our campus. Here are a couple of tips for submitting requests with OISS

- Plan ahead
- Account for processing time noted on the UCSB Global e-form confirmation
- The “processing clock” begins once you have successfully submitted all required documentation
- Help us process your request as quickly as possible by waiting for a confirmation before scheduling a follow-up appointment. This allows our team to focus on completing your request within the expected timeframe

Walk-In Advising Services

OISS walk-in advising services are available for brief questions. For questions that will require more than a 10 minutes discussion, you may be asked to schedule a 30 min appointment with your assigned advisor.

Student Walk-In Advising is available Monday - Friday 10 am -12 pm & 1 -4 pm
Scholar Walk-In Advising is available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 1-4 pm

OISS is located in the Student Resource Building, Suite 3130

Find Your Immigration Advisor

Our advising teams work hard to meet the needs of our international students and scholars year around. As our staffing levels shift, your assigned advisor may also shift. We ask for your patience and understanding with such changes. You can always find your assigned advisor on our [People Directory](#) page. If you have any questions, feel free to contact oiss@sa.ucsb.edu and we'll glad help direct you.



UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of International
Students & Scholars

OISS IS HIRING

JOIN TO OUR TEAM

Apply by
April 24, 2026



Student Admin and Events Assistant

- Assist in creating marketing materials and online registration forms for in-person programs and events
- Assist with creating the OISS monthly newsletter (Canva)
- Contribute to the development of programs that build community between international and domestic students related to social, cultural, and personal matters
- Assist with the planning, coordination, and implementation of effective programs and workshops for international students
- Liaise with other student leaders and campus cultural organizations that promote internationalization, inclusion and diversity across campus
- Attend evening and weekend activities as needed during certain times of the year
- Assist the Intake Advisor/Front Desk Advisor with answering emails, phone calls and walk-ins pertaining to campus resources
- Maintain electronic files and weekly programming reports
- Serve on the Student Resource Building Governance Board on behalf of OISS

Work authorization

This job requires US work authorization. International students are eligible to apply based on on-campus work authorization.

Skills

Active Listening, Coordinating Skills, Social Media Skills (Instagram, Shoreline), Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness, Public Speaking, Writing

Hours and Compensation

Interviews will be held May 4-8, 2026, Start date will be ~Sept 21, 2026

10 hours/ week during Fall, Winter and Spring quarters

\$17.15 hourly

How to Apply

Submit cover letter and resume to OISSPrograms@sa.ucsb.edu

Be sure to include your PERM number!

UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of International
Students & Scholars

OISS Events

UC SANTA BARBARA
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English Conversation Club

English Conversation Club offers a welcoming space to practice english, exchange cultures, and build meaningful connections.



Events will be held in Room 1103 on the First Floor of the Student Resource Building from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30
			

Have questions?
Contact: oissprograms@ucsb.edu

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


Apr 2	Apr 16	May 7	May 21	June 4
				

Have questions?
Contact: oissprograms@ucsb.edu

Professional Development Resources

Interstride

Career Development



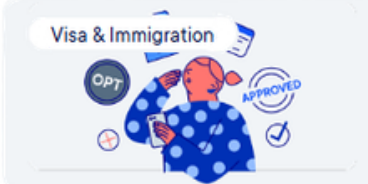
Job Search Strategy for International Students

This workshop introduces well-established processes for positioning yourself to execute a focused and successful US-based job search. Take away a four-step framework to optimize your job search game plan and effectively network to get your foot in the door.

Thu April 16th, 2026
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm (PDT)

[Register Here](#)

Visa & Immigration



U.S. Immigration & Your Family Members

The session will cover updates, issues and information for your family members during the U.S. immigration life-cycle: a. Visa stamping considerations for family members (required documents, changes to interview waivers) b. Employment authorization for spouses (EADs for various NIV statuses, changes to renewal process) c. Family-based Green Card options & recent updates (FB overview, Public Charge, etc.) d. Update on status of birthright citizenship

Mon April 27th, 2026
10:00 am - 11:00 am (PDT)

[Register Here](#)



Community Events & Announcements



APRIL TOURS






SIX FLAGS
Monday, April 13th

[More Information](#)

Dodgers Game
Wednesday, April 15th

[More Information](#)

LA City Tours
Saturday, April 18th

[More Information](#)

Sand Dunes / Solvang
Sunday, April 19th

[More Information](#)





Associated Students
**Global Gaucho
Commission**



Calling all international students!
JOIN ASSOCIATED STUDENTS 26-27

We Are Recruiting!

OPEN POSITIONS

Chair	Comms Director
Vice Chair	Policy Director
Treasurer	Design Specialist
Secretary	Project Officer

Apply now to join GGC!

Open on a rolling basis until April 17. All students welcome to apply!

For any inquiries, email
as-ggcchair@ucsb.edu



@UCSBGGC

BRAIN AWARENESS DAY

Monday April 13th, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
UCSB Corwin Pavilion

Explore the exciting world of Neuroscience!





FREE ENTRY



Join brain experts, student-led organizations, and researchers to enjoy interactive demonstrations and exhibits about the brain.

Hosted by: NeuroUCSB, Impulse, SciTrek, Psi Chi, NeuroTech, SEA, Brainiacs, and other UCSB clubs/organizations and research labs.

Open to: The UCSB community and the local Santa Barbara community – everyone is welcome!

For inquiries or questions:
ucsb.neuroscience@gmail.com




International Friendship Longtable

POSTCARD

Wanna make new international friends from the country you studied in? Come join us at our International Friendship Long Table and enjoy free food, games, and a spcae to make new friends!



Register on Shoreline

Thursday, April 14
4:00 - 5:30 pm
SRB MPR



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.

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.

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

