# IN THIS EDITION
OF THE SISS STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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### SPECIAL U.S. DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Memorial Day, SISS Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CAMPUS DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5th</td>
<td>25th Day of Instruction&lt;br&gt;Last day to opt for P/NP or S/U grading, and change units of a variable-unit course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8th</td>
<td>Instruction ends.</td>
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</table>
Employment Workshops

Would you like to gain some work experience directly related to your major in the U.S.? Will you be completing your academic program in Winter or Spring? Consider applying for OPT.

SISS requires that all international students attend an OPT Workshop prior to meeting with an advisor.

Optional Practical Training is an employment benefit of the F-1 status. It allows F-1 students to gain practical employment experience in their field of study at the appropriate degree level.

OPT can be granted for 12 months with the possible extension for an additional 24 months (with STEM major and E-Verify employer). The work authorization for OPT is the Employment Authorization Document or EAD card, issued by USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services).

If you are planning on completing your academic program in Spring 2017, and would like to apply for OPT, you must attend a workshop. This workshop will review OPT concepts and timelines and will walk you through the application process step-by-step.

Not graduating soon? If you are interested in practical experience, please attend our Curricular Practical Training (CPT) workshops.

J-1 Status? If you are interested in practical experience, please attend our Academic Training (AT) workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshops this Spring:</th>
<th>OPT for Undergraduate Students:</th>
<th>OPT for Graduate Students:</th>
<th>CPT Workshops for F-1 Students:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date (Fridays):</td>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Time:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>10:45pm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workshops will be held the UC Davis International Center 3rd Floor Conference Room.
Travel Reminder:

Summer is quickly approaching! For international students traveling outside the US during the summer break, now is a good time to plan your travel and get your papers in order.

Please be sure to get a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 if it has been more than a year since your document was last signed. Also, please check out our travel advisory for more information and tips.

ENJOY YOUR SPRING QUARTER!

Whether you are studying at UC Davis for one quarter or multiple years, we encourage you to experience the United States outside of Davis! Explore the USA Student Tour website, a sponsor of SISS Orientations, and check out the hand crafted student tours that leave from Davis!
Call for Award Nominations

Do you know any graduating international students who have made great accomplishments? Do you know a staff or faculty member who has made a positive impact with the international student community? Let’s recognize these students and campus affiliates as we celebrate the UC Davis Graduating Class of 2017.

Services for International Students and Scholars (SISS) and the Cross Cultural Center (CCC) would like to recognize graduating international students and campus affiliates by presenting them with awards for outstanding leadership, campus engagement, and community building achievements. These awards will be presented to selected graduating international students at the International Graduation Reception on June 14th. There will also be an award for a faculty or staff person for their support of the international student community.

If you would like to nominate yourself, an international friend who will graduate this school year, or a UC Davis staff or faculty member, please click below on the links to the nomination forms. You may nominate a person for multiple awards. **Nominations will close on May 24, 2017.**

**Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards**

**Outstanding Leadership Award:** https://goo.gl/forms/YQTTfyiFgYhBi1kK2

**Moira Delgado Campus Engagement Award:** https://goo.gl/forms/iaTHzExt93GCzj5n1

**Staff and Faculty Awards Community Building Award:** https://goo.gl/forms/nxHkw3OiOL9tuSzD3

Please direct any questions regarding the International Graduation Reception to sissconnect@ucdavis.edu.

We appreciate you for taking the time to nominate outstanding students and campus affiliates. We value your time and input in this process.

Best regards,

The International Graduation Reception Planning Committee
sissconnect@ucdavis.edu
Donors are central to all students’ education here at UC Davis, and it’s time to show them some love! Join us on the Quad for Aggie Thank U on May 4, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., where we’ll thank our wonderful supporters for their gifts to scholarships, research, professorships, new building projects, the arts and more. We’ll be handwriting thank-you notes, recording video messages, and sharing pizza, t-shirts, and raffle prizes!

May 4, 2017
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
West Quad

RSVP on Facebook

Free pizza and shirts!
Show Your Aggie Gratitude
#AGGIETHANKU
Whole Earth Festival began in 1969 as a small art class project (“Art Happening”) on the UC Davis Quad.

The students used art to teach visitors about the realms of activism, wellness, and environmental sustainability in an interactive and creative way.

Following the United Nations’ recognition of Earth Day in 1970, the event was renamed to “Whole Earth Festival” and has since evolved into an enormous student-run event, attracting over 30,000 visitors annually on Mother’s Day weekend.

MAY 12, 13, & 14
UC DAVIS QUAD
wef.ucdavis.edu

FAMILY FRIENDLY + ZERØ WASTE EVENT
May 1-5, 2017, The Cross Cultural Center will host various activities such as film screenings, open mics, socials, workshops, and more! Please visit the Davis APCW Facebook page for more info and updates and the event page for the full calendar.

Be sure to visit our Night Market!

**Friday, May 5th, 2017**

*5:00 PM | food, crafts, performers*
*7:00 PM | Disoriented Comedy show*

at the UC Davis International Center
(on the corner of California Ave and Russell Blvd)

Night Market is the culmination of the annual UC Davis Asian Pacific Culture Week (APCW). Feast your eyes on colorful merchandise, including art prints, body pillows, calendars and keychains! Stop by the grass area to watch amazing performances by Na Keiki 'O Hawai‘i, Davis Chinese Dance, and katgrüvs.

**Disoriented Comedy** is the first-ever nationally-touring stand-up comedy showcase featuring the fresh voices of a mostly Asian American women lineup. Since its first show in July 2012, this national network of veteran and up-and-coming comedians have performed in over seventy independently-produced comedy and storytelling shows. Night Market will feature comics Jenny Yang, D’Lo, and Atsuko Okatsuka! This event is cosponsored by the UC Davis Pride Month Committee.

**Registration is recommended, *free*** at the Eventbrite link – first 50 people receive 20 raffle tickets each to our art raffle!

For more info and updates, visit: Night Market ft Disoriented Comedy.
International Cafés are an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with international and domestic students! Help yourself to free food and drinks and participate in the themed craft or activity.

**When:** Tuesday, May 23rd

**Where:** Student Community Center, Room D

**Time:** 2 - 4 PM

We are always looking for student-led activity ideas! In previous cafés, we have had henna, origami, card making, and more. If you have a theme idea, please contact Robin Ducatillon at rducatt@ucdavis.edu.
Global Engagement Mondays (GEM) are an opportunity for American and international students and scholars to share and learn about common topics of interest to all from different cultural perspectives. American student volunteers facilitate small group conversations on topics ranging from decoding American Slang to exploring the latest fads in pop culture.

Discuss fun topics, learn about American and other cultures, discuss your own experiences in the U.S. and Davis, and meet domestic and international students and scholars! Discussions will be led by American students.

**Spring 2017 Dates and Topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Spring Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Myths, Folklore, and Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Pop Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Health and Wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>History of Home Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>No GEM. Memorial Day Holiday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>The Future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where:**
Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
UC Davis International Center

For more information, check out the [GEM page](#) on the SISS website!
The International Graduation Reception is a celebratory event to acknowledge the accomplishments of UC Davis international students and of the faculty and staff that support them in achieving their goals. This event will take place in the evening on Wednesday, June 14th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in the International Center.

The reception will include refreshments, an awards ceremony, and a program of entertainment reflecting the diverse cultural backgrounds of UC Davis international students. Graduating UC Davis international students with their family and friends and UC Davis faculty and staff are invited to attend.

We encourage students to dress in their traditional cultural attire as a way to showcase the vast diversity of students from around the world that come to study at the UC Davis campus. We look forward to seeing you, your friends, and family there!

**RSVP Required. Limited seating available.**

**Graduating Students:** Register by June 4th to receive a certificate.
Weekly study sessions for graduate students of color:

**Graduate Students of Color**

**Spring Study Sessions**

Student Community Center, Meeting Room E

In support of graduate student success, the Graduate Student of Color Mentor Program and the Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program is hosting weekly study sessions for graduate students of color.

Snacks and tea will be provided.

**Monday May 1st: 10 AM – 12 PM**

**Tuesday May 2nd: 12:30 – 2:30 PM**

**Wednesday May 3rd: 11 AM – 1 PM**

**Thursday May 4th: 10 AM – 12 PM**

Brought to you by the Cross Cultural Center, the Graduate Student of Color Mentor Program, and the Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program.
Events and Opportunities

Do you have to build your schedule around a job, sport, or demanding major? Would you rather travel during winter break?

You can spend 2-3 weeks in Italy or Nepal this winter break while earning upper-division credit through our Seminars Abroad! Come to an information session (info below) to learn more about these exciting opportunities.

Enrollment Period: May 3 – July 7, 2017. Create your Study Abroad account to indicate interest for program updates or to start your enrollment. Enrollment spots are saved on a first-completed, first-reserved basis.

Nepal—Community, Technology, and Sustainability

Dates: December 18, 2017 – January 4, 2018, Fall Quarter: Thursdays, 6:10pm-8pm
Courses: Community and Regional Development (CRD) 153A (4 units) and CRD 198 (2 units)
Info Session: Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 4–5pm, Hunt Hall, 132, Facebook Invite

Rome—Art and the City

Dates: December 20, 2017- January 3, 2018
Courses: Art History (AHI) 198 (2 units)
Info Session: Thursday, May 11, 2017, 12 – 1PM International Center, 2119, Facebook Invite

Additional Resources

Study Abroad in your Major – or apply units toward the Global and International Studies Minor!

Upcoming Study Abroad Info Sessions

Myths about Study Abroad

e-News Sign-up

Study Abroad on Vimeo (VIDEO)

Questions? Stop by the Study Abroad office in the International Center anytime M-F, 9:00-4:00pm to talk with a peer advisor/staff.
Telephone Scam Alert:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a fraud alert on April 19, 2017, to warn the public about a scam using the DHS OIG hotline telephone number. Scammers have identified themselves as “U.S. Immigration” employees and have altered their caller ID to seem like the call is coming from the DHS OIG hotline (1-800-323-8603). They then demand that the individual provide or verify personally identifiable information, often by telling individuals that they are victims of identity theft.

Read the DHS OIG fraud alert for more details.

If a Scammer Calls You

If you receive a call demanding personal information or payment, hang up immediately. If you want to verify whether a call is from USCIS, you may:

- Call our National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283 to ask if you need to do anything about your case or immigration status,
- Make an InfoPass appointment at http://infopass.uscis.gov, or
- Use myUSCIS to find up-to-date information about your application.

Remember, USCIS officials will never threaten you or ask for payment over the phone or in an email. If we need payment, we will mail a letter on official stationery requesting payment. Do not give payment over the phone to anyone who claims to be a USCIS official. In general, we encourage you to protect your personal information and not to provide details about your immigration application in any public area.

How to Report a Call from a Scammer

If you receive a scam email or phone call, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at http://1.usa.gov/1suOHSS. If you are not sure if it is a scam, forward the suspicious email to the USCIS webmaster at uscis.webmaster@uscis.dhs.gov. USCIS will review the emails received and share with law enforcement agencies as appropriate. Visit the Avoid Scams Initiative at www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams for more information on common scams and other important tips.
Best of Luck with Spring Quarter!

Read next month’s Newsletter for upcoming events, updates, and more!

Sincerely,
The Services for International Students and Scholars
Like us on Facebook for continual updates on important information and fun events!

UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars

SISS office: International Center 3rd Floor
Monday—Friday, 9am—Noon and 1pm—4pm
For appointments call: 530-752-0864 ext. 0

*SISS will be closed May 30th for Memorial Day.

SISS International Student Advisor Contact Information

Tammy Silver    tsilver@ucdavis.edu    Assistant Director
Emily Taylor    ejtaylor@ucdavis.edu    Student Advisor
Christopher Porter    cgpporter@ucdavis.edu    Student Advisor
Kathy Lighthall    klighthall@ucdavis.edu    Intake Advisor
Robb Davis    rwdavis@ucdavis.edu    Intake Advisor

Thank you for reading
If you would like more information on any of the articles, or have an upcoming event that you would like featured in our next newsletter, please contact Jeremy at jgtruong@ucdavis.edu.