International Student Newsletter

February 2016
Welcome!

◊ **SISS Important Announcements**
  - It’s TAX Season!
  - Life After UC Davis
  - Update: Requirements for OPT & STEM Extension OPT
  - Employment Workshops

◊ **Spotlight: UC Davis Wears Red Day, Feb. 5.**

◊ **Upcoming Events and Opportunities**
  - February International Café
  - Study Abroad & Internship Fair
  - Graduate Student Opportunity
  - GEM
  - Get Involved in Research
  - Cross Cultural Center Opportunities
  - Career Forum - Japanese

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<th><strong>SPECIAL U.S. DATES:</strong></th>
<th><strong>CAMPUS DATES:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>All February</td>
<td>February 1st - 19th</td>
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<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>Black Family Weeks</td>
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<td><strong>February 7th</strong></td>
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<td>Super Bowl</td>
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<td><strong>February 14th</strong></td>
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<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
<td>Study Abroad &amp; Internship Fair</td>
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<td><strong>February 15th</strong></td>
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<td>Presidents’ Day</td>
<td>Mixed Heritage Week</td>
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**SISS will be closed February 15th for the Presidents’ Day Holiday.**
**Presidents’ Day**

*From Wikipedia:* Washington's Birthday is a United States federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first President of the United States. Colloquially, it is widely known as **Presidents Day** and is often an occasion to remember all the presidents, not just George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is also in February.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Sunday, February 14** is Valentine’s Day. Show the people you care about some appreciation by buying them chocolates or a card, maybe take someone on a romantic date, or just watch movies all day like me.

**Black History Month**

February is Black History Month. Celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans to American History by enjoying one of the many special events during the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center’s **Black Family Weeks**, from **February 1st to the 12th**!

*For more information and a full schedule of events go to*

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1076623202368446/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1076623202368446/)

**Lunar New Year**

**February 9**

Happy Year of the Monkey!
SISS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Taxes

Tax season is fast approaching! Please read your e-mails regarding filing tax returns. This email will be sent to you no later than February 12th.

Visit the SISS website for General Tax Information.

Attention students and postdocs: Are you graduating this year or leaving the University and planning to apply for a job in the United States? Although you may be eligible for Optional Practical Training following F-1 status, you may also be interested in H-1B status in the future.

On Tuesday, February 2, Melissa Harms, a local immigration attorney, will speak on several issues which are of the utmost importance for anyone considering (non-UC Davis) H-1B status in the future, including:

- What are the requirements for H-1B status?
- How far in advance of the expiration of my current status should I consider H-1B sponsorship?
- What is the current situation with H-1B numbers for undergraduate and graduate students?
- What questions should I ask potential employers about their immigration policies with regard to H-1B status and employing foreign nationals?
- What happens to my status if I am laid off from my job while in H-1B status?
- How can I obtain permanent residency? How does permanent residency relate to my H-1B status?
- How do I maintain my F-1/J-1 status if I marry a US citizen and apply for permanent residency?

When: 6:00 - 7:30pm, Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Where: 106 Wellman Hall

Life After UC Davis

Please contact wryoung@ucdavis.edu with any questions. Limited seating. No registration is required.
Updates Regarding Reporting Requirements
for Students on OPT & STEM Extension:

OPT Updates (not STEM OPT):

The OPT regulation regarding 90 days of unemployment provision has been updated as a reportable item in SEVIS. Students on OPT may not accrue an aggregate of more than 90 days of unemployment under the initial 12-month period of OPT. This means that you may not accumulate more than 90 days of unemployment from the OPT authorization start date of your 12 month OPT period on the EAD card (this includes time spent unemployed between jobs).

All students on OPT/STEM must report their employer’s name, address and dates of employment. ALL students must now explain how their employment is related to the major field of study.

Reporting EXAMPLE: This employment is related to my field of study, physics. My degree makes me specifically qualified to complete my current job duties of laboratory research in optics and wave transformation. This is also related to the following classes in my major: optics and mechanics.

We have updated our online reporting! Here are the instructions:
1) Go to https://iglobal.ucdavis.edu/
2) Log on using your Kerberos login credentials
3) Click on “LOGIN” under full client Services for Students & Scholar
   If you are having problems using this form, please refresh the https://iglobal.ucdavis.edu
   (the page before you encountered the error page) or try it in a new browser.)
   If problems persist, please email SISS Data Team at JLBARNHILL@ucdavis.edu
4) Next, click on F-1 Practical Training on the left column and click on “OPT Reporting”.

Failing to report your employer’s information may result in an automatic termination of your SEVIS record by the SEVIS System.

While you are on OPT or STEM OPT, you are still considered an F-1 student and must inform SISS the following using the iglobal OPT Reporting Tool:
- Update your address changes within 10 days.
- Update changes of employment within 10 days.
- Upload a copy of your EAD card.
- Explain how your employment is related to the major field of study.

Additional information:
- Review travel advisories while on OPT: http://siss.ucdavis.edu/students/current_students/travel.html
- Paid, unpaid, or self-employment must be directly related to your major (F-1 students on STEM OPT may not be self-employed.)
- You must be able to document at least 20 hours of employment per week.
Extension Proposed Rule Update:

The final decision about the STEM Extension benefit for F-1 students has been extended until May 10th, 2016 due to the high volume of responses to the proposed rule.

What does this mean for you if you are currently on STEM OPT or if you have STEM OPT employees between now and May 10, 2016?

1. Individuals with approved STEM EAD cards at least through May 10, 2016 will have ongoing work authorization at least through that date
2. Individuals with pending STEM extensions will have ongoing work authorization at least through May 10, 2016
3. Individuals who are eligible for a STEM extension can continue to file for such work authorization at least through May 10, 2016
4. Assuming your employee falls into one of the above categories, your employee should be able to file in the upcoming H-1B lottery as a Change of Status.

What happens after May 10, 2016?

The DHS believes that it will successfully publish its final rule as it relates to STEM OPT extensions on or before May 10, 2016. If that is accomplished, the STEM OPT program should be permanently restored and a regulatory gap will be avoided.

To learn more about the court's decision regarding this extension we have also created a PDF for your review - [CLICK HERE](#).
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.

**If you are planning on completing your academic program in Winter and Spring 2016**, 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.

**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 17 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).

### Remaining Workshops this Winter

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<tr>
<th>Date (Fridays):</th>
<th>OPT for Undergraduate Students:</th>
<th>OPT for Graduate Students:</th>
<th>CPT Workshops:</th>
<th>AT Workshops:</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 12th</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td>1:00 - 2:00pm</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00pm</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22nd</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13th</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td>1:00 - 2pm</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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UC Davis Wears Red Day

Wear a UC DAVIS WEARS RED DAY T-shirt

FEB 5 | HUTCHISON IM FIELD

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR HEART HEALTH

CPR TRAINING
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MEGA HEART EXHIBIT
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

BATTLE HEART DISEASE FAIR
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
featuring group Zumba, healthy eating tips and more

BREAK THE RECORD FOR THE LARGEST HUMAN HEART FORMATION
noon

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE
at all UC Davis Stores $7 – $10
For each T-shirt sold, $2 goes to the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

VISIT womenshearthealth.ucdavis.edu
AND FOLLOW #UCDavistWearsRed

https://www.facebook.com/events/645061918969098/
It was an amazing turnout at the January Café! We had fun meeting everyone and relaxed to the great music. Come join us to see what the February Café will have in store for you!

**When:** Weds., February 17th

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

**Time:** 2 - 4 PM

**Theme:** Games

We are always looking for student-led themed craft or activity ideas! In previous years, we have had henna, origami, card making, and more. If you have a theme idea, please contact Robin Ducatillon at rducati@ucdavis.edu.

**Sponsored by:**

[UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars]

[International Cultural Center]
Events and Opportunities  Graduate Student Opportunity

Effective Communication for Career Success
For International Master’s and Ph.D. students, and Postdoctoral scholars
Preparation for and Practicing the Interview

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 4:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
114 South Hall

This is the second in a two-part workshop series offered by the UC Davis Internship & Career Center in partnership with Services for International Students and Scholars, designed for International Master's and Ph.D. students, and Postdoctoral scholars who want to advance their communication skills for job search, internship, career placement and workplace effectiveness. These sessions will help you build your confidence, refine and develop your presentation and communication skills and serve as an opportunity to practice in a safe and supportive environment. This workshop is particularly designed to help international students and postdocs new to the U.S.

Topics covered include:

- **Preparing** for “behavioral” and traditional interview questions (i.e., telling your “story”) using the STAR method
- **Interviewing** techniques
  - Pre-screening, online (skype), and phone interview basics
  - Preparing for the in-person interview
- **Follow up**
  - Sending a note of thanks


Co-sponsored by the Internship and Career Center, and Services for International Students and Scholars.

Questions? Contact Gwynn Benner (wlbenner@ucdavis.edu), Coordinator, Career Services for Master's & Ph.D. students and Postdoctoral scholars, Internship and Career Center. For other upcoming ICC workshops and events, company information sessions, and career fairs, please visit [http://icc.ucdavis.edu/mpp/calendar.htm](http://icc.ucdavis.edu/mpp/calendar.htm).
Thinking about studying or interning abroad? Now is your chance to learn about opportunities available at UC Davis!

UC Davis Study Abroad is hosting the Winter Study Abroad and Internship Fair scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
11 AM - 2:00 PM
Student Community Center, Multi-purpose Room

The Winter 2016 UC Davis Study Abroad & Internship Fair is your opportunity to:

1. Speak with UC Davis Summer and Quarter Abroad instructors and returnees
2. Learn about unique study abroad programs and international internship opportunities.
3. Attend information on UCEAP programs.
4. Learn about available scholarships and financial aid.
5. Receive on-the-spot advising on how to complete an application.
6. EAT FREE PIZZA

Workshops - Meeting Room B, SCC

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Financial Aid for Study Abroad, with Soua Lo (Financial Aid) & Rosana Avila (Programs Manager)

12 – 1 p.m. Prestigious International Scholarships, with Scott Palmer (UC Davis)

Please contact UC Davis Study Abroad at 530-297-4633 or studyabroad@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.

### Winter 2016 Dates and Topics

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Communication through Body Language &amp; Verbal Language</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Social Media, Slang, and More</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Friendship, Love, and Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Popular Culture: Music, Movies &amp; Art</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>Online Personality Quizzes</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Home Country, History, and Heritage</td>
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**Where:** **Cowell Building**  
Room 1120  
(use the door at the corner of Regan Hall Circle and California Avenue)

For more information and to see the topic of the week, check out the [GEM page](#) on the SISS website!
The Internship & Career Center and the Cross Cultural Center Present:

Career Preparation Workshops

Networking & LinkedIn
Monday, January 25th
12:10 - 1:00pm
Student Community Center Room E

Resume Writing Workshop
Tuesday, February 9th
2:10 - 3:00pm
Student Community Center Room D

Interviewing Workshop
Wednesday, February 10th
1:10 - 2:00pm
Student Community Center Room E
Events and Opportunities

CCC Opportunities

Black Family Weeks is a time to celebrate black culture and history to raise awareness of the African Diaspora’s presence on the UC Davis campus. This week long event hosts programs around topics of education, social justice, cultural celebration, health, and artistic expression. This is a valued opportunity for our community to enhance, empower, and validate our rich culture and history.

Black Family Week is a program of the Cross Cultural Center and funded by ASUCD, Office of Campus Community Relations, and the Building a More Inclusive Community Initiative. This year it will be held from February 1st-19th.

Visit: http://ccc.ucdavis.edu/africanDiaspora.html
Become involved in undergraduate research to help develop necessary skills in your field, to boost your resume, and to hone your interests in a particular field. It’s a great opportunity available to all undergraduate students at UC Davis. Come to our seminar “How to Get Involved in Research,” to learn the tools you’ll need in order to approach professors and land a position in the research environment of your choice!

**Dates and Times**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Room D, Student Community Center

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**

4:10 – 5:00 p.m.
Meeting Room D, Student Community Center

Sponsored by: Undergraduate Research Center, 2300 Student Community Center

[urc.ucdavis.edu](http://urc.ucdavis.edu)
Announcement for **Japanese-English speaking students**.

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**San Francisco Career Forum 2016 (Feb. 19 & 20)**

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Students with Japanese and English language abilities are invited to come explore the career and internship opportunities uniquely available to them and even land a job at the last two Career Forums of the academic year.

This event welcomes students of all majors. However, we do expect there to be a particularly high number of companies hiring IT/engineering students.

Therefore, we're offering even more financial support than usual to help these students attend the San Francisco Career Forum in the form of $250 in attendance bonuses and priority selection for travel scholarships.

There will also be panel discussions with experienced professionals to provide insight into bilingual careers and working in technology. The panel discussion is open to everyone.

**Details:**

- San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront
  
  [http://www.careerforum.net/event/sf/?ref=201623&lang=E](http://www.careerforum.net/event/sf/?ref=201623&lang=E)
- * $250 attendance bonus for IT/engineering students (specified majors)
- * Up to $350 travel scholarship available for qualified students
- * Panel Discussions with experienced professionals from Fujitsu Technology and Business of America, CyberZ USA, and more.
Best of Luck with Your Winter Quarter!

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

Sincerely,
Services for International Students and Scholars

Photo from the SISS Staff End-of-the-Year Celebration, December 2015.
“Like” us on Facebook for continual updates on important information and fun events!

“UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars”

And now, SISS tweets! follow us on Twitter! You can find live updates and photos at @ucdSISS_events!

SISS International Student Advisor Contact Information

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Intake Advisor
Christopher Porter  
cgpporter@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 advertised in our next newsletter, feel free to contact Jeremy at jgtruong@ucdavis.edu.