IN THIS EDITION
OF THE SISS STUDENT NEWSLETTER

◊ Welcome!
◊ Employment Workshops
◊ Spotlight: International Community Retreat!
◊ Upcoming Events and Opportunities
  • Research Seminars
  • International Flags @ Aggies’ Basketball Game
  • International Café
  • GEM
◊ General Information

SPECIAL U.S. DATES:

January 1st
  New Year’s Day

January 19th
  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

SISS will be closed January 18th for the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday.

CAMPUS DATES:

January 4th
  10th Day of Instruction
  Deadline for late fee payment, to drop certain courses, and more.

January 25th
  Spring Course Registration
  Appointment Times Available on SISWEB.
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 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).

**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.

### Workshops this Winter

<table>
<thead>
<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15th</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00pm</td>
<td>1:30 - 2:30pm</td>
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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>
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<tr>
<td>April 1st</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:00pm</td>
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<td>April 22nd</td>
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<td>11am - 12pm</td>
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<td>May 13th</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2pm</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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The UC Davis Cross Cultural Center Presents...

International Community Retreat

February 26 - 28, 2016

***Participant applications are due on January 6th, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.***


Questions? Contact Jian Di Liang
at jdliiang@ucdavis.edu

many stories one community

The International Community Retreat is a cross-cultural and empowering weekend retreat that hosts a variety of workshops, recreational and community-building activities. We also provide academic resources and peer support. Our retreat’s goal is to assist all students, especially first years and transfers, in their transition to UC Davis, and to establish connections across the campus community. The retreat will be an unique opportunity for students and scholars to network, learn, and share their knowledge and experiences. In addition to a wonderful experience, participants leave the retreat with knowledge and many new friends! We hope that you will apply to attend the retreat either as a mentor or participant. Mentor training will be provided as well.

The Cross Cultural Center is committed to providing an accessible and welcoming environment for faculty, staff, students, and guests. To request an accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Kriti Garg, at least two weeks prior to the program via email at kgarg@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-7032.
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**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Room D, Student Community Center

**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)
International Cafes 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, January 12th

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

**Time:** 2 - 4 PM

**Theme:** New Year’s

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 Athletics is inviting international students to the upcoming men’s and women’s basketball games!

In recognition of UC Davis international students, the men’s game on January 27th will have a demonstration of various international flags. Tipoff is at 7pm with doors opening at 6pm.

For all current UC Davis undergraduate and graduate students, attendance is **FREE** with valid student ID. Anyone else is more than welcome to join the celebration by purchasing a game ticket by visiting [www.ucdavisaggies.com](http://www.ucdavisaggies.com) or by calling 530-752-2471. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the night of the game.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Communication through Body Language &amp; Verbal Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Social Media, Slang, and More</td>
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<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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<tr>
<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!
Best of Luck with Your Winter Quarter!

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

Sincerely,
The 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

Tammy Silver          tsilver@ucdavis.edu          Assistant Director
Mary Clabaugh         mclabaugh@ucdavis.edu        Student Advisor
Emily Taylor          ejtaylor@ucdavis.edu          Student Advisor
Kathy Lighthall        klighthall@ucdavis.edu        Intake Advisor
Christopher Porter    cgporter@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.