International Student Newsletter

May 2016
Welcome!

Employment Workshops

Updates & Drop-in Advising

Spotlight: Award Nominations

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Whole Earth Festival
- Bridging the Gap: LGBTQIA+
- May is Bike Month
- International Café
- International Graduation Reception
- GEM

General Information

SPECIAL U.S. DATES:

May 10th
Mother’s Day

May 30th
Memorial Day

SISS will be closed May 30th for the Memorial Day Holiday.
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.

**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).

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 the next two quarters, 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 a future Academic Training (AT) workshop.

### Last Workshop of the Quarter:

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<tr>
<th><strong>OPT for Undergraduate Students:</strong></th>
<th><strong>OPT for Graduate Students:</strong></th>
<th><strong>CPT Workshops:</strong></th>
<th><strong>AT Workshops:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> Friday, May 13th</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> 3:00 - 4:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> 1:00 - 2pm</td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong> 10:30 - 11:30am</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> N/A</td>
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SISS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Processing Times**

If you have any requests and need to turn in a form for SISS to process, the processing times for the forms is now **3 weeks** from receiving a complete request for current students regardless of what it says on the form.

**Drop-in Advising**

Drop-in advising at SISS are meetings for quick issues to help students with issues approved for drop-in on a first come, first serve basis.

**When is Drop-In Available?**

- Monday afternoons from 1-3:45 PM
- Thursday afternoons from 1-3:45 PM

*Please plan on arriving no later than 3:45pm for drop-in appointments.*

**What Issues Can Be Discussed During Drop-In?**

- Adding a dependent on my I-20/DS-2019
- Changing my degree objective
- Changing my major or adding a minor
- Driver’s license
- EAP enrollment verification form
- Electronic I-94 problems
- I-515 deferred inspection
- ITIN numbers
- Normal departure after graduation
- On-campus employment
- F-1 OPT STEM extension
- Passport renewal/Lost passport
- Referrals to campus units (e.g. housing, financial aid, etc.)
- Social Security numbers
- Transferring to another school
- Transferring to UC Davis from another school
- Travel related questions
- Visa renewal

**Submitting paperwork for:**

- F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- F-1 OPT STEM Extension
- J-1 Academic Training (AT)
  Program extension
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 2016.

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 May 25th. 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 or an international friend who will graduate this school year, please click below on the *links* to the nomination forms. You may nominate a person for multiple awards. **Nominations will close on May 4th.**

**Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards**

**Outstanding Leadership Award:** [http://goo.gl/forms/9dPQwbM6zf](http://goo.gl/forms/9dPQwbM6zf)  

**Moira Delgado Campus Engagement Award:** [http://goo.gl/forms/79LZXHCaSA](http://goo.gl/forms/79LZXHCaSA)  

**Staff and Faculty Awards**

**Community Building Award:** Nomination Form Link: [http://goo.gl/forms/aFl7veyc6s](http://goo.gl/forms/aFl7veyc6s)  

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
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.
Pride Month

Bridging the Gap: International Student Services and LGBTQIA+ Services

This interactive workshop includes fun identity exploration activities and opportunities for open dialogue on identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or an ally while being connected to the international student community. Additionally, this workshop will provide resources to engage in the LGBTQIA+ community on campus and elsewhere.

Location and time: May 12th at 8PM in the University House & Annex, conference room

For more information, contact Mason Schmidt at mlschmidt@ucdavis.edu
CYCLE DE MAYO  MAY IS NATIONAL
FREE EVENT  BIKING BENEFITS  BIKE MONTH
FUN FOR ALL AGES  EVERYONE  ENJOY NEW PLACES

10 GREAT RIDES  SIGN UP TO LOG YOUR MILES AND
START IN ANY TOWN IN YOLO COUNTY  ENTER TO WIN PRIZES AT
TO LEARN MORE GO TO WWW.THEBIKECAMPAIGN.COM  WWW.MAYISBIKEMONTH.COM
OR CONTACT MARIA CONTRERAS TEBBUTT AT THE BIKE CAMPAIGN & THE BIKE GARAGE ARE 501C3
FUNMARIASBCGLOBAL.NET  CYCLE DE MAYO IS PROMOTED BY THE BIKE CAMPAIGN, CITY OF NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER
530.753.1125  WOODLAND, CITY OF DAVIS, SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND YOLO SOLANO AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROJECTS NP# 3839235
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.

**Tuesday, April 11th, 2016**

Drop in anytime. See you soon!

Café Hours:
2 – 4 p.m.
Student Community Center, Room D

**Theme:** Games

Sponsored by:

UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars

Cross Cultural Center
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, May 25th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in the ARC Ballroom.

The reception will include dinner, an awards ceremony and a program of entertainment reflecting the diverse cultural backgrounds of UC Davis international students. 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 May 18 to receive a certificate.

How to RSVP:
Reserve a ticket on Eventzilla.
Let us know that you’re attending on the Facebook event page.

Questions?
Please direct any questions regarding the International Graduation Reception to sissconnect@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.

### Remaining Spring 2016 Dates and Topics

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5, 2016</td>
<td>Childhoods</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>Heroes &amp; Role Models</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, 2016</td>
<td>Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23, 2016</td>
<td>The Future</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 Spring 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 by the 25th of the previous month.