

April , 2024



## INFORMATION ABOUT SCAMS AND FRAUD

### **Important information about scams and fraud**

Unfortunately, there are many fraudulent actors who use fear to try to scam or trick students into providing personal information, such as bank accounts, credit card numbers and SSN numbers.

These bad actors will disguise an email address, phone number, website URL or text message to convince someone that they are interacting with a trusted source.

Unfortunately, one of our students was recently scammed via a phone call from someone claiming to be from the UCR International office.

Please remember that:

- No legitimate source is going to call and demand immediate payment over the phone for anything. They are also not going to legitimately call you and threaten to deport you.
- If you receive a phone call, email message or text message like this, do not provide any personal information. Please hang up and reach out and report the incident to our office and the UCR police department at 951-827-5222 or [crimeprevention@ucr.edu](mailto:crimeprevention@ucr.edu).
- Students can choose to make their UCR public profile “private” if they choose. To do this, you can log-in to your R’Web and in the top left access the privacy settings to change your profile from being public in the UCR directory to private.

Information about common scams and fraud is below.

- [International Students and Scams](#)
- [Scams Targeting International Students](#)
- [Common Fraud Schemes from the FBI](#)
- [USCIS -Avoid Scams-Common Scams](#)
- [Email Phishing Resources from ITS](#)
- [Job Scams Resources from the Career Center](#)

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT REMINDER (FULL TIME: 12 UNITS)

### **Full-Time (12 Credit Units) | Registration Requirement Reminder (only one fully online course permitted)**

This is a reminder that international students in F-1 and J-1 status are required by the U.S. government to enroll in 12 course units (CUs) each quarter (Winter, Spring & Fall) unless it is your final, graduating quarter. Only one of these courses can be a fully online course. All other courses must be in-person. If you are in your final, graduating quarter you will need to let the ISS know by completing the [Reduced Course Load](#) request and send it to [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu).

Elective, non-required courses can count towards your 12 CU minimum requirement. It is important to also know that in order to qualify for OPT work authorization, you must have been full-time for 1 academic year (3 consecutive quarters) prior to your final, graduating quarter.

### **Undergraduate Students**

If this is your last quarter and you will be below 12 units, you must submit a [Reduced Course Load Form](#) to our office by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. This will give us time to initiate a reduced tuition fee request on your behalf in My Forms. This request will then be routed to the Registrars' office. The Registrar's office has a strict deadline for these forms and will not accept any late forms. Please review the [academic calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

### **Are you in F-2 status?**

F-2 students cannot enroll in full time units (12 units). F-2 students who are enrolled in 10 units or less, must submit a [Reduced Course Load Form](#) to our office by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. This will give us time to initiate a reduced tuition fee request on your behalf in My Forms. This request will then be routed to the Registrars' office. The Registrar's office has a

strict deadline for these forms and will not accept any late forms. Please review the [academic calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

---

## UPDATE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

### U.S. Address | Have You Moved?

The U.S. government requires that F-1 & J-1 students report any residential address change. If you've changed your residence address since last quarter it is time to update your [ISS Portal](#) with your U.S. Local Address. Please take a moment to log in, review and update your address and/or emergency contact information. You may see 'required documents' however this is only required if you are a new student starting Spring 2024 or returning from a leave of absence.

---

## INTRODUCING A NEW ADVISOR!

### Introducing Jen Gerardi

Hi all! My name is Jen and I'm excited to be joining the ISS team as a senior international student advisor. Previously, I was an international student advisor at Washington State University in eastern Washington (aka not Seattle). Even though I am new to UCR and Riverside, I'm not new to California, as I grew up not too far away in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm grateful to continue doing what I love here at UCR and look forward to getting to know all of you soon.



---

## TAX INFORMATION

### Tax Information

All students in F and J status and their dependents who were in the United States in the 2023 tax year are required to file tax forms. **Tax Deadline - April 15, 2024**  
Review the resources on our [website](#) for additional information.

---

# OTHER WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Date & Time (PST)
OPT Workshop	Tuesday, April 9th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
CPT Workshop	Tuesday, April 16th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
OPT Workshop	Thursday, April 25th, 10:30 am -12:00 pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
OPT Workshop	Friday, May 10th, 1:30 am -3:00 pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
CPT Workshop	Wednesday, May 15th, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
STEM OPT Extension Workshop	Monday, May 20th, 1:30 pm - 3:00pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>

---

# UPCOMING ISS EVENTS



## Peer Network Social: Earth Day Event

Hello Highlanders!

Join ISS for a fun event of tote bag decorating while learning about sustainability and useful resources! Light refreshments will be offered. Feel free to dress up with a splash of blue or green to celebrate the beautiful Earth 🌍

**Date:** Thursday, April 25th

**Time:** 2:30 - 4:00 PM

**Location:** HUB 269

**RSVP** [here](#)

# WISHES SURVEY

## WISHES SURVEY

Hello Highlanders!

The Well is launching **an anonymous** brief well-being Improvement Survey for Higher Education Setting (WISHES) to provide timely and actionable data to adapt and improve institutional norms, structures, and processes so all students can thrive and flourish.

Filling out the survey enters you into a raffle for On-campus Bookstore gift cards

This survey will close on April 15th, 2023.

For any questions regarding the survey, please email [thewell@ucr.eu](mailto:thewell@ucr.eu)



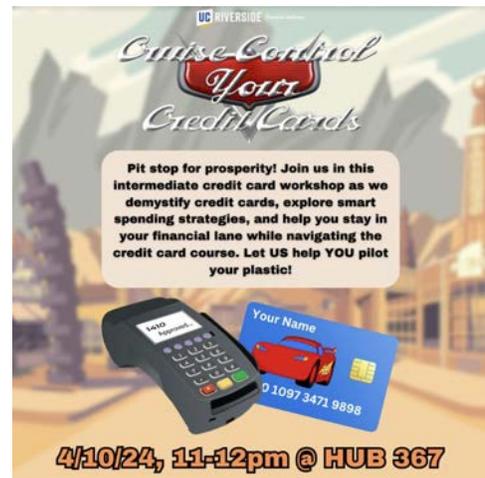
# FINANCIAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

Happy Spring Quarter! Financial Wellness Program is proud to present our workshop lineup for this quarter.

## **Cruise Control Your Credit Cards**

Wed. 4/10/24, 11-12 pm in HUB 367

Pit stop for prosperity! Join us in this intermediate credit card workshop as we demystify credit cards, explore smart spending strategies, and help you stay in your financial lane while navigating the credit card course. Let US help YOU pilot your plastic!



# ISS FORMS AND GUIDES

Did you know that you can find essential forms, guides, and information about maintaining your status, travel, and employment on our website? [international.ucr.edu/students](https://international.ucr.edu/students)

- [Need a Form?](#)
- Learn about [F and J requirements](#)
- [Travel and Dependents](#)

Please note that we do not recommend travel at this time since things are difficult to predict with changing governmental regulations and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consult with an advisor before making travel plans.

- [Employment and Taxes](#)
- 

## Contact Us

There are several ways you can reach our team. Our staff works Monday-Friday, from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (closed from 12:00 - 1:00 PM for lunch).

General Email: [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu)

General Phone: (951) 827 - 4113

**Michael** Schmelzle, Director: [michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu](mailto:michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu)

**Kelly** Eldridge Hinosawa, Associate Director: [kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu](mailto:kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu)

**Alan** Joss, Senior International Student Advisor: [alan.joss@ucr.edu](mailto:alan.joss@ucr.edu)

**Jen** Gerardi, Senior International Student Advisor: [jennifer.gerardi@ucr.edu](mailto:jennifer.gerardi@ucr.edu)

**Tiffiney** Tse, International Student Specialist: [tiffiney.tse@ucr.edu](mailto:tiffiney.tse@ucr.edu)

**Brandon** Chao, International Student Specialist: [brandon.chao@ucr.edu](mailto:brandon.chao@ucr.edu)

---

## Thank you from all of us in International Affairs!

As a reminder, the International Student News is an email for international students sent monthly. You will find important information from our office, such as:

- notices from the U.S. government
- reminders to ensure that you stay in status
- UCR campus updates and cultural event information

**Please read the newsletter carefully. If you have any questions, please email our office at [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu).**