

February 2025



International Student News

Important Updates from



International Students and Scholars



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Students,

Happy Lunar New Year! Thank you for being a part of the UCR international community.

Immigration Reminders F and J Students

U.S. Immigration Documentation Reminder

This is a reminder that international students are required by the U.S. government to carry the following documents while in the U.S. and when traveling within the U.S.

- Passport, valid at all times
- [I-94](#), obtained through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- I-20 or DS-2019, issued by UCR's International Office

Completing your Degree Requirements in Winter 2025, it's OPT Time!

If you are completing your degree program at the end of the Winter quarter, you are now eligible to apply for OPT. You can apply 90 days before your program completion date.

- [Information on OPT](#)
 - Next OPT Info Session | Friday, 7 FEB 2025 | [Register Here!](#)
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TAX SEASON STARTS

Tax season:

Tax season for Tax Year 2024 begins. This month we will offer access to Glacier Tax Prep for federal tax filing and discount codes for Sprintax for state tax filing. F and J students who were here in 2024 will be required to file tax related documents. Please check your email regularly for updates about when these programs and codes become available, and please wait until this access is released to ensure that you have the necessary documentation before filing your taxes. We strongly recommend that you attend one of our upcoming tax workshops to learn more. The upcoming workshop dates are listed later in this newsletter.

For any questions, please reach out to us at internationalstudents@ucr.edu.

CAMPUS CLOSURE

Due to the Presidents' Day Holiday, all offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025. The International Students and Scholars Office will reopen again on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

ISS FEEDBACK SURVEY

Dear Highlanders,

With this new year, we would like to gain your valuable feedback to improve ourselves and provide the best events that you would love to engage in. Hence, your feedback is significantly important for us to measure our performance throughout the year. Please give us a minute of your time and fill this survey form. [HERE!](#)

NEW LANGUAGE MODERATOR

Dear Highlanders,

We will be having a new language moderator available to meet with students for English and French! The moderator will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00am-11:30am.

Please contact lauren.bracamontes@ucr.edu if you are interested in participating in this language circle.

WINTER WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Date & Time (PST)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Fri. February 7, 10:00 - 11:30 am (Click to Register)
Tax Workshop	Fri. February 14, 10:00 - 11:30 am (Click to Register)
Tax Workshop	Mon. March 3, 2:00 - 3:30 pm (Click to Register)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Thurs. March 6, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Click to Register)
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)	Wed. March 12, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Click to Register)
Tax Workshop	Thurs. April 3, 3:00 - 4:30 pm (Click to Register)

UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

Lunar New Year: Peer Network Social (PNS)

Stop by HUB355 on February 7th from 2:30-4:30pm for some delicious Panda Express, lucky origami star-making, and red envelope decorating! 🍜✨ Don't miss out on the fun and good fortune! 🧧 [RSVP Here.](#)

Date: February, 7th

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: HUB 355

Please contact lauren.bracamontes@ucr.edu with any questions.



Hearts 'N Crafts: Peer Network Social (PNS)

♥ Spread the love this Valentine's Day! Join us for Hearts 'N Crafts Night on February 14 from 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM in HUB269 to make heartfelt cards for your loved ones and enjoy some sweet Valentine's treats! 🍬✨ See you there! 💌🍓 [RSVP Here.](#)

Date: February 14th

Time: 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: HUB260



Well-Being Walk-In Wednesdays

Need some extra support? The Well has partnered up with the International Students and Affairs office to host a drop-in hour catered to you all. The Well will be providing food and stress relieving activities along with the International Students and Affairs staff members.



Date: February 26th
Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Location: The Well

CAPS Drop-In Support for Grad Students

CAPS will be holding a weekly drop-in space for all graduate students on Fridays from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, starting on February 14th. These drop-in sessions will continue through week 10.

The drop-in sessions will take place in the CAPS group room, and we will be offering group support and self-care activities. Refreshments will be provided each week, and meals will be offered twice this quarter.



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

- [Need a Form?](#)
- Learn about [F and J requirements](#)
- [Travel and Dependents](#)
- [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
General Phone: 951-827-4113

Michael Schmelzle, Director: michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu

Kelly Eldridge Hinosawa, Associate Director: kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu

Alan Joss, Senior International Student Advisor: alan.joss@ucr.edu

Jen Gerardi, Senior International Student Advisor: jennifer.gerardi@ucr.edu

Brandon Chao, International Student Specialist: brandon.chao@ucr.edu

Lauren Bracamontes, Program Coordinator: lbracamo@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.