

July 2025

Monthly Newsletter



Happy June!

Thank you so much for Jun Wang for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on May 21st!

And thank you so much for all who attended.

Ahead of our Meet & Greet on June 25th, learn about our speaker, Dr. Manas Kinra, on page 2!



Upcoming ISS Events

Scholar Coffee Hours

What: Meet to chat with other scholars – bring your own beverage and make some friends!

When: Fridays 11AM - Noon

Where: Outside of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf



July Meet & Greet

Where: Student Services Building 2F Suite 2201

When: July 30th, Noon – 1pm

Please come meet our new scholars! As always, we will provide lunch!

Check this out!

Please fill out the feedback form on the ISS activities:
<https://forms.gle/H2ciS3T4sqbHqrTK6>



This Month's Spotlight

Manas Kinra

Postdoctoral Scholar in Molecular Cell & Systems Biology



We asked some questions to Dr. Manas Kinra who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on June 25th! Follow his story below.

1. Please tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR).

I grew up in Lucknow, India, and completed my higher education at Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MCOPS), Manipal.

There, I earned a Bachelor's in Pharmaceutical Sciences, followed by both a Master's and a PhD in Pharmacology.

2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

I'm a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Molecular, Cell, and Systems Biology, where I work under Dr. Edward Zagha in the Zagha Lab.

We collaborate with Dr. Huinan Liu's group in Materials Science and Engineering. My research focuses on designing and testing novel intra-arterial drug delivery devices for targeted, focal therapy.

3. How did you get into your field?

My passion for biology began at home. My mother is a professor, and as children, we'd run makeshift experiments in our kitchen.

That early curiosity blossomed during my third year of undergraduate studies, when I first encountered pharmacology. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to dedicate my career to understanding how drugs interact with living systems.

4. What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

I love exploring the UCR campus. Every stroll reveals new flora, curious wildlife, and hidden green spaces that make the campus full of life and positivity. It's those quiet moments of discovery between experiments that I treasure most.

5. Do you have any advice for incoming international scholars?

UCR and Riverside offer far more than you might expect. Take advantage of every resource, whether to advance your research or to enrich your personal growth.

Challenges will arise, but you're not alone: reach out to peers, mentors, and campus services. Trust your instincts and follow your passions, and you'll find your time here both rewarding and transformative.

The June Meet & Greet will be at **Student Services Building Suite 2201!**



Cultural Conversation Class!

If you or your spouse is interested in participating in the Cultural Conversation Class to help improve your English and to meet new friends. Thank you to those who came to our last class and helped us make it successful!

Where: HUB 367

When: ON BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Our instructor is Candace Jorgensen, who has experience living in other cultures, which adds depth to her teaching the Cultural Conversation Class for international scholars and their families. She also holds a master's degree in education with emphasis on teaching English to speakers of other languages.



What to do This Month in Riverside



Fourth of July Fireworks Show

When: July 4th, 9pm

Where: The event will happen at two separate locations:

- La Sierra Park: 5215 La Sierra Ave.
- Mt Rubidoux: Mt Rubidoux Dr. At 9th St.

Each location will host a variety of entertainment, food vendors, booths and more. Participants are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs.



UCR Botanic Gardens Gardening for Butterflies

When: July 6th, 9am-12pm

Where: UCR Botanic Gardens, Butterfly Garden

Join UC Master Gardener Docents in the Botanic Gardens' Butterfly Garden to learn about Gardening for Butterflies including the life cycle of butterflies and which plants to choose to attract butterflies.

[Link to the website!](#)



Movies in the Park: The Wild Robot

Bring the family and enjoy a movie under the stars! Join us at dusk for a fun, free outdoor screening on a cool summer evening. Pack a blanket, some snacks, and relax as we enjoy a classic film together in the great outdoors.

When: July 18th, 7pm

Where: Bryant Park – 7590 Philbin Ave

[Link to the website!](#)



Inland Empire International Food & Festival 2025

Join us for the Inland Empire's largest celebration of international cuisine, culture, and community—right in the heart of Downtown Riverside! It's a weekend packed with flavor, entertainment, and fun for all ages.

When: July 26, noon

Where: 453 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside

[Link to the website!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

I need to leave the U.S. and ISS has not signed my DS-2019 document! Is that OK?

Please know that you do not need a travel signature on your DS-2019 document to either remain in or to depart the U.S. You do need a valid travel signature to return to the U.S. in J-1 status. A valid travel signature must be no more than twelve months old on the date that you return to the U.S.

If you are departing the U.S. soon and know that your travel signature will expire by the time you expect to return to the U.S., please contact our international scholar's office at internationalscholars@ucr.edu. If your DS-2019 is going to expire soon, please consult with your department to extend your stay and then contact our scholar advisor.

What will happen if I end my UCR appointment early and/or depart the United States and do not intend to return to the U.S. for my J program?

If you are a scholar and you depart the U.S. early (more than 15 days before your DS-2019 end date) and you do not intend to return to the U.S. for the remainder of your J program, please discuss this with your faculty sponsor. Please also email our advisors so that they can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.