November 6, 2026



NOVEMBER IS HERE!

Dear Students,

We hope all of you have settled in well in the new academic year. We look forward to meeting all of you through our events this quarter. We will have a range of cultural and social events along with workshops for F-1 and J-1 students. We advise you to keep checking your emails for updates on any of these or follow us @ucr.iss on Instagram to stay updated!

Sincerely,

The ISS Team

OFFICE CLOSURES

We will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11** for Veterans Day and **Thursday-Friday, November 26-27** for Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Day. We hope you all have an amazing break and please send any important emails before or after these days.

TRAVEL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Important Reminders

- **Travel.** ***If you have upcoming travel plans, we recommend that you carefully evaluate travel risks and reconsider any travel outside of the United States.*** *Changes to U.S. government policies and regulations are unpredictable and could impact return travel to the United States.*

  Review our travel information on the ISS website:
  hhttps://international.ucr.edu/students/travel#travel_tips

  - Remember that there are travel bans in place for certain countries.
  - Remember that the winter break is not long and there will not be a lot of time to apply for and receive a visa stamp to re-enter the United States.
  - Students with questions should email internationalstudents@ucr.edu to make an appointment to meet with an International Student Advisor.

- **Address Updates.** If you have moved to a new address for this quarter or academic year, please do not forget to update it via our ISSM portal and in R'Web. F and J students are required to update their address within 10 days of every move.

Important Updates

- DHS published a proposed rule that increases fees for Initial OPT ($70,000) and STEM OPT ($30,000) recommendations. Read the proposed rule. A **30-day comment period is open** and will end on November 9, 2026**.** Officials will review comments prior to making a final decision about the proposed rule and fees.
- The implementation of the final rule to end D/S, replace duration of status (D/S), and modify certain regulations pertaining to F-1 and J-1 students and scholars is still pending litigation. This means that the final rule is not in effect at this time. We will reach out if that changes.
- On October 5, 2026, a lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, challenging the new CPT restrictions issued by SEVP in August, 2026. The National Association of International Educators (NAFSA) issued a press release about the lawsuit. A hearing about the matter has been scheduled to take place on November 6, 2026 at 3:00PM Eastern Time.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Date & Time (PST)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Thu. November 12, 1:30 pm - 3:00pm (Click to Register)
STEM OPT Extension	Mon. November 16, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm (Click to Register)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Wed. December 2, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Click to Register)

EVENTS

Matcha and Movies



Join us to make matcha and watch a winter movie to de-stress for finals!
Supplies will be first come first serve so make sure to RSVP here quickly!

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2026
Time: 4:30-7:00PM
Location: HUB 379

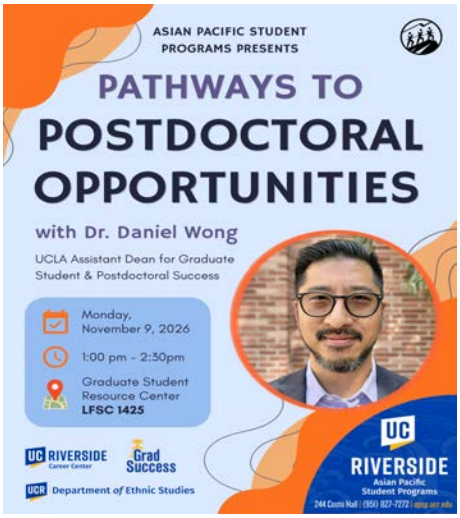
Boston Career Forum 2026



Explore exciting career and internship opportunities at the Boston Career Forum 2026, featuring employers such as Amazon Japan, Apple, Bain & Company, and more! Students with Japanese and English language abilities can network with recruiters, participate in on-site interviews, and potentially receive job offers. The forum is free for everyone.

Dates: Friday-Sunday, November 20-22, 2026
Venue: Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA
Register Here

Pathways to Postdoctoral Opportunities



Join this seminar if you are interested in pursuing postdoctoral opportunities. It will be facilitated by Dr. Daniel Wong, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Success at UCLA.

Date: Monday, November 9, 2026
Time: 1:00–2:30PM
Location: Graduate Student Resource Center, LFSC 1425

Toastmasters International



Enhance your communication, boost your self-confidence and develop your leadership skills! Speakeasy 8704 invites you to weekly Toastmaster meetings. Learn how Toastmasters can help you communicate effectively and become a stronger leader.

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 12:10-1:00PM
Location: Skye Hall, Surge Hall 381E or online via Zoom!

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 8:00AM - 5:00PM (closed from 12:00-1:00PM 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

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

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

Flora Chen, International Student Advisor: flora.chen@ucr.edu

Ainos Ting, International Student Advisor: ainos.ting@ucr.edu

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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.