

October 8, 2024



International Student News

Important Updates from

UCR

International Students
and Scholars

IMMIGRATION UPDATES & REMINDERS

Happy Week 2!

Take the time now to [update your address](#) with our office in the [ISSM Portal](#), [enroll in full-time units](#), and apply for a [program extension](#) if needed. If you plan on traveling outside of the United States, remember to review our [travel information](#), and get an updated [travel signature](#) on your I-20/DS-2019 if needed.

If you will be [taking time off or withdrawing from UCR](#), notify an international student advisor in advance as this can impact your ability to maintain status and remain in the United States.

If you will be working on campus in the Fall and need an [SSN](#), take the time now to complete the required [SSN letter](#). Thinking about an internship this Fall quarter? Please review our [employment information](#) for [F-1](#) and [J-1 students](#). As an F-1 or J-1 student, please remember that you cannot work off campus without authorization.

If you are [completing your program](#) this Fall, and plan to apply for Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), a period of immigration authorized employment in your major field of study, [now is the time to apply](#). Please [notify](#) us if you are ending your program earlier than the current end date on your current I-20/DS-2019. If you plan to transfer to another university in the U.S. or to the UCR Extension Center for the Fall quarter, please request a [transfer out](#).

New International Students & Mandatory U.S. Immigration Check-In

After F-1 & J-1 students arrive at UCR, you ***MUST*** complete the U.S. government's mandatory immigration registration. You have received instructions at your UCR email to complete this process by using access to your [ISSM Portal Account](#). Failure to complete will result in termination of your F-1 or J-1 SEVIS record and will require you to depart the U.S.

F-1 and J-1 Students

- Did your address recently change? If so, please update your address by accessing the [ISSM Portal](#). You should also update your address in your R'Web account. All F and J students are required to report any change in their physical address within 10 days. Additionally, please make sure to add an EMERGENCY CONTACT if you do not already have one or more listed.
- F-1 students can only take one online course to count towards the 12 units. All other courses counting towards the 12 unit full time requirement need to be in-person.
- J-1 students can only take one online course per quarter.
- All F-1 and J-1 students must enroll in Full-Time units (12 units) each quarter per U.S. immigration regulations. Please ensure that you are registered Full-Time for the Fall quarter and every quarter going forward. Students can drop below 12 units in very limited circumstances with **advanced approval from an international student advisor in the ISS office**.
- Please remember that your **academic advisor** or **graduate student services advisor** in your department is not your international student advisor. Academic Advisors cannot provide permission to drop below 12 units for immigration purposes.
- Plan ahead and speak with an ISS international student advisor before dropping below 12 units or before [taking a break from school](#) during the Fall, Winter, or Spring quarters.
- Enrolling in less than 12 units or taking a break from courses during the academic year without advanced permission may impact your ability to maintain status and remain in the United States.
- F-1 and J-1 students in their last quarter can drop below 12 units if they have less than 12 units left to complete their degree.
- F-2 students cannot be enrolled Full-Time per U.S. immigration regulations. F-2 students must be enrolled in less than 12 units.

- Graduate and Undergraduate students in their final quarter, must submit a [Reduced Courseload Form](#) to our office.

Undergraduate Students Only (F-1 and J-1)

If Fall 2024 will be your last quarter and you will be below 12 units, or if you are an F-2 student and will be taking 10 units or less, you must submit a reduced course load form to our office by Wednesday, October 10 at 5pm.. This will give us time to initiate a reduced tuition request, as it must be routed to the registrar's office by noon on [October 11, 2024](#).

OPT AND CPT WORKSHOPS

OPT Workshops

In this workshop, an International Student Advisor will go over the process to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), a form of work authorization for F-1 international students that will be graduating soon or have recently graduated. We will discuss the eligibility requirements, application procedures, and FAQs that encompass the OPT process.



Date: October 11th 2024
Time: 10:30 am-12:00 pm PST
Duration: Lasts approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Includes Q and A

Zoom Link: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/94514793121?pwd=nclw1q2mu2uYcpiEfq32UeigWQlyFd.1>

CPT Workshops

In this workshop, an International Student Advisor will explain employment options available to F-1 students currently in their program. This workshop will go over on-campus employment and off-campus employment authorization also known as Curricular Practical Training (CPT). We will talk



about the CPT application process and deadline dates.

Date: Oct 15th 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM PST

Duration: Lasts approximately 1 hour. Includes Q and A

Zoom Link: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/97643237284?pwd=5DxxkPQlnTvXwpizRKQaL10CpouQoN.1>

SHS VACCINE PROMOTION

Wild to Mild - Vaccination Promotion

Student Health staff will be on-site to schedule immunization appointments, well health exams, and give info on how to self-schedule these appointments for students with USHIP and GSHIP insurance. The Well will also be giving away free sexual health supplies. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how to use the on-campus health services! Learn more about Student Health Services [here](#).

Date: October 21, 2024 through October 25, 2024

Location: Student Health & Counseling Center (388 W Linden St, Riverside, CA 92521)

Fall 2024 Language Circles

Learn or practice a variety of languages through informal conversations led by our Language Circle Moderators. All moderators are volunteers and native speakers of the specific language.

Official Language Circle Schedule for Fall 2024:

- All language circles will begin on October 11th and 12th at their respective times. See below for the full schedule (week 4 - week 9).
- If you have any questions, contact: lbracamo@ucr.edu

Wednesdays in HUB 268

11:30-12:30pm	Spanish
2:30pm-3:30 pm	English, Marathi, Odia, Hindi



Peer Network Social: Diwali

Happy Diwali Highlanders!

We are excited for you to join us for our annual Diwali Event hosted by ISS!

You will have a chance to paint your own clay diya, dance to hot hits, and enjoy delicious cultural food. Traditional Indian attire is encouraged!

Diya decoration will be **limited to the first 70 students.**

RSVP [HERE](#) to secure your spot!

Event Date: October 25th

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: HUB 269



SAPPHO'S CIRCLE

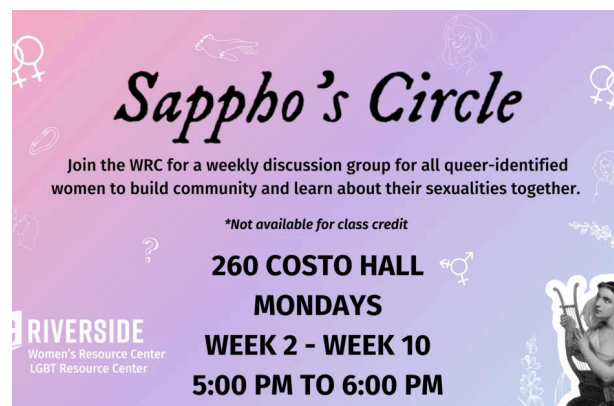
WRC Sappho's Circle

Join the Women's Resource Center for a weekly discussion group for all queer women and femme-identifying students to build community, discuss shared experiences and challenges, and to celebrate their identities together 🧡💜💖

Dates: Mondays starting Week 2

Where: Women's Resource Center (Costo Hall 260)

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM



WRC is in collaboration with LGBTRC for this event. NOT available for class credit.

Topics:

Week 2: Gay Awakenings & First Crushes
Week 3: Body Image
Week 4: Queer Women in Media
Week 5: Gender Roles
Week 6: De-Stress Craft Night
Week 7: NO CIRCLE DUE TO HOLIDAY
Week 8: Asexuality & Aromanticism
Week 9: Family Ties
Week 10: Sapphic Movie Night

GRADSUCCESS COFFEE SOCIAL

GradSuccess Fall 2024 Coffee Social



The GSRC hosts Graduate Student Coffee Socials every week on Wednesdays for graduate students and postdocs across campus. Each week the Coffee Social is sponsored by a campus partner who shares about the resources they offer the graduate student community.

Date: Wednesday (Oct 2nd to December 4th) *No social on Oct 23rd*

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Spieth Courtyard

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

Lauren Bracamontes Program Coordinator: lbracamo@ucr.edu

Brandon Chao, International Student Specialist: 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.