

April 2025



# International Student News

Important Updates from

**UCR**

International Students  
and Scholars



## WELCOME BACK!

Dear Students,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a smooth start to your spring quarter. Please make sure you are checking your UCR email address regularly for important announcements and information from our office. We send important updates about travel and other matters to your UCR email address.

### **Immigration Reminders F and J Students**

#### **Maintaining your F-1 and J-1 Status**

Review the regulations you have agreed to follow while in the United States.

- Re-read the regulatory fine print on your I-20 (page 3) and DS-2019 (page 2).
- Review the information on our [website](#) about maintaining your status as an F or J student inside the United States. Visit [Study in the States \(F-1\)](#) and [Bridge USA \(J-1\)](#) for additional information.
- Consult with an International Student Advisor in the ISS office **before** travelling outside of the United States.
- [Know what to expect when traveling into the U.S. Ports of Entry.](#)

- <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-when-encountering-law-enforcement-airports-and-other-ports-entry-us>

### **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

## **FULL TIME (12 COURSE UNITS) REQUIRED REMINDER**

### Full-Time (12 Credit Units) | Registration Requirement Reminder

This is a reminder that international students 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. 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). If you are an undergraduate student, please submit the Reduced Course Load Form to our office no later than Wednesday, April 9th to allow our office enough time to submit a myForms.

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.

## **ISS FEEDBACK SURVEY**

Dear Highlanders,

As we move forward 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!](#)

## 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 within 10 days of moving. If you've changed your residence address, it is time to update your [ISS Portal](#) with your U.S. Local Address. Please take a moment to log in

- Click on 'Personal Information'
- Click on 'U.S. Address (Update within 10 Days of Any Changes)'
  - Make any updates to your Local Address

Click 'Save' at the bottom of the page.

## TAX INFORMATION

All students in F and J status and their dependents who were in the United States in the 2024 tax year are required to file tax forms. **Important: Tax Deadline - April 15, 2025**

For more information on filing California state taxes, you can also view the following recorded webinars presented by the California Franchise Tax Board.

- **Webinar 1:** [CA State Filing Basics](#)
- **Webinar 2:** [Completing Form 540NR](#)

Intro to Non-Resident Taxes Presentation: [Link](#)

# UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

## Global Scholars Field Trip

Join the ISS and the Global Scholars LLC to explore Balboa Park, its museums, art, architecture & culture!

For any questions and accommodations email [dcruz092@ucr.edu](mailto:dcruz092@ucr.edu).

**Date:** Sunday, April 13th, 2025

**Time:** 8:30am-5:30pm

**LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED**



## Brave Spaces: Save the Date

Join the ISS and The Health, Well-being and Safety's Mental Health initiatives to practice and learn different decompression/rejuvenation techniques and methods of addressing bias and bigotry on and off campus. Please note that the speaker portion will be in HUB 302 from 11am-12:30pm and rejuvenation stations will be from 12:30-2pm in the 2nd floor HUB rooms.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 6th, 2025

**Time:** 11am-2:30pm

**Location:** HUB 302

Mark your calendars — more details to come soon!



# CAMPUS INFORMATION

## The Grad Fair 2025

CALLING ALL SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES! The Grad Fair will return to the UCR Bookstore. Join the UCR Alumni Association and various commencement vendors to purchase your regalia and prepare for graduation.



- **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, April 17, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## UCR School of Medicine Open House

The UC Riverside School of Medicine will host their annual open house at the School of Medicine Education Building II, Education Building I, and the Center for Simulated Patient Care at the Orbach Library. RSVP [HERE!](#)



**Date:** Saturday, April 19th, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

## Stories We Tell

The Stories We Tell, an award-winning testimonial writing workshop for survivors of gender-based violence, is coming to UC Riverside! Join us for a two-day workshop to explore literature, engage in creative writing exercises, and share your work in



expert-led sessions. Open to students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Apply by **April 8th, 2025**.

**Date:** April 26th and April 27th, 2025

Details and application: [tinyurl.com/TSWTatUCR](https://tinyurl.com/TSWTatUCR). For questions or accommodations, contact [janet@storyandwitness.org](mailto:janet@storyandwitness.org) or [prevention@ucr.edu](mailto:prevention@ucr.edu).

## R’Pantry Spring Quarter Hours

**R’Pantry** provides emergency non-perishable food, personal hygiene, household care, and childcare items to both undergraduate and graduate students experiencing food insecurity.

Hours from Week 2 to Week 10:

Monday: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (walk-in only)

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (walk-in only)

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM ([Appointments only](#))

Friday: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM ([Appointments only](#))

For more details please visit the [basic needs website](#) or @ucrbasicneeds.



# WORKSHOPS

## OPT Workshop

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. [RSVP here](#).

### Dates & Times (PST):

- April 8, 2025 from 1:30pm-3:00pm
- April 24, 2025 from 10:30am-12:00pm



## CPT Workshop

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. [RSVP here.](#)



### Dates & Times (PST):

- April 15, 2025 from 2:00pm-3:00pm

## 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](http://international.ucr.edu/students)

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

## INTRODUCING A NEW ADVISOR!

Introducing our new International Student Specialist, James Copeland

Hello! I'm James. I recently joined as an International Student Specialist, and I am excited to be part of the team. I look forward to getting to know you more, so don't hesitate to come and chat about anything!



## 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)

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

**James** Copeland, International Student Specialist: [james.copeland@ucr.edu](mailto:james.copeland@ucr.edu)

**Lauren** Bracamontes, Program Coordinator: [lbracamo@ucr.edu](mailto: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](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu).**