

# The Monthly Newsletter

## Happy New Years

January 2026

International Scholars

### 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

#### November Meet & Greet

Where: HUB 265

When: November 19th, Noon – 1pm

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



Thank you so much to Dr. Thomas Eulgem for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on December 17th!

We appreciate everyone who made time out of their day to come to the December Meet & Greet!

Ahead of our Meet & Greet on January 28th, learn a little bit about our speakers and their journey on page 2!

Find out about seasonal events happening all around Riverside.

# Heads Up!



An important update from the ISS Office:

**The ISS Office currently advises scholars who are already at UCR to avoid international travel unless it is absolutely necessary.**

**H-1B visa holders seeking a new visa are currently subject to increased social media vetting, which may result in significant delays in visa processing.**

# This Month's Spotlight

## Professor Wei Guo School of Public Policy

**This month's speaker Professor Wei Guo introduces her story below. Get to know her before the International Scholars Meet & Greet on January 28!**



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

I was born and raised in China. I obtained my undergraduate degree in Mathematics and a master's degree in Economics in Beijing. I then moved to California to pursue a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC, Berkeley. After completing my PhD, I joined a research institution based in Milan, Italy, where I worked on European Union projects for two years and traveled around many European and African countries. In September 2025, I joined the School of Public Policy at UCR.

### **2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.**

I am an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy at UCR. Our school brings together brilliant scholars from many disciplines, and my work focuses on economic and environmental policy. My time is split primarily between teaching and research. I teach courses in microeconomic theory and applications, environmental policy and law, and public policy and GIS. My research centers on natural disaster management, particularly on wildfires, hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events.

**Professor Wei Guo**  
**School of Public Policy**

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### **3. How did you get into your field?**

I first became interested in environmental economics during college, when I took a course that examined how extreme weather and pollution affect physical health and mental well-being. At the time, my city was experiencing severe air pollution and extreme cold, and I was personally feeling those effects. That experience made me realize how closely academic research connects to people's everyday lives. From that point on, my interest in environmental economics and policy continued to grow, ultimately leading me to pursue a PhD in the field.

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

I am continually impressed by how much UCR cares about students and junior scholars. As a faculty member, I see how strongly students are supported, through fellowships, internships, summer programs, research opportunities, and many initiatives offered throughout the year. There is also a strong sense of community, helped along by everything from frequent events to free food. The student gym is the best I have seen in any university. From my first day, I was told that teaching and mentoring students, both inside and outside the classroom, are top priorities here. As a junior faculty member, I also feel deeply supported by my school, the International Affairs office, and the university as a whole. Meeting and speaking with the Chancellor during new faculty orientation made me feel especially welcomed.

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

When I first came to the US, I was shy and lacked confidence. Cultural and language differences made me hesitant to speak up or ask for help. Looking back, I realize that most people I met were kind, patient, and eager to support me. When I did express my needs, others were more than willing to help. My advice to new international scholars is to be brave and not be afraid to ask questions, speak up, and seek support. Many people at UCR are here specifically to help you navigate cultural differences and transition smoothly, and they truly want to see you succeed.

# Cultural Conversation Class!

If you or your spouse is interested, please participate in the Cultural Conversation Class to help improve your English and to meet new friends. Thank you to the regular attendees for helping us make CCC successful!

**Where: Student Services Building 2nd Floor, Conference Room**  
**NEW TIME**  
**Every Tuesday, 1-2PM**

## Get to know our new instructor Sandra Ingram

Sandra Ingram is a Riverside native whose interests include cross-cultural communication, visiting national parks, and theater arts. She received her B.A. in English Literature with a Minor in History from Newbold College in England, and then, after eight years of teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) in Japan, she returned to England to get an M.A. in Theatre/Applied Drama at Royal Holloway, University of London where she focused on Disability Theatre and Interfaith Engagement. Now Sandra is back living in Riverside with her family, and currently, she teaches ESL part-time at UCR's Extension Program.



## What to do this month in Riverside

### UCR Orchestra

For just 10 dollars a person, enjoy a relaxing night watching our very own Orchestra here at UCR.

**When: Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 8 PM.**

**Where: University Theatre on the UC Riverside Campus**

### UC Riverside Men's Basketball Vs UC Santa Barbara

Cheer on UC Riverside as they take on division rivals Santa Barbara in a fight for a spot in March Madness.

**When: Thursday February 12, 2026 7 PM.**

**Where: UC Riverside Student Recreation Center**

## 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](mailto: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.