

January 16, 2026

# International Student News

Important Updates from



International Students  
and Scholars

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Students,

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Winter 2026 quarter at UCR! Thank you for being a part of the UCR international community.

### Immigration Reminders for F and J students



#### **Did your address recently change?**

Update your new address and/or phone number with our office by updating your ISSM Portal and in R'web. Instructions on how to update your portal can be found on our [website](#).

**Please note: All F and J students are required to report any change in their physical address within 10 days.**

**Example of Address Format when updating  
(U.S. physical address)**

Name: Your name  
Address Line 1: 900 University Avenue, Apt. 2  
Address Line 2: (Name of Residence Hall, if any)  
City: Riverside  
State: CA  
Zip Code: 92521

Remember, do not include any dashes/hyphens. Street address and apartment number should be on Address Line 1.



### **Are you registered full time?**

All **F-1 and J-1 students** must enroll in full-time units (12 units or more) each quarter per federal regulations. Please ensure that you are registered full-time for the Winter quarter.

#### **Notes to keep in mind:**

- **Dropping below 12 units** - Students can drop below 12 units in very limited circumstances with advanced approval from an international student advisor in the ISS office.
- **Online course** - F and J students can only take one online course to count towards their full-time enrollment of 12 units. J students can only take one online course per quarter.
- **Academic advisor vs international student advisor?** - Please remember that academic advisors/graduate student services advisors are not your international student advisor. Academic advisors and graduate student services advisors cannot provide F and J students with permission to drop below 12 units.
- **Taking a break or cancelling enrollment** - If you have decided to take a quarter off or cancel your enrollment for any reason, it is your responsibility to directly notify an international student advisor in the ISS office. 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.

**Reminder:** 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-2 students** cannot enroll in full-time units. F-2 students must enroll in less than 12 units.
- **Final quarter - F-1 and J-1 Graduate and Undergraduate students** requiring less than 12 units for their final quarter must submit a [Reduced Course Load Form](#) to our office.



### **Thinking about off-campus work?**

**F-1 students:** Thinking of doing a summer internship and want to learn more about CPT? Graduating this quarter and want to work after your program using OPT? Learn more by attending one of our workshops! The schedule is further below in the newsletter, and you can learn more at:

<https://international.ucr.edu/students/employment-and-taxes>

## **TAX SEASON**

Tax season for Tax Year 2025 starts soon. In February, we will offer access to Glacier Tax Prep for federal tax filing and discount codes for Sprintax for state tax filing. F and J students who were here in 2025 will be required to file tax-related documents. Please check your email regularly for



updates about when these programs and codes become available, and please wait until this access is released to ensure that you have the necessary documentation before filing your taxes. We strongly recommend that you attend one of our upcoming tax workshops to learn more. The upcoming workshop dates are listed later in this newsletter.

For any questions, please reach out to us at [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu).

## WINTER WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Date & Time (PST)
STEM OPT	January 21, 3:30 - 5:00 pm <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)	January 28, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	February 11, 10:00 - 11:30 am <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Tax Workshop	February 13, 10:00 - 11:30 am <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Tax Workshop	March 2, 2:00 - 3:30 pm <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	March 9, 4:00 - 5:30 pm <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>
Tax Workshop	April 2, 3:00 - 4:30 pm <a href="#">(Click to Register)</a>

# UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

## Tote-ally Lit!: Peer Network Social (PNS)

We're excited to invite you to our **Tote Bag Painting Event**, a creative and relaxing experience designed to support mental well-being and self-expression.

This hands-on, collaborative art session offers a welcoming space to unwind, explore your creativity, and connect with peers in a stress-free environment.

Whether you're an experienced artist or just looking to try something new, this event is all about enjoying the process and expressing yourself freely.

Come paint, relax, and socialize while creating something uniquely yours. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing a colorful, meaningful experience together!

[RSVP here.](#)

**Date:** January, 29th

**Time and Location:** To be informed later



## Lunar New Year: Peer Network Social (PNS)

Join us as we welcome the **Lunar New Year** with a joyful celebration filled with creativity, culture, and community!

This special event invites students to take part in hands-on activities such as **folding origami stars** and creating **DIY decorative lamps**, symbolizing hope, prosperity, and new beginnings for the year ahead. These activities offer a relaxing and meaningful way to celebrate tradition while expressing creativity.



Alongside crafting, participants can enjoy **delicious food**, connect with friends, and immerse themselves in a warm, festive atmosphere that celebrates togetherness and cultural appreciation.

Come celebrate the Lunar New Year with us. Create, reflect, and share in the joy of a fresh start surrounded by light, art, and good company. 🎉✨

[RSVP Here!](#)

**Date: February, 18th**

**Time: 12:30 - 2:30 PM**

**Location: HUB 355**

## EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS

**Interested in working in Japan or with Japanese companies in the U.S.?**

Join us for an in-person info session with **Career Tasu (formerly DISCO)** on **Wednesday, February 12, from 2–4 PM at the UCR Career Center**. Career Tasu hosts Japanese career forums and hiring events across the U.S. and is visiting SoCal ahead of their Spring LA Career Fair. This session is ideal for students with **Japanese–English bilingual skills** who are exploring global career opportunities.

**Date: February, 12th**

**Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Location: Career Center, UCR**



## 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](#)

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### 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)

**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)

**Ainos** Ting, International Student Advisor: [ainos.ting@ucr.edu](mailto:ainos.ting@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).**