

October 7, 2025

International Student News

Important Updates from



International Students
and Scholars

WELCOME TO FALL 2025!!

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!

We extend you all a very warm welcome and hope you have an amazing year ahead!

Sincerely,

The ISS Team.

IMMIGRATION UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Important Reminders

- **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.
- **Full Time Course Load.** If you have not yet registered for the Fall quarter, please remember that you need to be enrolled in full time units (12 units) per your F-1/J-1 status.
- **Online Classes.** F-1 students: only one online course can count towards your full time enrollment requirement of 12 units. J-1 students: you can only take one online course.
- If you are an Undergraduate student, this is your last quarter, and you require less than 12 units to complete your academic program, you must submit a [Reduced Course Load Form](#) to our office by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025. This will give us time to initiate a reduced tuition fee request on your behalf in My Forms.
- F-2 students cannot be enrolled in a full course load per regulations and therefore need to be enrolled in under 12 units.

Important Updates

- **The proposed rule to replace duration of status** and change some of the regulations related to F -1 students and J-1 students and scholars is still a proposed rule. Proposed rules do not become final until after comments on the

rule are reviewed and a final version of the rule is submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and then published in the federal register. You can read about and review updates on this proposed rule at the following link: <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/dhs-proposal-replace-duration-stat-us>

- **On September 6, the Department of State updated its [instructions for all nonimmigrant visa applicants scheduling visa interview appointments](#)** indicating that applicants should schedule their visa appointment in their home country of residence.
- **On September 19 the federal administration issued a [proclamation](#)** that seeks to restrict the entry of H-1B specialty occupation workers into the U.S. unless employers pay a \$100,000 fee per petition, with limited national-interest exemptions. On September 20, USCIS issued a guidance [memorandum](#) regarding the proclamation, indicating that the proclamation applies to H-1B employment-based petitions filed after 12:01 AM ET on September 21, 2025.
- **On September 24, DHS published a [proposed rule](#)** to change the H1-B cap-subject lottery process to a weighted selection process. You can read about the proposed rules at the following link <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/uscis-proposal-weighted-selection-h-1b-cap-subject-registrants-and>
- **On October 1, a [federal government shutdown](#) took effect.** Except for the Department of Labor, government agencies involved in visa/immigration processes will likely continue operating as they are fee based.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Date & Time (PST)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Wed. October 8, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Click to Register)
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)	Fri. October 17, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Click to Register)
Optional Practical Training (OPT)	Thu. November 13, 1:30 - 3:00 pm (Click to Register)
STEM OPT	Mon. November 17, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Click to Register)

EVENTS

Diwali Celebration 2025:

Like every year, ISS is back with the celebration of Diwali, the festival of lights widely celebrated in India. The festival marks the win of good over evil in Indian culture. This year we have wind chimes and Diya painting along with lots of traditional Indian delicacies for everyone. We will also have



dance and music at the end. So be prepared to groove on some music!

This event is free and does not require any entry charges. [Click here](#) to register. We have limited spots only.

Date: October 23rd, Thursday

Time: 4:15pm to 6pm

Venue: MPR 1, Student Success Centre

NORRI Dance workshop:

NORRI (놀이: Play) is choreographer DaEun Jung's bold blend of classical Korean dance, pansori (Korean folk opera), electronic beats, and numeric chance sequences. Dancers of mixed backgrounds groove through hypnotic rhythms and playful patterns—inviting audiences into a one-of-a-kind cultural and kinetic experience.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before!”

For more information on ticket prices please check out

[this website!](#)



Date: November 7th and 8th, Friday and Saturday

Time: 8:00 pm

Venue: University Theatre

Downtown Riverside Farmers Market:

The farmers market provides a unique opportunity to shop for fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, hummus, aged gouda cheese by Winchester Cheese Co., fresh baked bread from Old Town Baking Co. and other specialty food items.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Venue: On Main Street between 5th and 6th Streets



First Sundays:

First Sundays is a series of free programs featuring activities for all-ages at various downtown Riverside locations. Every first Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Riverside Art Museum (Julia Morgan Building) and The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture are free and open to the public from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. No tickets are necessary



Date: First Sundays of the month

Time: Varies based on Location

Venue: Varies based on location.

Please check this [website](#) for further details.

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

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

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

Lauren Bracamontes, Program Coordinator: ibracamo@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.