



WEEKLY UPDATE – Apr. 4

Our office wants to make sure that your educational journey in the U.S. is safe and healthy, allowing you the space to learn and grow. That's why this week we're focusing on some important safety reminders for international students. As always, please **reach out to our office** if you have any questions or concerns.

Safety Reminders

Tips for recognizing fraud and scams

International students and visitors can be targets of crimes because they are less familiar with the area. These incidents are random, and with some knowledge and awareness, can often be avoided. A scam is when a person or persons try to get you to give money under false pretenses (a lie). It can also be called fraud. The most common scams include someone claiming to be from:

- A U.S. law enforcement agency (police, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, etc.)
- The IRS (U.S. tax department)
- A company offering a job
- A person offering an apartment or housing
- Someone on social media who you do not know (including WeChat, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)

If you ever have questions or concerns about communication you receive, note the caller's name and contact details, then reach out to ISSS by phone or **email**. We can assist students in identifying potential scams and responding to any legitimate communication from a U.S. government official. **Learn more about safety and scams on the ISSS website »**

Tips for emergency response

The safety of all students attending the University of San Francisco is a top priority. During an emergency, it is necessary for students to have a basic understanding of their personal responsibilities and the University's emergency response procedures. Make sure the International Student and Scholar Services office has your emergency contact information. Also, update your contact information in MyUSF so you can receive messages from the USF Emergency Response system.

In the event of an emergency, please follow the below guidelines:

- Be aware of emergency exits.
- Keep calm and do not run or panic.
- Evacuation is not always the safest course of action. If directed to evacuate, take your belongings that you can carry easily and proceed safely to the nearest evacuation route.
- Find a safe place to wait. Faculty and staff will need to be able to account for your whereabouts.

For more information visit **USF Public Safety's Disaster Preparedness web page »**



Cherry Blossom Festival

The 55th Annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival is returning to an in-person setting this year! The largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West Coast, it serves to cultivate the continued alliance between Japan and the United States by showcasing the vibrant colors and grace of the Japanese culture and the rich heritage and diversity of the Japanese American community. The festival will take place from **April 9–10 and April 16–17** in Japantown Peace Plaza. It is free and open to the public. **Learn more »**



Queerness in East Asian Pop Culture

The Cultural Centers is hosting a new event titled, Queerness in East Asian Pop Culture. Attendees will explore questions including, "does queer representation exist in movies and TV shows from East Asia?" and "how has pop culture affected the general view of the LGBTQ+ communities in these countries?" Join to find out more about how queerness shows up in East Asian pop culture. The event will take place on **Wednesday, April 6 from 2:30–3:30 p.m.** in the University Center Room 411/412. **Learn more and register »**

ISSS OFFICE RESOURCES

Requesting a Document from ISSS?

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we request **ten business days** to process requests. Make sure you plan accordingly so you have enough time to receive your document before you need it. **You can submit requests online.**

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the **ISSS website** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 15-minute increments.

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
International Student and Scholar Services

(415) 422-2654
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