



WEEKLY UPDATE – May 15

Congratulations to all 2023 graduates!

ISSS would like to share stories and advice from your peers who have gone above and beyond to advocate, support, and create community for international students. In gratitude and appreciation, we have bestowed each student a stole to commemorate their tenacity and efforts.

As always, if you have questions related to immigration, you can [email ISSS](#) or [make a Zoom appointment with your ISSS adviser](#). Please note that this will be our last newsletter until fall 2023. Our office is so proud of each and every one of you! We wish you all the very best! We're excited to see what next year's graduates achieve.

Graduating Student Spotlights



Maria Autrey

Degree Level: Graduate
Program: International and Multicultural Education – Human Rights Education

"My most memorable experience at USF was being able to travel for education through immersions! I got to engage in communities and social justice topics in a way that the classroom could never achieve. USF's commitment to international education, and building a strong global solidarity network made it possible for me to spend time learning with refugees in Rome, Indigenous communities in Colombia, and

migrants in transit in Mexico. The humanity of those encounters accompanied by the academic rigor that the faculty provided will stay in my heart for a long long time! My

advice for future students is to use the resources available at USF and lean into a vibrant and supportive community for international students as well as other affinity groups."

Xinyuan Gong

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Accounting and Finance

"In April 2020, our classes moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was sudden and people were panicking, so many students decided to return to their home countries. During these trying times, I was entrusted by the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco to distribute 200 masks, disinfectants, and medicine to Chinese students on behalf of the USF-Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA). My advice is to embrace cultural differences and be open to new experiences. Engage with the local community and make connections with fellow students from diverse backgrounds. Take advantage of the resources and support services offered by your university to navigate any challenges you may face. Remember, this journey is an opportunity for personal growth and learning, so make the most of it!"



Concesse Nyirazikunze

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Architecture

"My most memorable experience at USF is hard to describe in one word or one single experience. I look back to the time when I first started here as a first-year student and am just amazed by how much I have evolved and grown on all levels. I remember being scared and anxious about not being able to fit in and find my

own path but I can surely say that my time here at USF has definitely changed me, my perception of life, and my mindset. It has provided me with confidence and a sense of belonging."

Anson Tan

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Finance & Business Analytic

"Honestly, can I say that I have had a memorable experience at USF? Looking back, the past few years have been such a flash. Graduating in three years, adding on two different majors, working to help better the international student experience, working two to three different jobs, and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. Sure, there were moments that I jumped for joy, like when I found out my major is now considered STEM, or when we included Culturescape and people came up after the event to talk about how much they enjoyed it. If I had any advice for future students, it would be to try and make the most of your college experience, but also try and have fun."



Prairwa Kalayanamit

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Entrepreneurship & Innovation

"It's hard to pinpoint one memorable experience, but what I have enjoyed the most about being a student at USF is getting to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds as me. Having attended an international school my entire life, I have always valued diversity and find it extremely important to connect with and learn from those who are different. Through the process of getting

to know people from different backgrounds, I also always see how similar we are in certain ways. I have enjoyed collaborating with others and being shown various perspectives that I may not have seen or thought of if I hadn't met the students and faculty members that I have met here at USF. My advice for future students is to try new things and push yourself outside of your comfort zone. This is the best time to make mistakes, find out what you like, or even what you don't like!"

Saachi Priyam

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Business Analytics & Marketing

"My most memorable experiences and moments are the friends I've made these past four years. I feel very lucky to have found friends who I can call my family, share countless picnics in Golden Gate Park with, and can count on to always have my back! My advice for all international students is to be proactive! Our campus has a lot of resources such as Career Services to review your resume, the Writing Center for help proofreading your papers, and ISSS."



Angelica Gloria

Degree Level: Graduate
Program: International and Development Economics

"My most memorable moment was the 49ers game with the "Outdoor Adventures" students and the Giants' game on "USF night" at Oracle Park. My advice for future international students: The possibilities are endless when you network properly and when you absorb all the available information about your journey as an international

student (aka the ISSS website)."

Chi Nam Tran

Degree Level: Undergraduate
Program: Finance & Business Analytic

"My most memorable experience in USF has to be when I busted my hips with GO Team to a Doja Cat song on stage during the intermission of for Orientation Week. My advice for students would be: Don't dwell on the past with regrets; instead, view everything as a valuable lesson. The key is to learn and grow from these experiences. Mistakes are an integral part of your journey, so there's no need to feel discouraged. Remember, this is your story."



Stay Connected and Join ISAN



International Student and Alumni Network (ISAN) promotes the exchange of ideas and celebrates the achievements of USF international students and alumni. We invite students and alumni everywhere to come together and use this group to connect with old friends, network, and share your favorite USF memories and experiences living, working, and navigating immigration in the U.S.

[Join here »](#)

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. All ISSS requests should be submitted through the [MyISSS student portal](#) (select the home icon, site home, and then requests on the left-hand menu). You can view our [MyISSS Student Handbook](#) for assistance with your submission.

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

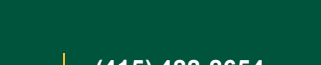
Appointments can be made online. Please visit the [ISSS website](#) to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 15-minute increments.


Drop-in Hours

Have a question? Stop by our drop-in hours on UC 5th Floor! We have drop-in hours every Tuesday from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **We will not have drop-in hours until Fall 2023.**

Connect with ISSS through Instagram »

Join the conversation [#USFCA](#)



 **UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO**
International Student and Scholar Services

(415) 422-2654
[USFCA.EDU](#)
[DIRECTIONS](#)
[CONTACT US](#)

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE