



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

May 2021

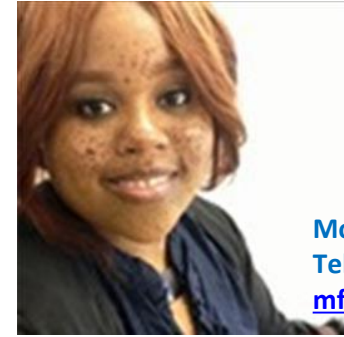


## Designated School Officials - DSOs

International Student Advisors  
Immigration related matters



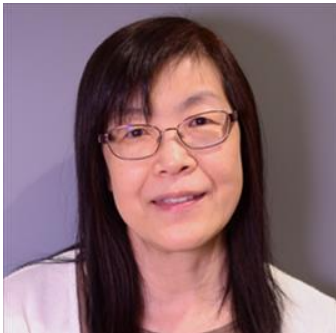
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## International Student at TCSP

Anureet Gill – Chicago Campus: 2020  
Global Impact Scholarship Recipient

Traveling to the U.S. for Fall 2020 Semester

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION & REMINDERS

*As an international student, you have the responsibility of acclimating to a new culture and maintaining your international student status. In order to support you, International Programs and Services (IPS) provides you with a newsletter that includes timely announcements. Each month, the newsletter will include relevant information including a calendar with important events, dates, and reminders. Please contact us with questions!*



# TCSPP Resumes In-Person Instruction in Fall 2021!

**There are some government restrictions and guidelines during this special time. Please review the information thoroughly and take an action accordingly. Information below is evolving and guidance can change at any time. At this time this information is what we have to date. Should it change, we will work with you to address changes.**



When In-Person Instruction is resumed, you are required to report to your classes as prior to the Pandemic. Each campus might have minor course schedule adjustment per local government guidelines. Please follow the instruction from your campus leadership closely.

All regular policies and regulations for F1/J1 status are effective. Due to the evolving situation and unpredictability of the pandemic and related guidelines, we still recommend that you defer your travel plan. If you must travel, please review the following information thoroughly and notify your DSO right away.

For those of you who have returned home and plan to travel back in Fall 2021, please work closely with your DSO to activate your SEVIS record and consult with U.S. embassy and Consulate Office about visa renewal if needed.

# OPT Application Goes Online!

## Learn About the USCIS Online Account



[www.uscis.gov/file-online](http://www.uscis.gov/file-online)

- Filing tips and videos
- Helpful questions & answers
- Resources for attorneys and representatives
- Password resets and how to get technical support



Now you can file your OPT Application Online!

If you are applying for the following two type of OPT, you can now file online:

- (c)(3)(A) Student Pre-Completion OPT
- (c)(3)(B) Student Post-Completion OPT

You will be able to receive the Case Receipt No. immediately after submission and track your case progress online. Online application will avoid missing documents and wrong payment amount that might cause rejection.

You are required to [create an account](#) with USCIS prior to applying OPT online. Your DSO will go through the process with you. The paperwork required for Online Application is the same and currently the adjudication time is the same as file in paper when the goal is to reduce the time eventually.

## Summer 2021 Course and SEVIS Registration

You should be registered for your courses for Summer 2021 at this time. Since we are continuing to offer all courses online, you will be in compliance as long as you enroll full time in Summer 2021. If you are not registered, please do so right away! The last day of Add/Drop for Summer 2021 is May 16, 2021. Your DSO cannot register you with SEVIS to keep your record Active until you are registered for courses at TCSPP. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your [DSO](#) or your Student Support Counselor.

## OPT Application

If you are planning to graduate in Summer, it is time to work with your Department and DSO to prepare your OPT application. OPT processing time with USCIS can range from three to five months if not longer. Please see the required document checklist on our [website](#) and join the monthly OPT Workshop the second Tuesday every month. See calendar below at the end of the newsletter.

## Summer 2021 Remote Operation

By now you should have received the COVID-19 School Operation update from your campus leadership regarding Summer 2021 semester. When the leadership is assessing all situations and consult with different levels of government agencies and COVID-19 evolvement, TCSPP is going to continue offering courses remotely for our on-ground students through Summer 2021 semester when certain classes might have in-person sessions. It will continue with Live videoconferencing – Synchronous (real-time) model.

## Celebrate Asian, Asian American & Asian Pacific Islander Heritage (Asian & AAPI) Month

### From Bystander to Upstander



You must have heard about the horrific March 16 killings in Atlanta – 8 people died and 6 of them were Asian descent. President Biden encouraged us to stand out and speak out on anti-Asian American racism and violence, “because our silence is complicity.”

In her message to our community, Dr. Nealon asked the community to “honor the victims by standing in solidarity and working to create change to end the violence.”

Our fight for justice is not only for Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, but also for international students from Asia and every one of you who is part of our community. Hate against some of us harm all of us. Here is a list of resources if you need any assistance:

[Counseling Services](#)

Legal Support through [Student Solutions](#)

[Your Student Support Counselor](#)

[Community Partnerships](#) – Chicago and Southern California

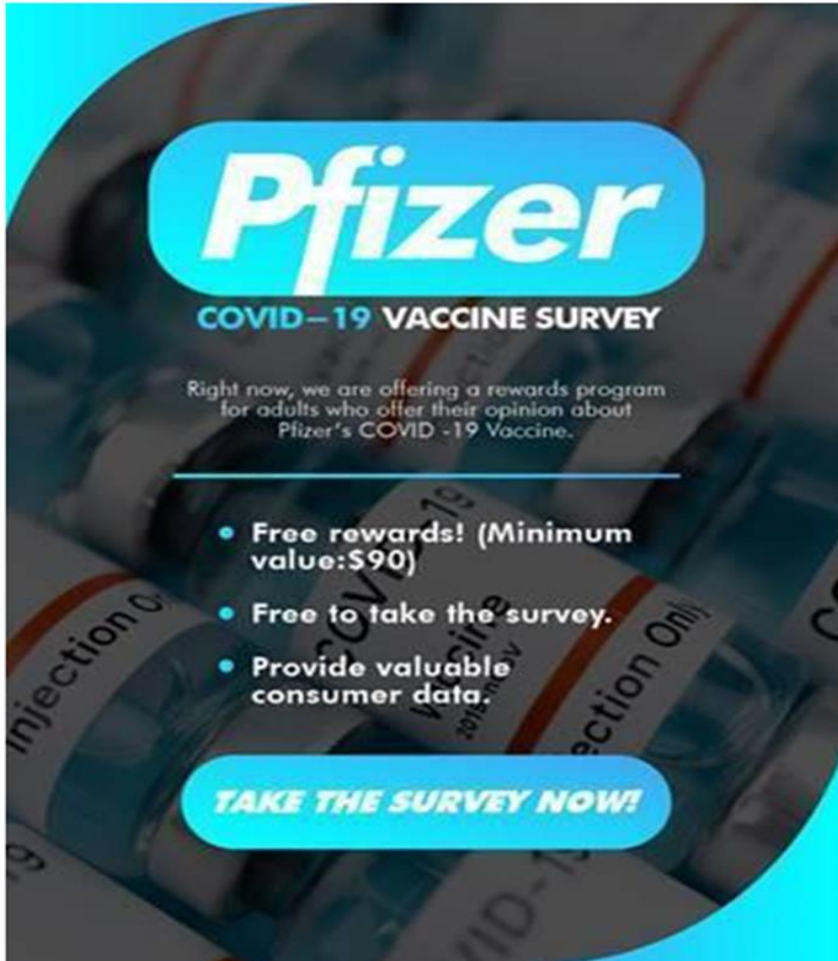
[Your DSO](#)

[International Programs & Services](#)

Dr. Michael Kocet has sent this to CMHC/CES students, but it helps us all. If you are interested, please join the free hour-long bystander intervention trainings: <https://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/what-we-do/bystander-intervention-trainings/>

Look out for more events in May and continuous efforts!

## Online vaccine scams: Homeland Security Investigations, INTERPOL issue public warning



*Be vigilant, be skeptical, be safe*

In the midst of on-going efforts to vaccinate the U.S. population against COVID-19, reports are surfacing about a scam targeting vulnerable consumers with promises of gifts and cash for taking a fraudulent post-vaccination survey. The reality is that these fraudulent surveys are used to unlawfully capture consumers' personal information and potential steal money from consumers.

To report suspected illicit criminal activity or fraudulent schemes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, email [Covid19Fraud@dhs.gov](mailto:Covid19Fraud@dhs.gov).





**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT!**

## Update: 2020 International Student Tax

### 2020 Federal Tax filing deadline has been extended until May 17, 2021!

Extension doesn't apply to State Tax and each state is different. Please check your state's update with your DSO. We still have quota left for the free filing [Code](#) for first 50 students to file Federal Tax (extra for State).

**And Sprintax has launched for Federal E-Filing!** To find out more about E-Filing, Sprintax has prepared [this overview](#) for those who are eligible under the IRS rules and those that are not.

Three more webinars left prior to the Federal filing deadline:

- Wednesday, May 5, 2021 2:00 PM EDT – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:00 PM EDT – [Register here](#)
- Friday, May 14, 2021 10:00 AM EDT – [Register here](#)



## Celebrate Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage



Chuti Tiu

### International Programs & Services sponsors an interview with Chuti Tiu by Dr. Patricia Perez

This interview with Chuti Tiu will highlight comments and reflections regarding the lived experiences of Asian American women, bystander vs ally/advocate/activist issues, cultural expectations, and how we support Asian and AAPI communities.

**Chuti Tiu:** Asian-American, Actress, Writer, and Producer

**Dr. Patricia Perez:** Associate Professor at International Psychology of Online Campus at TCSP



Dr. Patricia Perez

**10 am PDT / 12 pm CDT / 1 pm EDT**

**Friday, May 14, 2021**

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

## Cultural Heritage Short Story Contest

[Submit your story here](#)

Do you have a story you would like to share about your cultural heritage? If so, submit it for our Cultural Heritage Short Story Contest using one of the prompts below. Submissions will be compiled into a story book that will be shared with all TCSP students who will be invited to vote on their favorite stories.

**Deadline:** Friday, May 14, 2021

**Length of your story:** Up to 500 words or one page of standard paper size (8.5x11)

**Story prompts:** Tell us a story

1. About your cultural heritage and the impact it has on your identity; or
2. If your cultural identity has ever made you feel like “the other” and what you did to work through that; or
3. About the cultural community you have cultivated and how it supports you

**Judging criteria:**

1. How well the story answers the chosen prompt
2. How the story evokes emotion with readers
3. Major takeaways from the story

Participants with the most votes will have the opportunity to win Amazon gift cards in the following amounts:

- 1st place: \$100
- 2nd place: \$50
- 3rd through 10th place: \$25 each

Let's come together to better understand each other and our unique identities and heritages!



## Graduate Assistants in the Office of International Programs & Services

### Graduate Assistants in the Office of International Programs & Services

Thank you to our IPS Graduate Assistants, **Selina Rager and Darshita Shah**, for their service to our department and TCSP. Selina is graduating at the end of Spring 2021, and we wish her all the best at her Optional Practical Training (OPT). Darshita will continue her student employee position within her academic department. We wish her successful at her new endeavor. Thank you all for your diligent work over the past years to support our international initiatives, students, and scholars.

Welcome to **Christine Rosas**, our new IPS Graduate Assistant at Anaheim Campus. Christine, we are excited to have you on board to provide support to our students and scholars! Thank you to all students who expressed interest in working with IPS.

BAHAMAS, THE	BANGLADESH	BERMUDA	CANADA	CHINA
COLOMBIA	FRANCE	GERMANY	GHANA	HONDURAS
HONG KONG	HUNGARY	INDIA	INDONESIA	IRAN
JAMAICA	JAPAN	JORDAN	KENYA	LEBANON
LITHUANIA	MACAU	MALAYSIA	MOROCCO	NIGERIA
NORWAY	PAKISTAN	PHILIPPINES	RWANDA	SERBIA
SIERRA LEONE	SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTH KOREA	SPAIN	TAIWAN
THAILAND	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNISIA	TURKEY	UKRAINE
VIETNAM			ZIMBABWE	

Spring 2021 - About 100 international students from 42 countries

## Community Partnerships Recognition

### Congratulations!

**Preetika Kumar:**

Homework Help Room

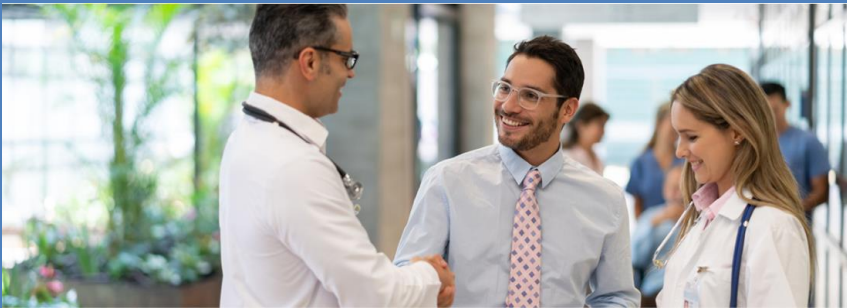
**Yu Tuo “Peter” Liao:**

Erie Neighborhood House TEAM Program

**Wanqing “Wendy” Wu:**

Coalition for Immigration Mental Health

Community Partnerships has recognized Preetika, Peter and Wendy for this month’s Community Partnerships Outstanding Student Award. Thank you very much for your engagement in the community!



## GoinGlobal Webinars

One webinar is still available if you have missed the earlier one. [GoinGlobal](#) provides career guides both in the U.S. and worldwide. Students and professionals nationwide participated in their first webinar earlier feel that it is an eye-opening experience. There are so much assistance and resources out there that was unknown to many. The webinar provided important strategies and tactics that will help you achieve your career objectives, especially in a market transformed by the pandemic. GoinGlobal also offers a network of many employers in different countries and in the U.S. and introduces those who offer a H-1B sponsorship.

**11:00 am PDT / 1:00 pm CDT / 2:00 pm EDT**  
**THURSDAY, 5/6/21 [REGISTER HERE](#)**

The webinar is offered nationwide and could be filled quickly. Please register as soon as you can if you are interested.



# OFFICE HOURS AND WORKSHOPS

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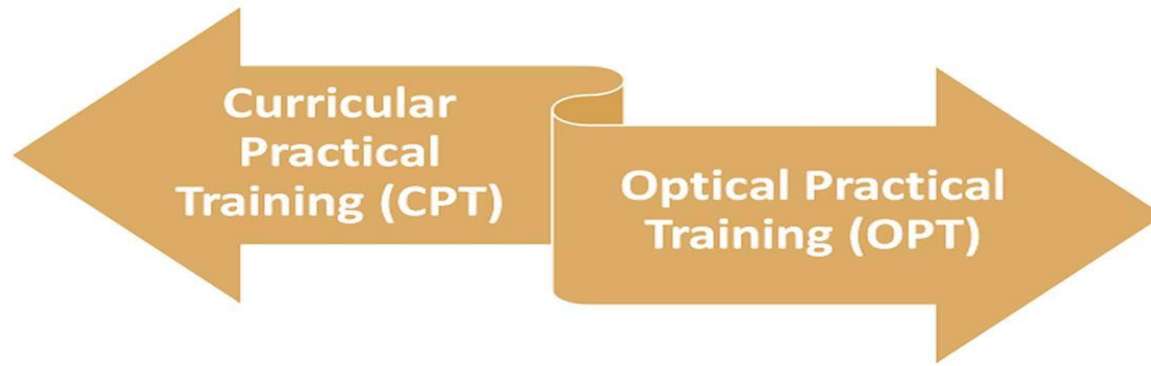


# Have Questions for the PDSO?

## PDSO's Virtual Office Hours

<u>Every Thursday</u>	Pacific Time	Central Time	Eastern Time
	3 pm – 4 pm	5 pm – 6 pm	6 pm – 7 pm
Zoom Link	<a href="#">Click Link</a>		
Dial In	+1 312 626 6799		
Meeting ID	932 5368 7709		





## Employment Workshops for F-1 Students

[CPT workshops](#) and [OPT workshops](#) are offered every month. You can access via Zoom as shown here. These workshops will help you prepare for all employment opportunities under CPT and OPT such as practicum, internship, volunteer work, and employment after graduation.

Please join us first Tuesday every month for CPT workshop and Second Tuesday for the OPT workshop.

Workshop	CPT – Curricular Practical Training		
<u>First Tuesday of Each Month</u>	L.A., Irvine, SD	Chicago, Dallas	DC
	12 pm – 1 pm	2 pm – 3 pm	3 pm – 4 pm
Zoom Link	<a href="#">Click Link</a>		
Dial In	+1 301 715 8592		
Meeting ID / Password	949 769 4199 / 7697784		

Workshop	OPT – Optional Practical Training		
<u>Second Tuesday of Each Month</u>	L.A., Irvine, SD	Chicago, Dallas	DC
	10 am – 11 am	12 pm – 1 pm	1 pm – 2 pm
Zoom Link	<a href="#">Click Link</a>		
Dial In	+1 301 715 8592		
Meeting ID / Password	949 769 4199 / 7697784		



# May 2021 CALENDAR

# May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4 Q&As for FA21 CPT Workshop	5	6 PDSO Office Hour	7	8
9	10 First Day of SU 2021	11 OPT Workshop	12 Q&As for FA21	13 PDSO Office Hour	14 Interview with Chuti Tiu: Coming together to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month	15
16 Last Day of Add/Drop of SU21	17 <b>Federal Tax Filing &amp; Payment Due</b>	18	19	20 PDSO Office Hour	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 PDSO Office Hour	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day – School Holiday	<p>There are still two Q&amp;A sessions left in April at 11:30 am Central Time for both April 26 and April 28.</p> <p><a href="#">Register for April 26<sup>th</sup></a>      <a href="#">Register for April 28<sup>th</sup></a></p>				

# ***GRADUATE assistants***

MEET OUR WONDERFUL GRADUATE ASSISTANT

*Lulu-Lucy Kavishe*



**Lulu-Lucy Kavishe**

Email: [lkavishe-se@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:lkavishe-se@thechicagoschool.edu)

MEET OUR WONDERFUL GRADUATE ASSISTANT

*Isha Mahajan*



**Isha Mahajan**

Email: [imahajan-se@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:imahajan-se@thechicagoschool.edu)

MEET OUR WONDERFUL GRADUATE ASSISTANT

*Christine Rosas*



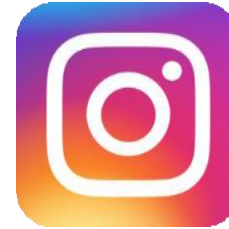
**Christine Rosas**

Email: [crosas1@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:crosas1@thechicagoschool.edu)



**Just a  
reminder...**

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Instagram**



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