



CCIS NOTES

May/June 2026

CCIS volunteers continue to serve international graduate students, visiting scholars and their families at Stanford University. Read about some of our programs and events!



"Notes at the Top"

Jeff Greenwald - President of CCIS

Stressed Out? Try being a foreign student!

1. You must apply for your VISA in your home country and have an interview there to see if you qualify.
2. And the length of your VISA may not exceed 4 years, unless, blah blah blah.....

Wait a minute...I have a few questions.....what if I am married? And what if I am from one of the 19 countries that are on the list of excluded countries.....such as Iran or Venezuela or Haiti or Sudan,- can I enter?

3. You must apply for campus housing at Stanford before June 30, 2026 for the Fall quarter on campus.
4. You must apply for a California Driving License within 30 days of arrival in California.
5. You also must notify US Homeland Security of your new residence address every time you move.

Just a second, how can I commit to campus housing when I am not even sure that my VISA will be approved?

6. You must have a social security number or a special government ID number in order to open a bank account in the US
7. You must carry a minimum of 14 quarter credits or you will be considered a part - time student and Stanford will notify the US State dept of your partial status.

Can I travel outside the US? What about work?

8. If you travel outside the US, you will need a signed travel authorization by an authorized Bechtel authority.
9. You may not work in the US without a work permit, a green card or authorization from the US Dept of State.

10. You must apply for your Stanford Health Care online within the first 10 days of your arrival in the US.

11. You must attend the Bechtel "Legal" class between September 3-16 or you will not be able to sign up for your Fall classes.

12. It is suggested that your spouse go online before September 20th to sign up for English classes at CCIS, as the classes will fill up quickly.

Etc., Etc., Etc.

Each and every year CCIS volunteers for Community Advisors, lead by Bob Spears, meet and greet literally hundreds of students who are hammered by a multitude of questions, laws, rules, and "must-do's" when they arrive at Stanford. Their heads are spinning. And if you think you have stress.....they also have a lot. And imagine having this kind of stress while speaking English as a second or even third language. *Fortunately, the **LEGAL** questions are answered by Bechtel.*

But CCIS Community Advisors can address other concerns and be a friendly face to bewildered students. Grocery shopping, travel, sightseeing, directions, loan closet, English classes, Wednesday coffees, and a lot more....

If you think you could be a help, even for just a few hours, please reach out to me or to Bob Spears. These students need a caring ear, and a sound mind from a Community Member like you. We'll train you to lower the stress of these Internationals, all who need someone like you to lower the confusion and just maybe.....you'll make a friend in the process.

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**Thanks for being a part of CCIS and supporting our
International Community at Stanford.**

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INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE COFFEE

Wednesday Morning Fun

The **International Spouse Coffee** is a fun time for spouses and members of CCIS to gather together. In May and June several special themed events provided extra entertainment. The coffee sessions are scheduled from 10:30-12 on most Wednesday mornings.

Mother's Day was celebrated on May 6 with those attending recalling favorite sayings from their mothers. Those participating heard a variety of charming sayings.



A quiz day in June provided prizes of a special cake baked by volunteer Bob Paugh.



The Wednesday morning coffee volunteers were hosted by board president Jeff Greenwald for a special event at his home.

Annual General Meeting - a great afternoon



Ingrid Rogers, Mariana Soares, Jeanette Atach & Youngeun In

The Annual General Meeting held May 11 was a great afternoon of celebrating CCIS. Those attending the annual meeting on May 11 were treated to a wonderful program. The first portion featured Ingrid Rogers and three participants from two writing workshops that Ingrid conducted. Two books (*In a New Culture* and *Our Stories, Our Lives*) containing essays from the workshops were published.

Ingrid described the purpose of the workshops and how she helped the participants tell their stories. The groups met online on Friday morning to discuss ideas and then submitted work on the following Tuesday for review by Ingrid and the others.

Jeanette Atach (Argentina), Youngeun In (South Korea) and Mariana Soares (Brazil) each described how they benefitted from the workshops. Jeanette stated that writing helped her process her thoughts. Youngeun wrote about the fun of eating crab at Pier 39 in San Francisco. Mariana joined the workshop three weeks after the spring session started, but through hard work caught up with the class and enjoyed the experience.

Then the audience learned more about the Homestay program from the coordinator Ann Dawson. A longtime host Lucy LaPier and a recent Homestay student Kaori Okado from Tokyo, spoke about their experiences.

Kaori just graduated from Stanford Law School with a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Economic Law, Business, and Policy. She currently serves as a government official in Japan and will begin her Master of Public Policy at NYU this fall. The two have stayed in touch throughout the time that Kaori has been at Stanford.

Afterwards great food and conversation were enjoyed by those attending.



A word from the editor

As the newsletter editor, I hope you will enjoy learning more about what's happening at CCIS. Your feedback is welcome--send an email to notes@ccisstanfordu.org.

Pamela Baird

CCIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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