It’s Friday, International Wildcats!

First, I want to thank all of the students who emailed me questions this week. This has provided us with valuable information that we have used to help other students in similar situations. Keep those questions coming!

**International Wildcat COVID-19 Update for March 20**

1. **Attention Residents of University Housing**
   We cannot stress how important it is that you read the housing email we sent out today and take immediate action. If you have questions, please contact Tasha via email or WhatsApp (see below). She will be working this weekend.

2. **“Shelter In Place” Mandate in California - What this means for you as an international student.**
   You probably heard that the Governor of California has ordered all people in our state to “shelter in place.” CA.GOV offers a simple explanation for what this means: [https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/](https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/).
   It is important to understand that Governor Newsom explained that people who are out in the community for valid reasons will be respected and trusted. Please do not worry if you have to leave your residence for an “essential need” listed in the link above. These are allowable activities and the police will understand your situation. It is hoped that all people in California will respect this order and also understood that some people have urgent needs that require they must leave their homes.
   We understand that this situation can be very stressful and confusing for international students and can bring up many questions. You will likely need to make some difficult decisions about when and how to get the things you need. You aren’t alone in this! We are here, and we care. Please contact Tasha or Cindy with any questions about how this pertains to your specific situation.

3. **Weekend Advising for International Wildcats**
   Things are happening quite quickly and you might have an important question or concern that cannot wait.
   **If you need urgent advice or assistance over the weekend, please send Tasha an email or a message via WhatsApp: +1 530-966-9166**

4. **Going Home - Have you changed your mind? Let us know!**
   If you submitted your online COVID-19 Immigration Check-in Form and have since changed your mind about whether to stay or go home, **please submit a new form**. Very soon we will begin communicating with students according to their locations in the world, and we need your help to get it right!
5. **Video Chat Appointments Via Zoom Begin Monday, March 23**

Tasha and Cindy will be offering daily video chat advising sessions via Zoom beginning on Monday. **The first session will be offered drop-in style on Monday, March 23rd from 8 am – 11 am, PST.** Tasha will send you a link to join the conversation at 8 am PST on Monday.

To get an individual Zoom advising appointment on Monday, send an email request to Tasha and she will send you a link to join a Zoom meeting with her.

Beginning on Tuesday, March 24, students will be able to sign up for individual video chat appointments Monday – Thursday from 8 am – noon and 1 – 4 pm. More information on how to sign up for these appointments will be sent to you next week.

Have a healthy weekend and remember to treat yourself with kindness. We’ve got this! Don’t ever doubt it 😊

**Reminders of yesterday’s announcements are below.**

**Are you planning to return to your home country or travel within the United States?**

Please refer to the following helpful travel advisories, which are updated real-time as airports are closed, reopened, etc. It is important that you inform yourself as to travel restrictions so that you can make an informed decision. Remember – these things are changing very quickly. If you are planning to travel, you should check these advisories often.

- **U.S. State Department Global Level 4 Health Advisory (domestic and international travel)**

- **International Country-Specific Travel Advisories:**

**Forward your Wildcat email to your personal email account (recommended)**

Some students have difficulty accessing the Wildcat email account in their home countries because it is a Google product. If this applies to you, and you plan to return home, we recommend that you forward your Wildcat email to your personal email.
Note- Students affected by restrictions on Google products, including YouTube, will receive additional instructions and information in a separate email early next week.

- Instructions to link your email accounts: https://support.csuchico.edu/TDClient/1984/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=9102

OPT Applications
USCIS is currently closed during the crisis and we have not been informed as to their process on new OPT applications during the closure. We will send an email to all graduating seniors with updates on the revised processes early next week.

Social Security Card Applications
Many students were in the process of applying for a social security card when the crisis hit. Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration has closed their offices across the country, including in Chico. If this affects you, there is an FAQ page on their website, including a contact to inquire if they will begin processing applications online (they currently only process renewals online, not new card applications): https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/

Fall 2020 Course Enrollment
Students have expressed concern about fall course enrollment, including how to accomplish mandatory advising sessions and how to select courses. We anticipate you will receive instructions on the modifications to this process in the next few weeks.

In Solidarity,

Tasha & Cindy