

UCSD Affinity Group for International Astronomers (AGIA)

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UCSD's AGIA is an international community of UCSD astronomers with the goal to offer a safe space, serve as a support group, and share resources for international undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, staff, and faculty at the UCSD astronomy department. The group discusses topics including; visas, living as internationals in the USA and San Diego, language support, cultural engagement, research opportunities and challenges as internationals in the USA etc.. Our mission is:

- To offer a safe space for international scholars within the UCSD astronomy department
- To provide resources to thrive in San Diego and the USA as an international
- To foster a support community for international astronomers at UCSD
- To connect members to resources at UCSD dedicated to help international scholars
- To connect members to mentors with similar international experiences (eg moved from the same country/continent)

The group plans to meet once or twice a quarter (depending on needs) and organize the following events that are open to all in the department, but will be advertised and tailored to international scholars:

- A workshop with an invited speaker from the UCSD International students & program office to discuss visas, taxes, SSN, etc. <https://ispo.ucsd.edu/>
- A workshop with an invited speaker from the UCSD career office, <https://career.ucsd.edu/>, to discuss academic and non-academic career options and for non-US citizens (including; postdoc/graduate fellowships with non-US resident eligibility)
- Several "roundtable discussions" where we come together to discuss questions and successes and challenges the members of the group experience during the semester that relate to being an international member.

Budget request: **total of \$500 for academic year 2024-2025**

This covers some drinks/snacks/food we can buy to have during the events. The \$500 is based on ~5 events of \$80 each on average for some snacks/food/pizza and drinks (though the costs will in practice be lower for most events, and a bit higher for the first "mixer" event), and maybe some small gift/card (\$8) as a thank you for the workshop organizers that will come over. This budget will also allow to pay one speaker honorarium (\$100-\$250) for one astronomer speaker (eg speaking about what to negotiate/think about when switching jobs as an international in astronomy)