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Welcome to the Wisconsin School of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Congratulations on your selection to participate in the exchange program! The Wisconsin School of Business looks forward to having you study with us, and the International Programs office is ready to help you in any way we can. Please check your own email (and later your wisc.edu email) frequently, as this is our main form of communication with you.

This handbook is intended to give you the vital information you will need to prepare for your trip to the United States and your first days in Madison and to inform you of the things you need to do in order to make a smooth transition from home to UW-Madison. Please read everything carefully and feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. We are committed to making your stay with us as rewarding as possible. Complete your application with the aid of this booklet and our website: www.bus.wisc.edu/international. Consult this booklet during the next several months for essential pre-departure information.

Your home school must nominate you by our deadline: March 1 (fall semester) or September 15 (spring semester). We will email you the link to our online application. You then must complete the online application by March 15 or October 1 under the Exchange Students⇒ How to apply part of our website. These documents should be sent as soon as possible to facilitate the visa and course enrollment process. After we receive all of your application materials, the necessary documents will go to our International Student Services office at UW-Madison. When the processing at this office is complete (it usually takes 2-4 weeks), we will send your acceptance packet to your home university. The packet will include visa request documents, enrollment details, and orientation information.

Throughout the following months, we will also contact you via email regarding course selection, housing, and the buddy program. If your application is late or incomplete, your admission will be delayed and we may not be able to accommodate all your requests.
### Fall 2018 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nomination deadline</td>
<td>1 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>15 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Session</td>
<td>31 August 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Schedule will be confirmed and sent to students ahead of time.*  
*You are required to attend all orientation events.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day holiday</td>
<td>3 September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction begins</td>
<td>5 September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday</td>
<td>22 -25 November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>12 December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>14-20 December 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*You must remain in Madison until all your exams are complete.*  
*You must leave the U.S. prior to this date. One exception is if you have an internship that starts prior to this date.*

### Spring 2019 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nomination deadline</td>
<td>15 September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>1 October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Session</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Schedule will be confirmed and sent to students ahead of time.*  
*You are required to attend all orientation events.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
<td>21 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction begins</td>
<td>22 January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring break holiday</td>
<td>16-24 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last class day</td>
<td>3 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>5-10 May 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*You must remain in Madison until all your exams are complete.*  
*You must leave the U.S. prior to this date. One exception is if you have an internship that starts prior to this date.*

The official academic calendar is published online: [www.secfac.wisc.edu/acadcal](http://www.secfac.wisc.edu/acadcal)
Your Student Status:
As a non-degree seeking special student with the UNIS-9 classification, you are eligible to take courses in all disciplines. However, sometimes restrictions apply—typically with some Economics courses, some graduate level courses, and courses in Law and Medicine. Check the Courses section of our website for more information about specific restrictions. Although you may need to contact Adult Career and Special Student Services (ACSSS) office during your stay in Madison, International Programs in 3290 Grainger Hall is your primary contact at UW-Madison. Ask us any questions you have and we will point you in the correct direction!

Selecting Courses
Registering for classes is a three-step process:

1. Once UW-Madison has assigned you a student ID number, activate your MyUW student online account as instructed in the email from our office. You will have a wisc.edu email account at this point.

2. Prepare for enrollment by looking through the UW online course guide for the semester you will attend classes. Compile a list of courses in your MyUW Student Center (called a wish list or shopping cart) that you would like to enroll in at UW-Madison. Some classes fill up quickly, have pre-requisites that need to be confirmed by our office to receive enrollment permission, or are limited to certain programs. Please direct your enrollment questions to incoming.exchange@bus.wisc.edu.

3. Beginning on the designated enrollment date shown in your MyUW Student Center, which is in April for fall students and November for spring students, enroll online for courses through your MyUW account. You no longer need to use the wish list/shopping cart at this point in time.

You will receive more details through email and in your paper acceptance packet, but please let us know if you have questions!
Many international students find that American classrooms differ greatly from those at home. Here are a few guidelines to help you prepare you for the American educational atmosphere.

**Class Format:** Most introductory, undergraduate-level courses meet three times a week for 50 minutes or twice a week for 75 minutes.

Lectures range in size from 25 to 250 students and are usually taught by a professor. In most large lectures, the focus tends to be on the professor presenting information, with minimal verbal feedback from the students.

Discussion sections usually contain no more than 35 students. Discussions are generally led by graduate student Teaching Assistants (TAs). During discussion, your TA may clarify questions from lecture, expand on ideas presented in lecture or discuss homework assignments. Your attendance and active participation is often required.

Most upper-level undergraduate-level and most graduate-level courses consist of two 75-minute classes or one three-hour class per week. Class size varies, but is usually around 25 students. Classes typically consist of lectures by professors and a discussion of lectures, assigned readings and projects. Your attendance and active participation is required.

**Assessment:** If you are not accustomed to an educational system that requires daily work and quizzes, you may be overwhelmed by the amount of work that is required at UW-Madison. Professors assign specific chapters or articles that are due each class period. You are expected to come to class ready to discuss the readings. Your grade will depend on a variety of factors, which may include:

- your participation in class
- homework that you turn in on a regular basis
- quizzes taken throughout the semester
- formal presentations made in class (individually or as part of a group)
- papers
- two or three exams taken throughout the semester, including a final exam

**Attendance and Participation:** You are required to attend all classes. Your instructor will discuss the absence policy on the first day of class and it will be listed in your syllabus. It is a good idea to speak with your instructor if you anticipate missing class or if you have missed a class. You are accountable for all missed assignments.

Professors value the experience and diversity of opinion that international students bring to their classes, so please be an active participant in class discussions! Your academic experience and your grade will benefit from regular participation, and you will sharpen your communication skills by participating. If there is a situation that makes you uncomfortable, please talk with your instructor or advisor.
**Tardiness:** It is expected that you arrive five minutes before the scheduled start time of your class. Many professors become irritated when students do not arrive to class on time; in many cases, arriving late can lower your grade or you may not be permitted to enter the class.

**Group Projects:** You may be required to complete a group project. The same standards for participation, attendance, and arriving late apply to such projects. Team members will rely on one another to contribute equally to the project. Every member’s input will affect the grade of the entire team. Grades are very important to UW-Madison students.

**Classroom Culture:** The U.S. classroom may seem more informal than at home. Lively discussions and debates are often encouraged. This comes as a surprise to many exchange students, as at home debate would be considered a sign of disrespect for the professor.

**Research Papers:** While doing research and searching for sources, you must remember that plagiarism (claiming someone else’s ideas or citations as being your own) is prohibited. This policy is taken very seriously at UW-Madison, with plagiarism leading to disciplinary action. If you have doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor. If you need help to be more effective with your writing, contact the Writing Center: www.writing.wisc.edu

**Contacting your Professor:** Professors at U.S. universities encourage students to contact them outside of the classroom. There are several ways to contact your professor. Many professors will include their office address, office hours, e-mail address, and telephone number on the syllabus that you receive on your first day of the class.

Office hours are times that the professor sets aside to be in his or her office for meetings with students or to provide help on a drop-in basis. If these hours conflict with your schedule, ask your professor if you can make an appointment to meet at a different time.

**Computer Skills:** If you need extra support with computer skills for your class assignments, free workshops (from beginner to advanced) are offered through the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) at UW-Madison. In addition, all students will wisc.edu e-mail account and will have access to all campus computer labs. More information can be found on the DoIT website: www.doit.wisc.edu
“One point is the important focus on teamwork. The teamwork is a really good thing for us exchange students because we are likely to meet more American people and to see them in other places than in the classroom. It fosters communication and helps you to speak and submit ideas--what you may fear in class.”
-Student from Paris

“Prior to the class, the students must prepare a lot of readings (e.g. lectures, cases, newspaper news, etc.). At the same time, teachers take advantage of multimedia to make the classes much more participative and therefore much more interesting for the students. I’d suggest taking as many courses any one would like to, depending upon the individual’s level of written and spoken English.”
-Student from Chile

“If you are in doubt about anything, most professors are friendly, so just give them a call.”
-Student from Copenhagen

“Nothing will ever prepare a person for the amount of readings the courses require.”
-Student from Copenhagen

“As far as I’ve experienced, the academic system in the U.S. is quite different from other countries around the world. In all classes you are supposed to discuss the material persuasively... It’s important to prepare for your classes: you should be able to discuss the material. Although it isn’t very easy to speak up when you are not a native speaker, let the others know you are there. Ask questions, add your opinion, and don’t wait too long to take the floor!”
-Student from the Netherlands
Living expenses will vary depending on your lifestyle.

Below are the estimated expenses, though for your visa you must show proof of $7200:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th></th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 &amp; under</td>
<td>26 &amp; up</td>
<td>25 &amp; under</td>
<td>26 &amp; up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; housing</td>
<td>5800</td>
<td>5800</td>
<td>5800</td>
<td>5800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; supplies</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required SHIP insurance</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>1,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental*</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; entertainment</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,485</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,605</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,017</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Incidental expenses include local transportation, phone, apartment set-up, clothing and apartment maintenance. Leisure, travel and entertainment are different for everyone.
International Programs can assist you during your search, but we will not find housing for you. Please indicate your preference on the Housing Request form and attach any additional documents, if requested. We cannot guarantee that you will receive your first choice of housing. Please keep us informed of your decisions.

Once you sign and return a lease with an apartment complex or University Housing, you have entered into a legal contract and are committed to the cost of the room for the full period of the lease. Cancellation must be in writing to the office which issued the lease and extra charges may apply.

**Apartments**

Although apartments in Madison are in ample supply, most apartments must be rented for 12 months. The options listed below are popular among exchange students because they are located a short walk from campus and are available on a semester or academic year basis. Prices may be higher for short-term leases. Please note that most apartments in Madison are furnished. A volunteer organization, Madison Friends of International Students, offers a furniture rental program. See below to learn more: [www.mfismadison.com/furniture-program](http://www.mfismadison.com/furniture-program)

**Steve Brown Apartments**  
120 West Gorham St. Madison, WI 53703  
Email: ecook@stevebrownapts.com  
Phone: (608) 255-7100  
Steve Brown Apartments is a company that owns several apartment buildings and private residences around campus. Previous exchange students have stayed at the Highlander, The Regent and Lucky. They offer temporary leases and sublets; please see their website, [www.stevebrownapts.com](http://www.stevebrownapts.com), for more information.

**Off-Campus Apartment Sublets**

Many more apartments are available for spring-only rental than fall-only because many UW-Madison students study abroad during spring or graduate in December, vacating their apartments. If you come to UW-Madison during the spring, you have a better chance of finding a 5-month “sublease.” This means that you will rent the apartment from another student for 5 months. If you would like to pursue this option, refer to the UW-Madison Off-Campus Housing Listing at [www.campusareahousing.wisc.edu](http://www.campusareahousing.wisc.edu). Here you can find apartments, houses, sublets and roommate openings. We advise that you limit your search to map sections 1 through 5. Also, be sure the apartment is furnished so you do not have to find furniture for your stay.

**Craigslist**

Craigslist is an online listings tool that can be extremely useful in finding housing, especially sublets for the spring semester. However, please be aware that you should be careful in your dealings with private individuals through this website and should never send money to reserve
housing, as there have been scams in the past. Options are listed under the "Housing" section of http://madison.craigslist.org.

University Residence Halls
For complete information about University Housing, please visit their website at: www.housing.wisc.edu. Their website includes housing community descriptions, services offered and current rates (rates for each upcoming year are announced in July). Residence halls typically house first-year students. For this reason, only undergraduate exchange students are able to use on-campus housing.

University Housing is in very high demand and space is limited, particularly in the spring. University Housing cannot guarantee that you will receive your first choice; however, your chances are better if you apply before March 15 (fall semester) or November 1 (spring semester). Please note that if you sign a contract with University Housing, you are committed to the cost of the room for the full academic year. If you stop attending UW-Madison after the fall semester, you can be released from your housing contract for the spring semester, but you will lose the required $300 housing deposit. There are no exceptions to this policy. Please note that you must notify University Housing of your non-attendance in order to be released from your housing contract or you will be charged the full spring rent.

University Housing Details
Room Contents: Most spaces are in double rooms where you will share a room with another student. Each student is provided a bed, mattress pad, dresser, desk, chair, and a bookshelf. Each room includes a small refrigerator, cable TV and Ethernet connections, drapes, wastebaskets and closets (individual or shared). Phones are no longer provided in rooms.

Bathrooms/Laundry: Bathrooms are shared with other students who live in your hallway. Laundry facilities are located throughout University Housing. You will pay for the use of washing machines, but dryers are free.

Dining Service: You will not have access to cooking facilities, but you can eat in any of their dining facilities or take advantage of their food delivery service to your room. You will make food purchases through a "Housing Food Account," a debit account accessed through your WisCard. Please note that you will be required to deposit $1000 into your meal account per semester.

Special Programs: There are several residential learning communities that offer special programming and faculty/staff involvement. Academic and social activities are organized around the specific theme of each learning community. These can include special courses taught on-site in the hall, group dinners with faculty and staff, lectures/workshops, field trips and community service projects. Most of them include an extra charge ranging from $200-$300. The International Learning Community is one example of an on-campus residential learning community.

Early Arrival and Winter Break Housing:
Winter Break housing is available in all University Residence Halls. Visit www.housing.wisc.edu/residencehalls/winter for more information.

Recommendations and descriptions:
Students who apply for a University Residence Hall will be sent a preference form to rank their residence hall choices after submitting their University Residence Halls contract. There are eighteen residence halls (including the International Learning Community). We have found that exchange students have most enjoyed their experience in the following halls:

- **Adams - International Learning Community**: mostly single rooms; residents interested in global affairs & world cultures
- **Tripp**: mostly single rooms; community with freshmen, sophomore, junior & senior residents
- **Phillips**: double rooms with a private bathroom inside the room
- **Dejope**: community with mostly sophomore residents; 10-12 students sharing a bathroom; dining facility right inside the hall
- **Merit**: single and double rooms; double rooms have a bathroom inside the room; kitchens on every floor; community with sophomore, junior & senior residents
- **Davis**: all single rooms; community with sophomore, junior & senior residents; large shared kitchen
- **Ogg**: community with sophomore, junior & senior residents; 8 students sharing a bathroom.

Hall Distances from WSoB, Grainger Hall:
The following halls are located within a 2 to 8-minute walk of Grainger: Ogg, Witte, Sellery, Elizabeth Waters, Chadbourne, Barnard, Smith, Merit, and Susan B. Davis.
The following halls are located within a 15 to 25-minute walk Grainger: Adams, Tripp, Slichter, Kronshage, Cole, Sullivan, Bradley, Phillips and Dejope.

Temporary Housing
If you arrive in Madison before your housing is available or you are still looking for housing, you will need to arrange temporary housing. Free Temporary Housing and breakfast is available for up to three nights through Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS). To learn more visit the MFIS website, www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis.

This arrangement has been very popular with exchange students in the past. Most temporary housing volunteers are able to pick you up upon your arrival. MFIS housing is limited, so if you already have a place to stay when you arrive leave this option open to others. You may not know of your temporary housing contact until about a week or less prior to your arrival. If you have not heard from MFIS three days before your departure date, please contact them directly.
Other Temporary Housing Options
For temporary housing for you or guests, check out the Madison Hostel or campus accommodations at info.wisc.edu/plan-your-visit/where-to-stay.

For more information on University Housing:
www.housing.wisc.edu
625 Babcock Drive, Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 262-2522
Email: assignme@housing.wisc.edu

Housing Advice from Former Exchange Students

“Decide right away whether you want to live on or off-campus. If you want to live off-campus, start the search early as semester-only leases for apartments fill up very quickly.”
-Student from Denmark

“I think that exchange students should apply to live in accommodations that have a majority of their occupants as American nationals. The people they live with will affect their experience greatly and what better way to get the American experience than to stay with Americans? It is easy to gravitate toward an international accommodation, but pushing yourself out of your comfort zone has great rewards!”
-Student from England

“Better to seek advice from staff of the exchange team of UW as they are very helpful in helping us by offering us lots of useful information and advice about housing in Madison. Their advice also helps narrow down the scope of finding of housing which can save a lot of time and efforts in research.”
-Student from Hong Kong
Before You Leave Home
Although UW-Madison does not require you to take a physical examination, you are advised to bring medical records of any existing medical condition and a record of previous immunizations.

Health Service on Campus
University Health Services (UHS) provides all enrolled UW-Madison students with primary physical and mental health care and disease prevention services. More information on what services are and are not provided can be found online: www.uhs.wisc.edu. You will also receive more information about UHS during orientation.

UW-Madison SHIP Health Plan – Required!
UW-Madison has mandatory health insurance for international students and their dependents. Since you are a student who will come to UW-Madison on a J-1 visa, you and any dependents accompanying you must have SHIP. Please read the important information below to learn how to become compliant with these health insurance requirements.

What is the insurance compliance deadline?
Students must register at the SHIP Office no later than September 15 in the fall or February 15 in the spring. You can register either by purchasing SHIP or by filing a waiver application accompanied by the required supporting documentation. Failure to register by this deadline will result in a late fee in addition to any SHIP premiums.

How do I enroll in and pay for the SHIP Health Plan?
You can enroll online or by visiting the SHIP office at 333 East Campus Mall. More information can be found on the SHIP website: https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship/international/

Can I receive a refund if I leave before my SHIP policy ends?
In certain circumstances the SHIP Office will be able to issue refunds to those students whose DS-2019 documents expire and who leave the U.S. before the end of a policy period. Contact SHIP for more information.
No matter when you're visiting the Midwest, pack layers so you can adjust to changing temperatures.

In summer, you'll likely want mostly shorts and T-shirts, but pack some long-sleeved cotton shirts and sweaters and at least one pair of long pants. Pack a rain coat or windbreaker, waterproof hiking boots and a travel umbrella in case of a downpour.

For spring and autumn, think long pants and flannel shirts or cozy sweaters, but bring some short-sleeved shirts for the occasional heat wave.

In winter, if you are arriving in January, please know that it will be **VERY COLD** in Madison at that time. Average high temperatures are 25º F (-4º C) and average low temperatures are 7º F (-14º C). Although, in winter 2017-18, temperatures were regularly below 15º F (-10º C). Pack a heavy winter coat, hat, gloves, and scarf. Boots are also recommended, as it will be snowy. You may purchase these items in Madison.
Arriving in Madison

Your arrival

You are required to attend all orientation events, so it is a good idea to arrive the day before orientation begins. Dates are listed on the page 4.

Madison is quiet prior to orientation because of the holidays, especially for the spring semester due to the cold temperatures in January. If you already have housing arranged, verify the first day you can check in. Also, verify the days and times you can pick up your key. If you must still look for housing upon arrival, do not arrive Friday through Sunday, as most apartment rental offices are closed on the weekend. For temporary housing, check out the Madison Hostel at http://www.hiusa.org/wisconsin/madison/madison or campus accommodations at http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/visp/housing.htm

Travel to Madison:

Flying into Madison: You will arrive at the Dane County Regional Airport, located about 7 miles from campus. Taxis are available (more information on page 9) or perhaps your buddy could pick you up if this is arranged ahead of time.

Flying into Chicago: Take the Van Galder bus to Madison. Schedule and prices are available at www.vangalderbus.com. Be sure to consult the schedule that departs Chicago O'Hare airport and arrives in Madison. The Van Galder bus loads on the lower level at O'Hare's International Terminal, door 5E, at the Bus/Shuttle Center, which is accessible from terminals 1, 2 and 3. You can buy your ticket from the driver with cash. Prices vary. The bus makes stops in Madison; the Memorial Union is the campus stop.

Other airports in the area include: Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport has regular Badger Buses to the UW Campus at the Chazen Museum stop. You may also find buses from the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. For both options, verify times and purchase tickets in advance.
Getting to your housing

If you participate in the Wisconsin School of Business Buddy Program, ask your buddy if he or she has a car and can meet you in Madison when you arrive. Be sure you have the address of your destination. However, do not assume that your buddy will automatically be there to pick you up. You must first make arrangements with your buddy.

Call a taxi

**From the Dane County Airport:** Follow the signs from baggage check to the taxi stand at door 7. Taxis should be waiting there. If not, return to the baggage claim area and look for the kiosk that has telephones for taxi services. Be prepared to share a taxi with other customers, as many taxi services in Madison operate on a "shared fare" basis. Taxi service from the airport to campus is approximately $25 one-way.

**From Memorial Union:** Go in the building and use a phone to call a taxi. Tell the taxi company that you are waiting at the Memorial Union on Langdon Street. There are phones where you may make a free local call. If you have any difficulties, ask at the main desk for assistance.

Taxi companies:
- Badger Cab: (608) 256 5566
- Madison Taxi: (608) 255 8294
- Union Cab: (608) 242 2000

*Uber*

You can download the app on your phone and create an account and use Uber in Madison, it is another safe and cheap way to get to your housing.

If you request temporary housing through Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS), the temporary housing volunteer will probably pick you up. See section titled “Housing: Temporary Housing” on page 14 for more information.

Checking In

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact International Programs when you arrive. If you do not have questions or concerns, we look forward to checking you in and answering your questions at orientation!
Wiscard is your official UW-Madison identification card. It will give you access to libraries, recreation facilities, and other campus services including door access. Your Wiscard can also be used to make purchases at over 60 locations across campus. The Wiscard account is a fast, convenient, and money saving way to make purchases. You will not have access to most university facilities (gyms, some computer labs and libraries, free passes for the Madison bus system) until you have your WisCard photo ID.

You must apply for the card in person with your passport on the first floor of Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street, (608) 890.3000. While there are many things to do in Madison without this access, your activities will be limited. If you lose your first free WisCard, a replacement will cost $25.
New and returning UW Madison students may pick up an ASM Bus Pass, good for unlimited rides on all Metro Transit buses, at the beginning of the semester. Bus passes will be handed out to eligible students who have already registered for classes at the following locations: Student Activity Center, 333 East Campus Mall
ASM Bus Passes are good for unlimited travel on all regular Metro Transit buses. Campus bus routes—the Routes 80, 81, 82 and 84—do not require a pass—anyone can board for free, campus including visitors and staff.

You must sign the back of your pass, and you must carry your Wiscard with you when you ride Metro Transit. Drivers may ask at any time to inspect your pass and your ID, and confiscate passes, signed or unsigned, which appear to have been tampered with, or which are unsigned, or from riders unable to provide a matching Wiscard at the time of the request. *This pass is for your use, and your use only.* Students abusing the bus pass privilege may be charged with non-academic misconduct.

Bus Pass Questions and Concerns
(608) 263-3950
or buspass@rso.wisc.edu if you need additional assistance.
Past participants overwhelmingly recommend the UW Credit Union (UWCU) because of lower fees, great service and easy withdrawals from Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) outside Madison (including overseas locations) with minimal fees. This also makes it easier to pay rent, electricity and other bills in Madison. Bring your Wiscard ID to a UWCU branch to open an account. Information on branch locations can be found online: www.uwcu.org

Other banks in downtown Madison include Anchor Bank, Associated Bank, U.S. Bank, Chase Bank, and BMO Harris Bank. When deciding upon a bank, it is a good idea to ask these questions:

- What is the minimum amount of money that must be in my checking account? (Many banks require that you keep a certain amount of money in a checking account to keep it open.)
- What is the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) service charge per transaction?
- What annual fees do you charge? (Some banks charge annual fees to their customers for having accounts at the bank.)
- How easy will it be to close the account?
Buddy Program

The Wisconsin School of Business Buddy Program provides you with a link to a UW-Madison student. If you wish to participate in the Buddy Program, please indicate this on the form you will send in with your application materials.

Please note that all UW-Madison students who volunteer to be buddies are undergraduate students. International Programs has asked your buddy to:

- Contact you by email before you arrive.
- Give you his/her phone number in Madison so you can call once you arrive.
- Pick you up once you arrive in Madison, if you make arrangements in advance directly with your buddy and if your buddy is in town when you arrive.
- Once you call, you and your buddy will meet so that s/he can show you around campus and help you get settled into your new apartment.

The buddy relationship is different for everyone. You may spend a lot of time with your buddy, or you and your buddy may meet only occasionally. It is up to you two to determine the extent of your relationship, based on your needs and your schedules. Many students and their buddies maintain contact throughout the semester and even after students leave Madison.

The WSB buddy program does not organize a large number of events for exchange students and buddies. Rather, we encourage you to explore options with your buddy in addition to the many activities and student organizations offered at UW-Madison to all students. A campus-wide buddy system, BRIDGE (Building Relationships in Diverse Global Environments), is also a great way to meet other UW students and may offer a wider range of activities for buddies. You can find more details at http://apps.iss.wisc.edu/bridge
Madison is such a fun city to live in! In the heart of the city and right on campus, students enjoy strolling down the section of State Street called “Museum Mile” to explore galleries, museums, boutiques, cafes, and clothing stores and more, open only to pedestrians and city bus.

Fresh food lovers? Every Saturday morning from April to November you’ll find the season’s best bounty of vegetables, flowers, meats, cheeses, and specialty products from approximately 300 vendors around the capitol square.

Studying at UW-Madison, you will experience the greatness and pride of being a badger during either the football games in Camp Randall Stadium or the basketball games in the Kohl Center.

Madison is a great place for bike addicts, known to be the nation’s best city for biking, Madison has about 50 miles of bike paths and more than 110 miles of bike lanes. They run through the downtown campus and Capitol districts, into the nearby urban neighborhoods out into suburbia.

If you love music, shows and other kinds of performances, you will be able to enjoy the best Broadway shows, comedians or other great artists at the Overture center for the Arts right on State St.

How to get involved on campus?

The Madison campus has many opportunities for you to get involved. UW-Madison is home to over 600 student organizations covering a broad range of interests. The center for leadership and involvement (CFLi) has a complete listing of campus organizations at https://win.wisc.edu/organizations Be sure to check the university calendar on the UW-Madison homepage.

Other popular activities:

The Union:
- The Wisconsin union, housed in the Memorial Union and at Union South offers a range of activities including free films, concerts, game rooms, and many others. More information: www.union.wisc.edu
- Outdoors enthusiasts of any skill level should consider joining one of the Hoofers Outdoors Programs’ 7 clubs (www.hoofers.org): ski, snowboard, sailing and windsurfing, gliding, scuba, horseback riding...
- Consider attending non-credit, short term mini-course, from art to ballroom dance to massage. More information: www.union.wisc.edu/minicourses.htm

Playing sports at UW-Madison:

- Ogg (835 W. Dayton St.), the Natatorium (2000 Observatory Dr.), the Shell (1430 Monroe St.) and the Nielsen Tennis stadium (1000 Highland Dr.) are four athletic facilities open and free to all students. The temporary gym in Ogg has replaced the SERF facility, which is currently closed. Open Gym/pool time are available online and unlimited group fitness classes cost $25.00 per semester.
- Recreational sports (www.wisc.edu/recsport) provide intramural and club sports and two opportunities for competitive sports. The physical Education Elective Program offers one-credit courses throughout the semester. Refer to the Class Search timetable to determine which courses are still open.
- Exchange students cannot play varsity sports while at UW-Madison, but we strongly encourage you to attend some games throughout your time here. See www.UWbadgers.com/schedules.htm for information.