

# Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-Madison!

Congratulations on your selection to participate in the exchange program! International Academic Programs looks forward to having you with us next semester, we are prepared to help you in any way we can. Please check your email frequently, as this is our main form of communication with you.

Use this booklet as you prepare for your time in Madison.  
Consult this booklet during the next several months for essential pre-departure information.  
Be sure to bring this booklet with you to Madison.

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## Contact Information

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Madison, WI 53706 USA

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Email: [muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu](mailto:muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu), Web: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)  
After hours emergency telephone (4:30pm-7:45am Central Standard Time): (608) 516-2440

International Student Services  
716 Langdon Street, Room 217  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: (608) 262-2044, Fax: (608) 262-2838  
Email: [iss@odos.wisc.edu](mailto:iss@odos.wisc.edu)  
Website: <http://iss.wisc.edu/>

## Calendar

### Spring 2009-10 Calendar

August 15	Application due to UW (for spring semester students only)
January 14	Exchange Student Orientation. Access to UW computer labs and facilities is not available without a UW ID card (available after registration). Attendance at orientation is mandatory.
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the university is closed)
January 19	Instruction begins
March 27-April 4	Spring break holiday (no classes)
May 7	Last class day
May 8	Study day
May 9-15	Exam week
	<b>You must remain in Madison until all your exams are complete</b>
June 15	J-1 visa expiration. You must leave the U.S. prior to this date. One exception is if you have an internship that starts prior to this date.

## Academics

### Your Student Status

You will be admitted to UW-Madison as a university special student by the Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) office. UNIS-9 is the classification that has been assigned to you. This classification indicates that you are a non-degree student on a formal exchange program. As such, you are eligible to take courses in all disciplines, except where enrollment restrictions apply--typically, some Economics courses, some graduate level courses and courses in Business, Journalism, Law and Medicine.

You are not a "degree-seeking" student in Madison (ie: you are not planning to graduate from the UW-Madison) and you may not stay beyond the time allotted in your exchange.

If you are admitted as an undergraduate student on the exchange program, you must maintain a minimum of 12 undergraduate credits each semester and a maximum of 18 credits. If you are admitted as a graduate student on the exchange program, you must maintain a minimum of 8 graduate level credits each semester and a maximum of 12 graduate level credits.

Although you may need to contact DCS during your stay in Madison, International Academic Programs is your primary contact at UW-Madison. Ask us any questions you have!

### Selecting Courses

Note: To "enroll" and to "register" are used interchangeably here; there is no difference in meaning.

Prior to your arrival, you will enroll in courses, via web enrollment. You will receive instructions for web enrollment via email. Please bear in mind that UW students register for their courses months in advance. You are therefore advised to register for your classes as soon as the system will allow; check your WISC mail (email) or MyUW account for your first available enrollment time. If you choose to wait until you arrive to the UW Madison to register, you will find that the majority of classes you are interested in are already full or "closed." You may come to the orientation with questions regarding registration.

### Prior to your arrival in Madison, you should:

Begin to select classes, as some classes may be filled to capacity by the time you need to register. Please monitor the Timetable on the UW's website (<http://registrar.wisc.edu/registrar/>).

Activate your Net ID. There are instructions on the back of your admission letter to the UW Madison (included in your acceptance packet) on how to do this. Contact Andrea Muilenburg ([muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu](mailto:muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu)) if you need assistance.

Enroll on-line at the time assigned to you. If a course that you would like to take is full, send an email to the: a) professor, and b) department's undergraduate or graduate advisor. Explain that you are an international exchange student who will be in Madison for a short period of time, and would like to take their course. A department can authorize a specific student to take a course, or put you on a waiting list. For them to do so, you will need to provide them with your student ID number (on your admission letter on the bottom left hand corner).

Since some of the courses you want to take might not still be open, be sure to select a number of alternate courses before you begin the registration process. Also, you may encounter problems when trying to register for certain courses with pre-requisites. The UW Madison system does not recognize that you have completed the pre-requisites at your home institution. You will need to contact the instructor or undergraduate advisor and provide them with proof that you have completed the pre-requisites. You will need to provide them with your ID number and if the professor/ department agrees you have fulfilled the prerequisites, they can authorize you to enroll in the course.

The Timetable listing the semester courses, policies, procedures, and deadlines can be accessed on the web at <http://registrar.wisc.edu/timetable>. You can also go to MyUW and find a link to the timetable there under the "Academics" tab.

### **Academic Advising**

If you still have questions after the orientation in Madison, meet with your academic advisor, Andrea Muilenburg.

### **Requesting a UW-Madison Transcript After Completing Your Studies**

Once you have completed your studies at the UW-Madison, you will probably want a transcript, which shows the courses taken and the grades received. The procedure for requesting a transcript is below:

Professors will report the grades to the Registrar's office, and they will then be posted to your transcript. The International Academic Programs (IAP) office will request one transcript on your behalf and mail it to your home institution. If you would like additional copies of your UW-Madison transcript you can order copies from the UW-Madison Registrar's Office <http://ordertranscript.wisc.edu/>. You can check your grades by logging onto MyUW (<http://www.wisc.edu>).

### **Life in the U.S. Classroom**

Many international students find that American classrooms differ greatly from those in their home country. Here are a few guidelines to help prepare you for the American educational atmosphere. (Please note that the terms professor and instructor are used interchangeably).

**Class Format--** Most introductory undergraduate-level courses consist of two 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute discussion section per week or two 75-minute lectures each week.

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 led by graduate student Teaching Assistants (TAs). During the discussion your TA may clarify questions from lectures, expand on ideas presented in lecture or discuss homework assignments. Your active participation is encouraged, and often required, in discussion sections and small lectures. Of course, your attendance is also required.

Most upper-level undergraduate-level and most graduate-level courses consist of two 75-minute classes or one three-hour class per week that are taught by professors. Class size varies, but it 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 assigned readings.

Your grade will depend on a variety of factors, which may include:

- 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

The breakdown of how your grade will be determined will be explained on the course syllabus.

Participation – For the most part, professors in the United States value the experience and diversity of opinion that international students bring to their classes, so please be an active participant in class discussions! However, professors comment that international students often do not contribute fully (or in some cases do not contribute at all) to 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 to speak in class, please talk with your professor or teaching assistant.

Attendance—You are required to attend all classes. Your professor will discuss the absence policy on the first day of class, and your grade usually includes participation and attendance. It will also be listed in your syllabus. Sometimes professors will allow you to miss a given number of class periods (usually 2 or 3). It is a good idea to speak with your professor if you anticipate missing class or if you have missed a class.

Arriving Late— It is expected that you arrive 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. It is especially important to arrive five minutes early for large lecture classes in order to find a seat.

Group Projects—You may be required to complete a group project. The same standards for participation, attendance and arriving late apply to such projects as apply to the classroom. 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.

Classroom Culture—The U.S. classroom may seem more informal than at home. Lively discussions and debates are often encouraged. This can come as a surprise to many exchange students, as in some cultures 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. Plagiarism can lead to discipline. If you have a doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask your professor or teaching assistant. If you need help with wording of your paper, contact the Writing Center (6171 HC White Hall, 263-1992); do not recopy someone else's words.

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, e-mail address and telephone number on the syllabus that you receive on your first day of the class. Office hours are also listed.

Office hours are a period of time 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. Also, many professors check their e-mail on a daily basis. E-mail is a good way to get an answer to a simple question. More complex questions should be presented in person.

**Computer Skills**—Students should be familiar with basic word-processing, use of the internet and (depending upon your subject area) spreadsheets and databases. Workshops are offered through the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) at UW-Madison. Courses are free for students, and you are encouraged to take advantage of them. Information is available on their website ([www.doit.wisc.edu](http://www.doit.wisc.edu)). All students will receive a free e-mail account and will have access to campus computer labs.

#### Academic Advice from Former Exchange Students

“One point is the important focus on teamwork. 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 France

“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 all the multimedia stuff to make the classes much more participative and therefore much more interesting for the students. I'd suggest to take 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 Denmark

"Nothing will ever prepare a person for the amount of readings the courses require."

-Student from Denmark

"There is LOTS of homework here!"

-Almost everyone

"As far as I've experienced, the academic system in the United States. 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 Utrecht University, The Netherlands

## Your Visa & Arrival in Madison

### DS-2019 for the J-1 Visa

In your acceptance packet, you also received your DS 2019 form, which you need to take to the United States Embassy or Consulate in your country to apply for a J-1 visa stamp. Be prepared to take documentation of your financial support, including the letter of support from International Academic Programs (enclosed with the DS 2019), and an original bank statement accompanied by a letter of financial support from parents or other sponsors. Also, be certain that your passport is valid six months into the future at the time of application for the J-1 visa stamp.

### Document Checklist

Be sure to carry all of the following with you for entry into the United States:

Passport valid for the length of your stay in the United States

J-1 visa stamp

Letter of admission to the UW-Madison

Letter of invitation from International Academic Programs

Original copy of the financial support documents you provided in order to obtain your visa

En route to the United States: you will receive a small white card on the airplane, which is called an "I-94 card." This document is an official immigration document, and should remain in your passport for the duration of your stay in the United States. The I-94 card in combination with the United States visa stamp and a valid passport secure your entry into the United States. You must have all of these documents with you when you arrive in the United States.

When you enter the United States, at the airport an immigration official will process your papers and return the DS 2019 form to you. Keep your passport, I-94 card, and the copy of your DS 2019 form together in a safe place once you arrive in the United States. These documents are proof of your immigration status.

**After your arrival in Madison, please make photocopies of the following documents:**

DS 2019 (IAP-66) (front)

I-94 arrival/departure card

Passport identity and expiry pages

J-1 or F-1 visa stamp

**Bring these copies to the Visa portion of the Exchange Orientation.**

**Recommended Arrival Date**

Dates are listed on the calendar (see page 2).

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 received your UW student ID card, which is 24 hours after registration for at least one course. While there are many things to do in Madison without this access, your activities will be limited.

January arrivals: Madison is very quiet prior to orientation, because the weather is cold and because most students are out of town on winter vacation. Avoid arriving too far in advance.

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, do not arrive Friday through Sunday, as most apartment rental offices are closed Saturday and Sunday.

**Travel to Madison**

Flying into Madison: You can arrive at the Dane County Regional Airport, which is located about 7 miles from campus.

Flying into Chicago: Take the Van Galder bus to Madison. Schedule and prices are available at <http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/>. Be sure to consult the schedule that departs Chicago O'Hare airport and arrives at Madison (Memorial Union)! The Van Galder bus loads on the lower level at O'Hare's International Terminal number 5, door 5E and the Bus/Shuttle Center, which accessible from terminals 1, 2 and 3. You can buy your ticket from the driver. The bus makes two stops in Madison. The second stop--the Memorial Union--is the campus stop.

**Getting to your Housing**

Call a taxi. From the Dane County Airport, follow the signs from baggage check to the taxi stand. 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 \$20 one-way, and it is normal to tip cab drivers a few additional dollars.

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 where the Van Galder bus stops. There are phones where you may make a free local call. If you have troubles, ask at the "Essentials" desk for assistance.

Taxi companies:

Badger Cab: 256 5566

Madison Taxi: 258 7454

Union Cab: 242 2000

- 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"

### **Checking In**

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to check in at International Academic Programs office (In Bascom Hall) when you arrive. Our office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. If you do not have questions or concerns, we look forward to seeing you at orientation!

Andrea Muilenburg has weekly office hours - the schedule is available on her office door (252 Bascom Hall, 265-2915, [muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu](mailto:muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu)). Please come during those times.

### **Email**

You will not have access to campus computer labs until after you have obtained your UW campus ID card. If you need to check email before you have your UW campus ID card, a few public-access kiosks are available throughout campus; these are located at: Memorial Union, basement of Wendt Library, basement of Bascom Hall, and College Library. To find building locations on campus, go to <http://www.vip.wisc.edu/map.html>. You can also access computers at the Madison Public Library at 201 West Mifflin Street, near the Capitol.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

If an emergency arises outside of normal business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and you need to contact someone, call the IAP staff person on call at (608) 516-9440. Remember this is in the event of an EMERGENCY ONLY.

### **Travel outside the country while studying in Madison**

If you plan to travel outside the United States during your semester/year in Madison, you MUST visit International Student Services (ISS- located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Red Gym) several weeks before departing. Travel includes a visit home, to Mexico, Canada, or any other country outside the United States. You must obtain prior authorization from ISS, or you will not be permitted back into the United States.

## **Health and Insurance**

### **Before You Leave Home**

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 Care at UW-Madison**

#### **University Health Services (UHS)**

UHS provides all students enrolled at UW-Madison with primary physical and mental health care and disease prevention services, including visits to UHS doctors and nurses, most diagnostic laboratory studies and x-rays. Services NOT provided by UHS include hospitalization expenses, medical care for family members, emergency room services, eye refractions and dental care (among others). You will receive more information about UHS during orientation at Madison. UHS is located at 333 E. Campus Mall, floors 5,6,7 and 8.

## **Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)**

SHIP is specifically designed to safeguard the health care of UW-Madison students. UHS administers the plan locally to keep costs as low as possible for students. SHIP members receive their primary care through UHS. In addition to the professional medical and counseling care provided to all registered students by UHS, SHIP members are fully covered for a range of preventative services, including travel and meningitis vaccines, the HPV vaccine and a contraceptive program. Beyond UHS, SHIP members are also protected by a nationwide network of hospitals, clinics and specialized medical services. At orientation, SHIP representatives will provide details about the plan and be available to answer any questions you may have. You can also view benefit and premium information on-line in the "International Student" section at: [www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship)

## **Mandatory Requirements**

Health insurance is mandatory for all international students who are registered for class at UW-Madison (and for any visa dependents residing in the United States). You must enroll in SHIP or file a qualifying waiver by September 15th if you are studying at UW-Madison for the fall semester. If you miss these deadlines a late fee of \$50 will be applied in addition to any required SHIP premiums.

## **Enrollment**

We recommend that you enroll on-line with a MasterCard or VISA at: [www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship) Simply select "Click here to enroll online" and use your University ID number to create a new account. You will then be able to review your SHIP status at any time. You can also enroll in person at the SHIP office which is located in the University Health Services clinic at: 333 East Campus Mall 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Madison, WI. The SHIP office is open from 9am until 5pm, Monday through Friday and accepts payment by Visa/MasterCard, check and exact cash amounts.

## **SHIP Coverage**

Fall coverage is effective January 15 and terminates August 14. Your coverage will be backdated to the effective date so you will never be without coverage. However, we encourage you to enroll as soon as you have registered for class since certain benefits (such as prescription drugs) cannot be processed until your enrollment has been activated.

## **Waiver Applications**

Waivers will only be approved if you meet one of the qualifying criteria as listed on the Waiver Application. All other applications will be denied. Please read the Waiver Application carefully to ensure that you do not purchase insurance which does not meet the SHIP waiver requirements. If you do not qualify for a waiver, you are required to enroll in SHIP. It is important to review the most current Waiver Application which can be viewed on-line at: [http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/docs/ship\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/docs/ship_waiver.pdf)

## **Contact Information**

Remember, SHIP is on campus to help you, so do not hesitate to contact them if you have any questions. UW-Madison Student Health Insurance Plan  
University Health Services  
333 East Campus Mall  
Madison, WI 53715  
Phone: (608) 265-5232  
Fax: (608) 262-9160  
Email: [ship@www.uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:ship@www.uhs.wisc.edu)

"Don't hesitate to ask, even if you think your question is stupid. This campus is so huge that I felt lost at first. But people are very kind, so ask for any help. Also, go to the dentist before you leave home. Dental care is not covered by insurance here and it is very expensive."

- Student from Japan

## Finances

### Banking in Madison

Past participants overwhelmingly recommend the UW Credit Union (UWCU) because fees are minimal, service is great, and you can withdraw money from Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) outside Madison (including overseas locations) without fees imposed by UWCU, although the out-of-town bank will probably charge a service fee. Bring your student ID number to a UWCU branch to open an account. The branch closest to central campus is at 662 State Street. The branch closest to the southwestern side of campus is at 1433 Monroe Street.

Other banks in downtown Madison include Associated Bank, Anchor Bank, First Federal (two campus locations), US Bank and M&I Bank. When deciding upon a bank, 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 in order to keep it open.)

What is the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) service charge per transaction? (This is the amount of money that you will be charged each time you use an ATM.)

What annual fees do you charge? (Some banks charge annual fees to their customers for having accounts at the bank.)

What is your per check charge? (Some banks charge you a certain amount for every check you write.)

### Handling Money

Exchange students use a variety of methods for handling money. Here are tips from past participants.

Have at least two credit cards.

Use an account at home from which you can withdraw money at ATMs.

Bring travelers checks, which are useful for paying bills and insurance at the beginning when it might be less convenient to withdraw money.

Open a checking account in Madison in order to pay rent, electricity, heat and other bills.

### Cost of Living in Madison

Estimated Expenses for Special Students

2007-2008 (for students planning to study at the UW-Madison during 2008-09)

<u>Students 25 Years of Age and Under</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Books and supplies	830.00	415.00
Food	2,820.00	1410.00
Housing (with utilities)	6,410.00	3205.00
Incidentals (clothes, transportation, person items, etc.)	2,884.00	1442.00
Insurance	1,260.00	630.00
Total Estimated Annual Expenses*	\$14,204.00	\$7102.00

<u>Students 26 Years of Age and Above</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Books and supplies	830.00	415.00
Food	2,820.00	1410.00
Housing (with utilities)	6,410.00	3205.00
Incidentals (clothes, transportation, person items, etc.)	2,884.00	1442.00
Insurance	1,644.00	822.00
Total Estimated Annual Expenses*	\$14,588.00	\$7294.00

\*As part of the exchange agreement between the UW-Madison and your home institution, international exchange students DO NOT pay Fees and Tuition while at the UW-Madison; therefore those expenses are not included in the above figures. You are, however, responsible for books and all other personal expenses. International students are not required but may choose to enroll for classes during Summer Session. Tuition and

all other expenses for summer courses are at your own expense. Summer session fees and tuition are based on per credit rates; refer to the Registrar's Office for fee and tuition schedules.

The cost of living is an estimate, based on the previous year's fees. Most fees will be higher than those listed!

## **Housing**

With the exception of students on a few exchange programs, you are responsible for finding your own housing. You can arrange to live on campus ([www.housing.wisc.edu](http://www.housing.wisc.edu)) (pay attention to deadlines!) or off campus in an apartment. As part of our exchange agreements, housing is provided for exchange students from the University of Cape Town, Nanzan University, and La Universidad San Francisco de Quito\*. Students coming to study at the UW-Madison through other agreements will have to arrange and pay for their own housing accommodations.

\*This housing coverage may exclude the additional fee charged for living in the International Learning Community provided by UW Housing. Please check with Andrea Muilenburg to determine if this fee would or would not apply to you.

### **Apartments**

Although apartments in Madison are in ample supply, almost all 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. The negative aspect of this convenience is that on a month-to-month basis, the apartments are expensive compared to others in Madison. However, students agree that it is better to pay more per month than to pay for 3 to 8 months of housing in Madison when you are not living here!

### **University Housing Communities of Madison**

University House Highlander  
121 W Gilman St. Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-255-5070  
Toll Free: 800-949-5070  
Fax: 608-284-2075  
Email: [highlander@stevebrownapts.com](mailto:highlander@stevebrownapts.com)  
Web: [www.sba-campusconnect.com](http://www.sba-campusconnect.com)

International and exchange students find themselves completely comfortable at University House Highlander due to its close-knit, friendly community. In addition, residents have a choice between furnished single or double suites with private bathrooms and full kitchens; high-speed internet, cable TV and all utilities are included with rent. The property also features a fitness center, computer lab, movie lounge, 24-hour laundry facilities and a dining hall.

The Towers  
502 N Frances St. Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-257-0701  
Toll Free: 888-553-1015  
Fax: 608-257-3078  
Web: [www.thetowersmadison.com](http://www.thetowersmadison.com)

Situated right on State Street just one block from campus, University House Towers is set up suite-style for two or four people – rooms include all furnishings, a private bathroom and kitchenette. High-speed internet, cable TV and all utilities are included with rent. There is a large game room, computer lab, fitness center, study hall, theater and 24-hour laundry facilities for community use as well as a great dining hall with lots of variety located on-site.

The Regent Apartments  
1402 Regent St. Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 608-258-4900  
Toll Free: 800-456-0223  
Fax: 608-258-1466  
E-mail: [regent@stevebrownapts.com](mailto:regent@stevebrownapts.com)  
Web: [www.sba-campusconnect.com](http://www.sba-campusconnect.com)

Furnished efficiencies, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments are available at The Regent. They feature full kitchens and private bathrooms; high-speed internet, cable TV and all utilities are included with rent. Computer lab, study center, fitness center and laundry facilities are all located within the building. The apartment community features an outdoor basketball court, sand volleyball as well as tailgate areas with gas grills. The Regent is located right next to Camp Randall Stadium and the engineering campus; there is also a free shuttle to other areas of campus.

The Statesider  
505 N Frances St. Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-2570701  
Toll Free: 888-634-3842  
Fax: 608-256-2233  
Email: [info@uhstatesider.com](mailto:info@uhstatesider.com)  
Web: [www.statesidermadison.com](http://www.statesidermadison.com)

With it's huge rooms and new fitness center (with free tanning) overlooking State Street, University House Statesider is our most luxurious community in Madison. Rooms are double occupancy with private bathroom and all include high-speed internet, cable TV and all utilities with rent. In addition to the fitness center, there is also an in-house computer lab and dining hall.

The Saxony Apartments  
305 N. Frances St. Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-255-9353  
Fax: 608-255-9445  
Email: [saxony@chartermi.net](mailto:saxony@chartermi.net)

The Saxony is a large apartment complex located five blocks from central campus (5 minutes walk). You will have your own bedroom furnished with a bed, desk and lamp. You will share a kitchenette (furnished with table) and bathroom with one to two others. No cafeteria is available. The majority of students living in the Saxony are international exchange students, although some American students live there. You can expect clean, adequate rooms, but they are not luxurious! Fall applicants are encouraged to submit the Saxony application as soon as possible and no later than 30 April.

“Don't waste your time looking for a beautiful house near the lake!!! Go directly to the Saxony...they rent for the semester. You can share the apartment with other roommates and meet wonderful people. At the moment, the Saxony is like the headquarters for the exchange students. There is no need to bring sheets, blankets, pots, or dishes...you can rent them there.”

-Student from France

“If exchange students only stay for one semester tell them that it is very difficult to find an apartment. I think there is no sense in phoning numerous different numbers to find a vacant accommodation for only one semester.

I called approximately 30 different numbers but I ended up at the Saxony. And I was not the only one - almost all of us exchange students are living there and it is a lot of fun. The rooms are ok, it is very close to Grainger and they have all the things there you need (starting from blankets to good laundry facilities). ”

-Student from Austria

"The Saxony is not a piece of art, but it is very practical as it is close to everything."

-Student from Denmark

“You should look for a place to live (if you are not living in a dorm) with some Americans. It is better for language learning and for friendship building. They might even take you shopping with them! For the classes, students on campus are valuable resources for determining which classes are right for you. The general rule is to take classes that are fun and interesting to you. Life in Madison is very nice and entertaining with tons of things to do. Everyone finds something!”

- Student from Germany

### **Spring Semester: Other Apartments**

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 very good 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 <http://housing.civc.wisc.edu>. We advise that you limit your search to map sections 1 through 5. You can also look at sublets listed on Craigslist.com <http://madison.craigslist.org/sub/>. Be sure the apartment is furnished.

### **University Residence Halls**

Further information about university housing is online at <http://housing.wisc.edu> . Rates for an academic year are announced each July. The application deadline is February 15.

University Residence Halls: In undergraduate housing you share a room with another student. Most students in the residence halls are in their first year (ages 18-19) and few upperclassmen decide to look for apartments close to campus. Rooms include a bed, dresser, desk, bookshelf, chair, lamp, and closet space for each resident, and a shared refrigerator. Sheets, mattress pad, blanket, pillow, and pillowcase are provided. Bathrooms are not located in your room; you will share a bathroom with other students who live on your hallway (bathrooms have individual shower stalls). You will not have access to cooking facilities, but you will eat in one of several styles of cafeterias. You make food purchases through a "Choice Account," a debit account that is accessed through your UW-Madison student ID card. Each person chooses which foods and how much to eat, and pays accordingly...the choice is yours!

The distance from central campus varies widely depending upon the hall.

Southeast Halls, including Ogg, Sellery Smith and Witte are located within 1-3 blocks of central campus (2-5 minutes walking). Chadbourne, Barnard and Elizabeth Waters are not part of the Southeast Halls, but are located about the same distance from central campus. Winter break housing is available starting January 2 for an additional fee of \$150. All dorms are closed between December 24 and January 2.

Lakeshore Halls are located within 8-12 blocks of central campus (10-15 minutes walking).

UW Madison housing is in very high demand. Fall applicants must inform International Academic Programs of their intention to apply for university halls by February 15. Space might open in university halls for spring semester, although this is not guaranteed. Spring students should be advised not to rely solely on UW Madison Housing for their semester at the UW Madison; it is possible that no space will be available.

The International Learning Community (ILC) offers you opportunities to make friends from the United States and around the world and to interact with faculty, staff, and students who share your interest in learning about different cultures. The ILC is dedicated to enhancing cross-cultural understanding. The ILC living experience

attracts students who are planning to or returning from studying abroad; international and exchange students; students studying foreign languages; and students interested in world affairs.

The ILC residential program is housed in Winslow-Faville-Richardson House, Adams Hall, with space for approximately 80 residents. The facility is a co-ed, non-freshman student community of predominantly single rooms located in University Housing's picturesque Lakeshore Residence Halls neighborhood.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that if your housing costs are covered by IAP, the additional cost associated with living in the ILC might not be included in that coverage; that is, you might be responsible for paying a small portion of your housing fee if you elect to stay in the ILC. It is your responsibility to check with the UW Exchange Coordinator to find out if the ILC fee is covered by IAP.

If you sign a contract for university housing, you are committed to the cost of the room for the full academic year.

#### University Residence Halls: Fall Semester-Only Exchange Students

The University Residence Halls contract is for the full 2008-09 Academic Year. Fall semester-only exchange students can be released from the contract for spring semester, under section 12 of the Contract Terms and Conditions. Here are some highlights of the policy:

- You can be released from your contract for spring semester if you are a fall-semester only exchange student. However, you will forfeit your \$300 deposit.
- A number of fall semester-only students chose to return a contract to live in the University Residence Halls because our \$300 forfeiture is far less expensive than paying for an apartment lease for the entire spring, and/or far less difficult than finding someone to sublet for just the spring semester.
- A \$300 charge represents approximately 10% of the real cost because we are often unable to fill the vacancy since the University admits so few students for spring semester.
- Contract releases to live off campus while attending the University of Wisconsin—Madison will not be granted.
- More information about the Contract Terms and Conditions can be found at: <http://www.housing.wisc.edu/assignment/contracts/>
- There are no exceptions to this policy.

For housing information, costs, and an application, contact Laura Conners, University Housing ([Laura.Conners@housing.wisc.edu](mailto:Laura.Conners@housing.wisc.edu)).

**Graduate halls:** The UW Madison no longer offers university dormitories tailored to the graduate student. Graduate students are encouraged to look elsewhere for housing.

#### Co-ops

In Madison, another popular housing alternative is in a local housing cooperative or “co-op”. Co-ops provide low cost housing, and the expectation is that you will share in household chores like cooking and cleaning. Each of the co-op houses has their own process for choosing new members. Call the house you are interested in and ask for the Membership Coordinator. S/he can tell you if there are openings; whether the house allows pets or smoking, serves meat or vegetarian meals, and arrange for you to tour the house and meet the residents. Often you will be invited to share a meal. Every house has its own flavor and personality; you may want to visit several to find one that fits your style. You can obtain more information by visiting the following website: (<http://www.madisoncommunity.coop/index.cfm>).

The International Co-op has been especially popular with exchange students. International co-op has space for twenty-six people, and everyone has their own room. It is located on 140 West Gilman Street, one block from downtown Madison and four blocks from the UW campus. The house phone is 608-283-6333, email is: [internationalcoop@hotmail.com](mailto:internationalcoop@hotmail.com). Semester or year-long leases are available.

“I was an exchange student in Madison and I had a unique experience! I lived in the International Co-op. A Co-op is a big house where you live with a bunch of people, students and working people (between 17-30 years old in mine) in a family atmosphere. It is very nice because you share the house duties, the cost of living is cheap, and you learn how to organize and live in a community where respect and open-mindedness rule the relationships. I think it was the best place to live in Madison, because I lived with Americans and internationals so I had to speak English a lot from the beginning, plus I was living with other people in the same situation as mine--an international student newly arrived in the U.S. If you want to experience living with 25 people, if you like to share, to talk, to discover other cultures, then you should seek membership at the International Co-op as I did!”

- Student from France

### Setting up your Telephone Line

Once in Madison, and if needed, call Ameritech (the telephone service provider) at 1-800-924-1000 (a free call) to set up new telephone service. This will take at least 15 minutes, and could take up to an hour! The operator will request the following information:

Your EXACT address (zip code, street, apartment number, etc.)

Your date of birth

Your parents' address

Names of your roommates

The name of your landlord and his/her phone number

Your preferred long-distance carrier (such as AT&T, MCI or Sprint). You may want to compare international calling plans and rates before committing to a certain company.

Social Security Number. Since you probably do not have this number, Ameritech will request that you send copies of 2 forms of ID. At least one of these must be a photo ID. (eg, passport). Because this requires extra processing time, you may end up with local service only (and no long distance service) for a little while.

### Temporary Housing

If you arrive in Madison and must still look for housing, or your housing is not yet available, 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). 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. Because MFIS housing is limited, International Academic Programs recommends that you do not use this service if you already have a place to stay when you first arrive.

If you would like to stay with MFIS, please communicate with them directly. A brochure on their services and an application for the temporary housing option is included in the mailing you receive prior to departure. MFIS is run by volunteers, thus they have limited hours of operation. Current hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Email: [mfis@redgym.wisc.edu](mailto:mfis@redgym.wisc.edu), Fax: (608) 262-2838, Phone: (608) 263-4010. Include your full name, your home country, if you are male or female, the date you will arrive, and your flight arrival information, including airport name, airline, flight number. If you will arrive at Chicago's O'Hare airport, give them times you plan to arrive on the Van Galder bus (see the section of this booklet called 'Your Arrival').

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

Rates posted below are for single rooms and are subject to change. Memorial Union, Union South, and Lowell Hall have very limited space. Make your reservations now if you would like to stay at one of these lodgings.

Type/Name of housing	Contact Information	Cost	Comments
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Short Course Dorms	1450 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53703. Phone: (608) 262-2270 Fax: (608) 265-5905 Email: <a href="mailto:dorms@cals.wisc.edu">dorms@cals.wisc.edu</a>	\$35.00/ night, \$210.00/week	Limited availability
Campus Inn	601 Langdon Street Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 257-4391 <a href="http://www.thecampusinn.com">www.thecampusinn.com</a>	\$161 (single)/ night + 14.5% tax  \$15 for each additional person	Rates vary according to the size of the room and dates needed.
Wisconsin Center Guest House (Lowell Hall)	610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 256-2621	\$89 per night for single room	You must indicate that you are affiliated with International Academic Programs to reserve a room.
Memorial Union Guest Rooms	800 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706 Phone: (608) 262-1583 <a href="http://www.union.wisc.edu/guestrooms">www.union.wisc.edu/guestrooms</a>	\$72 (no tax); student rate.	UW student ID # required to obtain rates listed
Doubletree Hotel	525 W. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53706 Phone: (608) 251-5511 <a href="http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/MSNDTDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Madison-Wisconsin/index.do">http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/MSNDTDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Madison-Wisconsin/index.do</a>	\$109-\$199 + 14.5% tax.	University visitor rates may be available
Madison Hostel	141 S. Butler Street Madison, 53726 phone: (608) 441-0144 Email: <a href="mailto:madisonhostel@yahoo.com">madisonhostel@yahoo.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.madisonhostel.org">www.madisonhostel.org</a>	<b>\$22/night in dorm style room (AYH members), \$25/night (non members).</b>	Open year round, located in downtown Madison.
University Inn	441 N. Frances St., Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-4881 (800) 279-4881 <a href="http://www.universityinn.org">www.universityinn.org</a>	\$84/night during the week \$119/night on Sat and Sun	

## Life in Madison

The web ([www.madison.com](http://www.madison.com)) has useful links regarding life in Madison and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### Average Temperatures

In degrees Fahrenheit. To calculate degrees Centigrade, subtract 32, divide by 9, and multiply by 5.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	25	30	42	57	69	78	82	80	72	60	44	30
Low	7	11	23	34	44	54	60	57	48	38	21	14

If you are arriving in January, please know that it will be VERY COLD in Madison at that time. Average high temperatures are 25° F (-4° C) and average low temperatures are 7° F (-14° C). Pack a heavy winter coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and scarf. Boots are also recommended, as it will be snowy. If such items are not available in

your home country, you may purchase these items in Madison, but be aware that you will arrive during the coldest month of the year.

### **Parting Comments**

"This is an amazing experience; I would love to stay for one more semester if I could."

-Student from Hong Kong

"A fantastic semester. I learned a lot of things about America and most importantly, about myself!"

-Student from Singapore

"I had absolutely no problem finding an apartment or integrating and orienting myself on campus. My courses are cool and the only advice I can give to other international students is to come to Madison!"

-Student from France

"Enjoy your time at UW...it goes by way too quickly!"

-Student from Austria

### **Fun Facts about Wisconsin**

Madison is the state capital and second largest city in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is known as America's Dairyland or the Badger State

Lake Mendota in Madison is the most studied lake in the world

Mercer, Wisconsin is the Loon Capital of the World (a loon is a water bird)

The state bird is the robin

The state flower is the violet

Wisconsin residents are sometimes referred to as "Cheeseheads"

Wisconsin became a state in the year 1848; the UW-Madison was established in 1849

Badgers are the state animal, named because early settlers mined for minerals; burrowing into the hills like badgers

UW-Madison students and alumni are known as Badgers, after the school mascot