Congratulations on your selection to participate in our exchange program! International Academic Programs looks forward to having you with us next semester, and 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

Exchange Coordinator
Lauren Worth
lworth@studyabroad.wisc.edu
International Academic Programs (IAP)
106 Red Gym
716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
USA
608-265-6329 (telephone)

For visa and immigration questions
International Student Services
716 Langdon Street, Room 217
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 262-2044, Fax: (608) 262-2838, Email: iss@odos.wisc.edu, Website: http://iss.wisc.edu/
CALENDAR
Fall 2012 Calendar
August 30  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.

September 3  Labor Day (no classes)
September 4  Instruction begins
November 22-25  Thanksgiving recess (no classes)
December 14  Last class day
December 15  Study day
December 16-22  Exam week

You must remain in Madison until all your exams are complete

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 restricted.

You are not considered a “degree-seeking” student in Madison (i.e.: you are not planning to graduate from the UW-Madison) and therefore 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 full or “closed” already. Therefore, it is imperative that you register as soon as the system will allow, however you may come to the orientation with questions regarding registration.

Prior to your arrival in Madison, you should:
Research and begin to select classes, as some classes may be filled and closed 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 UW-Madison admission letter (included in your acceptance packet) on how to do this. Contact Lauren Worth (lworth@studyabroad.wisc.edu) or your exchange advisor if you need assistance.
The Timetable listing the semester courses, policies, procedures, and deadlines can be accessed on the web at http://registrar.wisc.edu/timetable (this link does not work if you type it in or click on it) http://registrar.wisc.edu under “PDF Timetable.” Click on the term and year you are enrolling for.

Once you find courses that interest you, you can log into MyUW and use the Student Center (located in the upper right hand corner) to search for the classes and add them to your “shopping cart.” This allows you to save your courses until it is time for you to enroll. Once the date and time arrives for you to enroll, you can log into the student center, click enroll and if all the courses are still open the computer will enroll you automatically.

Enroll on-line at the time and date assigned to you. If a course 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, as well as your student ID number. If the professor/ department agrees you have fulfilled the prerequisites, they can authorize you to enroll in the course.

**Academic Advising**
If you still have questions after the initial orientation in Madison, meet with your exchange coordinator.

**Requesting a UW-Madison Transcript after Completing Your Studies**
Once you have completed your studies at the UW-Madison, you will 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 for your own records, 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), going into the Student Center, and clicking on the Grades link.

**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. Most upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses consist of two 75-minute classes or one three-hour class per week which are taught by professors. Courses typically consist of lectures by professors and a discussion session separate from the lectures, assigned readings and projects. Lectures range in size from 25 to 250 students. In most large lectures, the focus tends to be on the professor presenting information, with minimal verbal feedback from the students. Your attendance and active participation is required.
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.

Assignments/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! Prior to or during the first class period, professors will give you a syllabus laying out the rules, goals, and calendar for their course. Professors assign specific chapters or articles that are to be read before each class period. You are expected to come to class ready to discuss the assigned readings. The most effective way to accomplish this is to manage your time appropriately. Write down assignments, keep a calendar with exams and homework due dates, and refer back to your syllabus often for assigned readings or projects.

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! In some cases, failure to speak in class could result in a lower grade. Be brave and let others know what you think!

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. The absence policy and your professor’s allowances will be discussed 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 email or speak with your professor if you anticipate missing class or if you already 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 significantly lower your grade. It is especially important to arrive early for large lecture classes in order to find a seat. (I.e. if the class is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., try to arrive by 12:50 p.m.)

Group Projects—You may be required to complete a group project as part of your course requirements. The same standards for participation, attendance and arriving late apply to these projects as apply to the classroom. Team members will rely on one another to contribute equally to the project. Every member’s input and work 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. If you have a question during a lecture or discussion, do not hesitate to raise your hand and voice it.
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 without properly citing them.

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, open office hours, e-mail address and telephone number on the syllabus that you receive on your first day of the class.

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.

Should you have a question about a grade you received on a project or exam, professors are willing to talk with you about it. If you feel you deserve a different grade, they will allow you to argue your case and will take your thoughts into consideration. However, do not abuse this.

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). 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

**Buying Textbooks**

**UW Book Store:**
In the basement of the University Bookstore, you can buy new and used textbooks. The book store tends to be the more expensive option, but you can reserve your books in advance and they make sure you have the correct editions. New textbooks can be quite expensive, however if you are able to purchase used it is usually cheaper.

The book store is organized by department and by class number. Print out or write down your class list before going so you know the specific course number. There will be “Required books” and “Recommended books” available. You do not have to buy the recommended books, they are simply there at the suggestion of the professor for supplementary reading.

**Underground Textbook Exchange:**
Located at 664 State Street, the Underground Textbook Exchange is a more affordable option to the book store, but has a much smaller selection.

**Amazon.com and Amazon Marketplace:**
Amazon/Amazon Marketplace is a great way to find cheap new and used textbooks online. When using Amazon, ensure you are ordering the correct edition. Please note that if you use a non-U.S. credit card you may be charged an exchange fee. Also take caution in searching for your textbooks to make sure you have the correct book/edition. Textbooks from Amazon.com generally arrive within 5 days, while buying textbooks from an individual seller via Amazon Marketplace could take two weeks or more. If ordering from Amazon, make sure you order from the American version, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). These come from sellers in America, whereas if you use Amazon from your home-country, it could take much longer for your books to arrive.

**Libraries**
Some professors may make a copy of the book available on reserve in the library. You may borrow the book to read in the library, but are not allowed to bring it home with you. There are usually only a few copies at most, so if someone else is reading the book you will not have access to it until it is returned.

**Greater University Tutoring Service (GUTS)**
Do you want to practice your English? GUTS provides a conversational English program that will match you with a UW student tutor to practice your English for two hours a week. When and where you meet is the responsibility of you and your tutor to determine. You can also participate in other English learning activities provided by GUTS throughout the year. Check out their events calendar for more information: [http://guts.studentorg.wisc.edu/events.html](http://guts.studentorg.wisc.edu/events.html)

GUTS also provides tutors for a variety of academic fields and will match someone with you to meet your needs. Don’t hesitate to ask for help! It’s easier to ask for help than to try to catch up with your coursework when you’re behind.

**Computer Labs and Printing**
Free computer access is available at 17 locations on campus. Color and black & white printing are available at all computer labs. Color printing is 50 cents per page and black & white printing is 7 cents per page. You can add money to your WisCard to pay for printing. Laptops are also available to rent by the day, week, month, or semester. For more information on computer lab locations and hours please visit [http://www.doit.wisc.edu/computerlabs/](http://www.doit.wisc.edu/computerlabs/).

**Writing Center**
The writing center is a free resource on campus to answer any questions you have about citing sources, grammar, editing, and writing. You are able to take writing workshops throughout the semester to practice your writing or get help on any written work you have for classes. The writing center best equipped for international students if located at 5134 Helen C. White Hall. You are able to call ahead (608-263-3780) to make an appointment, however appointments are not necessary. If you do make an appointment, but do not show up, the writing center will not allow you to make another appointment for the remainder of the semester.

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
Academic 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.

There is a taxi stand outside of the airport where you can get a taxi to bring you to campus. Follow the signs from baggage claim 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. Taxi service from the airport to campus is approximately $20 one-way.

*Flying into Chicago:* In Chicago, you have the choice between O’Hare International Airport and Midway Airport. (When buying your airline ticket to the U.S., O’Hare will offer a less expensive fare). At O’Hare and at Midway, you are able to buy a one-way ticket for the Van Galder bus which stops at two locations in Madison. The Memorial Union stop is the campus stop.

Schedule and prices for Van Galder are available at [http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/](http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder/). Be sure to consult the scheduled departures from Chicago O’Hare airport to Madison. 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 is accessible from terminals 1, 2 and 3. At Midway, the bus loads at the outside baggage claim doors 3 and 4. We suggest buying your ticket in advance, however you are able to buy your ticket directly from the driver.

Once you arrive at 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: 608-256-5566
- Madison Taxi: 608-255-8294
- Union Cab: 608-242-2000

**Getting to your Housing**

Once in the taxi, direct the driver to the address of your dormitory or house. They will drive you directly there. Be prepared to share a taxi with other students or customers, as many taxi services in Madison operate on a "shared fare" basis. It is normal to tip cab drivers a few additional dollars on top of the fare.

Have the address and phone number of the dormitory or house you will be staying at. When you arrive, the last thing you will want is to dig through your luggage trying to find the information. It is best to have it with your passport or in your wallet or purse for easy accessibility.

- 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”

**If you arrive before orientation:**
1. Get your UW campus ID card (also known as your WisCard) in room 4316 at the Memorial Union or room 149 at Union South. *Please note:* you must be enrolled in classes before you can get your WisCard. Campus maps are also available throughout Memorial Union and Union South.
2. Get your Madison city bus pass in the Student Activity Center at 333 East Campus Mall and explore Madison! *Please note:* you must have your WisCard before you can get your bus pass.
Checking In
If you have any questions or problems when you arrive, please feel free to check in at International Academic Programs office (106 Red Gym, next to Memorial Union). Our office hours are from 7:45am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. If you do not have questions or concerns, we look forward to seeing you at orientation!

Your IAP Study Abroad Advisor has weekly office hours - the schedule is available at http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/about/staff.html. This link does not work. 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 building.

If you have a personal computer with you, many cafés offer free wireless internet. It’s polite to buy a coffee or something small if you use their internet. There are many cafés around campus, as well as on State street and around the Capitol.

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 2nd 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 and Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)
Mandatory Requirements
Medical treatment in the United States is very expensive which makes quality insurance coverage essential. 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 either qualify for a waiver with UW-Madison approved insurance or enroll in SHIP. In either case, registration with the SHIP office is mandatory.

You must enroll in SHIP or file a qualifying waiver by September 15th if you are studying at UW-Madison in the fall semester and by February 15th if you are studying in the spring semester. If you miss these deadlines late penalties will apply.

University Health Services (UHS)
UHS provides all students enrolled at UW-Madison with primary physical and mental health care and disease prevention services. UHS is located at 333 E. Campus Mall, floors 5, 6, 7 and 8. Services include 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). Most services at UHS are fully covered for SHIP members with no out-of-pocket expense. You will receive more information about UHS during orientation at Madison.

**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. You can view benefit and premium information on-line in the "International Student" section at: [www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship). At orientation, SHIP representatives will provide details about the plan and be available to answer any questions you may have.

**SHIP Coverage**

Fall coverage is effective August 15th and terminates on January 14th.

Spring coverage is effective January 15th and terminates August 14th.

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.

**SHIP 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 on the UW-Madison campus at: 333 East Campus Mall, 7th Floor. The SHIP office is open from 9am until 5pm, Monday through Friday and accepts payment by Visa/MasterCard or check. Payment with exact cash amounts are also accepted.

**Waiver Applications**

It is important to review the most current Waiver Application which is available on-line at: [www.uhs.wisc.edu/docs/ship_waiver.pdf](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/docs/ship_waiver.pdf). 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.

**Contact Information**

Not every health care need can be met through UHS and the health care system in the US can be difficult to navigate. SHIP is available to assist students with questions related to their insurance coverage. Please do not hesitate to contact the SHIP office with any questions you may have regarding UW-Madison health insurance requirements.

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: shipmail@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 likely 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. Those closest to campus are Associated Bank and US Bank. When deciding upon a bank, ask these questions:

1. 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.)
2. 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. Some banks offer free transactions for using their ATM machines.)
3. What annual fees will be charged? (Some banks charge annual fees to their customers for having accounts at the bank.)
4. What is the 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 is 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 2012-2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students 25 Years of Age and Under</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>1,190.00</td>
<td>560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and housing (with utilities)</td>
<td>9,000.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incidental (clothes, transportation, person items, etc.)</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Expenses*</td>
<td>$14,534.00</td>
<td>$7,920.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students 26 Years of Age and Above</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>1,190.00</td>
<td>560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and housing (with utilities)</td>
<td>9,000.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental (clothes, transportation, person items, etc.)</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
<td>750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Expenses*</td>
<td>$14,990.00</td>
<td>$8,110.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*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) 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 University Austral de Chile*. Students coming to study at the UW-Madison through other programs 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 your Exchange Coordinator to determine if this fee would or would not apply to you.

Please note: Should you choose to apply for housing in a university dormitory, it is imperative that you pay attention to deadlines and submit all applications and paperwork with enough time to be received by the deadline. Housing on campus is in short supply and you are in competition with UW students. If you miss the deadline or do not submit your paperwork, there is no guarantee that you will be offered housing in a dormitory. Should this happen, you are able to contact the dormitory directly to speak with the hall director and explain your case, but again, there are no guarantees.

Apartments
Although apartments in Madison are in ample supply, most apartments must be rented for 12 months. The options listed below have been 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 more expensive compared to others in Madison. However, students agree that it is better to pay more per month than to pay rent for 3 to 8 months in Madison when you are not living here!

Most rentals require a lease, contract or agreement between the renting party (student), and the owner of the property (landlord).

Leases in Wisconsin are legal contracts, and should be carefully reviewed before signing. A lease is a binding agreement. It is a financial commitment for the period of time outlined in the contract, and the promised rent must be paid even if plans change. For example, if a lease is signed for 12 months and you leave after 6 months, the full rent for the remaining 6 months will still be due to the landlord. Sometimes, finding someone to take your place in the rental for part of the time is an option (subletting), but these can be difficult to arrange, and you are still responsible for any property damage (even damage caused after you’ve left) or missed rent if that person doesn’t pay.

Rental leases are generally for 12 months, but there are some available for shorter lengths (academic year, semester, or just summer). It is not uncommon for the rent rate to be slightly higher when a stay of less than 12 months is planned.

For more information, please see http://campusareahousing.wisc.edu/faqs.asp#b8.
It is recommended that students look for a place with a lease term that is only for the timeframe of your stay in Madison. Unlike University Housing, rental apartments do not close over academic breaks and are available to you for the duration of the dates outlined in your rental contract.

Students who live off campus still have access to on-campus dining facilities. For more information about this, visit: [http://www.wiscard.wisc.edu/accounts.html](http://www.wiscard.wisc.edu/accounts.html)

Consider what type of living situation you would prefer when searching for a place to live. Typically, you are able to find an apartment where you are the only occupant, or you can sublease an apartment (take someone else’s place for a short period of time). You can also join a co-op, where many people live in the same house and share all the facilities, or you can find your own group of fellow students to sign a lease together.

Also consider what you will do for a bed, bedding, and other furniture you feel may be necessary. Some apartments do come pre-furnished, but the furniture is typically things that have been left behind by other students and not always the best quality. An alternative to a pre-furnished apartment is loaning furniture from Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS). See [http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/programs/FurnLoan.htm](http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/programs/FurnLoan.htm) for more information.

It is important to not feel rushed into making a hasty rental decision, or enter into a rental contract without seeing an apartment in person. Many aspects of residential dwellings can’t be relayed in pictures – including sounds, noise, odors, cell phone signal reception, etc. If you are unable to see the apartment in person in advance, ask someone you trust in Madison or contact Madison Friends of International Students (608-263-4010) to ask about the property.

If a lease is signed before your arrival and you find that things are not what you expected, the lease is still binding. If you choose to wait to find housing until you arrive in Madison, there are places to stay until you sign a lease. Madison Friends of International Students is a good resource for information on temporary lodging until you find an apartment or dormitory. Usually within a week of arrival, most students are able to find a comfortable place to call home. Rentals near campus are plentiful, and there are several resources to assist you in your search.

**Finding a Place to Live**

UW-Madison has a convenient and useful search engine where you can search for all types of rental housing in close proximity to campus, including semester and academic year leases. The Campus Area Housing website has online listings of privately owned apartments, houses and rooms for sublease, as well as consumer rental information. For further information, visit their website at: [www.campusareahousing.wisc.edu](http://www.campusareahousing.wisc.edu) or call the Campus Information Center at (608) 263-2400.

Below are some options students have used in previous years.

**University Housing Communities of Madison**

University House Highlander  
121 W Gilman St. Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-255-5070  
Toll Free: 800-949-5070  
Link to Email: [http://www.sba-campusconnect.com/contact.php](http://www.sba-campusconnect.com/contact.php)  
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
Fax: 608-257-3078
Web: 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
Link to contacting online: http://www.sba-campusconnect.com/contact.php
Web: 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: 608-256-7070
Fax: 608-256-2233
Email: eric.orsbon@bmocinc.com or alyssa.heikkinen@bmocinc.com
Link to contacting online: https://thestatesider.residentportal.com/resident_portal/?module=contact
Web: www.statesidermadison.com

With its 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
Toll Free : 800-216-1771
Fax: 608-255-9445
Email: 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.

The Sovereign Apartments
4829 Sheboygan Ave. Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-274-7070

The Sovereign Apartments is an apartment complex near campus that houses many International students. They have one and two-bedroom apartments and each apartment has a clothes washer and dryer, refrigerator, dish washer, and stove. The apartment complex also includes a fitness center and pool. The price of rent includes basic cable and internet, as well as electricity, heat, and water.

“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

University Housing-Residence Halls & Graduate Student Housing.
Information about university housing is online at [http://housing.wisc.edu](http://housing.wisc.edu). Rates for an academic year are announced each July. The application deadline is February 15.

In undergraduate housing you share a room with another student. Most students in the residence halls are in their first (ages 18-19) and second years. Rooms include a bed, dresser, desk, bookshelf, chair, and closet space for each resident, and a shared refrigerator. Bathrooms are not located in your room; you will share a bathroom with other students who live on your floor. There are kitchens for use in some of the halls, but you will usually eat in one of the several cafeterias on campus.

The UW Madison also offers University-owned apartments that are available to graduate students. More information on this can be found at [http://www.housing.wisc.edu/universityapartments/](http://www.housing.wisc.edu/universityapartments/)

For those who live on campus, food purchases may be made through a "Housing Food Account," a debit account that is accessed through your UW-Madison student ID card, or WisCard.
Winter break University Housing may be available starting January 2 for an additional fee. All residence halls are closed between December 24 and January 2.

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 Housing; it is possible that no space will be available. **Check in with University Housing often once your request has been submitted.**

If you’re interested in your status or placement options with University Housing, please contact them at: assignme@housing.wisc.edu

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).

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 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 Kim Grocholski, University Housing  
(kim.grocholski@housing.wisc.edu).

**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 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@gmail.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

**Temporary Housing**

If you arrive in Madison and your housing is not yet available or you have not yet found 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). 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 contact 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. 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, and flight number. If you plan to take the Van Galder bus from Chicago, give them time you anticipate to arrive in Madison (see the section of this booklet called ‘Your Arrival’).

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@odos.wisc.edu  
Fax: (608) 262-2838  
Phone: (608) 263-4010
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 on a daily basis. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type/Name of housing</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Course Dorms</td>
<td>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></td>
<td>$35.00(single)/ night, $210.00/week</td>
<td>Limited availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Inn</td>
<td>601 Langdon Street Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 257-4391 Toll Free: (800) 589-6285 Fax: (608) 257-2832 Email: <a href="mailto:reservations@thecampusinn.com">reservations@thecampusinn.com</a> <a href="http://www.thecampusinn.com">www.thecampusinn.com</a></td>
<td>$120-150 (single)/ night + 14.5% tax $15 for each additional person</td>
<td>Rates vary according to the size of the room and dates needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Center Guest House (Lowell Hall)</td>
<td>610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 256-2621 Fax: 608-262-5445 Toll Free: 800-947-3529 Email: <a href="mailto:lowell@ecc.uwex.edu">lowell@ecc.uwex.edu</a></td>
<td>$89 per night for single room $10 for each additional person</td>
<td>You must indicate that you are affiliated with International Academic Programs to reserve a room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Union Guest Rooms</td>
<td>800 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706 Phone: (608) 265-3000 Email: <a href="mailto:wuhotel@union.wisc.edu">wuhotel@union.wisc.edu</a> <a href="http://www.union.wisc.edu/guestrooms">www.union.wisc.edu/guestrooms</a></td>
<td>$72 (no tax); student rate.</td>
<td>UW student ID # required to obtain rates listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Hostel</td>
<td>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></td>
<td>$22/night in dorm style room (AYH members), $25/night (non members).</td>
<td>Open year round, located in downtown Madison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Inn</td>
<td>441 N. Frances St., Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-4881 (800) 279-4881 <a href="http://www.universityinn.org">www.universityinn.org</a></td>
<td>$84/night during the week $94/night on Sat and Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIFE IN MADISON
The web (www.madison.com) has useful links regarding life in Madison and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Average Temperatures
Be prepared for impromptu snowball fights on Bascom hill, a common occurrence on campus after large snowfalls in the winter.

The figures below are calculated in degrees Fahrenheit. To calculate degrees Centigrade, subtract 32, divide by 9, and multiply by 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
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<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are arriving in January, please know that it will be VERY COLD in Madison at that time. Average high temperatures are 28º F (-2º C) and average low temperatures are 10º F (-12º C). Pack a heavy winter coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and scarf. Warm, water-resistant boots are also recommended, as there will be snow and slush on the ground. If such items are not available in your home country, you may purchase these items online or in Madison, but be aware that you will arrive during the coldest month of the year.

In general, January is the coldest and driest month, June is the wettest (most precipitation), and July is the warmest.

FREE MADISON ACTIVITIES

**UW Arboretum:**
A fantastic place for a hike, the UW Arboretum offers a variety of ecosystems to explore including prairies, savannas, deciduous forests, conifer forests, and wetlands. Make sure to stop by the Visitor’s Center for a map before you get started. The arboretum offers walking, biking, and cross-country skiing trails.

**Henry Vilas Zoo:**
Located south of campus, Henry Vilas Zoo is just a quick bus ride away. Open year round it houses a variety of animals and exhibits.

**Olbrich Botanical Gardens:**
Outdoor garden admission is free and features 16 acres of beautiful displays. Free guided tours of the gardens are provided on Sundays through the end of September.

**Tour the Capitol Building:**
Free tours are offered daily (excluding New Year’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day) and last approximately 45-55 minutes. Groups of ten or more can make reservations over the phone and online.

**Madison Museums**
Many museums in Madison offer free admission. These include the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the Chazen Museum of Art, the Geology Museum, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and many more.

**Frisbee Golf**
Frisbee golfing is a huge extracurricular activity for many students, and there are several Frisbee golf courses around Madison. Many also double as beautiful parks to sit and relax or enjoy doing homework in the sunshine.
For more information on free activities in and around Madison, check out
http://attractions.uptake.com/wisconsin/madison/cheap_vacations/135753792.html

Also, for weekly news on events around the city, the publication Isthmus provides tons of information on weekly events going on in and around Madison. Some are free, some cost a small free, all are quite fun and provide a good taste of Madison culture. Check out their website at http://www.isthmus.com/ or pick them up for free from news stands on campus.

FOOTBALL & BASKETBALL TICKETS
UW-Madison is proud of all of its sports teams, but one of the best experiences while you’re in Madison is to attend a UW-Madison football or basketball game. Be a part of the energy and excitement of the crowd, connect with fellow classmates, and be a part of UW-Madison’s notorious fan section.

Craigslist:
http://madison.craigslist.org/tix/ Individuals sell their unwanted tickets. You can sometimes find them for a reduced price—a great way to save money!

UW Ticket Marketplace:
http://www.uwbadgers.com/tickets/marketplace.html Another place to buy individual tickets, although these are generally full price.

PHONE SERVICE
Setting up your Telephone Line (Landline)
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 should take at least 15 minutes, but 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.

Cell Phones
Prepaid cell phones (also called no contract cell phones) are available by many phone companies and will allow you to keep in contact with friends and family at home as well as new friends in Madison. Cell phones can be purchased at a variety of places such as Radio Shack, Wal-Mart, and at both West and East Towne Malls. There are many pre-paid cell phone providers including U.S. Cellular, Verizon Wireless (there’s a store right on campus), AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint, Cricket and AirFire. ***Make sure to compare rates before deciding on a company, and get as much information as possible on international rates if you want to use the cell phone to call home.

The best plan is to obtain a pre-paid cell phone for calling and texting friends and classmates in Madison. If you want or need to call home, using Skype is typically the cheapest method. You are also able to put money into an
account with Skype if you need to call a landline phone (not another computer) and it costs infinitely less than any cell phone.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

MTA
The Madison Transit Authority will be your best tool for getting around Madison. Since your tuition includes a bus pass, you will find the MTA to be quite useful in getting you anywhere you desire. Check out their website for bus schedules, bus routes, and trip planning options for exploring Madison.

http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/

Community Car
If you’re looking to do a day-trip with friends, or would like to rent a car for a short period of time, Community Car is your hook-up. By joining their organization, you have an option of rental plans for wheels. You can do a pre-paid plan, monthly plan, pay-as-you-go plan, and a few others. Prices range anywhere from $3.50 an hour to $85 per day. By joining, you also are provided (with each reservation) 150 free miles (i.e. you don’t have to pay), gasoline, carwashes, insurance, maintenance, and 24-hour assistance. Check out their website for more information and an application if it interests you. http://www.communitycar.com/

Badger Coaches
Badger Coaches leave from Memorial Union and travel to Milwaukee seven days a week and Minneapolis on the weekend. Stops include Mitchel Airport in Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport, making Badger Coaches extra convenient. Purchase tickets in advance online to save money: badgerbusonline.com

Megabus
An affordable option for traveling to Minneapolis and Chicago, buses leave from Memorial Union going to Minneapolis and from the Dutch Mill Park-and-Ride going to Chicago. The earlier you book a ticket, the cheaper it will be. Tickets start out at just $3!

www.megabus.com

Traveling Outside the U.S.
If you plan on traveling outside the U.S. during your time at UW, please note there are immigration regulations that will affect your re-entry into the U.S. Make sure to bring with you your passport, which should contain a valid J-1 visa stamp, and your DS-2019 immigration document with a travel validation signature. Bringing along financial documentation and your transcript could also be beneficial. As these regulations are always changing, please make sure to check with the Department of State for updated information. Their website is travel.state.gov/visa

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 (From Awesome America - [http://awesomeamerica.com/wisconsin/](http://awesomeamerica.com/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.
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.
Since early settlers mined for minerals by burrowing into the hills like badgers, badgers are the state animal.
UW-Madison students and alumni are known as Badgers, after the school mascot.
The Winnebago, Menominee and Dakota Indians lived in Wisconsin.
The first French explorer, Jean Nicolet, arrived in Wisconsin in 1634, thus why many cities and lakes have French names.
Wisconsin has over 14,000 lakes and 7,446 streams and rivers.
Milwaukee, WI is home of Harley Davidson Motorcycles.
Noah’s Ark in Wisconsin Dells, WI is the nation’s largest water-themed amusement park.
The first Ringling Brothers Circus was staged in Baraboo, WI in 1884.
The American Republican Party was founded in Ripon, WI in 1854 while protesting the possibility of slavery being introduced to the state.

Welcome!