



See you soon!

We at [International Student Services \(ISS\)](#) look forward to meeting you! Please read this third and final new student newsletter to ensure that you start your UW–Madison experience with success!

Did you miss our first two New Student Newsletters? [Review them here!](#)

ISO & ISS Check-in Requirements for New Students



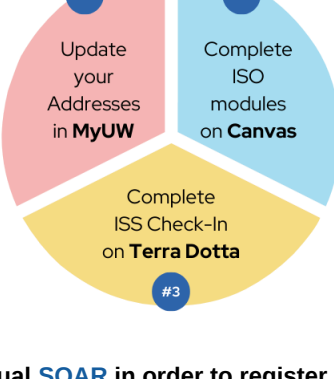
International Student Orientation (ISO) and Check-in are [REQUIRED](#) for F-1/J-1 students who have a Fall 2025 start date on their I-20/DS-2019.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires international student visa holders to register with their school before starting their academic program in the United States. **Completing all steps of ISO and Check-in will fulfill this federal compliance requirement.**

ISO IS NOW OPEN! [Enroll here.](#)

Please complete the steps below **by your program start date:**

- Update your contact information in [MyUW Student Center](#)
- Virtual International Student Orientation (ISO) on Canvas
- ISS Check-in within Terra Dotta
- Enroll full-time



Undergraduate first-year and transfer students must also attend virtual SOAR in order to register for classes.

International Student Orientation

Enrollment Reminder

Fall 2025 Enrollment Guidance

You are expected to arrive on campus and enroll full-time by the program start date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

- If your document says "Initial Attendance," "Transfer-Pending," or "Change of Level":
 - [Full-time enrollment](#) is required to maintain your SEVIS status
 - [International Student Orientation \(ISO\) & ISS Check-in required by your program start date on your I-20/DS-2019.](#)

Course enrollment steps:

1. Find your enrollment date and time in your [MyUW Course Search & Enroll App](#).
2. Contact your academic or faculty advisor if you have questions about courses or degree requirements.
3. Select your courses. [Enroll full-time](#) for your F-1/J-1 immigration status.

ISS is working closely with campus partners to support international students facing delays in securing a student visa for the upcoming semester. We recommend that you make the earliest visa appointment available and then contact the consulate or embassy to request an expedited student visa appointment. If you are not able to secure your student visa to arrive on campus by the start of the semester, please follow the flowchart below according to the type of I-20 you currently have. If you need help to understand your I-20 type, please review the [common immigration terms](#) page.

- [Fall 2025 New Students with Initial Attendance or Transfer-pending I-20 flowchart](#)
- [Fall 2025 Continuing Students with Continued Attendance I-20 flowchart](#)

Travel Guidance



In your carry-on luggage, make sure you have your travel documents:

- Printed I-20 or DS-2019 (Make sure to sign and date on page 1 in **blue ink**)
- Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 visa (visa not required for Canadians)
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- Proof of funding matching your I-20/DS-2019

Reminder for arriving in the U.S.:

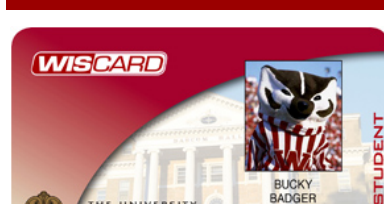
You **CANNOT** arrive more than 30 days before the start of your program. If you experience delays in arriving, please contact ISS as soon as possible.

After Arriving in Madison

Check out the "Planning your Travel" in the [Pre-Arrival and Arrival](#) section of our [Becoming a Global Badger](#) page for tips on how to get to Madison once you arrive in the U.S.



After Arriving in Madison



Get Your Wiscard

After you arrive on campus, you must obtain a Wiscard, which is your campus ID and debit card. Go to the Wiscard Office to apply for your card. Please visit the [Wiscard website](#) for hours and locations.

Student Bus Passes

Bus passes are available as part of your tuition. **You must have your Wiscard in hand to get your bus pass.** Visit the [UW Student Bus Pass Program](#) to learn more.



Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)

The [Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#), offered through UHS, provides international students with a comprehensive and accessible health insurance plan. All F-1 and J-1 students and their F-2 and J-2 dependents must enroll in SHIP or receive a waiver based on a qualifying insurance plan approved by UW–Madison. **The deadline for Annual and Fall enrollment is September 14, 2025.**

Set Up Your Tuition Payments

Is your education funded by your government or a third party? If so, make sure you inform the Bursar's Office in advance so that your account is set up correctly. Visit the [Bursar's website](#) for details on the following topics:

- Third-party payment instructions
- Foreign currency payment for certain countries and currencies
 - There are two [international payment options](#): Flywire and Convera
- [BadgerPay Payment Plan](#) for scheduled tuition payments
- Dates and deadlines

Helpful Resources for your Transition to UW–Madison

Who to contact for more information about:

- **Tuition billing and payments:** [Bursar's Office](#)
- **Student Health Insurance:** [Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#)
- **Health and Well-being:** [University Health Services \(UHS\)](#)
- **Course selection and academic questions:** your academic advisor, graduate program coordinator, or department contact
- **On-campus employment, Glacier, and payroll and tax filing resources for international students:** [International Payroll & Tax Filing Resources](#) and Human Resources (HR) contact person.
- **Family resources:** [Office of Childcare](#) and [Family Resources](#)

Meet the ISS Transitions Coordinator, Allison Streckenbach!



Hello, everyone!

My name is Allison, and I am the Transitions Coordinator at ISS. One of the main priorities of my role is to be a resource for new international students as they transition to the United States, the state of Wisconsin, and UW–Madison.

My goal is to provide a friendly face and someone that incoming students can contact at ISS about pre-arrival resources, orientation, and other non-immigration questions. For example, some topics you may want to learn more about include housing, winter in Wisconsin, transportation in Madison, opening a bank account, getting a U.S. phone or SIM card, and how to get involved on campus, among other things. We have many of these resources on our website and social media platforms as well.

At such a large school, it can feel overwhelming to navigate through the many offices and resources we have both on-campus and online. If you find yourself having trouble finding resources to meet your needs as a new Global Badger (international student), please feel free to contact me.

Just like the other staff at ISS, I am here to help. Best of luck in your preparations for coming to UW–Madison, and safe travels.

Sincerely,
Allison Streckenbach (she / her / hers)

Reach out to Allison with non-immigration questions. Some topics she can assist with are:

- How to find housing
- How to get cell service/ SIM card(s)
- Getting a U.S. bank account
- Transportation/getting around campus
- How to find on-campus jobs (Handshake)
- Grocery store guide and where to buy essentials
- Weather safety in WI
- How to get involved on campus and with ISS
- How to get a driver's license
- How to access academic support resources
- Career exploration resources
- Wellness resources
- Other non-immigration questions

[Send Allison an Information Request](#)

Learn about and apply for the International Peer Mentor (IPM) Program!



Welcome Events



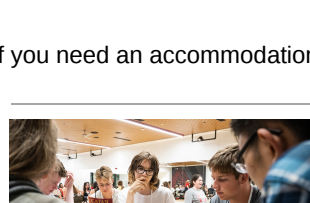
International Student Welcome and Information Fair (ISWIF)

When: Thursday, August 28, 12-2 p.m.

Where: International Community Center (Suite 130), Pyle Center

What: Welcome event and resource fair for all incoming international students hosted by International Student Services (ISS). Learn about academic resources, student organizations, campus identity and cultural centers, and other UW–Madison partners as you get to know your fellow international students. Lunch provided, and special guest Bucky will be helping to welcome our new Global Badgers!

If you need an accommodation to attend this event, please email issprograms@iss.wisc.edu.



Welcome (Back) International Student Game Night

When: Thursday, September 4, 5-8 p.m.

Where: College Library, Rm 1250: 1st Floor Lounge

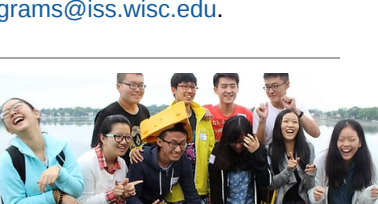
What: Join both new and returning international students for a night of fun and games! All students are welcome to come and enjoy some food, board games and video games at this social event. Students will get to meet each other, explore College Library, and learn how they can rent games, books, equipment, and more.

If you need an accommodation to attend this event, please email issprograms@iss.wisc.edu.

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) Welcome Picnic

When: Saturday, August 23, 11 a.m.

Where: Brittingham Park (829 West Washington Avenue)



What: Welcome Picnic is an annual MFIS event held at the beginning of the fall semester to welcome newly-arriving international students, scholars and their families. Each year hundreds of international visitors gather with Madison community members for a day of food, fun and friendship. [Register here.](#)



Tuesday, Sept. 2
3–4:30 p.m.

Alumni Park
724 Langdon Street
Next to the Memorial Union Terrace

*All new students are welcome.
First-come, first-served.*

Get Involved on Campus

Once you are settled, make sure you have a plan to get involved and connect with other students on campus. Here are some resources to get started:

Just ISSued (ISS Newsletter)

ISS newsletters have the most important and up-to-date information related to maintaining your F-1/J-1 student visa status and taking advantage of opportunities to get involved in campus life, stay healthy, and achieve success. Please read through each issue to stay informed! [Make sure you're signed up to receive the newsletters!](#)

Other ISS Programs

ISS Programs help students get connected and succeed at UW–Madison. This includes social, educational, and community service events designed to meet international student needs. Check out our [event calendar](#) and [Get Involved](#) page.

University Events Calendar

[University events calendar](#)

Disability-related Accomodations



Students requiring disability-related accommodations should contact the [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#) as soon as possible to request services and provide documentation. For more information, please visit [McBurney's website](#).

Scam and Fraud Awareness

Please review the ISS post on [Avoiding Fraud and Scams](#). You will learn about different types of common scams, what to do if you suspect you are the target of a scam and how to report any incidents.

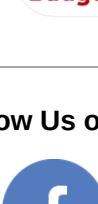


Off-campus Safety



Download [BadgerSAFE](#) – the official safety app of UW–Madison Police Department! Receive crime alerts and safety info direct to your phone, connect with UWPD quickly via call or text, walk virtually with a friend, get instant access to campus resources, and more.

Follow Us on ISS Social Media:



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