

Visiting International Student Program

Experience UW-Madison student life!



Visiting International Student Program

The Visiting International Student Program (VISP) welcomes students interested in short-term academic study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Enroll in Coursework at a World-Class University

VISP students enroll for one or more academic terms in regular university courses taught by world-class faculty at one of the nation's top public research universities. Courses taken and grades received in this program will appear on an official University of Wisconsin-Madison transcript.

Receive Unmatched Student Support

VISP staff provide personalized advising as well as a variety of cultural and social events to help students feel welcome on our campus. From football games, ice cream socials, advising events, and more, the VISP staff is here to support our students from application through the end of their time in our program.

Join us for the Fall, Spring, or Summer Term

Read more about our [Admission process](#), [Academics](#) at UW-Madison, and [About Madison](#) to learn if the Visiting International Student Program is right for you.

Experience UW-Madison student life and apply to VISP today.

Admissions

Thank you for your interest in our Visiting International Student Program (VISP). VISP was launched in 2012 to help international students study abroad at the University of Wisconsin-Madison outside of a formal exchange program.

Learn more about our Admissions Process including [Eligibility](#), [Cost of Attendance](#), and our university [Academic Calendar](#). Visit [How to Apply](#) to submit your application at least three months before the intended start of your program.

Review [Your VISP Path](#) to learn more about the entire process of becoming a student and participating in the Visiting International Student Program.

Eligibility

Any international student who has completed at least one semester of college/university study and meets the proficiency requirements below is welcome to apply. Applicants do not need to be currently enrolled in an educational institution.

English Language Proficiency Requirements

Non-native speakers of English and those who have not recently studied at a university where English was the language of instruction must provide language proficiency test scores showing scores at or equal to the following:

Traditional Test Options:

[IELTS](#): Minimum of 6.5

[TOEFL](#): Minimum of 80 (iBT) / 550 (PBT)

[TOEIC](#): Minimum of 685

Online Test Options:

[Duolingo English Test](#): Minimum 105

[iTEP Academic](#): Minimum 3.8

[TOEFL At Home](#): Minimum of 80 (iBT)

Undergraduate Level Students

Undergraduate level students have had at least one semester of college/university study and will not have completed their degree before arriving in Madison. Students must be in good academic standing with a minimum grade point average (GPA) equivalent at home university of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. View this international grade [conversion guide](#) and contact us if you have any questions.

Graduate and Dissertator Level Students

Graduate level students have completed an undergraduate degree and may or may not have started a graduate program. Dissertator-level students have completed all PhD coursework requirements and are currently working on a dissertation, or have completed a PhD. No additional requirements apply for students in these classifications.

Cost of Attendance

Students on F-1/J-1 Visas

Students requesting F-1 or J-1 visas are required to submit proof of financial resources for visa documents to be prepared. The following estimates are based on:

- **Tuition and Segregated fees** covering the minimum number of credits for [full-time enrollment](#) as required by the F-1/J-1 visa for your educational level (undergraduate, graduate, or dissertator).
- **Estimated living expenses** for the program duration. This amount includes mandatory [Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#), housing with utilities, food, books & supplies, the \$100 semesterly International Student Services (ISS) fee and incidentals.
- [Undergraduate Level](#)
- [Graduate Level](#)
- [Dissertator Level](#)

Undergraduate level VISP: You will not have completed your undergraduate degree by the time you begin VISP.

Estimated Cost of Attendance for Undergraduate Level Students**

2022-23 Academic Year	Fall or Spring (1 semester)	Academic or Calendar Year (2 semesters)
Tuition & Segregated Fees	\$20,214	\$40,428
Based on minimum enrollment of 12 credits each term		
Estimated Living Expenses	\$8,801	\$18,017
Total Estimated Cost	\$29,015	\$58,445
Summer 2023	4-Week Session	8-Week Session
Estimated Tuition & Segregated Fees*	\$5,093	\$10,133
Based on minimum of 3 credits in the 4-week; 6 credits in the 8-week term		
Estimated Living Expenses	\$2,200	\$4,400
Total Estimated Cost	\$7,293	\$14,533

*VISP students pay international tuition, which is calculated on a per-credit basis. Tuition is capped between 12-18 credits during the fall and spring terms; 6-9 credits during the summer term. Graduate, dissertator level students, and all students in the 4-week summer term will see higher tuition costs if they enroll in more than the [minimum enrollment requirement](#). The per-credit tuition rate is available below for your reference, and is based on the international column of the "Undergraduate & Special" tuition rate from the [Bursar's Office](#) website. Summer segregated fee rates (a portion of the tuition & fee calculation) are finalized during the prior spring semester, usually by early April. Once finalized, the charts above will be updated accordingly.

**In addition to the tuition and segregated fees listed above, students will be charged a one-time official document fee of \$130 by the Registrar's Office to cover future transcript requests and other documents.

Students Without Enrollment Requirements

**2022-23 Academic Year Per-Credit
Tuition Chart**

Number of Credits Taken Tuition & Segregated Fees

1	\$1,732
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2	\$3,413
---	---------

3	\$5,093
---	---------

4	\$6,773
---	---------

5	\$8,453
---	---------

6	\$10,133
---	----------

7	\$11,813
---	----------

8

\$13,493

9

\$15,173

10

\$16,854

11

\$18,534

12-18 credits

\$20,214

Online-Only Students & Alternate Visa Situations

Students not on UW-Madison-issued F-1/J-1 visas have more flexibility in their enrollment. This group includes those studying with us online-only located outside of the U.S. taking part in special programs, individuals who hold dual citizenship, and those with other less-common visa situations.

Students without an enrollment requirement can enroll in as little as one credit or as many as 18 credits each fall or spring semester. Summer maximum enrollments vary by length of program.

All VISP students including this group are assessed tuition & fees on a per-credit basis using the chart to the left. This is based on the international column of the "Undergraduate & Special" tuition rate from the [Bursar's Office](#) website.

Note: depending on your visa status, you may only be charged the non-resident rate instead of the international student rate, which would result in a nominal cost savings. If your bill is slightly lower than the amount listed here, that is likely the reason.

Additional Charges

In addition to the amounts listed on the chart to the left, students will be charged a one-time official document fee of \$130 by the Registrar's Office their first term of enrollment to cover future transcript requests and other documents.

Additional fees may include electronic textbook fees, late payment fees, returned check fees, etc.

Summer Term

Our 8-week and 4-week summer sessions are the most popular, although there are other sessions also available. Sessions of varying lengths may have slightly different cost estimates based on length. Please check out our [Summer page](#) for more information and contact the [VISP Coordinators](#) for additional cost information.

Bringing Dependents

If you are bringing any dependents with you to Madison (spouse or children) you will need to show additional amounts of funding to cover their expected living expenses. They will also need to receive visa paperwork from UW-Madison in order to enter the U.S.

Funding Options

UW-Madison is unable to offer any scholarship support for our visiting international students. International students are not eligible for U.S. financial aid.

You may be able to secure outside scholarship support by looking at these [potential funding resources](#) or by applying for scholarships from your home country or institution.

Academic Calendar

VISP welcomes students during any of the three academic terms:

Fall: Early September through late December.

Spring: Mid-January through mid-May.

Summer: Several 3-8 week sessions are offered from mid-May to late August. Read more about this special term on our [VISP summer page](#).

Exact dates can be found on the [official academic calendar](#) website. You must be able to arrive in time for the start of the semester and be able to stay for the entire term. In fall and spring, VISP offers a comprehensive in-person orientation before classes begin.

How to Apply

Apply at least three months before your intended start date at UW-Madison. We do not have a fixed deadline to participate but completion of the entire admission process and visa application may require many months to complete. There are a limited number of spots available each semester, so apply early for best consideration.

Step 1: Select the [VISP Track \(traditional or a thematic option\)](#) for your academic goals.

A red button with white text that says "Click Here To Apply!".

Step 2: _____

Application tips: Over 99% of VISP participants are issued an **'F-1 student visa.'** If you aren't sure which type to request, please contact VISP@dcs.wisc.edu for assistance. Please answer **'NO'** to **Residency**

Evaluation questions. VISP Students cannot be legal residents of the state of Wisconsin.

Step 3: You can either upload your application materials while submitting your application, **OR** submit scanned copies to VISP@dcs.wisc.edu afterwards. However, please only email items that you were not able to upload in your application to avoid duplication.

- Official **university transcripts** (undergraduate level students only)
- **English proficiency exam scores** (TOEFL/TOEIC/IELTS/iTEP/Duolingo), if required as outlined on our [VISP Eligibility page](#). Please do not have computerized scores sent to UW-Madison.
- **Passport** information page
- **Financial support documents** (bank statements and/or scholarship letters) showing at least the [minimum cost of attendance](#) if requesting an F-1/J-1 visa from our program. If the bank statement is not in your name, please provide a signed affidavit of financial support from the account holder. See a [sample bank statement](#) and [required affidavit of financial support](#) for assistance with this requirement. Note: The financial support documents can be sent after your admission.

Step 4: VISP coordinators will be in touch with you within a few days after receiving your documents.

Questions? Please contact the [VISP Coordinators](#).

Academic Integrity in Applying

As an applicant to VISP, by submitting your application you certify that your application is complete and accurate. We hold you accountable to ensure the authenticity and honesty of your application, written statements, and additional materials subsequently submitted.

Visa Application Process

The visa application process may differ by country the process is subject to change. We recommend researching the visa application process and checking with your local [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) if you have questions. The following is meant to serve as a general overview for your reference.

After your [Admission into VISP](#):

- - If you have not already done so, submit [sufficient financial documentation](#) necessary for the visa process to your VISP advisor.

Request your Immigration Documents through Terra Dotta:

For a visual step-by-step guide to this process, download our [Terra Dotta Instructions for students](#).

- - Visit <https://terradotta.wisc.edu>, and Login using your NetID and password. Then click on the **Incoming Students** tile.
 - Click to start a **New F-1 Student Request**.
 - Select a request for the **2023 term**.
 - Complete the required sections on the Terra Dotta form:
 - **Attached Documents:** you must upload your passport scan and financial documentation as attached documents.
 - **Questionnaires:**
 - *Affidavit of Support:* if you have a financial sponsor you must upload your signed affidavit of support. Hit **Submit** button at bottom of upload screen.

- *Dependent Request Form: Add Dependent (optional)*: If you have a dependent child or spouse coming with you, you must enter that information here.
- *Document Information: New Student*: You are confirming that you understand your I-20 will be delivered electronically.
- *Immigration Information*: Are you currently studying in the USA on a student visa? Enter that information here. If not, please skip.
- **Verifications**: Section for students currently studying in the USA on a student visa.
- **E-Signature Documents**: Read and digitally sign both documents.
- Hit **Submit** button at the top of the screen. Until this is submitted, our staff cannot move forward with your request.
- Your electronic I-20 will be ready approximately 2-3 weeks following your Terra Dotta submission.

After you receive your I-20:

- Review the visa application guidance provided to you by our ISS office.
- Pay your [SEVIS fee](#) online using your personal SEVIS identification number.
- Make your visa appointment at your local [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#), complete the appointment, and receive your visa back.
- Be sure to keep photocopies of all important documents for your records.

Your VISP Path

We understand that studying abroad can be a complicated process, so the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) would like to help you prepare for your upcoming adventure.

Read below to learn about your pathway through the study abroad process. From researching the program, to preparing for your time abroad, onsite orientation, to your return home. From start to finish, VISP is here to help. Be sure to contact your [VISP Coordinators](#) if you have any questions along the way.

- [Admissions](#)
- [Eligibility](#)
- [Cost of Attendance](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [Visa Application Process](#)
- [Your VISP Path](#)

This is an accordion element with a series of buttons that open and close related content panels.

Expand all Collapse all

Applying to VISP

- Research our program to be sure that VISP is right for you.
- Receive permission to attend VISP from your current university if you are currently enrolled.

- Verify that your passport is valid a minimum of 6 months past the intended end date of your program in the US. You can still apply for VISP if you do not have your passport.
- [APPLY to VISP and submit your application materials](#) at least three months before your intended start date. There are a limited number of spots available each semester, so apply early for best consideration.
- Wait for admission review and decision (communication via email).

VISP Admission & Pre-arrival in Madison

- Receive 10-digit campus ID by email and activate your [MyUW](#) account.
- Read your Admissions email and the [Academics pages](#) of our website.
- Request your I-20 immigration documents via the Terra Dotta portal.
- Start reviewing the course offerings in your [Student Center](#).
- Explore the VISP Canvas course for orientation modules on topics such as: Academics, Course Enrollment, Student Life, Health & Safety, and more.
- Activate your [WiscMail email address](#) in your MyUW account. Your wisc.edu email address will be used for all official university communications, so be sure to check it frequently throughout your time at UW-Madison.
- **ENROLL in CLASSES** or validate your wish list if it is not yet your enrollment time
- Understand [enrollment deadlines](#), academic policies, refund policies, and fees.
- **VISA DOCUMENTS** – Receive paper admission letter and immigration forms in your VISP Welcome packet.
- Research the visa application process, [pay your SEVIS fee](#) and schedule an appointment with the nearest [U.S. Embassy or consulate](#).
- **HOUSING** – Research [housing possibilities](#) and arrange for temporary housing if needed.
- **INSURANCE** – Understand mandatory [health insurance requirements](#). You may purchase SHIP or file a waiver when you arrive.
- **ARRIVAL PLANS** – Research the airports, orientation date, and arrival information by visiting our [About Madison](#) page.

Arrival in the U.S.A.

- **ARRIVAL** – Attend your required orientation(s) and contact your [VISP coordinator](#) if you need assistance.
- Pick up your [Wiscard Photo ID](#) and your free [Madison Metro Transit bus pass](#).
- Open a free bank account to facilitate tuition payment.
- **HOUSING** – Finalize your permanent housing for your time in Madison.
- Purchase Renter's Insurance to protect your personal property against theft or other incidents.
- Update your mailing address in your [MyUW account](#) once you locate housing.
- Stay healthy with [University Health Services](#) and the [Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#).
- **FINALIZE COURSE ENROLLMENT** – Attend and ask for permission to enroll in any [courses with limited access](#) that you are interested in taking.
- Add, swap or drop courses so that you are enrolled in your [minimum credit load](#). See [deadlines for adding, swapping or dropping classes](#).
- [Buy your textbooks](#).

- [Pay your tuition bill](#) by the deadline. There are several methods of payment including options for paying your tuition with [foreign currency](#).
- Maintain your visa status by working with your [VISP Coordinators](#) and [International Student Services \(ISS\)](#).
- Read the monthly VISP News newsletters to learn of campus activities, upcoming events, and other helpful information for your time on our program.

Preparing to Return Home

- Understand when you must leave the U.S. (typically 60 days after the end of your semester for those on F-1 visas and 30 days for those on J-1 visas).
- Contact your [VISP coordinator](#) and [ISS](#) if you plan to extend your academic stay or transfer into another academic program at UW-Madison or elsewhere in the U.S.
- Check your [MyUW](#) for any holds on your account that could prevent you from requesting your transcript.
- Close your bank account, notify any utility companies (Madison Gas & Electric, cell phone providers, cable/internet etc.) of your departure and pay any outstanding bills.
- Update your mailing address in your Student Center.
- Once your final grades are posted you can [order your official transcript](#) showing the courses you took and grades received.
- Join the [Wisconsin Alumni Association \(WAA\)](#). You're a Wisconsin Badger now!