

# VISITING INTERNATIONAL

UW–Madison welcomes international undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students to study at UW–Madison for one or more terms as a University Special student. University Special students take regularly scheduled courses for credit which are displayed on an official student record, but are not currently earning a degree from UW–Madison. There are four main categories with different learning goals and admissions pathways.

## FORMAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The program is available to students attending a university abroad which has a formal exchange agreement with UW–Madison. Students work directly with their home university's exchange/study abroad office for the admissions and enrollment procedures. The four exchange offices at UW–Madison are:

- Business Exchange (<https://bus.wisc.edu/current-student-resources/bba/study-abroad/incoming-exchange-students/>)
- Engineering Exchange (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/exchange/>)
- International Academic Programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/exchange/>)
- Law Exchange (<http://www.law.wisc.edu/academics/international/foreignex.htm>)

All formal exchange students except those pursuing law studies are admitted by the Adult Career and Special Student Services (ACSSS) office, which also serves as the academic dean's office.

## VISITING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (VISP)

The program is available to international students who wish to study at UW–Madison for one or more semesters or a summer term—and are not part of a formal exchange program. The Visiting International Student Program (VISP) participants are admitted by ACSSS. Details about the program, admissions criteria, and student experience are provided at the VISP webpage (<https://visp.wisc.edu/>).

## CAPSTONE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Capstone certificates reflect a focused collection of graduate-level courses which allow students with a bachelor's degree to obtain additional professional skills and certification. Capstone programs do not lead to the conferral of a degree, but do appear on a student's UW–Madison transcript. The availability of a capstone certificate program to an international student varies as follows:

- The 100% online programs are available to international students who remain abroad.
- Students already in the US on another visa type (e.g. J–1 scholar, J–2 dependent, H1B) may be eligible for admission to any of the capstone certificate programs.
- Full-time programs on the university campus require international students to hold an F–1 or J–1 visa to study legally in the United States. The programs approved by the US government for F–1 or J–1 visas include Actuarial Science (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/actuarial-science-capstone-certificate/>), Communication Sciences & Disorders (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/communication-sciences-disorders-capstone-certificate/>), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Fundamentals (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/gis-fundamentals-capstone-certificate/>), and Computer Sciences. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/computer-sciences-professionals-capstone-certificate/>)

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A comprehensive list with details about program content, admissions criteria, and the application process is available at the Types of Study (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/>) page.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The Intensive English Program (IEP) (<https://esl.wisc.edu/intensive-english/>) at UW–Madison provides quality academic instruction to adults who wish to improve their proficiency in English. IEP offers full-time, 15-week programs in the fall and spring semesters and an 8-week Summer program. The classes range from lower-intermediate (A2) to advanced level (C1). Beginning-level instruction (A1) is not offered. IEP participants are admitted as UW–Madison students in University Special student status. Further details about the program content, admissions criteria, and the application process are available at the Types of Study (<http://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/other/>) page and the IEP website (<https://esl.wisc.edu/intensive-english/>).