UW–Madison welcomes international undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate 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/](https://bus.wisc.edu/current-student-resources/bba/study-abroad/incoming-exchange-students/))
- Engineering Exchange ([https://www.engr.wisc.edu/academics/student-experience/study-abroad/](https://www.engr.wisc.edu/academics/student-experience/study-abroad/))
- International Academic Programs ([https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/exchange/](https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/exchange/))
- Law Exchange ([http://www.law.wisc.edu/academics/international/foreignex.htm](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/](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 U.S. 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.

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