The Office of Academic Affairs provides a variety of services for all CALS and CALS-interested students. The office welcomes student questions and concerns around academics, careers, scholarships, study abroad opportunities, or other areas of student need. Additionally, there are services and advising available for students who have unusual circumstances or needs, and to address the needs of those from under-served and under-represented student populations.

Every student has an assigned advisor, and students are encouraged to consult their advisors regularly. In CALS, all students are assigned an advisor in their major field of study, or for undecided students in the Office of Academic Affairs. These advisors assist students with choosing courses to match their interests and fulfill all requirements for graduation. They also talk with students about their educational objectives, how to engage in the full Wisconsin experience, and planning for their future.

Students are encouraged to seek advice from university faculty and staff, in addition to their assigned advisor. There are many people on campus who are willing and able to help students; however, it is the student’s responsibility to seek advice.

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences provides resources and advising for students to explore career interests and develop skills as they seek employment, internships, or admission to graduate or professional programs. Advising appointment and programming information can be found on the Career Services website (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/career-services/). Academic advisors and faculty in every CALS major provide specialized career and pre-professional advising.

Many CALS students are interested in exploring professional careers in medicine, including veterinary medicine. For more information about preparing for health careers, visit the Center for Pre-Health Advising (http://www.prehealth.wisc.edu/).

CALS has an extensive scholarship program available to CALS students in addition to university scholarships, grants, loans, and employment available at the Office of Student Financial Aid (https://financialaid.wisc.edu/). One yearly application allows students to be considered for any scholarships administered by the college. Scholarship applications are available through the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WISH (https://wisc.academicworks.com/)), which can be found through the Student Services tab in MyUW or through the Finances section of Student Center. Scholarships with a financial need component require a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/)) on file with the university.

In addition to scholarships, several short-term loan funds have been established for students in the college. Applications for these short-term loans are available in the CALS Office of Academic Affairs.

Today’s college graduates must be prepared for the international community in which they will live and work. Study and research abroad programs offer students unique opportunities to enrich their education by experiencing other cultures and broadening their understanding of agricultural and life sciences outside the United States. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences offers 34 short- and long-term programs in more than 20 countries. All programs carry UW-Madison academic credit, and many fulfill academic requirements. CALS offers scholarships (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/studyabroad/cals-study-abroad-scholarships/) specifically for CALS study abroad students to reduce financial barriers to participation. For more information about study abroad opportunities, contact the CALS Study Abroad office (studyabroad@cals.wisc.edu).

CALS students will find many organizations and clubs to meet their professional and personal interests. Student organizations provide a vehicle for students to gain leadership experience and develop professional skills. For more information see the Registered Student Organization (RSO) Directory (https://win.wisc.edu/organizations/) in the Wisconsin Involvement Network (WIN) and CALS Student Organizations and Clubs (http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/get-involved/student-organization/).