8 Steps to Becoming a UW-Madison International Student

Congratulations! You applied and were accepted to UW-Madison. Now it’s time to confirm your place at the university. Please thoroughly review and complete all steps below at your earliest convenience so that you can start your program of study.

- For detailed ISS guidance, please check: https://iss.wisc.edu/students/new-students/
- If you are an F-1 student who is transferring to UW-Madison, please follow this link for instructions.

Apply for your I-20/DS-2019 in the Terra Dotta Portal

* Please click here for instructions on how to complete your I-20/DS-2019 application in Terra Dotta.

Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee

* Once you have your I-20 or DS-2019, you must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee at least 3 days before your visa interview.
* Watch this SEVIS I-901 fee payment tutorial from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Enter the U.S. before the start of your program of study

* Earliest entry date: 30 days before your program start date.
* Latest entry date: We recommend that you arrive at least 2-3 days before your first orientation.

Complete ISO & ISS Check-in in Terra Dotta

* Complete your compulsory International Student Orientation (ISO) and ISS Check-in in your Terra Dotta portal before your I-20/DS-2019 program start date. There will be several orientation events to welcome you to campus, so we recommend arriving to campus early.

Get your I-20/DS-2019 from your admitting unit

* You can find a full list of admitting units on the Admissions page.
* After you accept the offer, your I-20/DS-2019 will be mailed to you.

Apply for your non-immigrant student visa

* Please click here to check the full requirements at your U.S. Consulate.

Retrieve your I-94 record after you arrive in the U.S.

* You will need your I-94 record for the ISS Check-in.
* See our I-94 Record instructions.

ISS is here to support your successful school life!

* Please contact ISS for support with: your immigration record, transition to studying and living in the U.S., getting involved in student life, and more!

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