

Wisconsin Full-Time MBA

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

TOGETHER FORWARD®

**With nearly 4,000 international students on campus, the University of Wisconsin–Madison has one of the largest international enrollments among U.S. colleges and universities.**

Approximately 25 percent of MBA students are international, representing more than 12 countries. We hope you will feel at home! A variety of resources is available to assist international students with their transition to academic life in the United States.

#### **International Student Orientation**

Prior to MBA Orientation, international MBA students begin with a specialized program. Sponsored by the MBA and Master's Programs Office, this one-day session (August 24, 2020) helps international students get to know one another, learn about campus and School resources (including career advice), and assimilate to life in Madison. Our goal is to ensure that international students have all the resources they need to be successful in their studies and their future careers.

#### **Office of International Student Services**

The Office of International Students Services (ISS) is a campus resource that assists international students in their transition to academic life in the U.S. ISS works with international students to ensure they and their families maintain their nonimmigrant status. ISS staff sponsor orientation activities and serve as liaisons to departments and student organizations.

During International Orientation, ISS offers a visa briefing seminar to help familiarize students with the university. At that time, all international students must register with ISS, as required by the university and the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization (INS).

#### **International Student Services**

716 Langdon Street, Room 217  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-262-2044  
Fax: 608-262-2838  
[iss@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:iss@studentlife.wisc.edu)

» For additional information, visit [iss.wisc.edu](http://iss.wisc.edu) and click the "New Student" link.

#### **Madison Friends of International Students, Inc.**

The Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) is a volunteer organization comprised of members of the Madison community who wish to befriend and assist international students, scholars, and their families. Volunteers provide housing for newly arrived international students for up to three nights while they are looking for housing. MFIS sponsors welcome events, English classes for spouses, and friendship groups.

#### **Madison Friends of International Students**

716 Langdon Street, Room 149  
Madison, WI 53706  
608-263-4010  
[info@mfismadison.org](mailto:info@mfismadison.org)

#### **International Careers and Student Services**

Staff members within the MBA and Master's Programs Office are pleased to offer specialized services to international students, including assistance with career development, résumé writing, interviewing skills, and independent job searches. Throughout the academic year, there will be numerous workshops and seminar series on important topics, based on students' needs.

#### **Some recent workshops have included:**

- Working in the USA: A Seminar Series on Visa and Immigration Issues
- Internship Forums
- Interviewing American Style
- Networking for International Students
- Let's Talk: A Practical English Language Workshop for Nonnative Speakers

Wisconsin Full-Time MBA

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

TOGETHER FORWARD®



## Your Student Visa

To enter the United States, you will need a student visa, usually an F-1. To apply for your visa, you will need to schedule an interview appointment at an American consulate or embassy. To schedule your appointment, you will need to have received from our office your Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Form I-20. Because most consulates and embassies schedule visa interview appointments several weeks (and sometimes even months) in advance, it is essential to start this process as early as possible.

If you have not already done so, complete and submit your International Applicant Financial Statement along with the required documentation to the MBA and Master's Programs Office. Please read and follow all instructions carefully, then submit the form and the required documentation to the MBA and Master's Programs Office. Facsimiles are not acceptable, so you must allow sufficient time for postal or courier delivery.

Upon receipt of your I-20, contact your embassy or consulate to schedule your interview appointment. Then read page two of your I-20 carefully.

Make sure you understand the conditions placed on your admission to the U.S., and then sign the student certification (item 11) at the bottom of page one of the form. Be prepared to provide copies of your financial support documents at your visa interview. When you arrive in the U.S., officials may examine your financial documents again and then return them to you. Keep your Form I-20 with your passport, along with the Form I-94.

You can find the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Form I-20 and more information about the student visa at [iss.wisc.edu](https://iss.wisc.edu).

## Visa Transfer or Change of Status

If you are already in the U.S. on an F-1 visa, you must request the transfer of your SEVIS record to the University of Wisconsin-Madison from your current or most recent school. Complete the International Student Advisor Report for Transfer Notification form along with the financial statement; attach any required financial documentation as well as photocopies of your passport (identity and expiry pages), visa, and I-94; and send to the Wisconsin MBA Program. Your new I-20 will be produced and sent to you directly from the university. Upon arriving in Madison, you must report to the ISS Office with your I-20. Failure to do so within 15 days of the beginning of classes will result in the loss of your F-1 visa status.

If you are in the U.S. on an F-2 visa, you must request and be approved for a change of status to F-1 before you may legally begin classes. You will apply for a change of status through U.S. Customs and Immigration Service after you have received your I-20 from UW-Madison. To request your I-20, complete and submit to the Wisconsin MBA Program your financial statement, required financial documentation, and photocopies of both your and your spouse's passport (identity and expiry pages), visa, and I-94.

Approval of your change of status can take several months from the time you receive your I-20 and submit your application to the USCIS.

If you are in the U.S. on an H visa, you may take classes, but you may not accept a teaching or project assistantship, nor participate in any paid internships.

Wisconsin Full-Time MBA

# » INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

TOGETHER FORWARD®



The Wisconsin MBA Program strongly prefers that you have F-1 status in order to compete for and accept an internship. Follow the instructions above for F visa holders to initiate your request for a change from H status.

If you plan to leave the U.S. before coming to Madison, check your passport and visa stamp to be certain that they are valid. Present your UW-Madison Form I-20 and financial support documents to the immigration officials at your point of entry.

You must attend the university specified on the Form I-20 you present for entry into the U.S. Do NOT use the Form I-20 of any school other than the one you plan to attend. Decide carefully which school you wish to attend and carry only the Form I-20 from that school when you apply for your visa and at the port of entry. Please contact the MBA and Master's Programs Office if you have any additional questions about the I-20 process.

#### **J-1 Student Visa**

Present the Form DS-2019 to an American consulate general or embassy to apply for the visa. Be prepared

to provide copies of your financial support documents at this time and at the port of entry. Carefully read page two of the DS-2019 Form and sign at the bottom of page one, making sure you understand the conditions placed on your admission to the U.S. When you arrive in the U.S., the border officials will examine your DS-2019 Form, which they will stamp and return to you. Keep your I-94 in your passport, along with the Form IAP-66.

#### » Additional Online Resources

International Student Services:  
[iss.wisc.edu](https://iss.wisc.edu)

International Student Services,  
Essential Information for Newly  
Admitted International Students:  
<https://admissions.wisc.edu/admitted-international-checklist/>

U.S. Department of State, InfoUSA:  
<https://www.infousa.com/>