

The Guide

to Graduate Student Life at UW–Madison

2009–2011

Compiled by the
Graduate Student Collaborative



This sixth edition of
The Guide to Graduate Student Life at UW–Madison
was updated and revised by members of the
Graduate Student Collaborative (GSC)
and published in May 2009 by University Communications
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at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgments, Welcome Messages

1. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

UW–Madison History; Getting Started; Studying; Planning Ahead 9

2. CITY OF MADISON..... 25

Welcome to Madison; Beyond Madison

3. STUDENT SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS..... 37

Graduate Student Collaborative; Other Graduate Student Organizations;
The Wisconsin Unions; Diversity and Multiculturalism on Campus

4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS..... 59

International Student Resources; International Crisis Campus Resources;
New International Students

5. FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT..... 71

Tuition, Student Accounts, and Bills; Graduate Student Funding;
Other Financial Information

6. HOUSING..... 83

Campus Housing; Off-Campus Housing

7. TRANSPORTATION 91

Cars; Bicycles; Metro Bus; Walking; Other Local Vehicle Transportation;
Regional Transportation; The Future of Transportation in Madison

8. SHOPPING AND SERVICES..... 101

Basics; Food; Clothing; Personal Care; Books and Photocopies; Electronics;
UW SWAP Shop

9. RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT 111

Recreation; Entertainment; Restaurants

10. LIVING WELL..... 135

Health and Wellness; Athletic Facilities; Campus Safety;
Community Involvement; Spirituality; Fun Things to Do Around Madison

CAMPUS MAP..... 148

INDEX..... 150

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Finally, many thanks go to University Communications for their design and editorial work and overall assistance in seeing this edition of *The Guide* grow from inception to publication!

Sincere thanks,

Sandy Sulzer, Editor in Chief

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

We are delighted that you have joined this great university. While you are here pursuing your graduate education, we want you to make the most of all the resources that the campus and the city of Madison have to offer. This is truly a wonderful place in which to live and work.

The Graduate School's mission is to foster excellence in research and graduate education. We are here to help you in any way we can. You are joining a large family of almost 9,000 graduate students drawn from all over the country and most parts of the world. Each of you brings a unique intellectual, personal, and family history that enriches our academic community. You are also part of a research enterprise that generates over \$700 million in annual support. We have uniformly strong programs in the arts and humanities and all areas of the biological, physical, and social sciences.

The *Guide to Graduate Student Life* is designed to provide useful information that will help you to achieve your academic goals and to enjoy your time in Madison. We are always working to improve graduate education, so please feel free to share your ideas with us. We hope to enhance your lives from the moment you enter to the time you graduate and join over 300,000 living alumni around the world.

Best wishes,

Martin Cadwallader
Vice Chancellor for Research
and Dean of the Graduate School

WELCOME FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION

Along with the Graduate Student Collaborative and the entire staff of the Graduate School, I am happy to present you with the latest edition of the UW–Madison *Guide to Graduate Student Life*. The *Guide* is designed by students for students, as well as for any other readers who will find the information helpful during their stay here in Madison. We are delighted to have you join our community of almost 9,000 graduate students, 700 post-doctoral scholars, and over 16,000 faculty and staff, the latter including our strong cadre of graduate assistants. While here, you will have the opportunity to delve deeper into your scholarly, research, and creative interests, to broaden your activities across programs and multi-disciplinary programs, and to develop into the citizen scholars who will lead our world through the coming decades. The *Guide* can help you navigate the streets of Madison as well as the resources of the university toward that end. We hope you can take advantage of everything we have to offer.

Feel free to visit us any time you are in Bascom Hall.

All the best,

Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education

WELCOME FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT COLLABORATIVE

On behalf of the Graduate Student Collaborative (GSC), we want to welcome you to the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

This edition, for 2009–2011, is the sixth published edition of *The Guide to Graduate Student Life*. It is also available on our Web site at www.grad.wisc.edu/education/gsc/gradguide/index.html.

Graduate students designed this guide with the hope that you will find it helpful in navigating your new community. We invite you to become involved with the Graduate Student Collaborative, which serves graduate students in all departments and programs on campus. We welcome your input and are eager to have you become part of our growing organization. Please contact us at 608–262–0201, gsc@bascom.wisc.edu, or come to one of our many events throughout the coming months.

We hope that this book, written by graduate students, for graduate students, will be helpful to you as you adjust to UW–Madison.

All the very best,

Sandy Sulzer and Chris Moss
Graduate Student Collaborative (GSC) Coordinators

