



**International Faculty
and Staff Services**
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Updates

Immigration Legal Support Office (ILSO) Opening

IFSS is pleased to announce the opening of the Immigration Legal Support Office (ILSO).

ILSO offers no-cost immigration legal services for certain personal applications for UW-sponsored employees and students. ILSO will be available to international students, employees, and their families who are supported by International Faculty and Staff Services (IFSS) and International Student Services (ISS) for limited types of immigration petitions.

If you are interested in learning more about ILSO and if they can assist you, complete the [interest form](#) or email uw.ilsa@wisc.edu.

Resources on Immigration Issues

ISS and IFSS offer up-to-date information and resources regarding changes that impact international students and scholars. All relevant updates can be found under [Immigration Updates](#).

Taxes

Tax season is here! You are required to file your state and federal taxes by April 15. Various tax resources for employees can be found on the [UW Shared Services Tax Resources for Employees webpage](#). This includes information about accessing W-2s, requesting duplicate tax statements, state tax resources, and more.

The W-2 is one of the required documents you need to complete your tax return. If you have a paid appointment at the UW, you can access your W-2 in Workday.

Employees whose employment has been terminated since July 7, 2025 can access their tax resources in Workday via their alternative login credentials received at the time of their separation. All terminated employees will also receive a paper copy of their W-2.

Fellowship letters will be produced in **mid-February**.

Applicable Non-resident Aliens for tax purposes will receive Form 1042-S by **mid-March**.



IFSS Instagram

Please follow us on Instagram [@uw_ifss](#)! Stay updated on future programming, new guidance, and educational content.

Get to Know Me Mondays

We love to know what you, our international employees, are doing! If you would like to be featured on our Instagram, please [fill out this form](#).

Reminders

J-1 Restrictions on Remote Work

As a reminder, according to federal law, J-1 Exchange Visitors can only work remotely for 40% of their appointment. That means, if you work full time, you cannot work remotely more than 2 days per week. If you work remotely, please talk with your J-1 advisor and host department HR administrator to add your home address as a Site of Activity.

SHIP Renewal Reminder

Is your Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) coverage expiring soon? Don't worry, our amazing partners at the SHIP office will send out renewal reminder emails the month your coverage expires. Make sure to review the instructions included in the email to remain compliant with health insurance requirements and the laws regarding your J-1 program.

Upcoming Holidays

Valentine's Day: February 14

It is a day dedicated to expressing love to romantic partners, friends, and family. People often celebrate this holiday by exchanging cards, flowers, and chocolates. Check out these local chocolate shops around Madison to find a gift for your Valentine.

- Eastside – [Gail Ambrosius](#)
- Downtown – [Candinas Chocolatier](#)
- Westside – [Infusion Chocolates](#)

Presidents' Day: February 16

This federal holiday is celebrated in honor of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, both early Presidents of the United States. *You can expect most businesses and government offices to be closed.* Our offices and the rest of the University are open. Read more about the [history of this holiday](#).

St. Patrick's Day: March 17

This traditional Irish holiday is symbolized by leprechauns, who are wearing green and enjoying a beer. Madison hosts a:

- [Parade](#)
- [Fun run](#)
- Numerous pub crawls [before](#) and [on](#) St. Patrick's Day

Persian New Year: March 20

The Persian New Year, also known as Nowruz, is the traditional Iranian spring equinox celebration. Nowruz marks the beginning of spring and symbolizes renewal, growth, and the triumph of light over darkness. UW–Madison's Persian Student Society typically hosts a celebration, so check out their [Instagram](#) for more details.

Upcoming Events

Looking for things to do? Explore these upcoming local events to make the most of the winter weather.

February

Frozen Assets Festival

February 7-8

This free event at the Edgewater Hotel includes ice skating, a 5k run/walk on the frozen lake, a kite festival, free hot chocolate, and more!



Winter Carnival

February 5-7

The Winter Carnival at the Memorial Union is a long-standing Madison tradition featuring adult and kid activities. Make sure to dress warm! You won't want to miss the celebrations and the famous Lady Liberty on Lake Mendota.

Lunch and Learn: Dating Culture in the U.S.

February 13, 11:00 a.m (702 Langdon Street, Suite 130)

International Services, in partnership with University Health Services (UHS), will be hosting a lunch and learn about aspects of healthy relationships and cultural norms that may impact dating in the U.S. Lunch will be provided.

March

International Festival

March 7

This free, local event at the Overture Center spotlights the various cultures represented in Madison. Cultural dances, delicious food, and art are just some of the festivities you can expect.

Full Moon Snow & Sip with Outdoor UW

March 13

Snowshoe to Picnic Point and enjoy a campfire while drinking hot chocolate.

April

Record Store Day 2026

April 18

This annual event is held to celebrate independently-owned record stores across the country, including record stores in Madison! Artists will often release exclusive songs on vinyl or release new vinyl editions of their albums on this day. If you collect vinyl records or love music, this is a great event for you to attend.

Crazylegs Classic

April 25

The Crazylegs Classic is an annual 8k race that runs through downtown Madison and the UW–Madison campus! Registration opens in February.

Global Kitchen

Pancakes with Ricotta and Lemon from @sabina.rusnac

This recipe is recommended by Irina Punguil Bravo, an immigration specialist at IFSS.

"This is a Moldovan recipe that never fails. They always turn out aromatic and fluffy."



Ingredients:

- 3 large eggs
- 200 g ricotta
- 200 ml milk
- 200 g white flour
- 15 g melted butter (about 3-4 tablespoons melted butter)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- Zest and juice of a small lemon
- 50 g sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/3 teaspoon salt

1. In a large bowl, mix the eggs, sugar and salt until foamy. Pour in the milk, ricotta and melted butter. Mix. Then add the flour, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla, lemon juice and zest.
2. Mix gently with a whisk until the mixture reaches the consistency of thick cream. Let the mixture relax and form air bubbles for about 5 minutes.
3. Heat the pan with a drop of oil. Pour a spoonful of the mixture into the pan and cook over low heat until air bubbles appear, then flip and cook until nicely browned.
4. Serve the pancakes with a little honey and/or fruit.

Do you have a favorite international recipe you would like to share? Email it to ifss@wisc.edu for it to be highlighted in the next newsletter!

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