



International Scholar Spotlight



Heangjin Park, an assistant professor of Korean Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, was recently featured in a story for the International Division.

[Check out the story to learn about his research on kimchi.](#)

Watch for Scams

Over the past month, the [Office of Cybersecurity](#) has identified hundreds of scam emails targeting employees, sent from non-@wisc.edu domains, written in a flattering tone, and likely generated using a large language model. These messages aim to build trust over time and eventually persuade victims to transfer money, a tactic known as a ‘Pig Butchering’ scam.

Please be aware of these messages and stay alert when receiving emails from outside the university. If you think you’ve been communicating with a scammer, please break contact immediately and [report the messages as suspicious](#).

Updates

IFSS

IFSS will be transitioning to **Next Gen**, the newer version of Terra Dotta, beginning in **August 2026**. All requests, records, documents, and communications in the current Terra Dotta profiles will be transferred to the new version. Additional notifications, details, and training will be shared by our office in the coming months.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

IFSS is closely monitoring the proposed DHS rule that would eliminate Duration of Status (D/S) for F-1 and J-1 nonimmigrants.

If implemented, the rule would replace D/S admission with a fixed end date on Form I-94, (like H-1Bs currently have). It would require students and exchange visitors to file Form I-539 with USCIS **after** getting a newly extended I-20 or DS-2019 from ISS/IFSS. This means no more last-minute extensions of J-1 programs. The rule shortens the F-1 grace period to 30 days (from 60 days) and introduces new restrictions on program changes.

IFSS will provide updates once the rule takes effect. [Review details of this proposed rule.](#)

Department of Labor (DOL):

IFSS is also closely monitoring the proposed DOL rule that will change the prevailing wage structure for H-1Bs, E-3s and PERM applications. Under the proposed rule, the DOL would significantly increase the wages associated with the four wage levels that currently make up the tiered prevailing wage level system. This may result in the University being required to pay higher wages before it can sponsor an H-1B, E-3 or PERM permanent residency application. If hiring units cannot pay the wage set by the DOL, then it cannot sponsor the H-1B, E-3 or PERM.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:

On April 29, 2026, USCIS began implementing an updated FBI security check system for conducting background checks on certain fingerprint-based applications. Applications received around this time may experience a brief pause while they are entered into the updated security system.

Department of State (DOS):

On April 28, 2026, multiple media outlets reported that DOS began incorporating asylum-related questions into nonimmigrant visa interviews. IFSS advises foreign nationals to anticipate heightened scrutiny during interviews and to ensure their responses are consistent with their stated non-immigrant intent.

International Travel

We strongly encourage employees and visitors to use caution when considering international travel due to evolving policies under the new administration. Updates to visa processing, entry requirements, and possible processing delays may affect reentry to the United States.

Please consult with IFSS if you are in H-1B status and need to travel while your petition is pending with USCIS.

Review our [website](#) for additional travel information.



Before you pack your bags, make sure these essentials are ready to go:

- Passports: Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your planned return date.
- Visa stamp: Confirm your visa stamp is valid and appropriate for re-entry.

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD): Carry your valid EAD card, if applicable.
- For work statuses (i.e., H-1Bs, TNs, and Os): Approval notice (e.g., Form I-797), offer letter, and pay stubs, in addition to your passport and visa stamp.
- For J-1 exchange scholars: DS-2019 with current travel endorsement from IFSS, proof of financial support, evidence of ties to your home country, evidence of acceptance into the program, and SEVIS fee payment receipt, in addition to your passport and visa stamp.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the authority to shorten periods of stay to match passport expiration dates. If the I-94 is issued to match the expiration date of your passport and that date is earlier than indicated on a USCIS approval notice or other immigration document (e.g. DS-2019), the resulting status is shortened to this date and steps need to be taken to avoid a lapse in employment authorization and status. Please notify IFSS if you notice a discrepancy.

Any time that you receive an I-94, either electronically or on the paper I-797 Approval Notice, it supersedes the earlier ones. Thus, the expiration date shown on your newest I-94 is the document of record.

Plan Ahead. Summer travel frequently comes with delays, but international travelers may face extra hurdles. Be prepared to deal with extended wait times that may be caused by:

- Visa Processing Backlogs: Expect delays or limited availability for visa renewals and initial issuances of visas at U.S. consulates abroad during the summer. [Visa wait times](#) vary by embassy or consulate, so plan accordingly. Please see the [U.S. Department of State website](#) to schedule your visa interview.
- Backlogs at the U.S. border: The volume of travelers may lead to longer processing times at airports and ports of entry. Remember that the job of CBP agents requires that they ask questions that may feel intrusive or unwelcome.
- [Review your Form I-94](#) each time you re-enter the U.S.

Reminders

Report Changes to IFSS

Maintaining your status is your responsibility. If there are any changes to your job or work location(s) (see below for examples), you are required to notify IFSS immediately. Failure to report employment changes before they go into effect will impact your immigration status. Since your status depends on your employment, any changes to your employment require prior review by our office. Certain changes may require amending your current status document.

Common changes that require IFSS review may include, but are not limited to:

- Location of work, including on/off-campus and remote worksites
- Salary (excluding normal pay plan increases)
- Job title
- Changing hiring departments
- Shortening employment

Upcoming Holidays

Memorial Day: May 25

Originally called “Decoration Day,” Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to honor those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Most businesses, banks, and federal and state offices are closed on Memorial Day.

Juneteenth: June 19

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally/internationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and emphasizes education and achievement. From its origins in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, the observance of June 19th as African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Father's Day: June 21

Father's Day in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make to their children's lives.

Independence Day: July 4

The entire country celebrates this day with parades, barbecues, fireworks, and other events. Most businesses, banks, and federal and state offices are closed.

Upcoming Events

Looking for things to do? Explore these upcoming local events!

May

Brat Fest

May 22-24

Brat Fest is a nonprofit event that brings the community together each Memorial Day weekend for 3 days of music, fantastic food, and family-friendly fun. Since 1983, it has raised over \$2 million to support more than 100 local charities. It is an annual tradition that honors Wisconsin history and heritage and shows appreciation to community leaders. The event takes place at the Alliant Energy Center (1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison).



Attend an Event at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Whether it's live music, a special exhibit, a plant sale, or one of their many other programs, there's always something to do and see at the Gardens.

You can also find numerous learning opportunities here - from classes and workshops for adults to family programs specially designed for young learners.

Many community groups and garden clubs also host their sales, shows, and exhibits at Olbrich throughout the year. Olbrich Garden is open year-round 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Dane County Farmers' Market

The Dane County Farmers' Market on the Square is a Saturday and Wednesday tradition in Madison, Wisconsin. You'll find the season's best bounty of vegetables, flowers, meats, cheeses, and specialty products from approximately 275 vendors throughout the year. Over 150 members attend every Saturday. All of the items for sale are grown, raised, and produced in Wisconsin by the person behind the stand.

June

June Dairy Month

Experience a local dairy event. Local dairy breakfasts and events have been an iconic part of Wisconsin culture during June Dairy Month for over 60 years. Farm breakfasts are family-friendly events for all to enjoy. They offer attendees opportunities to learn about local dairy farms and meet the dedicated families who keep them running. Enjoy delicious food made with fresh Wisconsin dairy products, and spend time with friends and neighbors.

Forward Madison FC

Come support Madison's professional soccer team. The team's logo features a flamingo, as the city's official bird is the plastic flamingo lawn ornament.

Swimming

The Madison area has [12 beaches](#) to be enjoyed throughout the summer months. Get information about beach amenities, including which beaches have lifeguards, swim ropes, concessions, and more.

In addition to the beaches, Madison is home to [Goodman Pool](#), a large public swimming pool with two water slides, and several play areas for children.

Concerts on the Square

On Wednesdays, starting June 24 and ending July 29, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra puts on a free concert at the Capitol lawn. Bring your picnic basket with dinner, a blanket to sit on, and friends to enjoy the music.

July



Exploring the Outdoors

You may have heard that we have more bikes than cars. And over 200 miles of scenic biking and hiking trails to explore. Plus, more than 250 parks and beaches. It's no wonder Wisconsin is accustomed to earning accolades in this area. If spectator sports are more your thing, sit back and enjoy nearly every event a fan can wish for.

Fete de Marquette

La Fete de Marquette is Madison's premier summer festival, happening between July 9th and 12th at McPike Park! Celebrate French Culture and enjoy music from around the world with a focus on the pulse-beating sounds from New Orleans and Louisiana. Fabulous food, kids' activities, and much more! Information will be available soon on the Wil-Mar Center website.

Opera in the Park

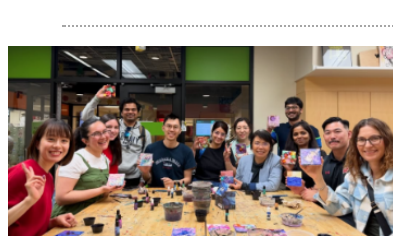
July 18 at 8 p.m.

For over 20 years, Opera in the Park has been the epitome of Madison Opera's place in our community. Garner Park comes alive with music and light sticks, as soloists share their favorite opera and musical theater numbers, along with the Madison Opera Chorus and Madison Symphony Orchestra.

Get Connected

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](#).



IFSS Instagram

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

Professional Development at UW–Madison

UW–Madison is committed to providing community-focused, campus-wide services that support and inspire excellence at UW–Madison. One of the ways the university accomplishes this is by providing the fostering opportunities for growth and development. As a UW–Madison employee, you have [access to thousands of courses, seminars, conferences, online training, and events](#) every year. Maintain, improve, or develop new knowledge and skills that can help you throughout your career.

