Voting While You Are Studying Abroad
UW-Madison Students

If you plan to study abroad during 2020, it is best to plan before you leave to ensure that you can vote. Plan ahead about:

- Registering to vote
- Getting an absentee ballot
- Voter ID

“One of our missions as an American educational institution is to prepare and encourage everyone who passes through the university to be an active, engaged citizen. Voting is one important aspect of this. It is essential to our democratic form of government and a responsibility that comes with citizenship.”
– Blog of UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank, January 29, 2016

Background
The qualifications for voting in Wisconsin: 18 years old, U.S. citizen, resident for 10 days, and not on probation or parole for a felony.

All Wisconsin college students who are eligible voters can choose one appropriate option:

- Register and vote using your school address. Vote at your local campus polling place, and vote for local campus-area offices. You will need to register each time you change address.
- Register and vote using your Wisconsin home address. This may be a good option for those who are eligible for online registration and also plan to vote via absentee ballot.
- Register and vote in your home state, outside Wisconsin. Register directly with your home state, or students abroad can use the services of overseasvotefoundation.org.

If you are a Wisconsin voter and you leave the US to study abroad, you can continue to vote using your last address, as chosen above. You may use that address to vote if you intend to return to Wisconsin.

Registering
If you have a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card, and are 18 or older, you can complete your voter registration online at MyVote.wi.gov. In order to successfully register online at MyVote.wi.gov, the data you enter will need to match the data on file in the Department of Motor Vehicle database, including your zip code. Therefore, if you have an address change, update your address in the DMV database at tinyurl.com/DMVchanges before you register. Online registration closes 20 days before each election.

If you do not have a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card, you can start your registration at MyVote.wi.gov. This web page will give instructions on printing, signing, and mailing the form. Mail registrations must be postmarked at least 20 days before each election.

If you use this method to register, you will need to include proof of your Wisconsin residence. The document at go.wisc.edu/verify is acceptable for proof of residence if it shows your voting address. The address can be updated through your UW Student Center, by editing your mailing address. Use go.wisc.edu/address, or the path is MyUW>Student Center>Profile>addresses.

Requesting an absentee ballot in Wisconsin
Voters who are registered in Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot for a specific election, or for any or all elections in a calendar year. Absentee ballots can be requested at MyVote.wi.gov. Requests must be accompanied by a copy of your photo ID, which can be uploaded at MyVote.wi.gov. If your ID is the special student voter ID, then you also need to upload proof of enrollment, such as the document from go.wisc.edu/verify.
If your voting address is in the city of Madison, you can request an absentee ballot by sending an email to voting@cityofmadison.com. Be sure to include your name, address at which you are registered to vote, the address to which the ballot should be sent, and a copy or picture of your voter ID.

Receiving the absentee ballot
If you want to receive the ballot by mail, you can request an absentee ballot at MyVote.wi.gov or through your municipal clerk. If sent to a U.S. address, it comes with a postage-paid return envelope. To receive your ballot by email, contact your municipal clerk. To return it, you will need to print the ballot, furnish an inner and outer envelope, and provide return postage. The ballot will be accompanied by detailed instructions – follow them closely. In order to be counted, the ballot must be received by your election official by Election Day.

Voter ID
Acceptable voter ID’s for Wisconsin include a Wisconsin driver license, Wisconsin DOT-issued ID card, or US passport. For the 2020 elections, these documents are valid ID’s if they have an expiration date after November 6, 2018. (The address on a voter ID does not matter for voter ID purposes.) The standard UW Wiscard does not meet specifications. However, you can take your Wiscard to the Wiscard office at Union South and get a free student Voter ID card. (Hint: Do this before you leave!) To use the student Voter ID for voting, the card needs to be accompanied by a proof of enrollment, such as your document from go.wisc.edu/verify.

Resources
For any voting questions, contact the clerk of your municipality – contact info is at MyVote.wi.gov. If your voting address is in Madison, the clerk is at 608-266-4601, or email voting@cityofmadison.com. Madison web page: https://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/elections-voting

Voter registration and information events on campus are listed at go.wisc.edu/VoteEvents. League of Women Voters of Dane County will have information from the candidates as the election approaches in “Candidates Answers”: https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/ Wisconsin Elections Commission https://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/military-overseas/temporary-overseas

2020 Elections in Wisconsin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTION DATE</th>
<th>TYPE OF ELECTION</th>
<th>OFFICES</th>
<th>ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSES</th>
<th>FIRST DATE ABSENTEE BALLOTS SENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18, 2020</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Primary for Supreme Court, Judges, County Board, School Board</td>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Late January</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2020</td>
<td>Presidential Primary</td>
<td>Presidential primary, and final election for Supreme Court, Judges, County Board, School Board</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Mid February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 11, 2020</td>
<td>Partisan Primary</td>
<td>House of Representatives, State Legislature, District Attorney, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and Register of Deeds.</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>June 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 2020</td>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>President plus offices above</td>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>September 17</td>
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