Welcome Events
2016-17 Academic Year

Events you should plan to attend:

1. **Monday, August 15: Econ doctoral student orientation**

9:30 am – 2:30 pm: 8417 Social Sciences (all incoming students must attend). Lunch will be provided.

Note: Information will be sent out about getting keys to the first year office. Also, there is a computing orientation in the afternoon. Additional information will be sent in early August.

2. **Tuesday, August 16**

10:00 am – 12 pm (noon): Math boot camp lecture starts in 5106 Social Sciences

- Discussion section will be in 6112 Social Sciences. Please pick a time:
  - 2:25 – 3:15, 6240 Social Sciences
  - 3:30 – 4:20, 6240 Social Sciences

3. **Wednesday, August 31 – day 1 TA training (TAs)**

8:30 am - 4:00 pm (tentative times): Econ TA training, required for all new TAs. A detailed schedule will be sent out in August.

4. **Thursday, September 1st – day 2 TA training (TAs)**

9:00 am - 4:30 pm: Letters and Science TA training, required for all new TAs. Information is available here: https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/page.php?id=45612

5. **International students: International Student Services (ISS) has a list of mandatory obligations for international students:** http://iss.wisc.edu/students/orientation/fall

   a. **International Student Services (ISS) check-in:** For international students**.** College Library in Helen C. White: Starting August 15th, Monday through Friday.
   10 am – 4 pm. See the following website for information (under Step 2):
   http://iss.wisc.edu/students/orientation/fall

   b. International Student Services (ISS) Orientation : Mandatory for all international students. Students must attend one session:
   - **Wednesday, August 24, 1:00 - 3:30 pm (Marquee, Union South);**
   - **Thursday, August 25, 1:00 - 3:30 pm (Marquee, Union South); or**
   - **Thursday, September 1, 4:00 – 6:30 pm (Psychology, Room 105).**

6. **SPEAK Test:** All non-native English speakers are advised to take the SPEAK test once during the fall semester, unless informed otherwise by the graduate advisor:
   http://www.english.wisc.edu/esl/itatraining-speak.htm
   - New TAs who need the SPEAK test to qualify for their funding offer have been sent a SPEAK test day and time.

- If you are an international student who has TA funding starting your 2nd year in the program, please plan on taking the SPEAK test during Fall semester so you know if you will need to take an ESL class spring semester. This will be discussed at orientation.

Optional Events

1. Benefits seminars and info for TAs and PAs: Information will be sent out on any information sessions in August.

2. New Graduate Student Welcome by the Graduate School: Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 11:00 – 4:00: http://grad.wisc.edu/newstudents/ngsw/fall

3. The Graduate School website has other welcome activities listed starting August 29th http://grad.wisc.edu/newstudents/welcomeweek/

Conversational English Resources:

1. Take the SPEAK test and get your score. There will be a recommended ESL course on the score sheet if you score below a 50. Please note you need a score of 45 or higher in order to qualify for Teaching Assistant (TA) positions. Speak with Kim to register for the SPEAK test.

2. ESL classes for graduate students: http://www.english.wisc.edu/esl/degree-main.htm Courses to consider include ESL 343, 344, 345, 349, and 350. ESL 370 is the international TA training course and runs Sept. 19 - Nov.16

3. Greater University Tutoring Services offers conversational English partners and conversational English practice hours: http://guts.studentorg.wisc.edu/tutee/info.html

4. Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) also offers English classes (separate fee) and conversational partners. See their website at: http://www.mfismadison.com/english-classes/

5. Continuing Studies ESL classes (separate fee): http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/english-language-program