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# WordPress Blogger Guide

Last Updated: October 2022

The purpose of this WordPress Blogger Guide is to help you build a blog, and to add a predeparture post as well as an "About Me" section. Once you have completed these three steps, submit your application by filling out the form on the [Stockholm DIS Student Blogger](#) page or the [Copenhagen Student Blogger page](#).

Don't worry if the guide seems extensive – it's all pretty straightforward!

Good luck! We look forward to receiving your application.

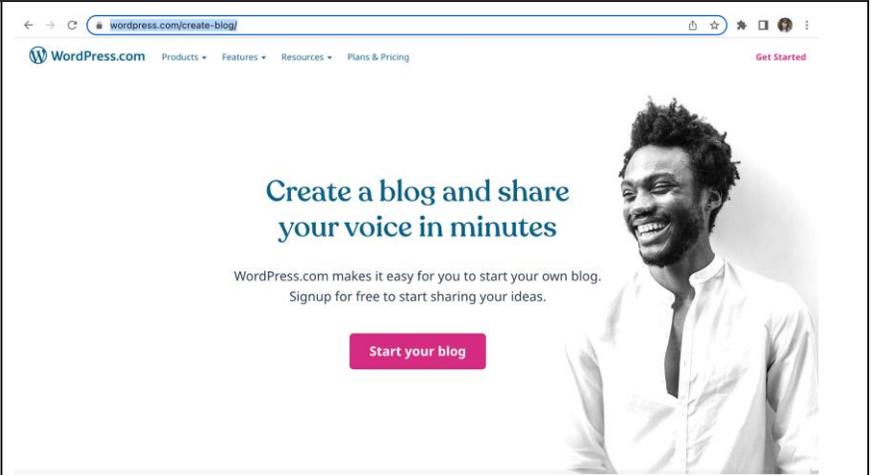
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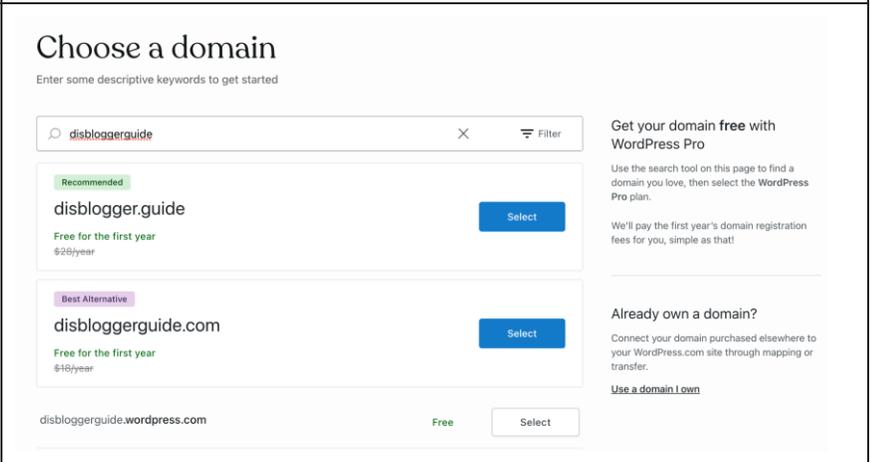
# 1. Step-by-Step Process

1. Go to <https://wordpress.com/create-blog/> and click “Start your blog”.



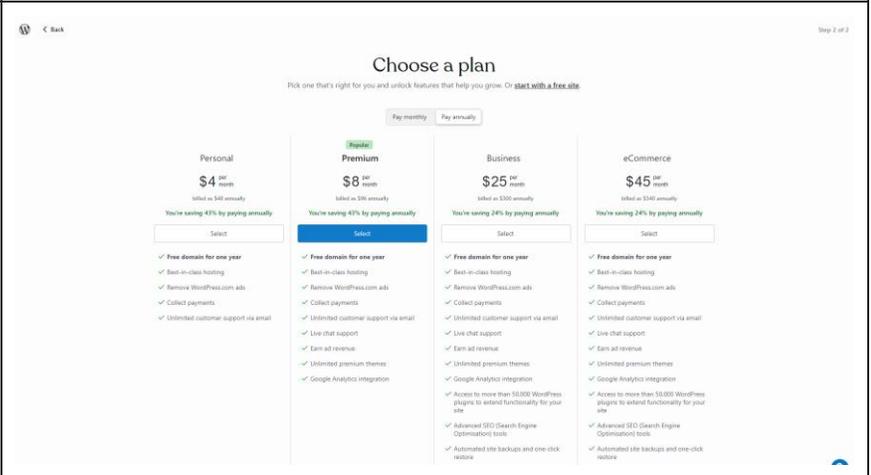
2. Choose a domain—this is your website URL. Make sure to select an option that says “free”.

NOTE: When choosing a domain, if you select one of the options that is free for the first year, you will be required to add a form of payment. We suggest you choose the option that is shown at the bottom of the photo on the right, that includes ‘wordpress’ in the URL.



3. Select the “Start with a free site” hosting plan (right below the headline)

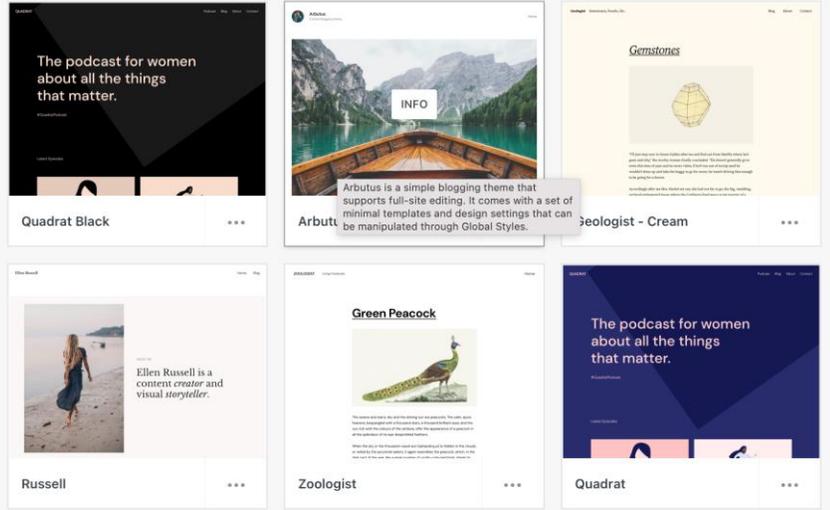
NOTE: If you are prompted to pay at any step of setting up your WordPress blog, just choose the free option!



4. Select a design/theme for your blog. Make sure you choose a design/theme that supports the following features:

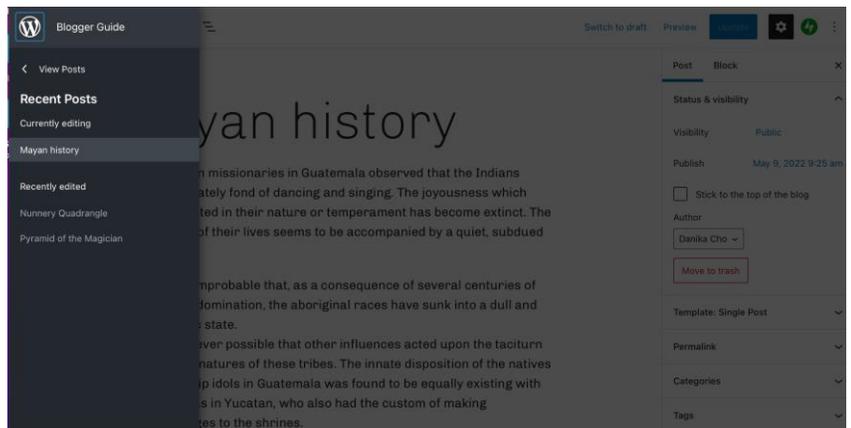
- Homepage
- Blog feed
- About me page
- Contact form
- Photos

Learn more about themes in the [“Theme Options”](#) section below.

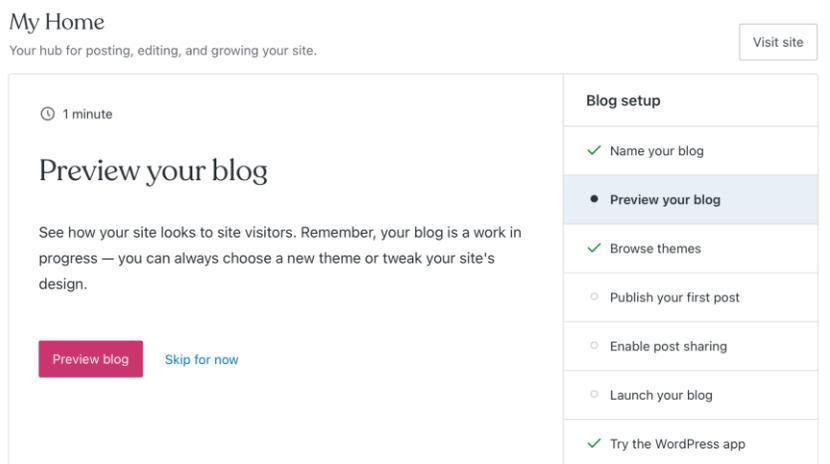


5. Click “Edit Site” with the theme you selected. It will take you to either your home page or a new post.

6. Click on the WordPress Logo on the top left hand side of your screen. A menu like this will pop up. Select “View Posts”.



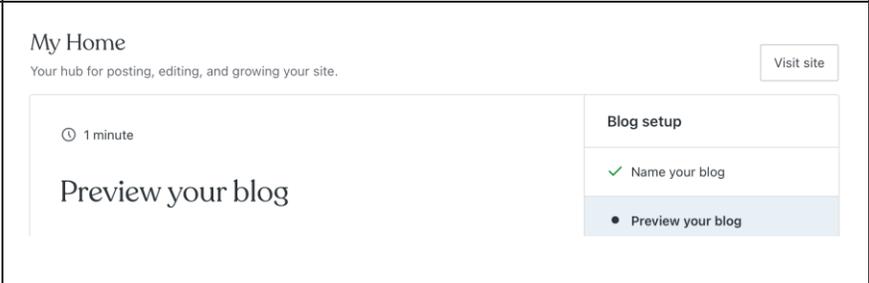
7. This will take you to your WordPress backend aka your behind-the-scenes home page. If you click “My Home”, it will take you to a screen that looks like this.



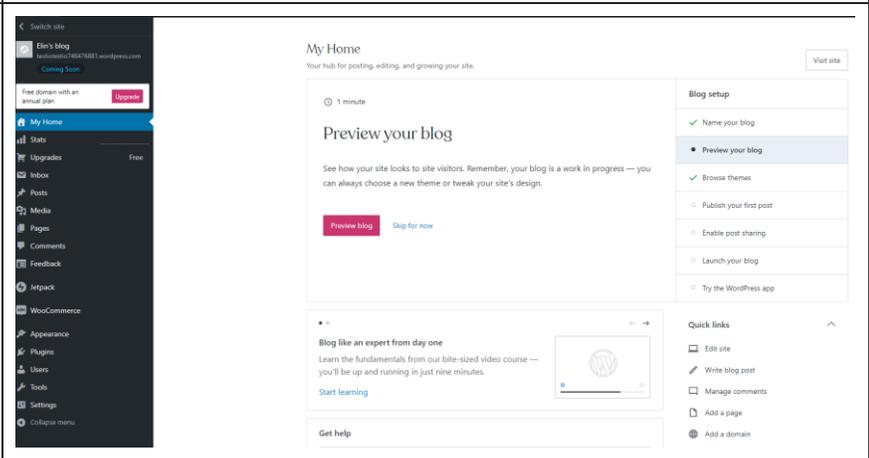
8. First, name your blog. This can be different from your URL/Domain name or it can be the same. This appears as a headline on your home page.



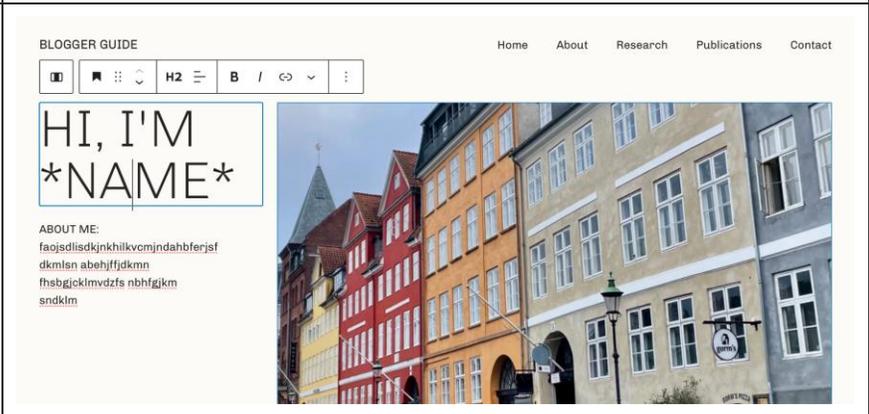
9. On the top right hand side of the screen while on your home page, you can select “visit site”. This will take you to your site’s draft.



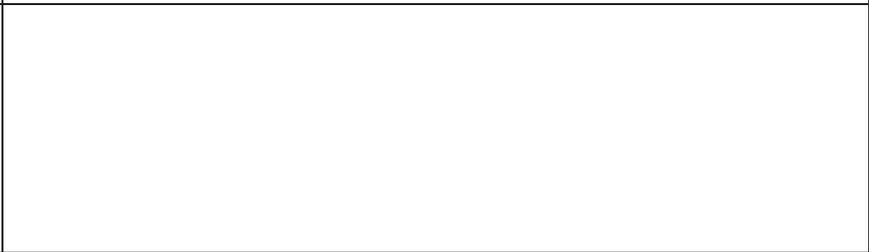
10. While on your home page, select “edit site”. You can find it under “Quick Links” on the right hand side.



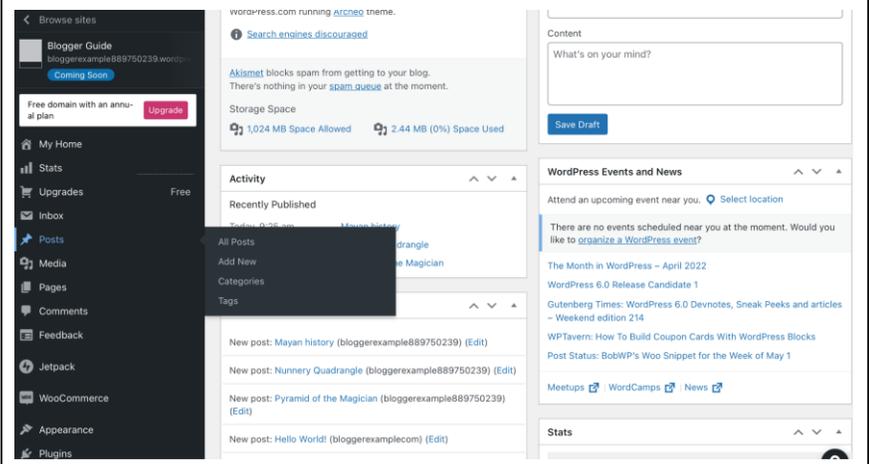
11. Click on text blocks or photos to edit/replace them.



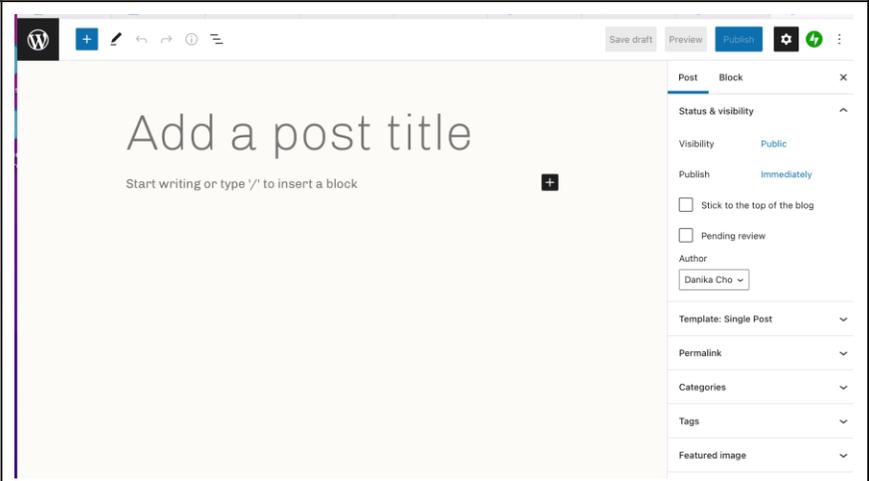
12. Make sure you have a landing page like in the above example. Be creative with it! It doesn't have to look just like this, but make sure there is a homepage that doesn't jump immediately into a blog post.



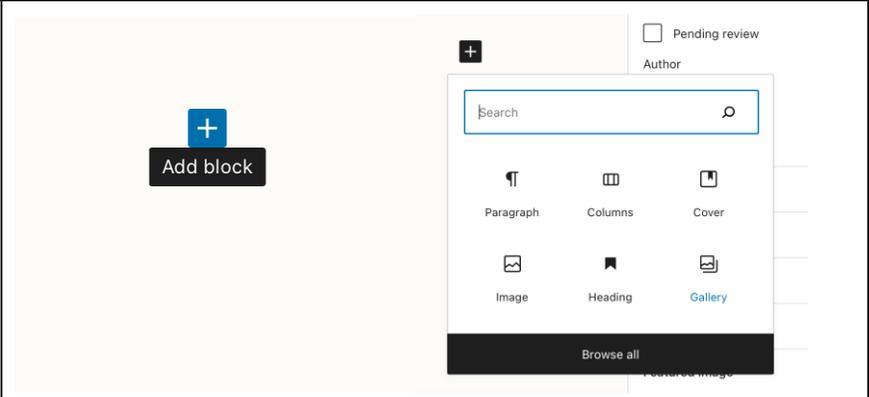
13. To create your first blog post, go back to your backend. On the left hand menu bar, select posts. Here, you can click “Add New”.



14. It will take you to a post that looks like this. Add a title and begin typing.



15. To add a photo, columns, or another feature to your blog post, click on “add block”. From here, select image to insert an image. If you would like to include multiple images next to each other, select “columns” and then insert an image into each column. You may also include the “gallery” feature which displays photos in an assorted fashion.

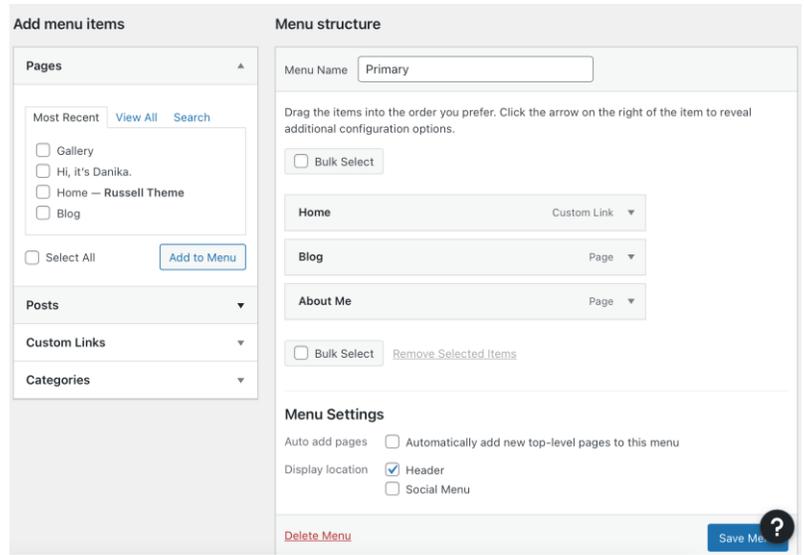


16. Once you have finished a blog post, make sure to either save it as a draft (on the top right hand side of your screen), or publish it!

17. Make sure that your menu includes your home page, your blog feed, and an about me section.

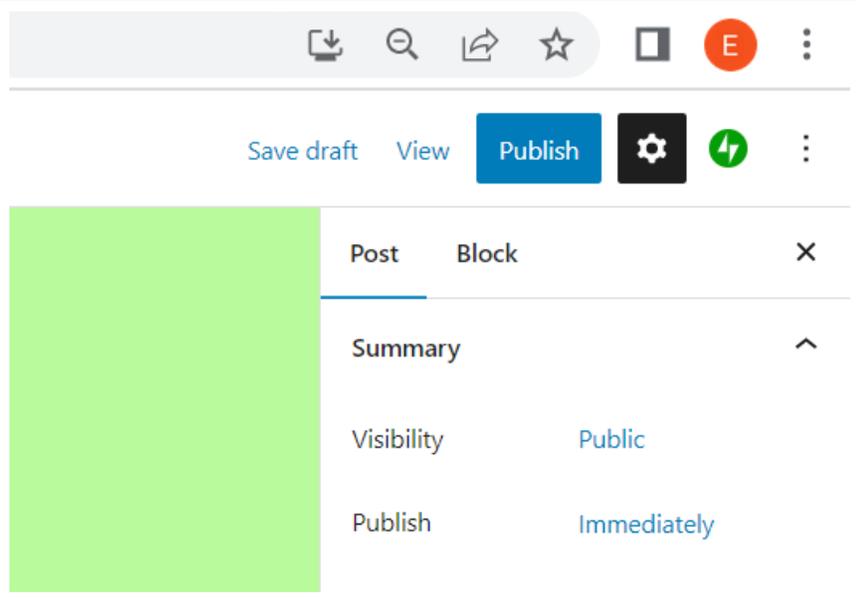
NOTE: The editing tools look and work a bit different for different themes.

For some themes, if you are missing some pages on your menu, click on the page you wish to include in your menu on the left hand block that says “pages”, then press “Add to Menu”. Make sure to save your menu changes.



18. Remember to launch your site! The ‘Publish’ button is at the top when you go to the ‘visit site’ page on the backend.

19. Make sure your site has been posted, and check it on an incognito tab to see what it looks like.



## 2. Theme Options

There are many blog themes to choose from in WordPress. Past students have been using the themes listed below, so you might want to check them out. Just make sure they (still) accommodate the features you will need for your blog (a homepage, contact form, blog feed, about me page, and photos)! You can search for these themes by scrolling through the feed, searching with the search bar on WordPress, or by clicking on the link below and choosing your WordPress account to continue with.

- [Russell](#)
- [Archeo](#)

- [Skatepark](#)
- [Quadrat \(Red, White, Yellow, Black, Green, etc.\)](#)
- [Twenty Eleven](#)
- [Twenty Twenty](#)
- [Twenty Twenty Two](#)
- [Bransbury](#)

### 3. Next Steps

Once your blog has been built, it's time to add a predeparture post as well as an "About Me" section:

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#### **About Me page**

Either have this displayed right on your home page or link it to a menu bar on the top of your home page. No matter what, make sure your "about me" link or information stands out! We encourage you to add your pronouns.

#### **Pre-Departure Blog Post**

Write about your experience of going abroad to study, reflecting on your upcoming semester in Scandinavia with DIS. Include photos (it is okay to use stock photos in the beginning, but make sure to switch these out once you have your own photos in Stockholm or Copenhagen!)