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Aloha and Welcome to HPU!

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) would like to take this opportunity to wish you a warm Aloha and welcome to Hawai'i Pacific University. We look forward to meeting you when you come for document check-in. OISS will be your partners throughout your education; assisting you in achieving your personal and academic goals at HPU. We will advise you on immigration regulations, cross-cultural adjustment, and your academic success. Additionally, we plan special educational and cultural programs including cultural events, immigration seminars, and informal gatherings to help you get acclimated to your new life at HPU. In addition, we will send you a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on OISS and HPU.

We are here to help you once you arrive at HPU. Please know that all of us at the OISS have the expertise and experience to ensure that your time at HPU is enjoyable and successful.

Warm Mahalo,

Office of International Students and Scholars

CHECKLISTS

Pre-Arrival Checklist

- Activate your MyHPU Portal Account (my.hpu.edu)
- Pay your SEVIS fee
- Apply for your visa (this process is different for Canadian citizens)
 - Canadian citizens do not require a student visa but **must** still pay the I-901 SEVIS fee along with presenting the I-20, I-901 receipt, and passport to a U.S Port of Entry official.
- Complete the OISS online immigration orientation (sent to you via email)
- Register for classes
- Arrange your flight tickets
- Arrange for housing **prior to arrival**
- Arrange for transportation from Honolulu (HNL) Airport to accommodation
- Secure health insurance per the listed requirements
- Complete Health Insurance waiver form and submit to OISS before the deadline
- Complete required vaccinations and paperwork, then submit documentation to Registrar's Office

Post-Arrival Checklist

- Check into your arranged housing
- Check-in at the Office of International Students and Scholars (500 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 5A)
 - Please bring your passport, Form I-20/DS2019, and current living address
- Attend HPU's FYE orientation
- Pay your tuition fees
- Get your TB vaccination (only if you will be in the U.S. for more than 5 months)

Optional, but Recommended Checklist

- Get a U.S phone number
- Set up a local bank account
- Get a state ID/driver's license/social security number
- Join a student organization and get involved
- Follow/Like our social media sites for news and updates

YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

F-1 Visa: Short-Term Visiting and Degree-Seeking Students

An F-1 student is a nonimmigrant who is pursuing a "full course of study" to achieve a specific educational or professional objective, at an academic institution in the United States that has been designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to offer courses of study to such students, and has been enrolled in SEVIS (the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System). Once the educational or professional objectives have been attained, the F-1 student is expected by the U.S. government to return to his or her residence abroad. Students under the F-1 visa must be registered full-time* each semester.

**To maintain full-time status, undergraduates must register for at least 12 credits each semester, and graduate students must register for at least 9 credits each semester. [Click here to read about Registration Requirements.](#)*

J-1 Visa: Exchange Visitors

The overall purpose of the J Exchange Visitor Program is "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges." Students who attend HPU under the J-1 visa category come specifically through the exchange partnership set up with their home university. Students under the J-1 visa must be registered full-time* each semester.

**To maintain full-time status, undergraduates must register for at least 12 credits each semester, and graduate students must register for at least 9 credits each semester. [Click here to read about Registration Requirements.](#)*

SEVIS Record Transfer for those already studying in the USA

If you are already studying at a university in the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa, and you are planning to transfer to Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU), you must transfer your SEVIS immigration record to HPU. Once your record has been transferred to HPU, we will create a new I-20 or DS-2019 for you. Contact an international student advisor at the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) for more information.

As a transfer student, you have to begin classes during the next available term; you cannot have a break in between institutions.

Immigration Regulations

Immigration regulations may change with little or no advanced notification. The OISS staff can answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding such changes. Please do not rely on others outside of OISS or an immigration attorney for immigration advice.

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

Access your MyHPU Portal Account

All official university correspondence is sent through your HPU email. It is extremely important that you check this often. You can also have your account forwarded to your personal email.

HPU's intranet (called the **MyHPU Portal**) includes information about your student status, links to information about your transfer credit (should you have any), and access to the portal you'll use to submit your intent to enroll. To access your MyHPU Portal, click [here](#) and provide your log-in details, which you should have received by e-mail. Need help or more information about the MyHPU Portal? [Review the instructions on MyHPU Portal First Time Sign-In.](#)

SEVIS Forms and Fees

Pay the SEVIS Fee

Before applying for your student visa, you must pay the Student and Exchange Information System (SEVIS) fee. SEVIS is a U.S. government database that tracks the immigration concerns of students and exchange visitors.

The fastest and easiest way to pay the fee is online. You will find the SEVIS fee Form 901 [here](#). Once you pay the SEVIS fee, include the payment receipt with your visa application. Please be aware that this fee will **not** be refunded if your visa application is denied.

Apply for your Visa

Please read your I-20/DS-2019 form carefully for accuracy and make sure you understand your visa obligations before you sign the form.

1. You need to determine the type of entry visa that you will need. If you have received an “I-20” document from us, you will apply for an F-1 Visa. If you have received a “DS-2019” document from or another U.S. agency, you will apply for a J-1 Visa.

**Do not apply for a B-1/B-2 (tourist) visa. B-1/B-2 visa holders are not permitted to study in the U.S. Also, do not enter on the Visa Waiver program.*

2. To apply for a U.S. visa, you will need to locate a U.S. embassy or consulate nearest to where you live. To find the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate please check [here](#). You can also learn more about news regarding the non-immigrant visa by visiting the Office of Visa Services [here](#).
3. Schedule for an interview with them. Your local embassy or consulate will have specific instructions on how to schedule an appointment. Each embassy or consulate has different waiting times especially during the busy season. We recommend that you schedule an appointment with them as soon as you receive your I-20/DS-2019 from us.

You cannot apply for your student visa more than 120 days before the program start date listed on your Form I-20/DS-2019. If you arrive in the U.S. with a visa notated with another university’s name, but wish to attend HPU, you may be denied admission to the U.S. **Be sure to get a visa that lists Hawai’i Pacific University.**

*** Canadian citizens do not require a student visa but **must** still pay the I-901 SEVIS fee along with presenting the I-20, I-901 receipt, and passport to a U.S. Port of Entry official.*

Going to the Embassy: What documents to take with you

Take your I-20/DS-2019, valid passport, the same proof of financial support that you provided for your I-20/DS-2019 form, SEVIS fee payment receipt, and any additional documentation that is required in your country for a U.S. visa. If you are applying for an **F-1** visa, also take a copy of your HPU acceptance letter. If you are to receive a **J-1** visa, be sure to also provide proof that you are part of an approved exchange program. Make sure to read all of the information on your I-20/DS-2019 and sign the bottom part of page 1.

When you apply for a visa, you must prove your intent to return to your country. These are some examples of intent: close family ties in home country, business or real estate owned by you or your family, and continuation of your professional career. It is also important for you to prepare your study plan so that the visa officer knows that you are a serious student.

**The visa only allows you to enter the country. However, the forms I-20 and DS-2019 allow you to stay. If you lose your form, please contact the OISS immediately.*

Transfer Students who are currently in the United States

Transfer students do not have to apply for a new visa if your U.S. F-1 Visa from your current institution is still valid. If you plan on leaving the country during the transfer process, please notify us so that we can sign your new I-20 for re-entry purposes. You may use your current valid U.S. visa to re-enter into the United States. If you have questions, please contact us at i20@hpu.edu.

POST - ARRIVAL

Entry into the United States: Customs and Border Patrol

When you arrive at a port of entry in the U.S., you will be required to present your Form I-20/DS-2019, along with your passport and financial documents. **Do not check these documents with your baggage.**

If you are arriving via air or sea, you are no longer required to complete paper Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Form I-94 or I-94W. CBP will gather your arrival/departure information automatically. You can retrieve your I-94 by visiting this [website](#). This will be available 24 hours after your arrival in the U.S. If you have trouble retrieving your I-94 or if the information on the form is incorrect please visit [here](#).

Immigration laws allow you to enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019. We encourage you to arrange your travel schedules so that you can arrive at least one week before classes begin* and attend the mandatory check-in and international student orientation. Additionally, this will also give you time to find suitable housing, open a bank account and become acquainted with the campus, local neighborhoods and the city.

**Ensure you are adhering to any travel restrictions or quarantine policies related to COVID-19*

Transportation from Honolulu International Airport (HNL) to HPU

There are a number of ways to get to and from Honolulu International Airport (HNL). The airport is located 10 miles from Waikiki, and six miles from downtown Honolulu. HNL is accessible by car, taxi, bus, and shuttle. The H-1 Interstate Freeway has both eastbound and westbound exits that bring you directly to the airport. More information can also be found on [this webpage](#).

Honolulu Airport Pickup

HPU has negotiated a reasonable rate for students, staff and faculty to use VIP Transportation to/from Waikiki, Downtown campus or Hawaii Loa campus. The cost is affordable for destinations around the Downtown campus and Waikiki. You will need to make a reservation 24 hours in advance. For more information, please click [here](#).

By Taxi

Taxi Service is available on the first level at the center median fronting the terminal baggage claim areas.

The Bus

The City & County of Honolulu provides an island-wide bus transportation system that serves Honolulu International Airport. For more information including bus routes and fees, click [here](#) for more information.

Ride Hailing Apps

Ride hailing programs are essentially drivers from the general public who use their own car to act as a taxi. You can download apps like Uber or Lyft before you enter the U.S. if the apps are available in your origin country. Keep in mind that you will need to have wi-fi or internet access in order to use these apps once you arrive in Honolulu.

I-20/DS-2019 Document Check-in

According to immigration regulations, as an F-1 or J-1 student you are required to register/check-in with OISS upon

arrival into the U.S. When you **enter the U.S**, you are expected to complete the following steps **as soon as possible** in order to have your I-20/DS-2019 registered in the SEVIS immigration system. Please bring the items below for your document check in at OISS:

- Passport with visa and stamp
- **Original** Form I-20/DS-2019 (no copies will be accepted)
- Local address & phone number

**If you have dependents, please include the above documents for each dependent.*

****Failure to complete any of the above-mentioned steps will result in termination of your immigration visa status.**

Immigration Session/Orientation

Office of International Students and Scholars is now offering the mandatory immigration orientation session online so you can equip yourself with vis a knowledge before entering the U.S. The immigration session will also introduce you to immigration regulations, cross-cultural adjustment issues and academic expectations of students. Expect to receive this course information via email, but it can also be found under the Community tab in your Blackboard portal.

Register for Classes

If you are an **undergraduate** or **graduate** student, you must look at the [website](#) to find your designated advisor. All students are assigned to an advisor according to their major. It is mandatory to speak with your academic advisor before registering for classes.

If you are a visiting student, the Visiting & International Student Specialist should be in touch with you regarding registration of your courses.

For exchange students (J-1), Melissa Matsubara or Stephanie Cleland should have sent you the HPU Course Request Form to complete. Once they have received your form and register you for a full course load, you will only be able to make changes to your schedule in person. By that time, many courses may be full so please review the courses carefully before hitting 'submit' as it may be difficult to change your schedule.

Pay Tuition

At HPU, there are a number of ways students can use to pay their tuition fees. HPU recommends that students pay their tuition **prior to the beginning of the term**. Subsequent tuition payments are due at the beginning of each term or semester.

- Pay online with eBill
- Pay in person at the Business Office (500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 5A) via cash, check, money order, and travelers check
- Mailing Payment via checks to:
HPU Business Office, ATTN: AR
500 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 6420
Honolulu, HI 96813
- Paying by webCheck
- Flywire: This service allows international students to bypass international transfer fees and access foreign exchange rates that are more favorable than those offered by banks.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Health Regulations

Health Insurance

Medical expenses in the United States are extremely expensive. Therefore, federal and institutional laws and policies require all international students to have health insurance coverage while being in the United States. As an international student at HPU, you (and your accompanying dependents) are required to have health insurance coverage that meets [HPU standards](#). **All international students** are required to obtain medical insurance coverage and submit the International Student Health Insurance Waiver by the deadline stated on the [Student Health Insurance website](#).

All international students will be automatically charged a \$100 medical insurance verification fee. To remove this fee from their bill, students must either enroll in an [HPU medical plan](#) or demonstrate comparable health insurance coverage. All international students must submit the [required health insurance waiver](#).

J-1 Exchange Visitors must also submit a copy of detailed health insurance coverages to OISS as well. Read more on the [Study Abroad website](#).

Immunization

HPU requires all incoming full-time undergraduate and graduate students and all international students to complete the immunization requirements. Requirements can be found [here](#).

Per State of Hawaii regulations, students studying in Hawaii are required to demonstrate certain medical clearances in order to be enrolled in coursework:

1. Proof of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Immunization
2. Tuberculosis (TB) Test (Only for students coming for study **lasting longer than five months**)
3. Proof of 2 doses of Varicella vaccine
4. Proof of MCV (Meningococcal conjugate) dose
5. Proof of TDAP (Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis) dose

HOUSING

Temporary Accommodations

If you arrive in Hawai'i prior to the move-in date for your on-campus housing or plan on looking for off-campus housing when you arrive, you may need to find temporary accommodations. There are several reasonably priced hotels and temporary housing facilities close to HPU. You can find more information about temporary accommodation [here](#). Students arriving on a limited budget might consider a hostel or the local YMCA for a short-term stay.

On-Campus Housing

Choosing to live on campus is a wonderful opportunity for students. The residence halls at Hawai'i Pacific University are located on the Hawaii Loa campus or at the Aloha Tower Marketplace. For more information about the HPU on-campus residence halls, visit [Resident Life](#).

Hawaii Loa Dorms

The Hawaii Loa campus is situated on 135 acres of lush, tropical landscape at the foot of the majestic Ko'olau mountain range in Kaneohe. The on-campus housing complex provides full academic year accommodations (fall, winter, and spring semesters) for students in six residence halls. Each hall is coed (men and women). Primarily, first-year (traditional freshman) students choose to live in the residence halls because of the convenient meal plan, quick access to the downtown campus from the Hawaii Loa campus by using the University's intercampus shuttle service, and strong community atmosphere. Learn more about the dorms at Hawaii Loa [here](#).

Waterfront Lofts

The Waterfront Lofts is located on the downtown Honolulu waterfront, Piers 8 and 9, and borders the iconic Aloha Tower that was built in 1926 to welcome passenger ship arrivals. With its inception in 1994, the Aloha Tower Marketplace (ATM) evolved over the years as a mix-use commercial marketplace. In 2013, Hawai'i Pacific University purchased ATM to develop an inviting and vibrant environment that supports student success and welcomes local residents and visitors of all ages.

The student residential community, is located on the second floor of the Aloha Tower Marketplace. There are single, double- and triple-occupancy bedroom options in a loft unit and a double- occupancy option in a studio unit. The lofts have a living room, kitchenette, and bathroom; studios have a bathroom and mini-fridge. Each bedroom is equipped with basic furniture, including an extra-long twin bed, bed frame, desk, chair, and wardrobe dresser. Living at the Waterfront Lofts means easy access to many amenities, activities, and public transportation in downtown Honolulu. For more information about HPU's residential community at the Aloha Tower marketplace, visit [Waterfront Lofts](#).

Off-Campus Housing

Depending on your age, life circumstances, life experience or personal circumstances, you may be more interested in finding your own place off campus. Most of our graduate students live off campus and many of our undergraduate students have this life-expanding experience as well when they come to HPU. There are many options for off-campus living including an independent company which focuses on student housing in Waikiki, meeting new HPU friends (and potential roommates) on HPU Pipeline, renting houses, apartments as individuals or together.

Most housing is rented on a contract or lease basis, meaning you agree to live in the unit for a stated period of time, usually 12 months. Some landlords will allow month-to-month renting. When you sign a lease you are legally responsible for all rent payments, whether you live there or not. When you rent an apartment, a deposit (often called a security deposit) equal to at least one month's rent is almost always required, in addition to the first month's rent. Be prepared to have money available for this. Usually, your deposit is returned to you as long as you have given your landlord sufficient notice and have not damaged the apartment. Read the lease or contract carefully and understand all of its rules and obligations before signing it. Keep a signed copy of the lease for your records.

For more information please visit the Off-Campus Housing website at [Commuter Services](#). Click [here](#) for tips to find housing off-campus.

OTHER RESOURCES

Get a U.S Phone number

Selecting a phone plan may require some research. It is best to ask around (other students or staff) for suggestions and recommendations. You can get a sim card from stores like Walmart and Target, or head directly to a phone provider store. Here are some phone provider options available in Hawai'i:

- [Verizon](#)
- [AT&T](#)
- [T-Mobile](#)

Finances and Banking

Always be prepared for additional expenses. Do not count on receiving financial aid, scholarships, or assistantships once you are here. Educational loans are not available for international students unless you have a U.S. citizen who will co-sign for the loan. We suggest that you bring with you a minimum of \$2,000-3,000 USD (in addition to tuition and living expenses for the year) to cover items such as the first month's rent and required housing deposits, temporary accommodations, household expenses, insurance payments and other necessities.

The following expenses are often overlooked:

- Overnight temporary lodging when you first arrive
- Tips for taxis and servers in restaurants
- Eating meals in restaurants until you get your own apartment
- Clothing for warm weather in Honolulu
- Personal and household items. Even if you rent a furnished apartment, you will have to buy linens, towels, kitchen utensils, etc.
- State and local sales taxes of 4.5% (approximately) added to the price of everything you purchase

**If you choose to bring large amounts of money with you, we recommend that you carry traveler's checks rather than cash. Keep the money with you at all times and do not put it in your baggage.*

*** According to [U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#), if you bring in more than \$10,000 in cash, you will need to report it CBP.*

Banking

We recommend that you open a bank account in the United States soon after your arrival. There are several banks that are close to both of the HPU campuses where you can open accounts and exchange money. In order to open an account, you must present proof of identification such as your passport.

Services provided by U.S. banks are similar to those in other countries, but the terms used may differ from those with which you are familiar. One of the most common confusions is the difference between a savings and a checking account. A savings account encourages you to save money, and interest is paid on the balance of your account. Different banks pay different rates of interest and have different terms or conditions to grant interest. While it is easy to transfer money from a savings to a checking account or vice versa, you cannot write checks for payment from a savings account.

A checking account allows the convenience of paying for goods and services without having to carry cash with you. You may want to spend some time shopping for the bank that will provide you the most services at the most convenient location. Bank services and costs vary considerably.

Currency Restrictions and Transfer of Funds to the United States

Before finalizing your plans to study in the U.S, you should become familiar with your government's regulations regarding currency restrictions and the transfer of funds out of the country. Some governments restrict the amount of money that can be taken out of the country. Others may restrict funds until a letter from the University has been received [confirming enrollment](#) (this letter can be obtained through the Registrar's Office). Also, find out before leaving home if any letters are required from Hawai'i Pacific University that will facilitate the authorization of the transfer of funds.

State ID, Driver's License and Social Security Number

State ID

We recommend that you obtain a State ID to use while you are here. There are certain places and services that may require you to show a picture ID to verify your birthdate and identity. A state ID will satisfy this purpose without having to carry your passport around. For more information, click [here](#). You can also read about obtaining a State ID on the OISS [website](#).

Driver's License

All full-time students at HPU are charged the [Transportation fee](#) of \$100 on their student account. The transportation fee is mandatory (similar to a Student Activity Fee and Technology fee). The Transportation fee allows students to receive an UPass which entitles the student to unlimited use of TheBus throughout the semester.

However, if you choose to own a car while you are here, you will need a driver's license. Here are the steps to obtaining a [Hawaii Driver's License](#).

Social Security Number

As a noncitizen, you will only be eligible to apply for a Social Security number if you have permission for employment from OISS and the Department of Homeland Security. Please click [here](#) for more information.

If you have been awarded a scholarship or an assistantship that includes a stipend, you will not be able to receive your first stipend check until you document that you have been awarded a social security number. You cannot apply for a social security number until you have been in the U.S. for at least 10 days. It takes approximately 2-3 weeks to receive a social security number after you submit the application.

HPU Intercampus Shuttle

The shuttle provides free transportation for students, faculty, and staff between the Hawaii Loa and Downtown campuses. The shuttle stops at the Hawaii Loa campus and Aloha Tower Marketplace. When boarding the shuttle from either shuttle stop, please be sure to board in numerical seating order as posted on the benches to ensure that the persons who arrived first to the shuttle stop are seated first. Please be ready to show the driver your HPU identification upon boarding. Upon seating, we recommend you fasten your seatbelt. You can find the shuttle schedule [here](#).

Employment

Employment in the U.S. is very strictly controlled and limited. Permission to be employed is available only in very certain circumstances. While part-time, on-campus/HPU employment is permissible, there are a limited number of jobs available on campus. **You should not plan on earning money while working on campus to even partially pay for your expenses.** If the funds for the Form I-20/DS-2019 purposes are not available to you, the University cannot assist you in obtaining alternative funding.

Undergraduate and graduate students with J-1 status may be eligible for academic training during and/or after completion of studies. For more information, speak with a representative of the U.S. Department of State at the U.S.

embassy or consulate in your country before you leave. You are permitted to work either on-campus or off-campus **with permission from your J-1 sponsor.**

The OISS offers a variety of workshops throughout the academic year regarding F-1 and J-1 off-campus employment. You are strongly encouraged to attend them. For more information, please click [here](#).

Student Organizations and Activities

There are many student organizations that are active on HPU campus. Being a member for a student organization is an excellent way to meet new people from around the world who have similar interests as you, as well as to enrich your experience at HPU. Find a list of our Student Clubs and Organizations [here](#). Other Student Activities are listed [here](#).

International Club

The International Club (IC), also called the International Student Organization (ISO) provides students with the opportunity to create lasting connections and friendships with international students from all over the world. This will enhance, give an understanding, and help students appreciate the cultural diversity at HPU. The goal of IC is to convince students to be more adventurous by stepping outside of their comfort zones to partake in social cultural activities offered by the IC.

Some example of activities hosted by IC are Hawaiian Night, Latin Night, Asia and the Pacific Night, USA Night, Middle Eastern Night and many others. The club is student led through voluntary participation to share cultures as well as to celebrate the cultures of others. Contact the International Club for more information: iso.hpu@my.hpu.edu

Information for Parents

All education records related to students is protected under the HPU's FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) policy. To learn more about this policy please click [here](#). You can review the information on [this website](#) to learn what type of information is or is not granted to be viewed by your parents, and how you may grant FERPA authorization rights to individuals by filling out the FERPA waiver form.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AROUND OAHU

Grocery Stores/Supermarkets

Downtown Campus (Honolulu, HI)

- Chinatown Markets
- Down to Earth (Organic Products)
- Farmer's Markets
- H-Mart (Korean)
- Longs Drugs (Pharmacy)
- Safeway
- Walmart
- Whole Foods (Organic Products)

Waikiki/Ala Moana (Honolulu, HI)

- ABC Stores and other convenient stores
- Don Quijote
- Down to Earth (Organic Products)
- Safeway
- Foodland
- Sam's Club
- Target

Hawaii Loa Campus (Kaneohe, HI)

- Foodland
- Safeway
- Family grocery stores

Activities to do outside of HPU

Hawai'i is a great place to spend time with nature and enjoy being outdoors. Whatever it is you enjoy doing, Hawai'i will be able to accommodate. While you're here don't hesitate to try new activities and enjoy the island! This is the perfect place to slow down, relax and live aloha.

Hiking

Oahu has many great hikes for every level of experience! Some popular trails include: Diamond Head, Koko Crater, Makapu'u Lighthouse, Manoa Falls, Lanikai Pillboxes, Waimano Falls and many more...go out and explore this beautiful island for yourself! There are apps you can download to your phone (like AllTrails), [Meetups](#), or groups you can join on Facebook that will go into various trails in more detail (not affiliated with HPU). Keep in mind that there are some hikes (like shorter hike to Stairway to Heaven) that are marked as illegal or may be closed. These hikes are off-limits for a reason and students should not attempt these trails. There may be dire consequences for those who ignore these warnings.

Museums

Oahu is home to some of Hawai'i's largest and most extensive museums and collections featuring art, artifacts and heirlooms from Hawai'i and the Pacific. Explore these museums: *Bishop Museum, Honolulu Museum of Art, Iolani Palace, Hawai'i Plantation Village, Pearl Harbor.*

Nightlife

Oahu is the epicenter of nightlife in Hawai'i. On every night of the week you can find good local food, live music and dancing in a variety of restaurants, bars and lounges from Waikiki to Downtown Honolulu and Chinatown.

Outdoors

There are many sights to see here on Hawai'i, and you'll want to experience all that Oahu has to offer. Marvel at the natural wonders like Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve and the Ko'olua Mountain Range. If you love the water then get out and give surfing or bodyboarding a try. There are countless of beaches across the island, travel beyond Waikiki and explore the more secluded beaches. Take a drive up to the North Shore and visit the big waves at Pipeline. Hawai'i has a rich history and culture, be sure to attend a luau and visit the Polynesian Culture Center (PCC) to learn more about it.

HELPFUL TIPS ABOUT HAWAI'I AND AMERICA

1. Only people with Hawai'ian ancestry are called Hawaiians. For those who are born on the island – who aren't of Hawai'ian ancestry - are called locals.
2. It is customary to take off your shoes when you visit other people's homes.
3. The younger generation typically addresses the older generation as "Aunty" or "Uncle" instead of first names.
4. Although there are some people in Hawai'i who would like to be addressed as an elder, there are some Americans who are informal and would like to be called by their first name or nickname. It does not hurt to ask during introduction "how would you like me to address you?".
5. "How are you?" is simply a greeting and not a question about your health.
6. Some Americans hug a lot. It is okay for men and women to hug when they meet even if they are not close friends.
7. When dining out and the service is good, it is expected that you tip 15- 20% of the bill total.
8. Usually, when you are having a meal with friends, they will each pay their share of the bill. It is called *going Dutch*.
9. Do not make racist or negative remarks about someone else's religion, family background, or sexual preferences.

10. You must be over the age of 21 and must have a valid photo ID on you to buy or drink alcohol.
11. In most states, it is illegal to buy cigarettes if you are under 18. Often, you can only smoke in designated areas.
12. Pedestrians have the right of way. Please cross only at a cross walk or unmarked intersection. Crossing in the middle of the road is against the law. In Hawai'i, it is also [illegal to jaywalk](#). Pedestrians who are caught jaywalking is punishable by a fine of \$130 or more.
13. If you do not have a UPass, TheBus requires the exact amount of money and cannot make change.
14. There are special seats in the front of buses reserved for and older or disabled person. Please be courteous to offer your seat to them.
15. When you drive, you must have your driver's license, car registration, and proof of insurance with you.
16. If the police put the lights on to tell you to stop the car, pull over to the side of the road. Do not get out of the car unless asked by a police officer.
17. There are certain class etiquettes that students should follow. For example: do not use your phone in class, some professors do not like if you eat in class. This is addressed in the course syllabus.
18. Time is money. Never be late to classes, employment interviews, appointments, parties, etc.
19. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and ask questions.
20. Do your own work. Do not copy work from a classmate, book, or internet. If you would like to use a resource from a book, be sure to cite accurately and reference the resource in your work otherwise it is called [plagiarism](#).
21. Cheating and plagiarism is punishable by law and institutional policies. You may receive an 'F', be dropped from the course or expelled from the institution.
22. Rent must be paid on time to avoid a late fee. Typically, your rent is paid via cash or check. Your landlord should have specified this when you signed a lease contract.

CONTACT OISS

For more information and further assistance, please contact us at the Office of International Students and Scholars.

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