

ACADEMIA

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Aloha!

We look forward to meeting you at Academia

Please come on _____ at **8:15 am** for orientation and to take your placement test.

Don't forget to bring your I-20 and passport on your first day.

While in Hawaii you can also enjoy:

Visiting scenic places

Learning to surf

Taking hula lessons

Going to festivals year-round

Shopping at world-famous malls and shops

Hiking, golfing, playing tennis and volleyball,
and many more outdoor activities!

We know you will make lifelong friends at our school.

Enclosed is your I-20 Form, your acceptance letter,
instructions for the next steps to getting your student visa,
and additional information about our school.



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Congratulations!

You have been accepted as a student at Academia Language School!

The next step is getting your student visa.

The following outline describes the visa process, which varies from country to country, and the rules and fees may change without notice.

Step 1 Check the I-20 form in this packet for accuracy.

- Is all the information correct? Please pay close attention to all of the information on your form
- If there are any mistakes, please email learn@academiaschool.com or call our office at (808) 946-5599 right away
- Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months past your course ending date, as indicated under the "Program Start/End Date" section on your I-20 form
- Sign and date under the "Student Attestation" section of your I-20 form

Step 2 Pay the SEVIS fee of \$200 and keep a copy of your receipt.

This non-refundable fee pays the U.S. Government for your I-20, and it must be paid **before** you apply for a student visa. You may be asked to prove that you have paid this fee at your visa interview, so bring your receipt with you. Your SEVIS number is the number that starts with "N" at the top left corner of your I-20.

- You can pay the SEVIS fee online at <http://fmjfee.com>
- If you have an agent, your agent may have paid this fee for you. You can also check online and print a receipt. Visit the website referenced above for instructions.

Step 3 Apply for a student visa.

Visit the American embassy/consulate website for your country's visa application rules. You can find your embassy at: <http://usembassy.state.gov>

- Check what documents your embassy requires, and which documents you need to bring with you to your interview or mail in advance. This may include your passport, photo identification card, birth certificate or family registry, educational certificates (transcripts or diplomas), and/or a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- Read the embassy's instructions on the Visa Application Form and either file the form online, in person, or by other method. Expect a non-refundable fee and to file the forms in English.
- Contact your embassy or consulate to arrange for a personal interview.

Tip: You may be asked why you want to study English in the U.S. and how this fits your life or career goals. The interviewer may consider your family, community and financial ties to your home country when deciding whether to grant you a visa, as these ties assure you will return when you finish your studies.

Step 4 Receive your student visa.

This process varies from country to country, so you may receive the visa in the mail or immediately after your interview, or you might be asked to return to the embassy to pick it up. Your agent might also be able to handle this for you.

Once you receive your F-1 visa, please read the "Before You Arrive" page included in this packet, which includes additional important information for you to know before you arrive at Academia. We also have a pre-arrival packet available for you on our website, which includes helpful information about your stay in Hawaii.

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Before You Arrive

Weather

Any time of year is a good time to visit Hawaii. Summer tends to be a bit warmer and drier (between April and November, with an average temperature of 75°-88° F), while winter is a bit cooler (between December and March, with an average temperature of 68°-80° F). Trade winds keep things comfortable year-round.

We want you to enjoy Hawaii's tropical climate and be sun-smart at the same time. Even when the sun is hidden by clouds, visitors should protect themselves from ultra-violet rays that come through. Before going out for the day, it is a good idea to liberally apply sun-block with an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating of 30 or higher, and reapply after swimming. Visitors may also consider wearing a brimmed hat, sunglasses and/or long-sleeved shirts and pants for added protection from the sun's rays.



Whale watching season begins in late December and ends in early May. Peak whale watching months are between January and early April. November through February is the big wave surf season on the north shore.

Insurance

We **strongly** recommend that you purchase travel Insurance (or health insurance) in your home country **prior to studying at Academia.**

If you do not have insurance in the U.S., it could be **extremely** costly should something happen to you. You may be able to purchase insurance after you arrive in the U.S., but there are many restrictions, and coverage is very limited. It is best if you arrange for health insurance coverage in your home country prior to your travel.

If you wish to consider health insurance options in the U.S., one agency for you to consider is ISO Student Health Insurance. Academia has researched different rates and coverage options and found them to be the most competitive. To learn more, please visit isoa.org or call 1-(800)- 244-1180.

Recommendations are provided solely as a service to students. Academia Language School has no affiliation with any insurance company.

What to Pack



When deciding what to bring to wear in Hawaii, plan on clothes that suit your lifestyle and travel plans. Start with clothes that are light, loose and comfortable. The local attire is very casual, with most people wearing shorts, sandals, dresses, skirts, etc. We recommend that you bring a light jacket, as most buildings are air conditioned and it could get cold. Bring some dress clothes or resort wear if you plan on experiencing Hawaii's nightlife. Don't forget a hat, sunglasses, and swimwear for the beach!

Departure

You must enter the U.S. 30 days or less before the "Program Start Date" shown on your I-20.

You will be asked to show your I-20 with your passport at the port of entry. Please keep your I-20 and passport in your purse/carry-on luggage so you can show it to the immigration officer.

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After You Arrive

Getting Around

There is a variety of transportation options that will make your experience in Hawaii enjoyable. Buses, taxis and trolleys are available island-wide.

Bus

TheBus in Hawaii is one of the highest-rated public transportation systems in America. This public transit service makes it easy for locals and visitors to access all areas on the island.

Adult Fare: \$2.75
1 Day Pass: \$5.50
Youth Fare (Ages 6-17): \$1.25
Senior Fare (Age 65+): \$1.00
Child Fare (Ages 0-5): Free!



Adults can purchase a monthly bus pass for \$70 or an annual pass for \$770 at the following locations: 7-Eleven Stores, Foodland (Ala Moana), or Satellite City

Taxi

The CAB is positioned as Hawaii's largest fleet of taxis that provides uninterrupted, island-wide service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The phone number to call the CAB is (808) 422-2222.

Meters start at \$3.10, and increase \$0.40 after each additional 1/8 of a mile. There is also a fee of \$0.40 for every 45 seconds of waiting time. Without a 5%-10% tip, a typical trip will cost approximately:

- Airport to Waikiki: Approx. \$45.00
- Ala Moana to Waikiki: Approx. \$15



Bicycle

The building does have a place to store bicycles. Please see the building management on the 10th floor of our building in room 1006. They will give you a code for the gate. Please tell them you are a student of Academia and show them your I-20.

We are on the 12th floor in the Pan American Building. Here's a map to our school:



If you are taking the bus from Waikiki, west bound, take bus #2, 13, or Express B on Kuhio Ave. The bus stop will be announced as "Don Quijote".

If you are taking the bus from Downtown, east bound, take bus #3, 9, or Express A*. If you take the Express A, get off at Ala Moana and walk toward Waikiki on Kapiolani Blvd. (you will see our school on your left).

If you are taking a bus from other directions, please call TheBus at (808) 848-5555, 5:30 am - 10:00 pm HST or visit their website at <http://www.thebus.org/>