



Exchange Information for University of Hawaii at Hilo

Fall 2026-Spring 2027

UNIVERSITY AND AREA	
Name of University	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Location	Hilo on the Island of Hawai'i (Big Island) Hilo is located on the southernmost island of the Hawaiian Island chain. Hilo is a city of about 40,000 people and located on Hilo Bay under the picturesque background of the snow-covered Mauna Kea – the largest mountain the Pacific. Hilo is surrounded by a tropical rainforest on the warm, wet side of the Big Island. The temperature is consistent year-round staying between 17- 29 degrees Celsius. Hilo can be reached by a 45-minute airplane flight from Honolulu. For more information about Hilo and the Big Island
Total number of students	About 3,000. About 7 percent are international students from 40 countries.
Websites	University Website Center for Global Education and Exchange English Language Institute International Student Services
ACADEMIC CALENDAR	
Academic Year	Fall 2026 Semester: Orientation: August 19 - August 22 (tentative dates) Classes: August 24 – December 18 Spring 2027 Semester: Orientation: January 7-9 (tentative dates) Classes: January 11– May 14

APPLICATION GUIDELINES	
Application Deadlines	Fall 2026 Semester: April 1, 2026 (Nomination: March 15, 2026) Spring 2027 Semester: October 1, 2026 (Nomination: September 15, 2026)
Academic Requirements	• B (3.0) average and one year of college completed. • Students with a 61 iBT TOEFL, an IELTS score of 5.5, Duolingo 90, or Eiken 2A score will not be required to take ESL classes. Students with lower scores or no scores will be admitted into English Language Institute and required to take the ESL classes that they place into. All ESL classes receive academic credit and appear on the academic transcript.
Application Procedures	Application must be submitted online. All other documents can be submitted online or emailed to shumway@hawaii.edu. 1. Letter of Nomination (From home university study abroad office. See link on Global Exchange webpage) 2. On-Line Application 3. Supplementary Information Form for International Students (link on Global Exchange webpage) 4. Bank Statement Students need to provide a bank statement indicating that a sponsor has funds to cover the cost of tuition and living expenses while the students are in the United States. Two Semesters: \$ 21,000 One Semester: \$ 10,500 5. Passport copy 6. Academic transcript in English 7. English Language Test Score (Students with lower scores on no English test scores may be accepted into the English Language Institute) 1) TOEFL score (iBT or paper) 2) IELTS score 3) Duolingo score 4) Eiken score These are the documents that we need to receive have a completed application package: 1) Letter of Nomination 2) Online application 3) Supplementary Information Form for International Students 4) Bank statement 5) Copy of passport 6) Copy of transcript 7) English test score
Mailing address for Applications	University of Hawaii at Hilo Center for Global Education and Exchange 200 W. Kawili St. Hilo, HI 96720 USA
Fax number for Application	1-808-932-7487
Course Catalog	General Catalog Online Course Listing

Full-time Academic Load	Minimum: 12 credits per semester Maximum: 18 credits per semester
Transcripts	One transcript for each student will be sent to the home university. If students or universities want additional transcripts, they can be ordered from the UH Hilo Transcript Webpage .
ACCOMMODATION	
Accommodation options	Exchange students can apply for on-campus dormitory housing or arrange off-campus accommodations. The University of Hawaii at Hilo cannot guarantee housing. However, we will assist students in securing on-campus housing or off-campus housing near campus. Students can apply online for on-campus housing through the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Housing Office website. The application must be completed AFTER students have received their acceptance and a UH student ID number.
Housing Office Website	Housing Office
Housing Office E-mail	uhhhouse@hawaii.edu
Application	Must apply on-line after receiving acceptance letter and UH ID number Housing Application Form (\$10 application fee)
Housing Application Priority Deadlines	Fall 2026 Semester: March 1, 2026 Spring 2027 Semester: October 1, 2026 (Housing will continue to accept applications until the start of classes)
COSTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Tuition	Pay tuition at home university
Required Student Fees	Activity Fee: (\$354.50 per semester (Student Life Center, Student Medical Center, student publications and activities) * New Student Engagement Fee: \$200 one time (orientation activities, first-year experience activities) excursions, peer support) See UH Hilo Fee Schedule website
Medical Insurance	All international exchange students are required to purchase the University of Hawai'i at Hilo medical insurance plan while they are studying at UH Hilo. Visit the International Student Service website to see the requirements. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo insurance plan costs approximately \$850 per semester. Information about the plan can be viewed at the GeoBlue insurance website . A copy of your health insurance needs to be filed with the International Student Services upon arrival.
Living Costs	On campus: (Estimated based on 2025-26 rates) Housing: \$1,861-\$3,308 per semester (depending on dormitory and type of room) Food service: \$2,833-\$3,284 per semester (depending on meal plan choice) Off campus: (Estimated) Housing: \$600 to \$800 per month. Personal expenses (food, supplies, transport): \$4,000 per semester
Other Expenses	Transportation: The city bus is free for everyone at this time. Students may also borrow bicycles from the UH Hilo Student Life Center for 24 hour periods free of charge. Some students choose to buy bicycles which range from \$150 to \$1,000.

	Occasionally students buy used cars which can cost from \$3,500 and up. Students with cars are legally required to have automobile insurance and a valid Hawaii state driver's license or a current international driver's license.
Visa Information	All exchange students must have a valid passport and an F1 student visa. The university will provide an I-20 to be used to get the visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Students must bring the I-20 and passport when entering the United States.
Pre-Arrival Information	Accepted students will be contacted directly by the Center for Global Education and Exchange as well as the Director of International Student Services with information about arrival and orientation. Students should be sure to read all emails very carefully. Airport pickup is available on designated days prior to orientation. Those dates will be announced by email after students have been accepted. Students who arrive outside of the designated pickup dates can take a taxi or a ride share service (Uber or Lyft) to the campus from the airport. The campus is about 10 minutes from the airport and the taxi ride costs \$15-\$25. Please visit the International Student Services website for more information.
Useful Websites	New Student Information Frequently Asked Questions Center for Global Education and Exchange

VIDEO

See videos about UH Hilo at:

[International Student Video](#)

[Inspired by You Video](#)

[Study at UH Hilo!](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/exchange/international/>

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