

## **FAQS (Frequently Asked Questions)**

*Got a question about 3-week NICE? The answer may be here!*

### **Q: Where is the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) located?**

A: UHM is located in Honolulu, the capital of the State of Hawai'i, on the island of Oahu. It is the main campus of the 10-campus University of Hawai'i system. By car, it's about 20 minutes from the airport and about 15 minutes from Waikiki Beach. By the way, Mānoa refers to the valley where the campus is situated.

### **Q: Is Hawai'i safe?**

A: Hawai'i ranks in the top ten safest places to live, ranking low in violent crime. Honolulu is listed as the safest large city in the U.S. Our teachers and staff will give you good advice on staying safe while visiting our islands.

### **Q: How much money will I need to attend 3-week NICE?**

A: Not including airfare and personal purchases, students should expect to spend about \$2800 to cover program fees, housing, meals, and bus transportation. This will vary depending on where you choose to live.

### **Q: Do I need a visa to attend NICE?**

A: Because three-week NICE is a short-term program, a student visa is not required. Students may enter the U.S. on visitor status (ESTA or B1/B2 visa).

### **Q: Where will I live?**

A: Many students stay in homestays with American families. Others choose to stay in short-term rental apartments, or private student dormitories. Some stay in hotels. See the [housing section](#) for more detailed information.

### **Q: How will I get around in Honolulu?**

A: Honolulu has a good city bus system that can take you all over the island. The cost is \$5.00 per day or \$60 per month.

### **Q: Can NICE students use the university's facilities?**

A: Yes. Students are welcome to use the cafeterias, libraries, computer labs, health center, and recreation center. (There is a small fee for the recreation center.) You can request free UH WiFi access on the NICE application.

### **Q: Who will my classmates be?**

A: Three-week NICE students may be any age from 16 years through seniors, but most are university students. Students from all countries are welcome, but most are from Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries.

### **Q: Who will my teacher be?**

A: NICE teachers are highly dedicated and motivated individuals, with most having advanced degrees and several years of experience teaching English to international students. They all love teaching international students.

**Q: How will my class be decided? How many students will be in my class?**

A: On the first day, you will have a speaking test (don't worry 😊), and a listening test. Your scores are used to make sure you are placed in the most comfortable level for you. There will be 12 -1 5 students in each class.

**Q: How much will my English improve?**

A: Although 3 weeks is a short time to see a lot of improvement, all students can be sure that they will become more comfortable and confident speaking English. The NICE curriculum helps students use the English they may have studied for many years. And the best part – students will enjoy English more than ever before. By the way, we have a strict “English only” policy, so you will be speaking English from the first day.

**Q: Will I be able to meet Americans?**

A: A big ‘YES.’ Interact with university students through five interchange sessions and through other classroom activities (such as conducting surveys); go out in the community for two educational activities with your classmates; Finally, you can attend three optional activities around town.

**Q: How much will I have to pay for off-campus educational activities?**

A: Each class will go to two different places in the community; for example, historical or cultural sites, a local business. The cost will be free or inexpensive, not more than \$25 total for the two activities. Transportation is usually by City Bus.

**Q: Does NICE offer any activities just for fun during free time?**

A: Yes! Optional excursions are offered each session. Examples include a university basketball game, zoo concert, Hawaiian luau, or nature hike. They occur in the evenings or on the weekends.

**Q: What should I bring with me to Hawai'i?**

A: Bring your smartphone or camera, a jacket for cooler evenings and air-conditioned classrooms, and appropriate clothing for the closing ceremony. As for money, we recommend bringing a credit card rather than a lot of cash.

**Q: How is the weather in Hawai'i?**

A: In winter (December-February), the average high is 27°C (80F), the average low is 19°C (66F); in summer (June – August), the average high is 30°C (87F), and average low is 24°C (75F).

**Q: Where can I go for more information?**

A: Please download the [Student Handbook](#) or e-mail the Program Coordinator, Bob Lipske, at [lipske@hawaii.edu](mailto:lipske@hawaii.edu).