



PACIFIC & ASIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

PAAC

March 2020 Study Tour

PHILIPPINES

Did you know, over 90% of participants receive scholarships? The average award is over \$2,000!



Find out more on the back

Apply by October 6, 2019

Full and Partial Scholarships Available!

Dates: 2 day orientation and 9 day trip in March 2020

Cost: Tentatively \$3,650 (before scholarships)

Go to www.paachawaii.org/study-tours-abroad for more info!

Take the Journey

Spend 9 days in urban Manila and rural Bulacan on this immersive experience where you have an up-close look at how Filipinos are fighting to make life better for their communities. This study tour is highly recommended for students who want to make a positive impact in their own neighborhoods and schools, but aren't quite sure how to do it yet.

On the trip, you'll meet young Filipino activists tackling poverty at the grassroots level from many different angles and methods. Your mission on the trip is to collaborate with your new travel-mates to analyze and build on these models to see what you can bring home to make a difference in Hawai'i!

On PAAC trips, you'll visit the most famous cultural and historic sites, and because of our strong local connections, you'll also get exclusive access to the best hidden gems. Our programs emphasize safety, socially conscious travel, and encouraging student independence and learning through hands-on cultural experiences.

Visit www.paachawaii.org/study-tours-abroad for more information and to apply online. For inquiries, call Erica Nakanishi-Stanis at (808) 944-7784 or email paac@paachawaii.org





Building Bridges • Inspiring Young Leaders • Developing Global Citizens
1601 East-West Road 4F, Honolulu, HI 96848 www.paachawaii.org Tel: (808) 944-7780

PAAC 2020 Spring Study Tour to the Philippines Program & Application Information

Tentative Tour Dates:

A mandatory parent meeting will be held in November 2019 for accepted students and their parents. Students who complete their enrollment paperwork, payments, and assignments will attend two mandatory orientation sessions at UH-Manoa on two weekend days in February 2020, though other pre-trip preparation days may be added as needed. The study tour will be held over the course of approximately 9 days in March 2020 over the DOE Spring Break.

Eligibility:

Public, private, charter, and home-school students in grades 9-12 who reside in the state of Hawai'i.

Trip Description:

Students selected for this program will hone their critical thinking skills by analyzing different community-led development models used to fight poverty, increase access to education, and improve locals' quality of life. They will also explore Filipino history, culture, and society in Manila and the countryside of Bulacan. They will meet with local community organizers and youth, hear from innovative social entrepreneurs, and dialogue with academics, experts, and each other to draw connections between the challenges and solutions they see in the Philippines and Hawaii. Students will also enjoy opportunities to learn about history on walking tours, make friends with local youth, and sample amazing local cuisine. Through this immersive intercultural program, students will experience what it means to be a truly global citizen and take their learning beyond the classroom.

The goals of the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) travel program are to further students' international interests through a meaningful experience abroad and to build bridges between our group and the local people we meet, strengthening relationships between nations on a peer to peer level. A sample itinerary can be found on page 3. The detailed 2020 trip itinerary will be provided at orientation.

Program Cost:

Tentatively \$3,650. Price includes all program related expenses such as international airfare, in-country transportation, accommodation, meals, activities, travel insurance, and local entry fees. Personal expenses such as laundry, communication, snacks, and souvenirs are not included. Passport application fees are not included, and we recommend applying for one as soon as possible after acceptance to avoid expediting fees, which are also not covered. Visa fees (if required) and interisland airfare are not included in the program cost.

Scholarships:

All high school students in Hawaii are eligible for full to partial scholarships thanks to a generous grant from the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation. In the last five years, over 90% of participants have received scholarships for this program. Preference is given to students with financial need and who participate in PAAC Clubs, After School Classes, and events. To apply for a scholarship, please fill out the Financial Information Section on the application form. Applicants who are offered a scholarship must submit documentation in a timely manner to support their application before the scholarship award can be confirmed. PAAC scholarships cannot be used to pay the trip deposit.

Travel Logistics:

From flights and hotels to meals and sightseeing, we take care of every detail so you can relax and focus on learning and making the most of your time in country. Our comprehensive planning and 15+ years of experience with planning youth travel means that students and parents can rest easy knowing they're in good hands both at home and abroad.

Guided Travel:

A dedicated PAAC tour leader and teacher chaperones will stay with the group 24/7, handling travel and safety logistics while also providing cultural insights and guidance for students. Tour leaders are PAAC staff members who have extensive experience traveling and working with youth to ensure a healthy learning environment. Teacher chaperones are selected from among PAAC's network of public, private, and charter school teachers who share our passion and commitment to student learning and safety across borders.

Pre-Trip Preparation:

PAAC will work with you to complete our medical and emergency forms, which ensure that staff are aware of medical histories, medications, allergies, and dietary restrictions in advance. We work with families to answer any questions about how students can and should prepare for an upcoming trip, including advice for obtaining vaccinations, visas, and packing tips. In order to protect the students in our group as well as the people we meet abroad, all participants must be up to date on vaccinations recommended by the CDC for travel to the Philippines. Finally, all participants and parents must attend orientation sessions that give a comprehensive overview of the program content, communications, emergency measures, and more.

Safety and Security:

Student safety is our top priority. PAAC gathers information from a variety of sources and experts to continuously evaluate safety and security conditions. PAAC monitors U.S. government advisories, considering those issued both by in-country embassies and consulates and by the U.S. Department of State. PAAC obtains additional valuable local knowledge and analysis from our in-country partner organizations as well as our senior advisory council, whose members include former diplomats, ambassadors, and business leaders with decades of combined international expertise and networks.

PAAC maintains a 24-hour safety and emergency response on-call system for any health, safety, or security concerns that may arise. Parents can contact their children at any time during the study tour in case of emergency via our chaperones' emergency contact numbers, or through our 24/7 Hawaii on-call number. PAAC also enrolls each group with the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which transmits real-time safety alerts to the chaperone and enables the U.S. embassy or consulate to contact the group in an emergency.

2019 PAAC Spring Study Tour to the Philippines Itinerary:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Day 1	Depart Honolulu
Day 2	Arrive in Manila and rest at hotel
Day 3	Walking tour of Tondo and Sawata neighborhoods, meet with youth leaders of the Zone One Tondo Organization and have music exchange and discussions on community building and youth empowerment
Day 4	Guided tour of the historic Intramuros district and briefing at the U.S. Embassy to hear multiple perspectives on Philippine history and modern-day social and political issues
Day 5	Volunteer with the Ateneo Center for Educational Development feeding program and spend the afternoon with youth from a local high school to see what life is like for young people in the Philippines
Day 6	Drive out to Bulacan and tour the Gawad Kalinga Enchanted Farm and meet young social entrepreneurs working on the world's first Farm-Village-University
Day 7	Visit Bahay Tuluyan to hear from former street-children about conditions for impoverished youth and what local organizations are doing to empower them
Day 8	Tour the Ayala Museum and learn about Filipino history and art. Spend the afternoon debriefing as a group and formulating your Action Plan
Day 9	Depart Manila and return to Hawaii

*** The itinerary in 2019 is provided as a sample and is subject to change for the 2020 program, depending on the availability of our partner organizations and in order to ensure the curriculum continues to best fit the tour's learning objectives.*



Application Instructions:

The Application Deadline is October 6, 2019. There is no application fee.

1. Complete Application Form

You can use the paper application (starting on page 6) or you can submit your application online at: <https://forms.gle/9gCqTi6AQGvabqYy5>

We recommend you review the application in its entirety before beginning. If you choose to submit the application online, you will NOT be able to save your work and return to finish the application later. Some sections need to be completed by a parent/guardian.

Caution: The name you provide under "Full Name" is what we will use to book your flight ticket. If the name written is different from what is in your passport (or what will be in your passport), you will be responsible for paying the fee to change the name on the ticket.

2. Write 2 Short Essays

Applicant must complete BOTH essays. Each essay must be between 450 and 500 words. If you are submitting your application online, combine both essays into one document before uploading.

- I. Why are you interested in traveling to the Philippines with this program? What do you hope to gain from this experience? How will your participation contribute to the program?
- II. What is your interest in social justice and/or community building? What kinds of projects have you been involved in or do you hope to become involved in that address these themes?

The essays are a very important part of the application. Tips for writing good essays:

- * Proofread! Do not turn in essays with grammatical or spelling errors. Ask teachers, parents, and/or friends to give you feedback. Revise your essays until you are satisfied that you have done your best.
- * Avoid general statements like, "I want to go on this trip to learn about the culture," without elaborating. Be specific and give examples whenever possible.

3. Parent/Guardian Consent Form

Have your parent(s)/guardian(s) fill out the Consent Form (found on page 9).

4. School Transcript and First Quarter Grades

Unofficial transcript copies are acceptable and can be obtained from your school.

5. Teacher Recommendation form and letter (One only):

Give the recommendation form (found on page 10) to your PAAC Club advisor, PAAC class teacher, or a school teacher who has known you for at least one year. Family members may not serve as references. They may return your recommendation form and letter directly to PAAC, or you may upload them when you submit your application.

Your teacher's recommendation form and letter must be postmarked by Oct. 6, 2019 and is required for your application to be considered. Please allow your teacher plenty of time to complete the form and

write the letter. More than one week is recommended. Recommendations can be sent to: PAAC Travel Program, 1601 East-West Road, 4th Floor Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601.

7. Submit Application

You can submit your application online and upload all documents at <https://forms.gle/9gCqTi6AQQvabqYy5>. Applications must be submitted before midnight on October 6, 2019. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 6, 2019. Please do not send the instruction pages in with your application.

Send all application materials and teacher recommendations to:
PAAC Travel Program
1601 East-West Road, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96848.

Application Process:

- Submit completed application and supporting documents by the application deadline: October 6.
- Finalists will be contacted for an in-person interview in early November. Applicants who live on the neighbor islands will be interviewed via video conference.
- All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision following the interviews.

Next Steps for Accepted Applicants:

- If accepted to the program, students will have approximately 2 weeks to submit their deposit payment to confirm their place on the study tour.
- Accepted students who do not have a passport should apply for one immediately. PAAC cannot book flight tickets for the group, without every participant's passport information.
- Students will complete medical and emergency forms to ensure that PAAC is aware of medical histories, medications, allergies, and dietary restrictions in advance.
- Finally, all participants and parents will attend pre-departure orientation sessions that give a comprehensive overview of the program content, communications, emergency measures, and more.

Questions?

Erica Nakanishi-Stanis, PAAC Study Tour Director
Tel. (808) 944-7784
Email: paac@paachawaii.org



STUDENT APPLICATION
PAAC Spring Study Tour to the Philippines
Must be postmarked by October 6, 2019

Applicant Information: (Please type or print clearly)

Name (must match how your name in your passport): First Name (s)

Middle Name(s) Last Name(s)

Preferred name (if different from first name): Gender:

Home mailing address:

City, State, Zip: Citizenship:

Home telephone number: Student's cell phone number:

Email address: (preferably not a school e-mail)

Date of Birth: / /

Current school: Current grade:

Do you have a valid passport? Yes No If you answered yes, please indicate your passport's country of issue Date of Expiration

If you are not a U.S. citizen, do you have a valid permanent resident card? Yes No

PAAC involvement (check all that apply):

Club After-school class: which semester(s)

Fall GVS '16 Fall GVS '17 Fall GVS '18

WorldQuest '16 WorldQuest '17 WorldQuest '18

Spring GVS '16 Spring GVS '17 Spring GVS '18 Spring GVS '19

Global Leadership Program Human Rights Academy

Previous PAAC scholarship recipient (specify:)

Previous PAAC study tour (specify:)

How did you hear about this opportunity?

ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

Provide a copy of your most recent school transcript and first quarter grades with your application.

List the languages (other than English) that you speak and indicate your years of study and level of proficiency: _____

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Please list the extracurricular activities that you participate in **at least once a week** and leadership positions you hold: _____

OTHER INFORMATION: (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Have you ever been involved in disciplinary action at school or elsewhere? If so, please describe briefly.

List your experiences traveling, living, or studying outside of Hawaii. Include location, purpose, and dates.

List any hobbies, skills, or areas of special knowledge or expertise (e.g. hula, singing, clarinet, paddling).

Do you have any dietary preferences (vegetarian, vegan, kosher, etc)? (Please specify)

Are you willing to participate in a project or fundraiser to benefit a charitable organization in our host country before or after the trip? ____ Yes ____ No

Our group will be learning a hula dance to share with people you meet on your trip. Do you have experience learning hula, mele, or oli? ____ Yes ____ No

The following section should be completed by the student's guardian(s):

Guardian's Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Occupation: _____ Phone: _____ (home) _____ (cell)

Guardian's Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Occupation: _____ Phone: _____ (home) _____ (cell)

With whom does the applicant live? _____
(Please indicate whether with both parents, mother, father, relative, guardian, etc.)

HEALTH INFORMATION:

Please specify any health or medical condition or restrictions your child has that we should know about.

Does your child have any allergies or dietary restrictions, or currently take any medication? (Please specify)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**If you want to be considered for a need-based scholarship, you must complete this entire section.*

Is your child enrolled in a free or reduced-cost lunch program at school? Yes No

Please indicate your household adjusted gross income for 2018: _____

How many dependents are there in your household? _____

Please describe any special circumstances that indicate need for financial assistance for this program:

**Applicants must submit documentation (e.g. page 1 of FY2018 tax returns [Form 1040]) that substantiates the information provided in this section prior to a scholarship award being confirmed.*

To the parent(s) or guardian(s):

Studying and traveling in foreign countries offers young people a unique opportunity to learn and develop personally. The students will also represent the United States of America, Hawaii, and their schools. Criteria for selection will heavily weigh on a student’s maturity and ability to adjust.

IMPORTANT- Please read and sign the following statement:

I/we grant the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) permission to check with my child’s school counselor and principal to determine if my child has demonstrated good citizenship, responsibility, and emotional stability.

In order to assist PAAC in attending to the health and safety of my/our child, I/we acknowledge that I/we have provided PAAC a complete and full description of any health condition(s) or medical restriction(s) that my/our child may have. By completing this application, I/we consent that this information, along with information from school records, teachers, counselors or deans can be used in determining my/our child’s suitability for this program, providing for the safety of my/our child, and providing information when health, illness, injury or behavior may have an effect on my/our child’s intended study abroad program. I/we further acknowledge that PAAC reserves the right to select participants for this program based on PAAC’s determination of each child’s suitability.

Signature of Parent or Guardian/ Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian/ Date

To the applicant:

I certify that all information provided in this application is true, and should any discrepancies come to light, I understand that my application will be discarded and/or my scholarship revoked.

Signature of Applicant/ Date



TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Pacific & Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) Spring Study Tour to the Philippines
Form and letter must be postmarked or e-mailed by **October 6, 2019.**

Name of applicant: _____
First
Middle initial
Last

School: _____ Grade: _____

 Name of person completing this recommendation: _____

Position or title: _____

How long have you known this student? _____ In what capacity? _____

1. How would you evaluate this student in the following areas? Please comment on these areas in your letter.

	Exceptional	Very good	Above average	Average	Below average
Academic Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Responsibility and reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. In addition, please write short answers to the following questions (bullet points are acceptable, but please provide enough information for us to be get a feel for the candidate’s personality and temperament.)

- a) How has this student demonstrated a commitment to international affairs (through PAAC or other activities)?
- b) What are the best three words you would use to describe this student?
- c) Have you witnessed an occurrence in which this student demonstrated extraordinary maturity, independence, creativity, or critical thinking?
- d) To the best of your knowledge, to what extent does this student receive support from his/her family in general?
- e) What disciplinary style works best with this student?
- f) Any other information you’d like to share with us!

May we contact you if we have further questions regarding this applicant? _____ Yes _____ No

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature
Date

Please send this form and your letter to: paac@paachawaii.org or by postal mail,
PAAC Travel Program, 1601 East-West Road, 4th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848-1601
 Please call Erica Nakanishi-Stanis at (808) 944-7784 with any questions. Thank you!