



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT**

**BEFORE arriving in the United State of America:**

- 1) Confirm that your passport and visa are valid for entry to the U.S. Your passport should not expire for at least six months after the date you plan to enter the U.S.
- 2) While you are traveling, you should **have the following documents and information with you on the plane** and ready to present to the immigration official at the U.S. Port of Entry:
  - a. Valid Your passport and F-1 visa
  - b. Original I-20
  - c. SEVIS I-901 Fee Payment Receipt
  - d. Evidence of financial resources (Kuwait Cultural Office Prospective Financial Support Letter)
  - e. Name and contact information for your designated school official (DSO)
- 3) You will have to complete the CF-6059 Customs Declaration Forms, which will be given to you on your flight before you land at your initial point of entry in the U.S. The immigration official will stamp it and return it to you. You will then present it to the customs official at the baggage checkpoint.
- 4) It is important that you tell the Customs and Border Protection Officer that you will be a student. Be prepared to include the name and address of the university where you will enroll. Once the inspection is complete, the officer will stamp your passport with your entry date and duration of status (“D/S”) for F-1 visa holders.
- 5) Foreign visitors to the U.S. arriving via air or sea no longer need to complete paper Customs and Border Protection Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. Those who need to prove their legal-visitor status—to schools/universities or government agencies—can access their CBP arrival/departure record information online (click [here](#)).
- 6) Secondary Inspection Requirements –If your information cannot be automatically verified by the inspector or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be directed to an interview area known as “secondary inspection”.
  - a. We strongly suggest that you have the name and phone number of the foreign student advisor at your school. If you arrive during non-business hours (evening, weekends or holidays), you should have a phone number where this individual can be reached during non-business hours.
  - b. \*Failure to provide proper documentation and comply with the entry/exit procedures is cause to refuse student admission into the U.S.\*
  - c. There are times when a student may not be in full compliance and the student may be issued a Form I-515A “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor”, which authorizes temporary admission into the U.S. and requires the student to take immediate action to submit proper documentation.
  - d. \*Non-compliance with the directions contained on these forms can result in denied entry.\*
- 7) US-Visit –is a comprehensive entry-exit registration system that was implemented at all international airports throughout the U.S. Non-immigrant visitors holding visas will be participating in the program, which involves obtaining a scan of two index fingerprints and a digital photograph of the arriving visitor.
- 8) National Security Entry-Exit Registration Systems (NSEERS) -Some visitors will require additional scrutiny and will have to provide additional information under NSEERS. Anyone could be subject to additional scrutiny and should follow the directions of the Customs and Border Protection Officer if additional information regarding itinerary, length of stay, or other security questions is required.
- 9) Admission to the U.S. – Students have 30 days to enter the U.S. before their official program start date, which is registered in SEVIS by an official at your school. Students must report to their school by the program start date indicated on their I-20 and admission documents, and must attend the mandatory student orientation. Students should contact their school and Cultural Office immediately upon arriving in the U.S. so that there is no question of their arrival.
- 10) Continuing Students who are traveling outside of the U.S. must see their foreign student advisor at the school and obtain an endorsement from the designated school official. The endorsement will be on page 3 of the Form I-20. When returning to the U.S., a continuing student must present a valid Form I-20 with the DSO signature, proving that the student is active and in good standing with the school.
- 11) If you are authorized for Optional Practical Training (OPT) by your school, make sure that the school has updated your records in SEVIS and issued your new I-20 Form showing OPT authorization on page 3 of the form.
- 12) For further information, please visit the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website regarding International Students at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/students>

**In case of an emergency or after hours please contact the General Consulate of the State of Kuwait, at (310) 279-3644**