



## Visa and Pre-Arrival Information

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Dear Student:

Congratulations on your admission! Before traveling to the United States of America please carefully read the information below to familiarize yourself with, Admissions/Welcome Packages, Visa Procedures, Visa Appointment/Interview TIPS, and Travel and Arrival Tips.

1. **ADMISSIONS/WELCOME PACKAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY** (I-20, acceptance letter, and other information such as housing, immunizations, brochures, etc.)

- a. Please take note that some students are admitted to academic studies while others are admitted to Intensive English programs. Please check your I-20 and acceptance letters.
- b. Thoroughly read all documents: I-20, acceptance letter, and other information such as housing, immunizations, brochures, etc.
- c. Complete and return all the necessary forms (housing, immunizations, etc.) enclosed in your admissions packet to the school as soon as possible. **You are responsible for making and finalizing your own housing arrangements and completing any forms requested by the University. NOTE: Some universities require freshmen to live in on-campus housing.**
- d. If you have been admitted to an intensive English program (ESL), you will have to submit an undergraduate application for academic studies upon fulfilling the language requirements.

2. **VISA PROCEDURES**

- a. You should make your appointment for your visa interview as soon as possible after receiving your Form I-20.
- b. You will have to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee (\$200.00 USD) before you have your interview with the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait to secure your visa. This may be paid online using a credit card. The website is <http://www.FMJfee.com>
- c. Appointment with the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait
  - i. Once you have received your I-20 and paid the SEVIS fee online, your next step is to make an appointment with the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.
  - ii. Each embassy has different requirements, please follow instructions available through the website of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait at <https://kw.usembassy.gov/>
- d. Visa processing times vary depending on your individual circumstance. In general, most U.S. visas are approved and issued within seven to ten business days, though some can take a little longer. If you are subjected to an additional background security check, such clearances tend to be approved within approximately four to eight weeks. Visa **Wait Times**- <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html>



### 3. VISA APPOINTMENT/INTERVIEW TIPS

- Each specific U.S. consulate's website will tell you what exactly to bring to the visa appointment (as well as what is not allowed inside the consulate), please follow instructions available through the website of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait at <https://kw.usembassy.gov/>
- Keep all required documents neatly arranged to make it easier for you to retrieve if asked. Make sure the documents are presentable. Don't use torn or crushed documents.
- Ensure you arrive to your appointment with enough time to make it through security processing and check in, dressed neatly.
- The visa interview is your opportunity to tell the consular officer about your plans while in the United States and what you will do when you have completed your studies. Stay Calm and answer with confidence.
- Review more in-depth interview tips [here](#).

### 4. TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL TIPS

- Carry all your original immigration documents with you at all times while you travel. Do not check them in with your luggage.
- Proofread all of your travel-related documents (i.e., Form I-20, Form I-901 SEVIS fee receipt and visa) to ensure they are correct. Especially make sure your name and birth date are written exactly the same way on all of your documents. If you find an error in a document, have it corrected by the people who completed the document before you apply for the next document in the process.
- Complete the CF-6059B Customs Declaration form provided to you during your flight.
- Make sure to have the name and phone number of the foreign student advisor at your school.
- If you arrive at the U.S. border without all the necessary paperwork, CBP officials may issue you a Form I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor".
- Failure to provide proper documentation or compliance with directions in Form I-515A may result in denied entry.
- For further information, please visit the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website regarding International Students at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index>

**We strongly recommend arriving in the U.S. during the work week (Monday-Friday) between the hours of 9:00am-5:00pm to ensure that the Consulate and/or offices at your program of study are open and able to assist you with any urgent matter.**

في حالة الطوارئ او بعد مواعيد العمل الرسمية برجاء الإتصال بقنصلية دولة الكويت على رقم  
**310-279-3644:**