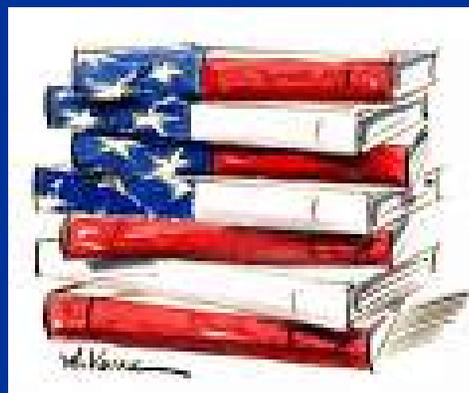




A Guide to Student (F1) Visas



Consular Section
U.S. Embassy Kuwait
2007



Top Reasons to Study in the U.S.

- We value your diversity and talents!
- Best colleges & universities worldwide
- More international Arab and Muslim students than any other country outside Middle East
- Variety of fields of study to tailor to your needs
- Cutting-edge science and technology
- Outstanding career counseling & alumni networks worldwide





Quick Facts

- President Bush welcomes more Kuwaiti students in America
- Your visa will be ready within 24-48 hours after interview (**can vary for applicant's requiring administrative clearances*)
- Almost 1,500 Kuwaitis are studying in American schools now!
- International employers prefer U.S. degrees
- American diplomas certified and recognized in Kuwait
- Studying abroad is a cultural and academic adventure





STEP 1: Apply EARLY!

- Choose the school
- Get your signed I-20 form
- Apply as early as 120 days before program start date
- Email the embassy for a visa interview appointment:
visaapptkuwaitm@state.gov
- April-August are busiest months with 2-3 week waits for visa appointments
- Applications accepted by appointment only





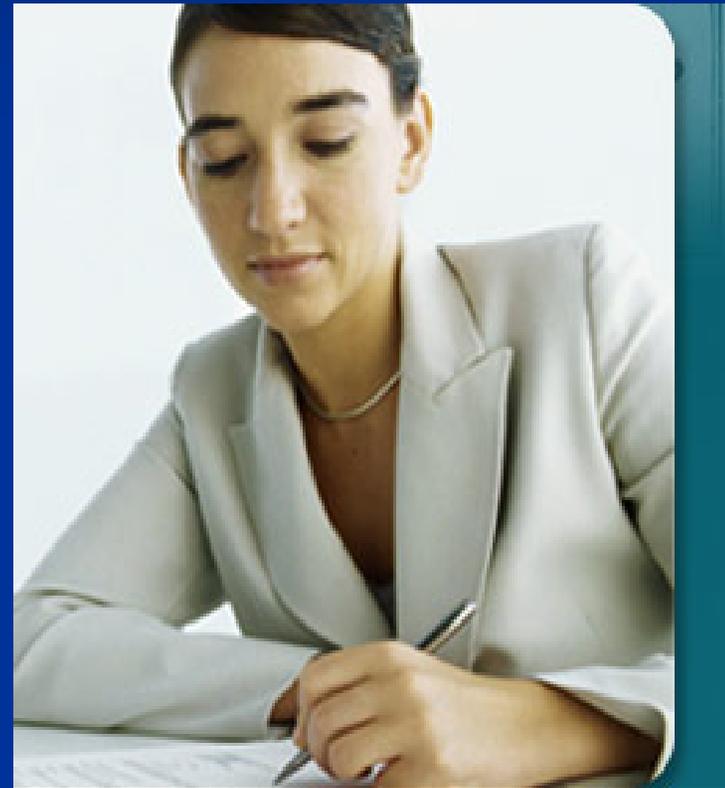
STEP 2: Documents Needed

- **NIV Application (DS-156)**--Must be completed online
- **Contact info/work history (DS-158)**
- **Original I-20**
- **Supplemental NIV form (DS-157):** *Only male applicants age 16-45 or males/females age 16 or older with passports from Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, or Syria.*
- **Photograph** (see website for details)
- **Valid Passport** (valid for at least 6 months; name/DOB in English)
- **SEVIS** registration fee payment receipt (\$100)
- **Visa application fee** (Burgan Bank receipt for 30.5KD) **The visa fee is non-refundable, regardless of the outcome of your visa interview*
- **Financial Support** (scholarship letter or bank statements)
- **Transcripts** (*only for continuing students*)



STEP 3: Come Prepared

- Double check to make sure you have all documents
- Email the Embassy if you need to reschedule
- Make sure you are familiar with your program of study
- Relax.....you're about to embark on an academic adventure!





Key Things to Remember



- Visa application and SEVIS fees are non-refundable
- You cannot travel to the U.S. more than 30 days before your program start date
- You must meet SEVIS academic performance and enrollment requirements
- Visas will be valid for the duration of studies
- Complete the DS-156 online
- Request an appointment early (at least 6 weeks)



Key Terms



- **F1:** Student visa
- **SEVIS:** Student & Exchange Visitor Information System
- **NIV:** Nonimmigrant visa
- **I-20:** Form detailing your program of study
- **DS-156:** Visa application



Helpful Links

- U.S. Embassy:
 - <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov>
- Visa Appointments:
 - visaapptkuwaitm@state.gov
- Department of Homeland Security:
 - <http://uscis.gov>
- SEVIS:
 - www.fmjfee.com
- Education USA:
 - <http://educationusa.state.gov>
- Study in U.S.:
 - <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/educ/studyus.htm>





Building Bridges



“Our commitment to getting more Kuwaiti students to study in America is rooted in a belief that both of our societies are strengthened when we share our perspectives, our cultures and our aspirations.”

Ambassador Richard LeBaron, U.S. Embassy Kuwait