

# ABOUT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

## THE UNIVERSITY

- Mission Statement
- Values

## UNIVERSITY CULTURE

## UNIVERSITY FACULTY

## INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

## AUK AND DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

## MEMBERSHIPS

## CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

- Segregation
- A Safe and Substance-Free Campus
- Smoking Policy

## THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

## THE ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- University Library
- Student Success Center
- Writing Center

## UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES

- Computer Laboratories
- Science Laboratories

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- American Corner
- Center for Continuing Education
- Gulf Studies Center
- Arabian Heritage Project

## ON-CAMPUS SERVICES

- AUK Bookstore
- Banking
- Business Center
- Electronic Mail Service (E-mail)
- MyAUK Portal
- Food Services and Coffee Shops
- Health Care Services
- Parking
- Student Accounts





# ABOUT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

## THE UNIVERSITY

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural, and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.

Established by Amiri Decree 139 in 2003, AUK was accredited in 2006 and re-accredited in 2008, by the Council for Private Universities, Ministry of Higher Education - State of Kuwait.

AUK offers students a quality education based on an American college model. The faculty, administration, and staff work hard to create a caring environment where every aspect of the student's development gets attention and support. The course of study is designed to prepare students for the contemporary world where critical thinking, communication skills, and life-long learning have become imperative. The Liberal Arts education fulfills student's educational goals and requires rigorous effort in the Major discipline (field of study); it also brings the rewards of a broad general education useful in their future career, whatever field they choose.

The AUK faculty is a highly qualified group of international academics with first-hand experience of the American style of higher education. There are over eighty faculty members, including over 50 undergraduate faculty with Ph.D.s. With a class size of 10 to a maximum of 32 students, it is easy for students to get to know their professors and classmates.

AUK currently offers thirteen degree programs. In addition, students receive instruction in academic skills, time management, and stress reduction. At AUK students will find opportunities for internships, creative talent development, health and fitness maintenance, and community involvement. Advising is very important in the American-college Liberal Arts model, so students should be sure to seek guidance from the Student Success Center academic advisors and counselors and their professors.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution, based on the American model of higher education. It is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

## VALUES

The values that guide AUK:

- AUK values freedom of thought and expression and emphasizes the need for students to learn to think critically, to develop the art of questioning, to understand cause and effect, to communicate effectively, to write expressively, to learn about the world and to become life long learners.
- AUK values self-awareness with a moral and ethical responsibility throughout its learning community.

- AUK values the importance of a strong and diverse educational experience and knowledge in varied fields.
- AUK values a multi-cultural and diverse environment and an active campus life.
- AUK values staff commitment to service.
- AUK values the role of faculty in teaching, scholarship, creative expression and service.

## UNIVERSITY CULTURE

The American University of Kuwait is committed to creating an enlightened and progressive educational culture in which all students, faculty and staff, regardless of nationality, creed, or position, will co-exist and help create a dynamic and equitable environment. All members of AUK are expected to respect the diverse nature of the AUK community and interact in a manner that is respectful of such, and that supports a commitment to life-long learning and the pursuit of academic excellence in higher education. The University encourages the freedom to engage in academic inquiry, and the fair exchange of ideas, and as such supports open access to and dissemination of information.

The University founders uphold the philosophy that one cannot create a true enlightened academic environment without practicing the very virtues and ideals it hopes to instill in its students. In upholding the highest standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct among its faculty, staff and students, the University hopes to create a community of scholars and students who will benefit from AUK's collegial atmosphere. Through these principles, AUK is prepared to reinvent and improve itself continuously as a community of life-long learners.

## UNIVERSITY FACULTY

The faculty of the American University of Kuwait is a group of highly qualified and trained academicians and professionals who are committed to high standards of teaching excellence and proficient in the use of technology in teaching and research. Full-time teaching faculty members have acquired terminal degrees from institutions in the Middle East and abroad in addition to having taught in a variety of international systems of higher education. The AUK faculty is a diverse group of exceptionally talented teachers-scholars, several of whom are and have been involved with the Fulbright Scholarship Program, a program that has international prestige. AUK regularly hosts U.S. participants in the Fulbright Program, students and faculty alike.

## INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American University of Kuwait has several Educational Partnerships and Agreements with universities and institutions for various purposes. The following institutions have agreements with AUK:

- Dartmouth College  
*Hanover, New Hampshire, USA*
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)  
*Blacksburg, Virginia, USA*
- Washington State University (WSU)  
*Pullman, Washington, USA*
- Koç University  
*Istanbul, Turkey*

- New Bulgarian University (NBU)  
*Sofia, Bulgaria*
- Sciences-Po  
*Paris, France*
- Embassy of the United States of America in Kuwait  
*Bayan, Kuwait*
- America-Mideast Education and Training Services (AMIDEAST)  
*Salmiya, Kuwait*
- Bayt Lothan Youth Achievement Center  
*Salmiya, Kuwait*
- The Hollings Center  
*Washington D.C., USA*

## AUK AND DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire (USA), have worked closely together since 2003, when the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitated a series of advisory, consultative, and cooperative projects. That initial agreement was renewed in June 2008 to extend through 2013. The two institutions share a commitment to excellence in higher learning, and the agreement between them reflects AUK's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the Gulf region and beyond. With its deep and historic commitment to the liberal arts, Dartmouth recognizes the importance of AUK's mission and works to support the University as it develops a superlative education, based on the principles of critical inquiry, mastery of subject material, depth of curriculum, and a vibrant, out of the classroom experience.

Dartmouth and AUK collaborate on numerous programs, and Dartmouth provides a wide range of administrative and academic consulting services to AUK. The two institutions have developed a flourishing relationship that involves faculty, students, and staff in both locations. Dartmouth experts in engineering, information technology, library sciences, communications, governance, and other areas routinely visit Kuwait while students, faculty, and staff from Kuwait travel to the United States to work with their counterparts at Dartmouth. AUK's commitment to providing a premier learning environment based on the American model resonates with Dartmouth's history and its understanding of the importance of higher learning in a global context. Since the relationship began, the two institutions have steadily deepened and expanded their partnership, creating a dynamic, evolving, and unique cross-cultural collaboration.

## MEMBERSHIPS

The American University of Kuwait has membership in several institutions, organizations, and accreditation bodies for various purposes.

- American International Consortium of Academic Libraries      AMICAL  
*Institutional Member*
- Association of American Colleges and Universities      AACU  
*Institutional Member*

- Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs  
*Educational Institution Member* ACBSP
- College Entrance Examination Board  
*Member, Code 38605* CEEB
- Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
*Institutional Member* CCAS
- Middle East Studies Association  
*Institutional Member* MESA
- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
*Institutional Member* NASPA
- National Academic Advising Association  
*Institutional Member* NACADA
- National Association of Colleges and Employers  
*Organizational Member* NACE
- National Association for Campus Activities  
*Institutional Member* NACA
- Global Universities Network for Innovation  
*Institutional Member* GUNI
- American Association of Colleges & Universities  
*Institutional Member* AACU

## CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

The AUK Campus is located in Salmiya at the intersection of Salem Al-Mubarak and Amro Ibn Al-'Asse Streets in the middle of one of Kuwait's most vibrant neighborhoods.

AUK opened its doors in the Fall of 2004 and conducts its academic activity in new, rehabilitated and refurbished facilities, which will be expanded and developed as needed in the coming years. AUK's campus has spacious, modern classrooms; computer, science, and language laboratories, an administration building, a state-of-the-art Library, coffee shops, restaurants, shops, and recreation courts; nearby parking available for students, staff, faculty and visitors. Next to the Library and central campus classrooms are a beautifully designed and landscaped central courtyard and garden which serve to provide shade and respite from the hectic activities, offering AUK students, faculty and staff a pleasant place to enjoy, relax and study.

Campus life is an integral part of a student's university experience at AUK and helps to bring students, faculty, and staff together as one community. Students are encouraged to participate in campus events and use the resources available on Campus to further enhance their educational experience at AUK. For example, the Student Success Center provides students with assistance in their academic work, offering faculty and peer tutoring assistance in all subjects.

Campus life contributes to making the time students spend on Campus a continuous and valuable learning experience. Through both classroom learning and extracurricular activities, AUK students learn the critical thinking skills, knowledge, and values needed to succeed effectively in today's modern societies in the region and internationally. Participation in extracurricular activities allows

students to learn new skills and discover hidden talents, thus enhancing not only their educational experience, but personal development.

The University has a Student Government Association, a student-run newspaper and academic journal, Intramural and Intercollegiate athletic clubs and organizations, theater, academic organizations and activities in which students can participate.

AUK's location in Salmiya adds an important dimension to Campus life. It is located within walking distance of the country's most renowned restaurants, coffee shops, shopping malls, and movie theaters, as well as the seafront and the Scientific Center of Kuwait.

## SEGREGATION

As per law no. 34 of 2000 on the "Establishment of Private Universities: in the State of Kuwait (Article 6), private universities/colleges and branches of foreign universities shall abide by the following:

- 1) Operate its buildings to ensure gender segregation in all departments, disciplines and student activities.
- 2) Observe Islamic values and time-honored traditions in relation to students' costumes and activities.

## A SAFE AND SUBSTANCE-FREE CAMPUS

AUK offers 24-hour security service to ensure the safety of its community. The laws of the country prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the use of drugs. AUK has a zero tolerance policy towards the use of alcohol or any narcotic substance, weapons and dangerous materials brought to campus or any University sanctioned event, and physical altercations. Any person who is found guilty of alcohol consumption, substance abuse, carrying and/or using weapons or dangerous materials, or participation in a physical altercation is subject to immediate expulsion from the University.

## SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in University buildings or vehicles.

## THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Administration Building includes the Board of Trustees Office, the Office of the President, and the Office of the Executive Director of Finance and Administration. Additionally, the administration building houses the following departments: Human Resources, Finance, Campus Services, Public Relations and Marketing, and the AUK Bookstore.

## THE ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

There are two major academic buildings on campus. Most of the University's classrooms and computer laboratories, and all the faculty offices are located in these buildings. The Sciences building houses the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Academic Support/Tutoring Center, Student Life, Information Technology Department, Starbucks Café and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Computer Sciences and Engineering and Intensive English Program faculty. Located in the Liberal Arts Building is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Office, the University Auditorium, the Diner, the open Computer laboratory, the Student Success Center, and the Arts & Humanities, Business and Economics Faculty. The C building classrooms are reserved for the Intensive English Program and the Music and Drama Performance Labs.

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The mission of the Library at the American University of Kuwait is to support and advance education by facilitating access to scholarly collections and information resources. To achieve this mission, the Library provides access to print and electronic information resources and offers information literacy workshops and lectures to students and faculty. This opens the door for Library users to browse through the spectrum of information resources as they seek to achieve their educational aspirations.

The University Library occupies a beautiful, two-story modern space. It is a state-of-the-art, electronically wired building. The Library houses a collection of books and periodicals in English, Arabic and other languages related to the disciplines (fields of study) and degree programs that the University offers. The Library also has reference books, journals and media materials (DVDs, videotapes, audiotapes, etc.) to support course work. The Library is fully computerized and has online subscriptions to academic and intellectual journals needed for classroom instruction and academic research. Within the Library, there are computer workstations that allow access to the Library's online catalog and electronic databases, as well as the Internet. All Library resources are available to members of the AUK Community and other authorized users with a valid AUK I.D.

As an important resource for learning, teaching and research, the University Library provides academic support for students, faculty and staff to help them identify, locate and use the Library's resources. The Library staff coordinates collection development, cataloging and utilization of print and electronic resources.

In addition to the above, the Library maintains a Reserve section for instructional purposes. Faculty can place course materials on Reserve, which are then available for use for a limited time period within the building.

The University Library is distinguished by its emphasis on the student and the learning experience. As knowledge in all disciplines (fields of study) changes, one of the primary tasks of the Library user is the mastery of information strategies and skills that are transferable across subject areas and practical for a lifetime. The University Library attempts to provide students, faculty and staff with the tools and skills necessary to enhance their learning experiences, to increase their efficiency in retrieving, creating and communicating scholarly information, and to become life-long learners.

- **Online Resources and Databases:**

The library subscribes to 30 bibliographic and full-text databases including Access Science, Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO), Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online, Encyclopedia Britannica Online, Encyclopedia of Islam Online, Grove Art Online, Grove Music Online, Islamic Studies Online, Oxford, Literature Online & Literature Collection, OED – Oxford English Dictionary, Academic Search Complete, AnthroSource, Business Source Complete, Humanities E-Books, Ingenta, JSTOR, Lexis-Nexis Academic, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts, MLA International Bibliography, MLA Directory of Periodicals, Philosopher's Index, Project MUSE, PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, Regional Business News, SocIndex with Full Text, IEEE, Association for Computing Machinery, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Artstor. The University has access to approximately 38,500 electronic journals and 1,700 E-books.

- **Print Resources:**

The library print resources include over 15,000 Books, 234 Reserve collection, over 2,900 Reference collection titles, 82 Periodicals, and almost 1,963 Audio-Visual DVDs and CD-ROMs.

- **Information Literacy/Instruction Program** (How to Access & Interpret Information)

Information literacy and instruction programs are designed to familiarize students with Library

services and resources. Library instruction, guided tours and in-class orientations are offered at various times throughout the academic year, generally upon the request of a faculty member.

## STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides academic, personal and career support to all currently enrolled students. Programs include academic advising, academic support (tutoring, supplemental instruction and success skills workshops), retention, disability services, personal and career counseling. The Director of the Student Success Center serves as the University Student Ombudsman.

Student records with the Student Success Center are independent of all University records. Information is released only with the express written consent of the student unless the situation is considered a dire health and safety risk. It is the Center's professional and ethical responsibility to respect and consider confidential all information including academic records/status, family information, health (mental/physical), and all other issues derived from the student. Parents or any other family member must obtain a signed consent from the student to receive confidential information regarding a student's record from any SSC staff member.

For additional information about the Student Success Center please visit the office on the 5th Floor of the Liberal Arts (B) Building, or contact by phone at **Ext 242**, or by **email:**

**success@auk.edu.kw.**

## WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center at the American University of Kuwait promotes an understanding of writing as a way of thinking, learning, and teaching. To serve this mission, the AUK Writing Center aims to:

- Cultivate an environment of collaborative inquiry with students seeking help with a variety of writing and reading needs, concerns, and goals.
- Develop students' understanding of the variety of writing purposes, audiences, genres, and styles.
- Develop students' strategies for critically reading and engaging with a variety of texts.
- Support students' efforts in all stages of their writing processes.
- Provide thoughtful and constructive feedback.
- Support faculty efforts to develop and integrate a variety of writing assignments into their courses.
- Provide resources on writing for the entire University community.

## UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES

### COMPUTER LABORATORIES

The Information Technology Department (IT) maintains a computer network that serves students, faculty, and staff. The University has 18 instructional computer labs - 16 Windows-based labs and 2 Macintosh labs - as well as an open lab and a PC- equipped Library. The total number of computers that are available to students for research and learning purposes is around 600 PCs.

Several academic software applications such as SPSS, Peachtree for Accounting, 3D Studio Max, Dr. Java, Oracle, Textpath, Adobe CS3, Adobe Premiere, to name a few, are deployed in the computer labs on an as-needed basis.

All computers are connected to the internet. AUK's computer network uses state-of-the-art fiber optic cables and both wired and wireless access points to ensure complete network coverage of the campus. AUK has internet links from 2 service providers totaling a bandwidth of 5 Mbps on which internet filtering is applied to ensure that bandwidth is available for academic and administrative usages. An additional sponsored 8 Mbps internet link offers free access to the internet to the whole AUK Community via the wireless network.

## SCIENCE LABORATORIES

AUK maintains instructional science laboratories in the main scientific disciplines: biology, chemistry and physics. These labs are fully equipped for instructional laboratory exercises. Standards of use are established and rigorously enforced by the faculty and the lab assistants to help ensure safety.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### THE AMERICAN CORNER

The American Corner, located in the AUK Library, serves as a forum for visiting American Scholars, AUK faculty, and AUK students for the discussion of salient issues with the AUK Community. Topics discussed have included the adjudication of non-state actors, Western journalism on the Middle East, and the 2008 US Elections. The Corner is supported by donated resources from the US Embassy. AUK's use of these resources, such as the Digital Video Conferencing Equipment, has allowed for live international dialogue to be conducted with various universities and institutions.

### CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) offers programs and services which complement those of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Intensive English Program. The Center's target audiences include:

- Adults who wish to:
  - advance or change their careers
  - update or upgrade their knowledge, skills and abilities
  - achieve professional credentials or certifications
  - prepare for advanced studies or exams such as the GMAT
  - fulfill continuing professional education requirements
  - pursue personal and professional development interests
  - prepare for life-changing events such as parenthood and retirement
  
- Young adults who wish to:
  - prepare for university studies
  - prepare for exams such as the TOEFL, IELTS, and SAT
  - participate in enrichment programs
  - increase knowledge and confidence in English skills such as conversation, reading, writing etc.
  - pursue personal interests

The Center for Continuing Education offers programs throughout the year. The majority of programs are offered at AUK's Salmiya Campus, but some may be offered at community sites or in specialized off-campus facilities. For more information on CCE, please visit the CCE website [www.auk.edu.kw/cce/index.html](http://www.auk.edu.kw/cce/index.html).

### GULF STUDIES CENTER

The Gulf Studies Center at the American University of Kuwait seeks to enhance the understanding of the Gulf region and encourage informed scholarship in all academic disciplines (fields of study).

The Center also works to promote dialogue and understanding between Gulf Countries and the West. This is achieved through publications, lecture series, and academic conferences; cooperative programs with other universities and institutions; and the Gulf Studies Certificate Program and the Gulf Studies Minor

The Gulf Studies Program is designed to allow visiting students or non-degree-seeking students to earn a Gulf Studies certificate in one semester. Please refer to the “Gulf Studies Program” section of the Catalog for more information. AUK students may choose to earn a Gulf Studies Minor (Please refer to the “Gulf Studies Minor” section of the Catalog). The Faculty Coordinator of the Gulf Studies Program is Dr. Marjorie Kelly.

The Director of the Gulf Studies Center is **Dr. Hesham Al-Awadi**, *Assistant Professor of History*.

## ARABIAN HERITAGE PROJECT

The Arabian Heritage Project is a center dedicated to fostering, documenting, and celebrating the traditional cultures of the Arabian Peninsula and related traditions. Through hosting a variety of events and assisting in research, preservation, and publications, the Project serves as an outreach and archival source, one that seeks to educate both the University and greater community about the vast cultural perspectives and contributions of Arabia. A myriad of customs are addressed including, music, folklore, poetry, handicrafts, artistic contributions, and community rituals.

## ON-CAMPUS SERVICES

### AUK BOOKSTORE

The AUK Bookstore is located on the ground floor of the Administration Building. Students are able to purchase textbooks and educational supplies as well as books for general readership, including fiction and non-fiction, books on current, regional and international affairs in Arabic and English. In addition, the AUK Bookstore has a variety of clothing and gift items, some with the AUK logo as well as a wide selection of magazines ranging from politics and economics to healthcare and entertainment.

### BANKING

For the convenience of the AUK community, an ATM machine provided by the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is located in the lobby of the Sciences Building.

### BUSINESS CENTER

There is a business center on Campus which provides copying, mailing, and related business services.

### ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE (E-MAIL)

Students, faculty, and staff are provided with an e-mail account. E-mail is the primary means of communication within the University. Important information is often communicated via email to the AUK community.

An AUK e-mail account is a privilege and subject to the computer usage policies of the University. University e-mail accounts are not for private or personal transactions. Abuse of the e-mail account will not be tolerated. Any purposeful activity of creating and/or disseminating computer viruses is a serious violation of the Code of Conduct and may result in suspension or dismissal from AUK.

### MyAUK PORTAL

AUK's portal, the SCT Luminis Platform IV portal (**MyAUK**) provides the AUK community with a solid foundation of infrastructure, enterprise applications and features required to support a digital

campus. Over the past several years, Luminis has become the predominant portal used by universities running Banner. MyAUK provides a personalized single-sign-in access for students, faculty, and staff to existing services on campus targeting individual groups with information relevant to them.

In addition to Banner integration, features of the new portal include channeled content and layout; publish-and-subscribe channel model; end-user customization; separate channels for e-mail, personal and campus announcements, and a channel for 'My Courses'. Luminis provides other portal channels such as group collaboration tools that can be used by departments, organizations and clubs. Over time, portal features will allow users to create an online environment customized by every member of the campus community. Luminis also comes with a calendar, SunOne, which will be available to faculty, staff and students.

One of the exciting functions featured on the Luminis portal is 'Group Studio', which provides an increased and efficient communications avenue. In Group Studio, groups and teams could all potentially utilize new functions such as chat, message boards, and file and photo sharing areas to communicate more effectively with their individuals groups or departments.

You can access the portal through a link on the AUK Website or directly through the MyAUK URL: <http://myauk.auk.edu.kw>. Using your University username and password, you are all set to access this whole new digital campus experience.

For more information, please contact **Roland Lopes**, *Web/Portal Developer* in the PR & Marketing Department: [Rlopes@auk.edu.kw](mailto:Rlopes@auk.edu.kw).

## FOOD SERVICES AND COFFEE SHOPS

There are two food service outlets on Campus. Starbucks is located on the ground floor of the Sciences Building and serves standard Starbucks' fare. The Diner is a full service cafeteria and is located on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts Building.

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AUK maintains a health care clinic operated by the International Clinic of Kuwait. A nurse and receptionist provide first aid, primary medical assistance and minor emergency care for members of the University community at the Center. A primary care physician is always on-call. Emergencies and serious health cases are immediately referred to the nearby clinic or hospital facilities.

## PARKING

The University has limited parking facilities for faculty and staff. However, the University has upgraded a public parking lot next to the Campus which is available to students, faculty, and staff. Handicap parking access is available to qualified students through the Student Success Center.

## STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Students pay tuition and fees at the Finance Department located on the first floor of the Administration Building. Before classes begin, students are required to settle accounts or make satisfactory arrangements for payment of tuition and fees. Students also have the option to pay tuition and fees online via their Banner Self-Service.