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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 Private Universities Council, 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 students' 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 ninety faculty members, including over 50 undergraduate faculty with PhDs or terminal degrees. 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 academic advisors and counselors at the Student Success Center 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 United States and elsewhere 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 have been awarded competitive fellowships and grants, such as the Fulbright grant.

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.

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

The AUK Campus is located in Salmiya on Salem Al-Mubarak Street 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 day's 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 student 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 seafont 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 removal from the University.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is not permitted in University buildings or vehicles.

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 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 PC's.

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 two 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. AUK also maintains instructional laboratories in the discipline of computer engineering. 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, is a program that operates under a Memorandum of Understanding between the American University of Kuwait and the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. American Corner lectures and discussions cover topics including but not limited to: U.S. politics and foreign policy, civic education, sports, culture and arts, economic development, religion, and journalism.

The American Corner also consists of the American Corner Collection, which includes selected books, periodicals, CD-ROMs and DVDs, videos, and electronic resources about the United States. The Collection is maintained by the staff of the AUK Library, in particular the American Corner Collection Coordinator. In addition, the American University of Kuwait Library maintains Digital Video Conferencing (DVC) capability, which allows AUK faculty and students to interact with experts from the United States and other countries on subjects related to course curricula.

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 http://www.auk.edu.kw/cce/cce_main.jsp

GULF STUDIES CENTER

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

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. The Gulf Studies Center and the Gulf Studies Program are supervised by distinct Faculty Coordinators.

ARABIAN HERITAGE PROJECT

The Arabian Heritage Project (AHP) is a center dedicated to fostering, documenting, and celebrating the folk cultures of the Arabian Peninsula and related traditions. Through presenting a variety of programs, events, and lectures by spearheading research, preservation, and publications, the Project serves to increase awareness and to educate both the local and international community about the vast cultural perspectives and contributions of Arabia. The Project is concerned with a myriad of customs, including folklore, music, handicrafts, poetry, literature, art, and community rituals. AHP regularly partners with government, local and international organizations and key individuals.

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

MyAUK is the SCT Luminis Platform IV University 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 portal include channeled content and tabbed 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. 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.

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.

