

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING

AUK Holds Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2020

By bazaar staff



Aisha Adel AlSaqabi shared the most valuable lesson that she learned from her education at the University, “If I had one takeaway from AUK, it is that it has taught me to be fearless. Not to be silent or passive but to be vocal and active, to be loud about the things I deem important and how to investigate the big questions of life that often left me uncomfortable but always led me to think beyond the boundaries of the classroom.”

Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Aisha Adel AlSaqabi
Bachelor of Arts Social & Behavioral Sciences: Anthropology, Summa Cum Laude

Standing there proudly during your graduation ceremony is an unforgettable moment, and taking that away from so many students would have been disappointing in many ways. That is why AUK proudly shifted their focus to setting up a virtual graduation to celebrate this very important milestone for their future pioneers.

AUK held a virtual graduation commencement for the Class of 2020 on Saturday the 18th of July, 2020 where 286 students—67 from the College of Arts and Sciences, 114 from the College of Business and Economics, and 105 from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences—officially became AUK graduates, amongst whom were 7 graduates with highest honors, 18 with high honors, and 14 with honors. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait.

During the ceremony, AUK President, Dr. Rawda Awwad gave the opening speech virtually which welcomed His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, parents, and graduates on behalf of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Sheikhha Dana Nasser Al-

Sabah and the members of AUK’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Awwad then proceeded to praise the graduates’ efforts in overcoming unpredictable circumstances by stating “Throughout the pandemic, our priority first and foremost was your security and safety, and instructional continuity to enable you all to complete your degrees... and you accomplished all of this while completing your courses online and engaging virtually with our faculty and staff. Many of you also completed your degrees in the fall and you were working and taking care of others. You all took AUK into your homes whether online, in spirit or in your actions.”

Next, the commencement keynote address was given by the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in which he emphasized the importance of education, “The world is developing at an astounding

rate, particularly in light of the Corona pandemic, which makes it imperative for us to keep pace with this development through the digital transformations across all country sectors, especially in the educational sector. Revising the education system in Kuwait is no longer a matter for debate, nor can it be delayed. Amending curricula and developing them in line with the labor market has become a pressing national necessity for building the future homeland,” he said.

The graduates were each acknowledged in a slideshow with their pictures, majors and names mentioned. The ceremony was then finalized with the president congratulating the graduates and wishing them well with their future endeavors. The full ceremony can be viewed on AUK’s Instagram account @AUK_Official and YouTube channel AUK Videos.



Yousef AlRashidi, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Cum Laude, Class of 2020



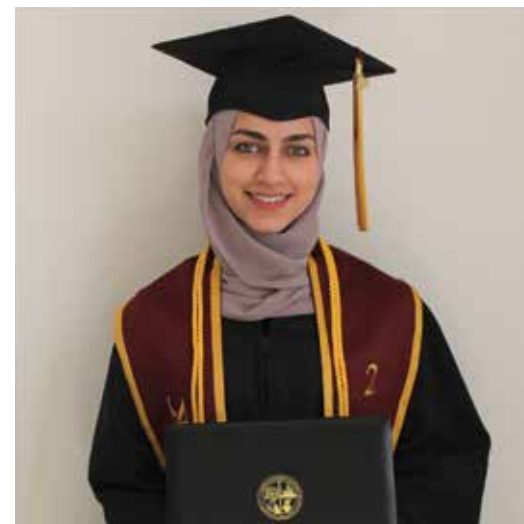
Salem AlSaif, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Reham Kablaoui, Bachelor of Computer Engineering, Summa Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Khalid AlKharafi, Bachelor of Arts in English, Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Kaouthar Chebli, Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Magna Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Ghada Al-Sahhaf, Bachelor of Business Management, Magna Cum Laude, Class of 2020

We got to hear from some of the graduates on why they chose their majors:

Yousef AlRashidi: “I chose Electrical Engineering because it is the blood and future of every innovation in all modern industries such as healthcare, robotics and transportation. I learned to be creative, think outside the box and find solutions.”

Salem AlSaif: “My decision of pursuing a degree in electrical engineering was due to my fascination with the complexities behind electrical power. Both the value I have placed on education alongside my strive to learn have helped me achieve personal growth while expanding my technical perspectives and skills.”

Reham Hicham Rafic Kablaoui: “Being interested in the advancement of technologies, I chose computer engineering to learn to develop my own solutions to problems. I have learned many software and hardware skills along with the importance of teamwork and the ability to work under pressure.”

Khalid AlKharafi: “I chose the English major program because of the connection I’ve had with the language since childhood. The most important thing I have learned from my major is that English has broad perspectives with various interpretations and understandings.”

Kaouthar Chebli: “I chose to study Anthropology because I wanted to understand and appreciate

the essence of being a human. One of the most important things I learned from Anthropology is the beauty of appreciating our cultural differences while allowing for in-depth understanding of the factors motivating cultural practices. I learned not to take things at surface value but rather understand the many layers and forms social influences could take.”

Ghada Al-Sahhaf: “I’ve always been interested in leadership and business. Management is a combination of both as it requires skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, and strategic planning. From my degree in management, I learned the value of critical-thinking, human capital management, and innovation for effective organization”.



Amer Khosla, Bachelor of Finance Accounting, Summa Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Anas ElGhabra, Bachelor of Computer Science, Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Al-Jawhara Sabah Al-Sabah, Bachelor of International Relations and Communications & Media, Magna Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Naya Sadek Kassis, Bachelor of Communication & Media, Summa Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Noha Mohammed Mahmoud, Bachelor of Computer Engineering, Magna Cum Laude, Class of 2020



Rafia Fouad Tabaa, Bachelor of Economics, Magna Cum Laude, Class of 2020

About the American University of Kuwait (AUK):

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. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw

AUK received its institutional accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC)—Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, as of February 1, 2006. In addition, the Intensive English Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA); the College of Business & Economics is accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB); the College of Arts & Sciences is accredited by the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE); the BSc degree program in Computer Science is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology (ABET); the BE degree program in Computer Engineering and the BE degree program in Electrical Engineering are both accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

For more information about AUK, or to watch the ceremony visit auk.edu.kw or their Instagram page @AUK_Official.