University awarded 7 merit scholarships to new students

AUK sets stage for a transformative 2023/2024 academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) has launched the 2023/2024 academic year with a resounding commitment to academic excellence and personal growth for both new and returning students. The University's orientation and welcome week activities have set the stage for an inspiring and transformative educational journey.

In recognition of academic excellence, AUK awarded 7 merit scholarships to new students and an additional 8 to those already enrolled. This underscores the University's commitment to acknowledging and rewarding the diligent efforts of its student body, motivating them to strive for continued excellence.

AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, encouraged students to embrace the spirit of exploration during her welcome address by challenging them to consider their university experience as a voyage of discovery, saying, "Your university journey is your own extraordinary expedition. It's a journey filled with wonder, enlightenment, and transformation." Dr. Awwad's speech emphasized AUK's dedication to offering a diverse and enriching educational environment that encourages students to explore a wide range of academic opportunities.

Complementing students' academic endeavors, the University's Office of Student Life, Division of Student Affairs, placed a strong emphasis on fostering connections among students through networking and team-building activities. This initiative aimed to create a sense of community and inclusivity, enriching the AUK campus environment, and contributing to the holistic development of students.

Newcomers were also taken on guided tours that introduced the University's state-of-the-art facilities and essential services. These tours ensured that students are well-informed and equipped to utilize the resources available to them, providing a strong foundation for a successful academic journey.

AUK's efforts to welcome and support students reflect its unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience. The University remains dedicated to cultivating an all-inclusive campus community that values diversity in backgrounds and perspectives.

Group photo of new students.

General photos of students during the campus tour.

Students checking in for orientation.

Kuwait ranks '63rd' in world in digital quality of life index

Kuwait's internet quality 21% higher than global average

AMSTERDAM, Sept 21: Surfshark's 5th annual Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) ranks Kuwait 63rd in the world. Out of the Index's 5 pillars, Kuwait performed best in internet quality, claiming 26th place, while facing challenges in e-security, ranking 104th. The nation ranks 35th in internet affordability, 45th in e-infrastructure, and 66th in e-government. In the overall Index, Kuwait lags behind Saudi Arabia (45th) and Qatar (48th). In Asia, Kuwait takes 19th place, with Singapore the leader in the region.

"In many nations, 'digital quality of life' has merged into the broader concept of overall 'quality of life'. There's no other way to look at it now that so many daily activities, including work, education, and leisure, are done online. That's why it's crucial to pinpoint the areas in which a nation's digital quality of life thrives and where attention is needed, which is the precise purpose of the DQL Index", says Gabriele Racaityte-Krasauske, Surfshark's spokeswoman.

Kuwait's internet quality is 21% higher than the global average.

■ Fixed internet averages 179 Mbps in Kuwait. To put that into perspective, the world's fastest fixed internet – Singapore's – is 300 Mbps. Meanwhile, the slowest fixed internet in the world – Yemen's – is 11 Mbps.

■ Mobile internet averages 210 Mbps. The fastest mobile internet – the UAE's – is 310 Mbps, while the world's slowest mobile internet – Venezuela's – is 10 Mbps.

Compared to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait's mobile internet is 15% faster, while fixed broadband is 63% faster.

The internet is affordable in Kuwait compared to other countries.

■ Kuwaitis have to work 59 minutes a month to afford fixed broadband internet. While this is less than average, it is 3 times more than in Romania, which has the world's most affordable fixed internet (Romanians have to work 18 minutes a month to afford it).

■ Kuwaitis have to work 1 hour 22 minutes 36 seconds a month to afford mobile internet. This is 5 times more than in Luxembourg, which has the world's most affordable mobile internet (Luxembourgers have to work 16 minutes a month to afford it).

Kuwait is 104th in the world in e-security.

The e-security pillar measures how well a country is prepared to counter cybercrime, as well as how advanced a country's data protection laws are. In this pillar, Kuwait lags behind Saudi Arabia (42nd) and Qatar (67th). Kuwait is unprepared to fight against cybercrime, the country has no data protection laws.

Kuwait is 45th in e-infrastructure and 66th in e-government.

Advanced e-infrastructure makes it easy for people to use the internet for various daily activities, such as working, studying, shopping, etc. This pillar evaluates how high internet penetration is in a given country, as well as its network readiness (readiness to take advantage of Information and Communication Technologies). Kuwait's internet penetration is high (99% – 6th in the world), and the country ranks 61st in network readiness.

The e-government pillar shows how advanced a government's digital services are and the level of Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness a country demonstrates. Kuwait's e-government is similar to the global average.

Globally, the internet is more affordable than last year.

■ Fixed internet is 11% more affordable than last year – on average, people have to work 42 minutes less a month to afford it.

■ Mobile internet is 26% more affordable than last year – people have to work 41 minutes less to afford it.

KUNA photo
Participants in the training program titled 'news monitoring on the internet.

KUNA concludes internet news monitoring program

KUNA media training center concluded Thursday its five-day program titled "news monitoring on the internet."

The program, presented by member of the Media council at the British Association of Journalists Ahmad Al-Sheikh, focused on the latest tools to monitor news on the internet and identifying reliable sources. The program also focused on cross checking news, analyzing the audience and platforms, developing news photos and videos, as well as developing and broadcasting news.

One of the main topics the program focused on is identifying fake news and the presentation of news items through the use of artificial intelligence. (KUNA)

Belt ... Vision

The deals run the gamut from cooperation on e-commerce and energy to infrastructure and the establishment of smart cites, while the two countries' respective leaders have always given their backing to any initiative aiming to propel ties to greater levels.

More than 40 Chinese-based firms are currently operating in Kuwait as part of Beijing's contributions towards national development projects in a testament to the meteoric rise in bilateral relations.

In related news, Kuwaiti sport officials hoisted Thursday Kuwait's flag in the sport city in the Chinese city of Hangzouh, which would be hosting the 19th Asian Games between September 23 and October 8.

Hoisting the flag marks the participation of the Gulf country in the Asian games, Sheikh Jaber Thamer Al-Sabah, member of Kuwait National Olympic Committee Board, said in a statement.

He said the Kuwaiti players would do their utmost to represent their country in the best way possible.

The flag hoisting ceremony was also attended by NOC member Fatma Hayat and Assistant Secreetary General Ali Al-Marri.

Sovereignty affirmed

He underlined significance of the UN charter's goals and UN principles' "role in defending small countries."

Meanwhile, Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' Al-Sudani at his residence in New York on Wednesday.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly session, dealt with the impacts of the recent verdict of the Iraqi federal court, rescinding the agreement on maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah.

The agreement that was signed by both countries in 2012, was endorsed lodged to the United Nations in the following year.