



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

BEFORE arriving in the United State of America:

- 1) Confirm that your passport and visa are valid for entry to the U.S. and Passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond date of expected stay in the U.S.
- 2) The Customs & Border Protection Officer at the U.S. port of entry will be the only authorized person to open the sealed envelope of your immigration visa document that you received from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.
- 3) While you are traveling, you should **carry with you** the following (do not check-in these documents with your luggage):
 - Your passport (including the attached envelope of immigrant documents) with visa
 - SEVIS Form I-20 AB
 - Evidence of financial resources (Kuwait Cultural Office Financial Support Letter); this was included in your Ministry of Higher Education admission packet
 - Name & contact information for your designated school official (DSO)
 - Pen and paper
- 4) You will have to complete the CF-6059 Customs Declaration Forms and I-94 Arrival-Departure Record Forms for immigration, which will be given to you on flight before you land at your initial point of entry in the U.S. **It is important that you tell the Customs and Border Protection Officer that you will be a student.** Be prepared to include the name and address of the university where you will enroll. Once the inspection is complete, the officer will:
 - Stamp your SEVIS form for duration of status (“D/S”) for F visa holders
 - Stamp the I-94 Arrival-Departure Record form and staple it in the passport
- 5) Secondary Inspection Requirements –If your information cannot be automatically verified by the inspector or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be directed to an interview area known as “secondary inspection”.
 - **We strongly suggest that you have the name and phone number of the foreign student advisor at your school.** If you arrive during non-business hours (evening, weekends or holidays), you should have a phone number where this individual can be reached during non-business hours.
Failure to provide proper documentation and comply with the entry/exit procedures is cause to refuse student admission into the U.S.
 - There are times when a student may not be in full compliance and the student may be issued a Form I-515A “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor”, which authorizes temporary admission into the U.S. and requires the student to take immediate action to submit proper documentation.
Non-compliance with the directions contained on these forms can result in denied entry.
- 6) **US-Visit** –is a comprehensive entry-exit registration system that was implemented at all international airports throughout the U.S. Non-immigrant visitors holding visas will be participating in the program, which involves obtaining a scan of two index fingerprints and a digital photograph of the arriving visitor.
- 7) **National Security Entry-Exit Registration Systems (NSEERS)** -Some visitors will require additional scrutiny and will have to provide additional information under NSEERS. Anyone could be subject to additional scrutiny and should follow the directions of the Customs and Border Protection Officer if additional information regarding itinerary, length of stay or other security questions are required.
- 8) Admission to the U.S. –Students must report to their university IMMEDIATELY after reporting to the Cultural office to register for courses. Please ensure that you attend your mandatory student orientation at your study location for additional immigration information.
- 9) **Continuing Students** who are traveling outside of the U.S. must see their foreign student advisor at the school and obtain an endorsement from the designated school official. The endorsement will be on page 3 of the Form I-20. When returning to the U.S. a continuing student must present a valid Form I-20 with the DSO signature that the student is active and in good standing with the school.
- 10) If you are authorized for Optional Practical Training (OPT) by your school, make sure that the school has updated your records in SEVIS and issued your new I-20 Form showing OPT authorization on page 3 of the form.

In case of an emergency or after hours please contact the Cultural Counselor, Dr. Ali Al Kazemi, at (310) 890-4480

For further information, please visit the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website regarding International Students at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index>