



**EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
CULTURAL DIVISION**

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IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR STUDENTS REGARDING U.S. IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

In light of recent detentions of Kuwaiti students by the U.S. Immigration Authorities, you are reminded that you must adhere to U.S. Immigration Laws or face similar consequences. The majority of the detentions are based on students being "Out of Status" due to:

- **Under-Enrollment**
- **Poor Attendance**
- **Failure to Follow Proper University Transfer Procedure**
- **Overstay beyond the Expiration of the I-20 date**
- *****Traffic/Driver License Violations***
*** For U.S. Driver License you are encouraged to enroll in a Driver Education Program that will offer theoretical and practical instructions on U.S. traffic laws to avoid or minimize traffic violations.*

You are reminded to follow the necessary steps listed below if you intend to:

A. Make Changes in Your Enrollment, Registration, Coursework or Major:

You must first check with the International Programs Office of your university to ascertain that these changes are in keeping with U.S. Immigration regulations.

B. Leaving the U.S. with a Valid Visa:

You must first check with the International Programs Office of your university to ensure that your documents (I-20, SEVIS record) are in order prior to your departure.

Please have your I-20 signed by a Designated School Official prior to your departure.

C. Valid I-20s

Always make sure that your I-20 is valid. Please check the expiration date of your I-20.
Renew your I-20 at least three (3) months prior to the expiration date.

D. Transferring Schools:

Be sure to have your transfer documents completed prior to your departure from the U.S.

1. You must complete your transfer arrangements with your old school and obtain the new I-20 from the new school.

2. Check with the new school to be sure that they have entered all required information into the SEVIS system. You must do this before leaving the U.S.
3. If you have followed these steps and the date of the visa stamped in your passport has not expired, you do not need to obtain a new visa from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

E. Have an Expired Visa and will be Leaving the U.S.

Note: You must at all times have a valid I-20 and observe proper SEVIS procedures.

You must have your visa renewed in Kuwait if you are out of the U.S. for longer than a five (5) month period and must have a valid I-20.

F. Graduating Student:

Note: Graduating students are only allowed to stay in the U.S. for a maximum of 60 days beyond their graduation date.

It is advisable that you inform the International Programs Office of your university of your intended departure date.

G. Dismissed/Suspended/Withdrawn Student from the University:

You must depart the U.S. immediately.

1. Your departure should not exceed 15 days after your dismissal/suspension/withdrawal from the university.
2. You must check with the International Programs Office of your university to determine your departure date since each university will decide the specific date of the termination of your I-20 from the SEVIS system.

H. Returning to the U.S.

You must check that all travel documents are in order prior to your return to the U.S.:

1. Valid Passport,
2. I-20 (from the university you will be attending),
3. Transcript (show only if asked),
4. Letter of sponsorship, etc.

- I. Make sure that your I-20 is current.** If you have any issues or concerns regarding your immigration status, you must check with International Programs Office of your university to ensure that you are in compliance with U.S. immigration laws.

DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE. YOU MUST ALLOW THE UNIVERSITIES SUFFICIENT TIME TO PROCESS ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BEFORE LEAVING THE U.S.



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June 13, 2012