

Considering Employment with the Middle East District?

Life in Kuwait

KUWAIT

Kuwait, officially the State of Kuwait, is a country in Western Asia, situated on the northern edge of Eastern Arabia at the tip of the Persian Gulf. It borders Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In 2016, Kuwait had a population of 4.2 million people -- 1.3 million Kuwaitis and 2.9 million, about 70 percent, expatriates.

Kuwait is a constitutional emirate with a semi-democratic political system. It's a high income economy because of the world's sixth largest oil reserve. The Constitution was established in 1962, making Kuwait the most democratic country in the Middle East behind Israel.

HOUSING

In Kuwait the staff live in individual buildings within 10 km of the Embassy in Embassy Housing. Single people live in 2 to 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom apartments and married personnel with dependents live in larger apartments, based on number of dependents.





SCHOOLS

Schools in Kuwait must follow Kuwaiti Government requirements. Schools are registered as businesses and as such must be majority Kuwaiti-owned. The majority owner, and not an elected school board, approves all decisions and policy changes. Some schools do have advisory boards, but their influence is marginal. There are a number of English-speaking schools in Kuwait; however, the majority of the embassy community attends the American School of Kuwait (ASK), The English School (TES), the American United School (AUS), and the British School of Kuwait (BSK). In order to avoid morning traffic, the school day starts very early, and bus pick-up times are even earlier. It is not unusual for a child to be picked up between 6 and 6:30 a.m.

The State Department does not provide direct funding to any of the schools in Kuwait. The State Department's education allowance covers tuition and bus expenses for all K-12 students. (Note: A child may enter Kindergarten and receive education allowance at age four if the child will turn 5 by December 31 of that year.) Some schools require additional fees which are not covered by the education allowance, so please note that the decision to enroll your child/children in some schools may involve out-of-pocket costs.

The American School of Kuwait (ASK)

[ASK – American School of Kuwait](#)

www.ask.edu.kw

General email: ask@ask.edu.kw

Admissions email: admissions@ask.edu.kw

ASK was established in 1964, and has a long history of educating the American Embassy community. It is located in Hawalli, less than 15 minutes from the U.S. Embassy. The school year is comprised of two semesters extending from September through late-January (with a holiday break in December) and from late-January through mid-June. ASK currently has 2015 students registered ranging from pre-K to grade 12. The school is formally recognized by the Kuwait Ministry of Education and is accredited by the U.S. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

ASK operates a “rolling registration” throughout the year, in that there is no deadline for the submission of applications for students living abroad. They accept applications for students living in Kuwait from Pre-K to Grade 11. Students coming from abroad can apply for any grade from Pre-K to Grade 12. Embassy students are guaranteed acceptance. ASK is not designed nor accredited to educate students with special needs.

The English School (TES)

www.tes.edu.kw

TES was founded in 1953, and is a member of the Independent Association of Prep Schools, the largest independent education organization in the UK. TES is located in Safat, less than 15 minutes from the U.S. Embassy. The school year is comprised of three terms. The first term extends from September through mid-December, the second term is from early January through early April, and third term is from mid-April through mid-June. It is the only not-for-profit school in Kuwait.

The student body consists of approximately 600 students. TES accepts students from ages 2 ½ to 13. Their aim is to provide the very best in British education for all pupils in a supportive and caring environment. TES follows the British curriculum system, which accepts children aged 2 ½ in Pre-Kg, Kindergarten at age 3, Reception at age 4, Year 1 at age 5, through Year 8 at age 12.

Unlike ASK, TES does not guarantee acceptance to U.S. Embassy students and parents must complete an application for enrollment online. Once received, the Registrar will ask for copies of the student's most recent academic records and arrange a date for the child/children to be assessed academically. All places at TES are subject to availability, a satisfactory academic report (excluding Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten), confidential report (Years 1 – 8 where applicable) and the passing of the assessment. The assessments are curriculum based. Pre-Prep (Pre-Kg – Year 2) take approximately half an hour and are conducted by the Head of Pre-Prep. Prep assessments (Year 3 – Year 8) take up to 2 hours, consist of a Maths and English paper and reading. These and are conducted by the Head of Prep. No preparation is required for these tests. Overseas assessments will be arranged for those applying from out of the country, as long as time allows and, in most instances, will be the norm. See more at: <http://www.tes.edu.kw>.

The British School of Kuwait

www.bsk.edu.kw

Admissions email: tkk@bsk.edu.kw

BSK is located in Salwa, less than 10 minutes from the U.S. Embassy. The school year is comprised of five terms extending from early September through late October, early November through mid-December, early January through mid-February, early March through mid-April, and late April through mid-June.

BSK currently has over 3300 students registered, ranging from Reception to Year 13. BSK is licensed by the Private Education Department of the Kuwait Ministry of Education. Award of their license requires a successful inspection from approved inspectors registered with the UK Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The last such inspection took place in March 2016 by a team from Penta International, an inspectorate approved by the UK Department for Education (DfE) to inspect British international schools.

BSK is not designed nor accredited to educate students with special needs. BSK follows the National Curriculum of England and is an approved examination center for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and the General Certificate of Secondary Education at Advanced Subsidiary Level (GCE AS Level) and Advanced Level (GCE A Level).

AUS – American United School

www.aus.edu.kw

Admissions Email: info@auskuwait.com

A recently-built school, AUS opened for Pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students in September 2013. In 2014, the student body expanded with the opening the Middle School (Grades 6 through 8). In 2015 and 2016, AUS added grades 9 and 10, respectively. AUS plans to add a high school grade each year until 2018/2019 when they will operate a complete high school through grade 12.

AUS is located in the Sabah Al-Salem area, less than 10 minutes from the U.S. Embassy. The school year is comprised of two semesters extending from September through mid-January (with a holiday break in December) and from January through mid-June. AUS currently has 755 students registered from 25 countries. The school operates with the approval of the State of Kuwait and while it is not yet accredited, it is seeking accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. AUS operate a “rolling registration” throughout the year, in that there is no deadline for the submission of applications for students living abroad. AUS is not designed nor accredited to educate students with special needs.

PRESCHOOLS

There are very few day care facilities in Kuwait offering year-round, full-time care. Most are true pre-schools, following an academic calendar from September to June and offering half-day care from morning to early afternoon. Some facilities may also offer day-camp activities over the summer months. They do not generally offer care for infants.

The English School (TES) and **American School of Kuwait (ASK)** offer pre-school programs for 2 ½ year olds and above. Please visit their respective websites for more information.

Happy Chappies Montessori Pre-School Nursery has two locations: Fintas and Rumaithiya. Email: principle@happy-chappies.com or founder@happy-chappies.com. Happy Chappies accepts children from 1 year to 5 years of age. There is a non-refundable registration of KD150 required in order to secure a place for your child. There is more information about tuition fees on their website.

TRANSPORTATION

Employees may drive around at will during off duty hours with only a few places not recommended to visit. Employees are provided a Government vehicle to drive for work and back to the apartment. Employees can take personal vehicles for driving during free time.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Minor medical care is available at the U.S. Embassy where they have a Nurse Practitioner and two registered nurses. Medical care is also available on Camp Arifjan on a reimbursable basis. Care is also available on the local economy.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **Telephone and Internet Services:**
- **Cellphones:**
- **Television and Internet:** High speed internet is available and apartments have cable TV. American TV is only available through AFN. Sometimes AFN Receivers are available at the Embassy, but that will only give you 9 channels.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SOCIAL LIFE/DINING OUT

SHOPPING

PETS

POTENTIAL HARDSHIPS: Hardships would include the approximate one hour unpaid drive through dangerous traffic each way and not being able to get alcohol at restaurants or on the Economy.

CULTURAL/RELIGION DO's and DON'Ts

POCs FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: dll-cetam-pao@usace.army.mil