



Dartmouth-AUKuwait Internship Program

Intern Newsletter – Fall 2022

George Eid, Class of 2024



Kuwait – People, Places, and Purpose

Since I was first admitted to Dartmouth, I had my eye on the Dartmouth-American University of Kuwait (AUK) internship program. Even before I worked at the World Expo in Dubai I held a strong interest in the Arabian Gulf region due to the particular cultural environment, its cosmopolitan nature, and its unique history of and prospects for growth. I also intend on eventually working in the region. With my academic background in economics and my interest in the region, interning with the College of Business and Economics and the Department of International Relations at AUK seemed like just the right experience.

My work mainly consisted of research projects between four professors among two departments. In the College of Business and Economics, I compiled dozens of scholarly materials for Dr. Khalid Saeed for a project to analyze the impact of public and private sector initiatives on innovation-fueled economic growth among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. With Dr. Ali Aljamal I collected academic resources for senior students working on their capstone project for the economics degree. I also assisted Dr. Ali by conducting qualitative and quantitative analysis of the “exit exams” of students completing their economics major.

With the Department of International Relations, I assisted Dr. Federico Velez in analyzing the Arabian Gulf’s evolving dependency on agricultural imports, especially from Latin America, and foreign land acquisitions. By collecting dozens of relevant materials, we were interested in studying the implications of these regional phenomena on GCC food security. I also compiled a variety of resources for Dr. Nizar Hamzeh on Kuwait’s anti-terror efforts through national legislation, international agreements, and legal enforcement.

My work with AUK certainly contributed to my professional development. In addition to having the pleasure of diving deep into some of my favorite content areas, sifting through thousands of scholarly materials improved my ability to use targeted key word searches, identify relevant resources, and interpret numerical data. Meeting with my project supervisors weekly also improved my ability to recognize key takeaways and areas for further research. I have definitely noted a strong improvement in my attention to detail, creativity, time



View from AUK

management, task prioritization, and qualitative and quantitative analysis skills.

While I thoroughly enjoyed working at AUK, the people I encountered made the experience one to remember. It was a pleasure first “hosting” the AUK students when they completed the program at Dartmouth over the summer before my term at AUK. Once I arrived in Kuwait, I already had this solid group of friends that helped me orient myself, meet new people, and enjoy Kuwait. While I really enjoyed meeting many students, faculty, and others in Kuwait, I am particularly lucky to have spent time with Omar Hedeya, Faisal al Mutairi, Abdallah al Messaeed, Noor al Obaid, as well as the other Dartmouth students, Matt Pfundstein and Nick Luikey. I am beyond grateful for those I may call friends for the rest of my life, and I look forward to our paths crossing again.

Outside of AUK, I am glad I took the time to explore Kuwait and the region. While the apartment was beyond comfortable with its two floors, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, and kitchen, I really enjoyed discovering the urban and desert scenes of both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. As typical of the region, the mall and food scenes of Kuwait are unmatched. World class cuisine from all different cultures can be found within a short walk or drive in Salmiya and Kuwait City. Representing two of my favorite lifetime experiences, I was also lucky to attend a local wedding and a *samra* musical gathering. I really felt integrated in the community when I played both weekly pickup football and was even on the AUK football team.

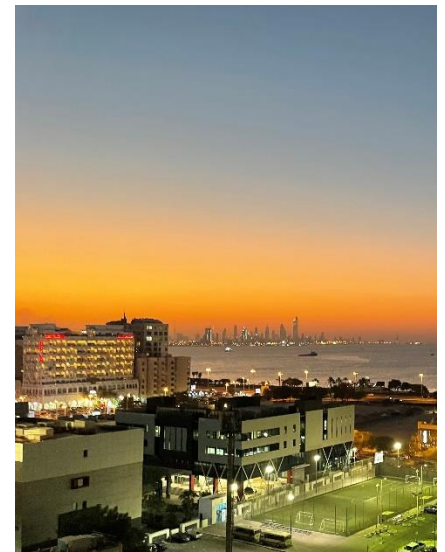
It was fascinating to learn about the professional, academic, and social cultures of Kuwait. As typical for most GCC countries, work

culture varies widely depending on socioeconomic background.

There generally exists, however, a greater leisure culture than in the US. I also enjoyed observing similarities and differences between AUK and Dartmouth cultures in terms of student attitudes towards academics, social dynamics, events, and club activity. Students and faculty were extremely warm and welcoming to me and the other Dartmouth students, going out of their way to make us feel part of the AUK community. While I am pretty involved within the Lebanese community in New England, after growing up in New Hampshire as a

Lebanese American, I definitely felt more “at home” in Kuwait.

One hundred degrees and sun are not quite like the rolling green hills and white mountains of New Hampshire. I really enjoyed, however, the experience of immersing myself in Kuwait’s cosmopolitan environment to fulfill my professional, intellectual, and personal goals. I am endlessly grateful for the people I met along the way, especially those at Dartmouth and AUK – shoutout AACD and Dr. Shareefa – that made it possible and supported me at every step. My experience invigorated my intent to eventually live in the Gulf region and be a part of



View from apartment balcony of Salmiya and downtown Kuwait City in the distance



Kuwaiti wedding (from left to right: George Eid, Nick Luikey, Faisal al Mutairi)

its cultural and business environment. No matter where I am in the world, a piece of me will always be in Kuwait. I will definitely be back – sooner rather than later inshallah.



Kashta (desert outing) and FIFA