

Japanese Student Recount Kuwait Experience



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It is now three and half months since I came to Kuwait. So far, I'm quite enjoying life here and everything is going well except one thing - my Arabic skill...it is kind of pathetic...It is because I hardly feel the need to study Arabic. To be honest, I can still live here without Arabic language skills. I mean, almost all Kuwaitis speak English pretty well, so I can still communicate with them in English! In addition, one of the main reasons why I came here is to know the way of thinking of Muslims, so I feel a kind of satisfaction because I can deal with it in English. But I still remember the other main reason I came here - to learn Arabic language (one of the most difficult languages in the world, I guess). So I will study hard, though.

Anyway, it is so surprising for me that almost all Kuwaitis speak English. I honor them on that point because most Japanese do not speak English, even some university students who major in English.

Now I should talk about my daily life here, I guess, because I was asked to write an essay about it. Classes begin at 9 am and end at 1 pm, with a 1 hour interval. We attend three hours of lectures per day in English and Arabic. My classmates are from all over the world. Some of them are from Asia, some from Europe, and some from Africa. They are all nice and friendly. I really like them. I'm glad that I've got a kind of international friendship. Unfortunately, so far we communicate in English. I wish I could communicate with them in Arabic in the future.

I spend my free time with my classmates and sometimes with Kuwaiti friends, especially who study Japanese and are quite interested in Japan. Sometimes their knowledge of Japan surprises me, especially about animation and dramas. Their knowledge of such subjects actually surpasses mine.

Anyway, I'm really enjoying life here thanks to these friends and also the officials of the Japanese Embassy and members of the Japanese community in Kuwait, who always give me a hand. Thanks to all of them, I am really happy to be here. Thus, please let me finish this essay with expressing my thankfulness and appreciation to them.



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Two and a half months have passed since we came to Kuwait as international students. I would like to narrate how I came to Kuwait. One day in June, I sent my application for the Kuwaiti government scholarship to the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait. On the last day of July, I received good news. I applied to my university for a yearlong leave of absence for studying in Kuwait. I also told my friends that I would go to Kuwait in order to study Arabic, and they gave me words of encouragement in return. After I vacated my lodging in Nagoya and moved to my home, I waited for the next email which would tell me the next steps to do. Until I received it, I spent more than one month

just waiting anxiously. I inquired at the airline company about my flight schedule several times, but I didn't hear precise information.

When I saw my fixed flight schedule to Kuwait, there were only three days left for departure. So I had not had my ticket yet, and the worst thing was that I had sent my passport to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tokyo to get the visa, which meant I had been in one of the hardest situations I've ever experienced. Finally I got my passport back, and only then I was given my ticket the day before my flight. Even before leaving for Kuwait, I was perplexed dizzily by the Arabic sense of time I had not become accustomed to yet.

According to the schedule, I departed from Japan after all. Thanks to being busily occupied in bustling about in preparation I did not think anything about this new experience at departure. I arrived in Kuwait in the early morning of 28th September. There, I met some Japanese fellow students studying abroad. We greeted the Japanese Embassy staff in charge and soon after we reached the university dormitory by KU bus. I became accustomed to the new surroundings and I enjoyed living and studying in Kuwait.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Kuwait government, Kuwait University, and all the people who exerted efforts to give me the chance to study here in such good circumstances.