



## **EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

### **CULTURAL DIVISION**

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### **MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

**This decree incorporates all previous decrees issued regarding the Ministry of Higher Education's Merit Program (Decrees #2000/11 Dated 2/29/00 & 93/2001)**

#### **GOALS**

The goals of the Merit Scholarship are to motivate Kuwaiti students to compete and excel academically and scientifically and to offer incentives for merit students to succeed in ranked international universities empowering them to become educated and high skilled contributors to community growth and social development.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP – High School Graduate**

1. Kuwait secondary school certificate or equivalent
2. Direct admission (no pre-major) to a highly ranked university program as determined by the MOHE. Students admitted to a ranked program in a pre-major track may apply for Conditional Merit Scholarship (see below)

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP – Students with College Credits**

Students with prior college credit are eligible for merit scholarship provided they are admitted directly to a merit program as defined by the Ministry of Higher Education and meet the following conditions:

- a) Cumulative GPA for all prior college/university work must be 3.0 or above.
- b) All students applying for the merit scholarship must show proof of the ability to complete the degree program within the standard period of study prescribed for the degree being pursued. The period of study is calculated from the start of all post-secondary academic work including any work completed prior to the application for the merit scholarship plus the time remaining to complete the degree. For example, the standard period of undergraduate study for the following majors are:

**Engineering** – 4 years  
**Business Administration** – 4 years  
**Journalism/Mass Communication** – 4 years  
**Architecture** – 5 years (Bachelor of Architecture)

The student is to present transcripts from all colleges/universities attended plus a study plan showing the time remaining for graduation. This is to determine eligibility for the scholarship based on the maximum period allowed for the major as indicated above.

- c) If applying from conventional MOHE scholarship, students are expected to graduate from the merit program within the time awarded for the conventional scholarship. (4 – 5 years depending on major. No extension.)
- d) Students who are applying from conventional scholarships are expected to maintain the conventional scholarship major. Change of majors will only be allowed if the study plan shows completion of the new major within the period specified for the conventional scholarship (4 –5 years depending on the student’s major. This includes the time already spent under scholarship).
- e) Students who previously held conventional scholarship may revert to that scholarship if their merit scholarships are revoked provided they show proof of graduation within the conventional scholarship period. (This period includes time spent as a Merit scholar.)

### **PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING TO THE MERIT PROGRAM**

- 1) Students must apply in writing for the Merit Program
- 2) The following documents must accompany student’s application:
  - a) Copy of I-20
  - b) Proof of unconditional admission
  - c) Official transcript (if coursework has been completed)
  - d) Study plan outlining course of study
  - e) Any other documents required for the scholarship application

### **MAINTAINING THE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

- 1. The merit scholarship will be revoked in the case of failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or transfer to a university that is not on the ranked list.
- 2. Students whose merit scholarships are revoked due to failure to maintain the 3.0 GPA are eligible for conventional scholarship provided their majors are on the MOHE scholarship plan.
- 3. Merit students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.00 and whose major **is not** in the MOHE scholarship plan, are eligible for transfer to Conventional scholarship provided they retain their Merit major and remain in the Merit university.

4. Students whose Merit scholarships are revoked for failure to maintain the required GPA will be allowed one year to meet all requirements for reinstatement to the Merit program. These requirements include:
  - Raise their over-all cumulative GPA to 3.00
  - Present an updated study plan showing that they are graduating within the standard period of study for their scholarship major (all prior post-secondary study done are counted as part of the standard period).Failure to do so within the allowed one year period will result in dismissal from the Merit program and permanent transfer to Conventional scholarship.
5. Students must follow the curriculum prescribed by their universities and graduate within the date outlined in the study plan.
6. All credits must be taken at the merit university. Summer enrollment at another merit school in the student's major is permitted with the permission of the Cultural Division.

### **PRIVILEGES OF THE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

1. An additional monthly honorarium equivalent to 50% of the amount awarded to conventional students.
2. A maximum, one time award, totaling \$2,000.00 for equipment. In addition, the merit scholar is entitled to the annual equipment and book/clothing allowance granted to conventional scholars.
3. A waiver from majors prescribed by the annual MOHE scholarship plan.

All pertinent rules and regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship apply.