The American Baccalaureate School

Frequently Asked Questions for Local Hires

How long has the school been open?

The American Baccalaureate School was opened in September of 2006.

What is the Student/Teacher Ratio?

The maximum number of students in a classroom is 25. However, our grades 1 - 3 classes also include a teacher's assistant.

How many classrooms on the campus?

We have over 100 classrooms for grades preK-12.

What kind of facilities does ABS have?

- One teacher computer per classroom
- Interactive White Boards in most classrooms
- Software for grading, attendance, progress reports, and class WebPages
- Semi-Olympic size swimming pool
- Kindergarten wading pool
- 4 Computer labs
- Library
- Separate girls and boys campuses for grades 6-12

What are the employment requirements?

The teaching requirements for the American Bilingual School are a B.A. degree and teaching certification.

What are the school's expectations regarding technology usage in the classroom?

All staff and teachers are required to undergo training on both PowerSchool and Rubicon Atlas software, IXL, Raz-Kids, Follet Destiny Library Manager, McGrath Hill Education, Turnitin, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt which is used by ABS to manage grades, take attendance, lesson plan, and communicate with parents/students.

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Ongoing training throughout the academic year may be required for some staff members. Teachers must be committed to becoming proficient in the daily use of Promethean ActivBoards and all other required software. Moreover, we have an in-house IT team that offers ongoing support and training to all staff members.

What are the working hours?

Kuwait weekends are on Friday / Saturday. The working week is from Sunday to Thursday, and working hours is from 7:10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday and 3:00 pm on a Thursday. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday.

What are the school holidays?

The American Baccalaureate School Calendar provides dates for all holidays. ABS does recognize most American holidays, and all Kuwaiti and Islamic holidays.

What is the local hire compensation package?

1. Workmen's compensation insurance as per Kuwaiti Labor Law.
2. 2 personal days annually (must be pre-approved)
3. 3.50% tuition discount for each dependent child (conditions apply)
4. Sick leave provision:
   6 days - full pay
   6 days - 75% of full pay
   6 days - 50% of full pay
   6 days - 25% of full pay

Am I eligible for housing, travel, and other allowances?

Housing, travel, and other allowances are not offered to local employees.

How many periods will I teach per week?

Elementary -There are eight 40-minute periods per day of which faculty are expected to teach six. On average, you will teach 30 periods in a week. Teachers who are required to teach more than 30 periods per week will receive an overload stipend.

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MSHS - There are seven 47-minute periods per day of which faculty are expected to teach five. On average, you will teach 25 periods in a week. Teachers who are required to teach more than 30 periods per week will receive an overload stipend.

What is the school dress requirement?

Teachers are permitted to follow the "business casual" dress code; as long as it is modest and presentable. Jeans are permitted as long as there are no holes or excessive wear.

What is it like living in Kuwait?

Kuwait is a very modern and multi-cultural country. There is access to many western grocery stores, shopping centers, restaurants, and recreational facilities. The Kuwait expatriate community includes British, Canadian, American, Australian, New Zealand, European, and Asian nationalities. It is a very safe environment for families and/or single persons.

What is the approximate cost of a work visa/residency fee?

The work visa/residency fee is approximately KD 280 for the 1st year and 75 KD every year afterwards. ABS does not pay for direct or indirect degree translation, authentication fees, and residency. These will be deducted from your salary during the pay period in which these expenses occur. These fees will be reimbursed after completing 1 year and 3 months of service only for employees who sign a 2-year contract; they will not be reimbursed if the employee's service is terminated. You should note that if you fail to provide the correct paperwork on time and therefore arrive on a visitor's visa, you will be required to leave and return to Kuwait at your own expense when the visitor's visa expires (90 days).

How long will it take to get my residency and work permit?

The ABS Human Resource department requires 4 months for new and transferred residencies. Once this process has commenced, you are to consult the HR department prior to arranging any travel out of Kuwait.