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Photo of Kuwait University by Brad Gavornik

I was initially struck by how similar present day Kuwait resembled the US. American car brands, iPhones, signs in English. However, there are also very important differences, such as the government's investment in their human capital. Students pay no fees or tuition for higher education, as the government not only pays for the education but also provides a stipend. In order to avoid the widening skills gap that exists in the United States, they will also provide additional financial incentives to encourage the choice of high demand careers. Instead of graduating with large amounts of student debt and struggling to gain traction while fighting high youth unemployment as experienced in European and American economies, they are fortunate to enter a robust job market. Unemployment is only 2.5% and as one official stated, "you apply for a government job and they will find a position for you", of course assuming you have done well in school, as government jobs are highly sought after for their stability and short hours, e.g. 830-1.

Perhaps the American government should consider instituting some type of incentive based education system that will help promote the selection of careers that are most in need, as nothing is more important to the success of a nation than the continued and appropriate growth of its human capital.

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