

**IRIS Graduate Travel Grant: Report**  
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From 5-10 May 2023, I travelled to Kuwait City, Kuwait to visit the Al Sabah Collection, a subsidiary of the National Museum. The museum holds an almost unique collection of Sassanid carpets and fragments dating the 4-6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE. During my visits, I was able to view and inspect these fragments, analyze their structure, take measurements, and take photographs. This data will be highly valuable to my doctoral dissertation, which focuses on the structure of ancient Central Asian carpets. Because textiles so rarely survive archaeological deposition, this collection is a treasure trove of data for the pre-Medieval period. Unlike carpets from later periods, which turn up in almost all major museums around the world, early pieces like these Sassanid fragments are found in only a handful of collections, and almost no collections outside the politically-dicey Russia and Xinjiang (China). This visit to Kuwait provided invaluable data to my work and crucially rounded out the sample, which necessarily has to be made up of the less rare later carpets. The data collected will play an important role in anchoring my doctoral dissertation in the archaeological record, especially as Russian and Uyghur collections are entirely inaccessible at this time.