



**International Student Services
Office of Admissions and Records**

SEVIS Fee Payment Information for F-1 & J-1 Students

What is the SEVIS fee?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a US government system that manages data and application processes for F-1 and J-1 international students studying in the United States. As an international student beginning a new program of study in the US, you are required to pay a one-time fee to the US government before you may apply for a student visa. The SEVIS fee is in addition to any visa fees you may be required to pay at a US consulate. This is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) fee, not a university fee, and provides no funds or services to the University.

How much is the SEVIS fee?

The following chart gives the amounts of the SEVIS fee:

| | |
|---|-------|
| F-1 visa applicants | \$200 |
| J-1 visa applicants | \$180 |
| F-2 & J-2 dependents | \$0 |
| J-1 participating in a government sponsored program | \$0 |

Who must pay the SEVIS fee?

Students (visa categories F-1, F-3, M-1 or M-3) and exchange visitors (visa category J-1) issued a Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 on or after September 1, 2004 for the purpose of:

- beginning a new program
- reapplying for the same visa status more than twelve months after a visa denial is issued
- requesting a change of status to student or exchange visitor
- filing for reinstatement to student status after being out of status for more than five months
- students applying for a new student visa or returning to the US after an absence of five months, if the absence did not involve authorized overseas study
- exchange visitors filing a reinstatement application after substantive violations
- exchange visitors filing a reinstatement application after being out of status between 121 and 269 days
- exchange visitors applying for a change in exchange visitor category (unless the new category is exempt from the SEVIS fee requirement)
- exchange visitors in a government sponsored program (G-1, G-2, and G-3) who are transferring to non-government programs

Who is exempt from paying the fee?

- Spouses and unmarried children (under 21 years of age) of students and scholars who apply for J-2, F-2 or M-2 status
- Federally sponsored exchange visitor programs that start with G-1, G-2 or G-3 visa classification

- Exchange visitors applying for a change of category from Professor to Research Scholar and vice-versa
- Students and scholars whose form I-20 or DS-2019 was issued on or before August 31, 2004
- A student or scholar who has previously paid the fee is not required to pay the fee when applying for program extension in the same program, when applying for a transfer to another institution, or when applying for a visa renewal while maintaining status in the same category.

When must the SEVIS fee be paid?

- For initial attendance, the fee must be paid prior to applying for a visa at a US Consulate/Embassy. Applicants may schedule a visa interview appointment at the Consulate or Embassy prior to paying the fee, but DHS must receive the fee payment at least three business days before the scheduled visa interview.
- Aliens who are exempt from visa requirements (i.e. citizens of Canada and Bermuda) must pay the SEVIS fee before applying for admission to the US at a port of entry. DHS must receive the fee payment at least three business days prior to applying at a port of entry.
- Students and scholars applying for a change of status through a USCIS service center must pay the SEVIS fee before the service center will approve their application.

How is the SEVIS fee paid?

DHS has created several means by which international students and scholars can pay the SEVIS fee. Fee payment can be made online with a credit card, by mail with a check drawn on US funds, or via Western Union wire service. The fee cannot be paid at a US consulate or at a US port of entry. (Note: Some consulates in China and India may be able to collect the SEVIS fee together with visa fees. Please contact the US consulate for fee payment information.)

More information on each method of payment is below. Fee payment information can also be found at www.fmjfee.com.

Method of Payment

Online Payment:

1. Online payment can be made at www.fmjfee.com. Payment can be made by Visa, Mastercard or American Express.
2. Complete the online form (I-901) as instructed.
3. Enter your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019.
4. Enter the SEVIS ID number on your I-20 or DS-2019 (found in the upper right corner above the bar code).
5. If you have been admitted to more than one school and have more than one I-20 or DS-2019, only enter the information for the school you will attend in the US. Changing schools or documents can cause delays and problems in obtaining a visa or entering the US.
6. Print the online receipt after completing the payment form.

Mail Payment:

Read the payment instructions at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901, download form I-901 (PDF format), and complete the form as instructed. Be sure to allow adequate mailing time to send the fee

payment and to receive the payment receipt. It is recommended that you allow for at least 4 weeks for the complete process when making a payment by mail.

Western Union:

Read the payment instructions for Western Union payment at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901. Select the instructions according to whether you are making payment inside or outside the US and whether you are an F or J student.

Will students and scholars receive written acknowledgement when they pay the SEVIS fee?

- After paying the fee, you will receive a payment receipt (form I-797) which will be mailed to the address on the Form I-901. If paying online be sure to print the receipt at the end of your transaction so that you will have a receipt immediately.
- Make and keep extra copies of your SEVIS fee payment receipt. You should keep your receipt for your entire period of study in the US.
- Present a copy of the receipt with your visa application at the US consulate and at the US port of entry. Carry the receipt with you during any future travel into the US.
- F-2 and J-2 dependent family members should present a copy of the receipt when applying for F-2 or J-2 visas and when traveling into the US.
- Third parties, who pay the SEVIS fee on behalf of incoming students and scholars, by mail or electronically, will receive printed receipts to send to students and scholars.

If the visa is denied at the US Consulate will the student or scholar be given a refund?

Refunds will only be given when the fee is paid in error, and will not be paid in the case of a visa denial. If a student or exchange visitor is denied a visa and he/she reapplies for the same visa within a twelve month period, he/she will not have to pay the fee again. If the student or scholar is applying for a different visa, then he/she will have to pay the fee in conjunction with that application.

What will happen if I fail to pay the fee?

Failure to pay the SEVIS fee is reason for denial of F, M or J nonimmigrant status or status-related benefits. For purposes of reinstatement, failure to pay the fee will be considered a "willful violation," unless DHS determines that there are extenuating circumstances.

For more information about the SEVIS fee, please visit: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>

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