

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW FEDERAL SEVIS FEE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal SEVIS Fee took effect on September 1, 2004. This is generally a one-time fee (see exceptions, below) and is required of those who are applying for an F-1, J-1 or M-1 visa based on an I-20 issued for "initial attendance" or a DS-2019 issued to "begin a new program." Proof of fee payment must be presented at the visa interview. On October 27, 2008 new fees will go into effect. Foreign citizens applying to become F or M students will pay a fee on the amount of US \$200.00. Foreign citizens applying to become a J-1 will pay a fee of US \$180.00 and Special J-visa categories US \$35.00

### Who Has to Pay the SEVIS Fee?

- You must pay the SEVIS Fee if you are applying for an **initial F-1** or **J-1** visa from outside the U.S. for an initial attendance or initial participation in an exchange visitor program.
- You must pay the SEVIS Fee if you **have been previously enrolled at a U.S. school**, but you are no longer enrolled and you have been outside the United States for more than five months, even if you have a valid F-1 visa in your passport.
- You must pay the SEVIS Fee if you are a Canadian citizen but exempt from the F-1 visa requirement (SEVIS fee receipt and appropriate I-20 must be presented at the port of entry).
- You must pay the SEVIS Fee if you are already in the United States and you are applying for a change of non-immigrant status to F-1 or J-1.
- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you are a current F-1 student in the U.S. filing for reinstatement.
- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are a continuing F-1 student in the U.S. transferring to another school or if you are changing levels of education.
- Applicants for F-2 or J-2 visas are NOT required to pay the SEVIS fee.

### SEVIS Fee Rules

The SEVIS fee must be paid at least 3 business days prior to your visa interview, unless you have a printed receipt from an Internet payment. The SEVIS fee cannot be paid at the embassy or consulate, or at the port of entry.

You may schedule your visa interview prior to paying the SEVIS fee. However, a visa will not be issued unless the visa officer can verify that the SEVIS fee payment has been made. The SEVIS fee is not refundable. If your visa application is denied and you apply again for an F-1/J-1 visa within 12 months of a visa denial, you will not have to pay the fee again.

### How to Pay the SEVIS Fee?

The fee can be paid to the DHS by mail, online or by using the Western Union Quick pay™ and must be accompanied by Form I-901. It can be paid by you or by a third party, inside or outside the U.S.

To complete form I-901, you must enter the College of Staten Island School Code which is NYC214F00812018 if you have been issued an I-20, OR the College of Staten Island Program Number P-1-04191 if you have been issued a DS-2019. You must also enter your SEVIS ID number, which is printed at the top right of the I-20 or DS-2019, above the bar code it starts with the letter "N."

### **To Pay by Mail**

1. Obtain a Form I-901.
  - You may download and print the form from <http://www.fmjfee.com>
  - You may request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the U.S.)
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or bank draft, drawn on a US bank in the amount of \$100 USD, made payable to “The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.” Be sure to print your name and SEVIS ID number on the lower left corner of your check, money order or bank draft.

Many foreign banks are able to issue checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank since they are either chartered in the United States, subsidiaries of a U.S. bank or they have made arrangements to issue checks, money orders, or foreign drafts drawn on a U.S. bank.
4. Mail the completed I-901 and payment to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Visa Processing Fee  
P.O. BOX 970020  
St. Louis, MO 63197-0020

To send by courier, use the following address:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
1005 Convention Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
United States  
Phone Number: 1-314-418-8833 (United States Country Code 011)

5. A Form I-797 receipt notice should be mailed to you within 3 days after your fee payment has been processed. Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

### **To Pay Online**

1. After receiving your I-20 or DS-2019, find the Form I-901 at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com). Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express information.
  - \*Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20/DS2019 form.
4. Print a copy of the online receipt. The printed receipt should be presented at the visa interview or at the U.S. port of entry as proof of payment. Do not exit the receipt page until you have successfully printed the receipt.
5. Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

### **To Pay by Western Union**

1. Complete form I-901 enclosed in your pre-arrival information packet. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your Form I-20/DS-2019.
2. Go to a local participating Western Union Agent location; request a Blue Form. This form may show words such as “Payment Services” or “Quick Pay.” Please note that all Quick Pay forms will be blue.
3. Fill out all the appropriate information. The following information is required to complete the form:

If Using Western Union Outside the U.S.

- A. Company name: US BANK DHS
- B. Company Code: FMSEVISFEE, MO
- C. Account number: SEVIS ID number on the right top of your I-20/DS2019 Form N000....
- D. Reference number: For **F-1** NYC214F00812018  
For **J-1** P-1-04191

If Using Western Union in the U.S.

- A. The company name and company code will be same as above.
- B. Sender's name: Name of student/scholar, as appears on your I-20/DS2019 Form.
- C. Sender's telephone and sender's address: Write the telephone number and address of the person who is paying the SEVIS fee in the U.S.
- D. Account number and reference number: Same as above.

As of May 9, 2005 Western Union will establish important changes to its system to provide a better service to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). The changes are as follows:

1. For payments made overseas for F-1 and J-1 visa categories: In the box labeled "Name/Department" at the bottom of the form, the gender of the student or exchange visitor must be written (male or female), a slash "/", and then the name of the country where the receipt is to be delivered.  
For example: MALE/FINLAND or FEMALE/GERMANY
2. For payments made in the United States for F-1 visa categories: In the space labeled "Attention" at the bottom of the form, the gender of the student should be written (male or female), a slash "/", and then the school code found on the student's Form I-20.  
For Example: Male/NYC214F00812018.
3. For payments made in the United States for J-1 Visa Categories: In the space labeled "Attention" at the bottom of the form, the gender of the exchange visitor should be written (male or female), a slash "/", and then the program code found on the exchange visitor Form DS- 2019.  
For example: FEMALE/P-1-04191

**Note: Fee payments should be entered into your permanent immigration (SEVIS) record but it is strongly recommended that you retain a copy of your fee receipt (form I-797) to use as needed. There will be an added shipping and handling fee of \$30.00 for return courier service or for expedited delivery.**

Please remember that you must be able to prove that the fee has been paid when you go for your visa interview and when you enter the U. S. Having a printed receipt is the best evidence of your fee payment.

For additional information, please visit: <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/>