

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. Foreign citizens applying to become F or M students pay a fee on the amount of US \$200.00. Foreign citizens applying to become a J-1 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 of 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 Online

After receiving your I-20 or DS-2019, find the Form I-901 at www.FMJfee.com.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

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 \$200 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 by Western Union

Effective April 2014, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will update the I-901 Fee Collection process, offering a web and ACH based solution for payments made by Western Union. This solution will facilitate the real-time posting of Western Union payments, allowing applicants to immediately print their I-901 Payment Confirmation. Applicants choosing to pay their I-901 Fee by Western Union will be required to fill out the Form I-901 on the website prior to visiting Western Union. You must have the coupon number in order to complete the payment at Western Union. Please follow the detailed

payment instructions below:

Step 1: Fill out the Form I-901 online. Coupon will be generated.

Step 2: Print the coupon and take it to your local Western Union.

Step 3: Fill out the Quick Collect/Quick Pay Form according to the information found at the bottom of the printed coupon. Example below:

Company Name (or Code City):	SEVISFEE
Account Number:	010222013872390
Amount:	\$200.00

**Please note that the payment amount may differ according to your specific visa type.

Step 4: Present the Quick Collect/Quick Pay Form and your payment to the Western Union Agent for processing.

Payment will be linked to your Form I-901 and your online Payment Confirmation will be available immediately at www.fmjfee.com. You will be able to go to your Visa Appointment 2-3 days after your payment has posted.

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 about the I-901 SEVIS fee payment process, visit Study in the States.

If you have any questions regarding SEVIS fee payment, please contact SEVP Response Center at 703-603-3400 or email fmjfee.sevis@ice.dhs.gov.