

# SEVIS Fee Information

## WHAT IS THE SEVIS FEE?

The SEVIS fee (**\$200**) is a new requirement of all foreign nationals in F-1, M-1 & J-1 nonimmigrant visa status. The fee was implemented September 1, 2004. It is payable one time for each single educational program that an F-1 pursues, extending from the time he/she obtained the status to the time, he/she falls out-of-status, changes status or departs from the U.S. for an extended period of time (over 5 months absence from the U.S.).

The **SEVIS fee does NOT replace the visa fee**, which is a non-refundable fee for anyone applying for a nonimmigrant visa for entry to the U.S. The visa fee is used primarily to support the consulates and defray the costs for machine-readable visas.

## WHAT IS THE FEE USED FOR?

The fee will be used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**) towards the Student Exchange Visitor Program (**SEVP**) and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (**SEVIS**) specifically: (1) maintain/update SEVIS, (2) hire & train SEVIS Liaison Officers, (3) staff & manage SEVP Offices & develop/conduct training programs, (4) maintain enforcement oversight of schools and exchange visitor programs and students & exchange visitors who fail to maintain status.

## WHO PAYS THE SEVIS FEE?

F-1 and J-1 students with I-20s or DS-2019s issued after September 1, 2004 who fall under the following cases:

### F-1 (Student)

#### Newly Admitted students who are:

- \* Entering the U.S. for the **FIRST** time and are Initial visa applicants.
- \* Already in the U.S. and applying for change of status to F-1.

#### Continuing students in the following cases:

- \* Reinstatement applications  
(out of status more than 5 months)
- \* Reentry into the U.S. after an absence of at least 5 months
- \* Change of Status to F-1 application

### J1 (Student or Research Scholar)

#### Exchange Visitors who are:

- \* Entering the U.S. for the **FIRST** time and are Initial visa applicants.
- \* Already in the U.S. and applying for change of status to J-1.

#### Continuing Exchange Visitors in the following cases:

- \* Reinstatement applications  
(out of status between 121 & 269 days)
- \* Applications for Change of category  
(except for federally funded programs with program codes starting with G-1, G-2 or G-3).
- \* Transfer from a U.S. government funded program to a non-U.S. government funded program.

## EXCEPTIONS to the SEVIS FEE:

- \* F-2 (*F-1 dependents*) and J-2 (*J-1 dependents*)
- \* J-1s with DS-2019s issued by the U.S. Government

## WHEN TO PAY THE SEVIS FEE:

- \* *For initial visa and renewal applications*, SEVIS fee must be paid at least 3 business days **BEFORE** visa interview at the U.S. Consulate in home country.
- \* *For Change of Status to F-1 or J-1 applications*, SEVIS fee must be paid **BEFORE** filing/submitting application to the appropriate U.S. CIS Service Center.
- \* *For citizens of Canada or Bermuda (not required to have F-1 or J-1 stamp in passport)*, SEVIS fee must be paid at least 3 business days **BEFORE** entry at a Port of Entry (POE) into the U.S.

## HOW TO PAY THE SEVIS FEE:

**NOTE:** Academic departments or any third party who wish to pay the fee on behalf of the student or exchange visitor may do so as long as they follow one of the established payment options.

**I. ON-LINE OPTION:**

*\*Advantage: Payment processed immediately\**

1. Download Form I-901 at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com).
2. Complete Form I-901.
  - \*Name must exactly match the name that appears on I-20 or DS-2019.
  - \*Provide the VISA, MasterCard or American Express information.
3. Print copy of on-line receipt.
4. Student must make copies of the on-line receipt to keep with their immigration documents.

**II. MAIL OPTION:**

1. Obtain a Form I-901 “Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M non-immigrants”.
  - \*Download form: [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com).
  - \*Request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (*inside the U.S. only*).
2. Complete Form I-901.
  - \*Name must exactly match the name that appears on I-20 or DS-2019.
3. Prepare check, international money order or foreign draft (*drawn at U.S. banks only*) in the amount of **\$200 USD** payable to “**The Department of Homeland Security**”.
4. Mail completed Form I-901 and payment to the P.O. Box address on Form I-901.
5. A Form I-797 receipt notice should be mailed within 3 days of processing the fee.
  - \*Student must make copies of receipt notice to keep with their immigration documents
  - \*Mailing payment does **NOT** constitute payment.
  - \*Consider postal mail delivery times.

**III. WESTERN UNION QUICK PAY OPTION:** (*\*effective 11/1/2004*)

*Advantages:*     \*Completed Western Union Receipt is immediate proof of payment.  
                          \*Payment in local currency.

1. Print out and bring a copy of the **SEVIS Fee Payment by Western Union Quick Pay** instructions page along with a copy of the sample form to a local participating Western Union Agent location.
  - \***NOTE:** Access all instructions at <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/index.htm>
2. Go to a local participating Western Union Agent location. For the nearest Western Union Agent, go to <http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent/asp> and select a country OR call the phone number of the Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in the country.
3. Request and completely fill out the blue form (Form may show words such as “Payment Services” or “Quick Pay” printed in the applicable local language).
  - \***NOTE:** All *Quick Pay* forms will be **blue**. All appropriate information must be provided.

Florida International University  
International Student & Scholar Services  
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