

## SEVIS Fee Facts & Instructions

The Department of Homeland Security collects a congressionally mandated fee to cover the costs for the continued operation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). International students and exchange visitors are subject to this fee which will be used to administer and maintain the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), support compliance activities, and establish SEVIS Liaison Officers. Below is a summary of SEVIS Fee information, for more detailed information please visit

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm> or call (212) 620-3418.

### Who pays the fee?

- Those who wish to enter the United States either as F-1 students or J-1 exchange visitors
- Those who are in the United States in another immigration status and want to change to F-1 or J-1 status
- Continuing F-1 students:
  - Filing an application for reinstatement when they have been out of status for more than 5 months
  - When applying for a new visa or returning to the United States after an absence of more than 5 months that did not involve authorized overseas study
  - When filing an application for a change of status to an F, M, or J classification except for changes between F-1 and F-3 or between M-1 and M-3.
- Continuing J-1 exchange visitors:
  - Filing a reinstatement application after a substantive violation
  - Filing a reinstatement application after they have been out of status between 121 and 269 days
  - Applying for a change of exchange visitor category unless the new exchange visitor category is fee exempt (federally sponsored programs with program codes that start with G-1, G-2, or G-3)

### Exemptions from the Fee:

- Continuing F-1 and J-1 students will not be subject to the fee.
- J-1 visa holders who are participants of federally sponsored exchange visitor programs, which are designated by program codes beginning with G-1, G-2, or G-3 are not subject to this fee.
- Spouses and dependent children (F-2, M-2) of students or exchange visitors (J-2) are not subject to the fee.

### When must the fee be paid?

The fee must be paid at **least three business** days prior to the visa interview date, entry date or change of status application to ensure that the payment can be deposited and recorded in SEVIS prior to the scheduled visa interview, entry to the U.S. or filing of change of status application. The immigration officer will confirm that the fee has been paid by accessing SEVIS.

- Applicants who require a visa to enter the United States **must pay the SEVIS fee before going to the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interview.** It is recommended that the fee be paid at least 3 business days before the embassy or consulate interview.



- Applicants who are citizens of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and residents of certain other islands (see 8 CFR 212.1a) wishing to apply for F-1, F-3, M-1, M-3, or J-1 status at a Port of Entry into the United States **must pay and process the SEVIS fee BEFORE appearing at the Port of Entry.** It is recommended that the fee be paid at least 3 business days before entering the port of entry.
- Nonimmigrants currently in the United States who apply for student or exchange visitor status must pay the fee **prior to filing their change of status application.**

### Pilot Program

There will be pilot programs at Embassies in CHINA and INDIA where the fee is paid ON LOCATION.

### How much is the fee?

For students (F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3)	\$200*
For spouses and dependent children (F-2, M-2, or J-2) of students or exchange visitors	None
For exchange visitors (J-1) unless participating in:	\$180*
Federally sponsored exchange visitor program (program codes start with G-1, G-2, or G-3)	None

*\*Fee amounts as of October 27, 2008*

### How is the fee paid?

You will need your SEVIS ID to complete the fee payment. The SEVIS fee is non-refundable.

- Through the Internet** at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com) by using a credit card and completing the online Form I-901 (Fee for Remittance for Certain F, M, and J Non-immigrants). **Instructions for use:**
  - Upon accessing the website, scroll to the bottom of the page, answer “YES” you hold a valid Form I-20/DS-2019
  - On the next page, complete the personal information. The Wellesley College “School Code” for F-1 students is **BOS 214F 00363000**. The Wellesley College “Program Number” for J-1 exchange visitors is **P-1-00038**. The SEVIS Identification Number can be found in the upper right hand corner of your Form I-20/DS-2019. It begins with the letter “N” and contains **10 digits**
  - Verify the information is correct on the next page
  - For mailing options, check First Class or Expedited Delivery. First class is recommended as you will be able to print a receipt at the end of the session which can be presented at the U.S. Embassy when you apply for your visa
  - The Credit Card Form has a place for Cardholder address. You do not need to complete this, as it is not a required field.
  - PRINT AT LEAST TWO COPIES OF THE RECEIPT!**
- Through the mail** by submitting a completed Form I-901 and a check or money order drawn on a U.S. Bank and payable in U.S. currency. You can download the form at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com) or request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the U.S.) Complete the form I-901 and write your name exactly as it appears on your form I-20 or Form DS-2019. Prepare a check or international money order (drawn on U.S. banks only) in the required amount in USD made payable to the Department of Homeland Security. Mail the completed Form I-901 and the payment to the address listed on the form. A Form I-797 receipt notice should be mailed within 3 days of processing the fee. Make copies of the receipt.

- **Western Union Quick Pay Service** collects the SEVIS I-901 fee, in local currency, along with the needed Form I-901 data and electronically transmits the payment and data to SEVP. The properly completed Western Union receipt serves as immediate proof-of-payment. This option is available in any country where Western Union offers its Quick Pay service. Instructions can be found at: [www.ice.gov/sevis](http://www.ice.gov/sevis)
- By a third party such as a school or sponsor.
- By selected sponsors of an exchange program by submitting a bulk or group payment.

#### **How will the payment be verified?**

The payment will be recorded in the SEVIS system. However, it is recommended that the paper Form I-797 or the Internet generated receipt be brought to the visa interview.

- DHS will issue an official paper receipt (Form I-797) for every payment received.
- Individuals who file electronically will be able to print an electronic receipt immediately at the time of payment.
- Individuals may request Express delivery service for the I-797 receipt at an additional cost of \$30.