

Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

FAQ's

What is SEVIS?

SEVIS is an electronic tracking system implemented by all Department of Homeland Security approved schools, and Department of State designated exchange visitors program sponsors, to monitor foreign nationals coming to the United States with F-1 status.

What is Department of Homeland Security SEVIS Collection Fee?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented the SEVIS fee of \$200 U.S. dollars to be paid by those individuals applying for F-1 Visa.

Who has to pay the fee?

New students who are applying for a first time for an F-1 Visa and have been issued a form I-20 (F-1 visas) for initial attendance will have to pay the SEVIS fee prior to entering the United States.

When do the fee have to be paid?

- New students who need to apply for an F-1, M-1, or J-1 visa in order to come to the U.S. and have been issued an I-20 by the college for initial attendance must pay the fee prior to entering the United States.
- New students who are citizens of Canada and are exempt from visas and are applying for an F-1 student status at a U.S. port of entry with a form I-20 initial attendance must pay the fee prior to entering the United States.
- Non-immigrants already in the United States with any non-immigrant status who wish to apply for a change of non-immigrant status to F-1 with a form I-20 must pay the fee prior to filing for a change of status.
- Continuing F-1 students applying for a reinstatement for F-1 status (when they have been out of status for more than five months) must pay the fee prior to filing for reinstatement.

What method(s) of payment may be used?

You will need to fill in a form I-901 with information from your Form I-20 (from the college) and pay the required fee. You can fill in the Form I-901 online at www.fmjfee.com. Or, you may send a paper version by mail. When using a paper form please print clearly. Your SEVIS ID number (from the I-20 Form), last name (surname or family name) and date of birth are critical data elements. These are needed to match the information on your Form I-20 issued by the college. If this information is not correct do not continue to pay the SEVIS fee, contact the school for a corrected I-20 Form. You can mail your I-901 Form to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee

P O Box 970020

St. Louis, MO 63197-0020

United States

What method(s) of payment may be used for the SEVIS fee?

The SEVIS fee may be paid electronically, on the Internet with a major credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express), or by mail with a check drawn on a U.S. financial institution and payable in U.S. dollars or by check or money order from a foreign bank payable in the U.S. A web site will be available for Internet fee collection www.fmjfee.com. Remember to print the receipt of payment and bring with you to the embassy. DHS will issue a paper receipt regardless of payment method. Express delivery of the receipt will also be available for \$30. Internet payment receipts will be made available immediately upon payment. Proof of payment must be presented to the U.S. consular Officials before the visa is issued.