

8.8 SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is a central computerized system that maintains and manages data about foreign students (F-1), exchange visitors (J-1), and their dependents (F-2 and J-2) during their stay in the United States. The SEVIS program was implemented a year ago and is now required for all international students and scholars.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced a new fee of \$100 to begin this fall for all new F-1 and J-1 applicants. The fee is required under SEVIS and is to be used to cover the costs of the operation of the program. The rule that implements this fee went into effect September 1, 2004.

Who must pay the fee?

F-1 Students and J-1 Exchange Visitors beginning new programs with documents (I-20 forms for F-1s, DS-2019 forms for J-1s) issued on or after **September 1, 2004**, will be required to pay the \$100 fee before applying for a visa. Those non-immigrants already in the United States in another immigration status, who want to change to F-1 or J-1 status will have to pay the fee before applying for a change of status to F-1 or J-1. Canadians will be required to pay before going to U.S. Port of Entry. The fee cannot be paid *at* the port of entry. The \$100 SEVIS fee is in addition to any other visa application fees.

Exemptions from the fee:

Incoming F-1 and J-1 students for fall semester 2004 and current continuing F and J students and scholars will not pay the fee. F-2 and J-2 dependents are exempt from the fee. J-1 visitors whose DS-2019s are issued by the U.S. government are also exempt.

Can institutional departments pay on behalf of the student or scholar?

Hiring departments, or another third-party may pay the fee on behalf of a student or scholar if they wish. Instructions on accessing and completing the form for payment will be available through the Office of International Student & Scholar Services (IS&SS).

Impact

Students/scholars applying to enter the U.S. or to change status with I-20 or DS-2019 forms issued prior to September 1, 2004 should remain unaffected. The additional cost, time and effort needed to meet the new fee requirements may adversely affect international enrollment and staff changes for subsequent terms, however. Campus departments may want to review the potential effects of the SEVIS fee on in-house procedures and projections and discuss how to increase support to international students and scholars. Communication with the International Student & Scholar Services Office will be vital to facilitate adjustments made through the transition period.

For more information:

Please refer to the FAQ and the Fee Chart on the following pages or contact the CSM Office of International Student and Scholar Services at (303) 273-3210.

NEW SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

Which prospective students or exchange visitors must pay the SEVIS fee?

Those who wish to either enter the U.S. as a student or exchange visitor with a Form I-20 or DS-2019 issued on or after September 1, 2004.

Those who are in the U.S. and wish to change to a student (F-1) or exchange visitor (J-1) status from another non-immigrant status with a Form I-20 or DS-2019 issued on or after September 1, 2004, e.g., from F-2 to F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor status.

When do prospective students or exchange visitors pay the SEVIS fee?

Applicants needing a visa to enter the U.S. should pay the SEVIS fee at least 3 business days before going to the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interview.

Applicants who are citizens of Canada or Bermuda or residents of certain other islands described in 8CFR 212.1a wishing to apply for F-1 or J-1 status should pay the SEVIS fee at least 3 business days before entering the U.S. at a Port of Entry into the U.S.

Non-immigrants currently in the U.S. who apply for student or exchange visitor status must pay the fee prior to filing their change of status application.

When must continuing F-1 students pay the SEVIS fee?

Continuing students must pay the SEVIS fee before:

Filing an application for reinstatement when they have been out of status for more than 5 months.

Applying for a new visa or returning to the U.S. after an absence of 5 months or more that did not involve authorized overseas study.

Filing an application for a change of status except for changes between F-1 and F-3.

When must continuing exchange visitors (J-1 Non-immigrants who have begun, but not finished a program) pay the SEVIS fee?

Continuing exchange visitors must pay the SEVIS fee before:

Filing a reinstatement application after a substantive violation 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).

How does one pay the fee?

To Pay By Mail:

1. Obtain a Form I-901 "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J, and M Non-immigrants."
Download the form from www.FMJfee.com
Request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the US)
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on the I-20 or DS-2019 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on US banks only) in the amount of \$100 USD, made payable to "The Department of Homeland Security"
4. Mail the completed I-901 and payment to: (P.O. Box listed on Form I-901).
5. A Form I-797 receipt notice should be mailed within 3 days of processing the fee. Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents

To Pay Online:

1. Find the Form I-901 at <http://www.FMJfee.com/>. (Available after 9/1/04).
2. 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 or DS-2019 form.
3. Print a copy of the online receipt.
4. Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

In the case of a new student applying to more than one school, is the SEVIS fee transferable?

Yes. The Department of Homeland Security has confirmed that fee payment made on one SEVIS ID number (i.e. I-20 form) can be applied to another SEVIS ID number issued to the same individual. The new student will need to bring in proof of the SEVIS ID number connected to the SEVIS fee – i.e. the unused I-20 or DS-2019.

SEVIS FEE CHART

Fee Required	Amount
• F-1/ F-3 academic student applying for “initial status” from outside the US	\$100
• F-1/ F-3 academic student applying for reinstatement after being out of status more than five months	\$100
• M-1/ M-3 vocational student	\$100
• Spouse or dependent child of F, M or J visitor (F-2, M-2, J-2)	None*
• J-1 exchange visitor, standard student or research scholar program	\$100
• J-1 exchange visitor-violating status and cannot or does not resume status in the same program	\$100
• J-1 exchange visitor changing to another category (i.e., student to research scholar)	\$100
• J-1 exchange visitor participating in federally sponsored program (designated G-1, G-2 or G-3)	None
• Other non-resident aliens applying for a change of status to F, M or J Programs	\$100

***Dependents are not charged but proof of payment by the primary visa holder (F-1, J-1, M-1) is required for applications using I-20s/DS-2019s dated on or after 9/1/04.**

Helpful Links:

U.S Embassies Abroad USICE - Special Registration

<http://travel.state.gov/links.html> http://www.ice.gov/graphics/enforce/imm/imm_sr.htm

Visa Process

<http://travel.state.gov/section306.html>

Special Visa Processing for citizens of North Korea, Cuba, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, & Libya

<http://www.uga.edu/gaie/gettingavisa.pdf>

Fees for Visa Services Visas for 3rd Country Nationals in Canada or Mexico

<http://travel.state.gov/vofees.html> <http://travel.state.gov/tcn.html>

Visa Photo Requirements Visa Denials

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/pptphotos/index.html> <http://travel.state.gov/visadenials.html>

U.S. VISIT

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/content_multi_image/content_multi_image_0006.xml

Airport Status

<http://www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp>

What to expect upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry

http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/newsrel/articles/POEFactSheetUpdate_063004.pdf