
SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT FOR F-1 STUDENTS

On September 1, 2004, a new United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule went into effect. **This rule requires F-1 and J-1 visa applicants to pay a one-time fee of \$200** to supplement the administration and maintenance costs of the Student and Exchange Information System (SEVIS). The following information specifically addresses fee issues for F-1 students.

Who pays the SEVIS fee?

- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s dated on or after September 1, 2004 who are applying for an “initial” F-1 visa from outside the US;
- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s dated on or after September 1, 2004 who are applying for a change to F-1 status from another visa category;
- Current F-1 students in the U.S. filing for reinstatement after being out of status more than 5 months, and who are issued an I-20 issued for reinstatement that is dated on or after September 1, 2004.

What about my F-2 dependents?

F-2 dependents do not have to pay the fee, even if the I-20 that the F-2 dependents use is issued on or after September 1, 2004.

When do I pay the SEVIS fee?

The fee must be paid at least 3 business days prior to applying for your visa, or applying for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry for those exempt from the visa requirement. The fee must be paid prior to submission of a change of status petition or reinstatement application.

Do I have to pay if I transfer to another school, travel outside the U.S. or renew my visa?

The SEVIS fee is not required when transferring schools, changing to another degree program or level, requesting a program extension, renewing an F-1 visa or using F-1 program benefits such as practical training. If you are in status when you travel internationally and are not physically outside of the U.S. for more than five months, you will not be required to pay the fee.

Can I pay the SEVIS fee at a university, consulate or port of entry?

No. The SEVIS fee can only be processed by the Department of Homeland Security via mail or the Internet.

How do I pay the fee?

The fee can be paid to the DHS by mail or online and must be accompanied by a Form I-901. It can be paid by you or by a third party, inside or outside the U.S. Find the Form I-901 and payment instructions at www.FMJfee.com.

Be sure to type in your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 form

What do I need to do to apply for an F-1 visa, change of status or reinstatement?

- Obtain the appropriate Form I-20 from a DHS-approved school,
- Pay the SEVIS fee by mail or online,
- Make a copy of the I-797 (mail) or computer receipt (online) for your records,
- Submit a copy of the I-797 or computer receipt with your visa, change of status or reinstatement application **OR**
- Students who are exempt from visa requirements, such as Canadians, should take a copy of the SEVIS fee receipt to present at the port of entry with the appropriate I-20. It will not be possible to pay the fee at the port of entry.

For a change of status or reinstatement applications, if you previously paid the SEVIS fee while attending a different school, you should submit a copy of that school's I-20 form with your application.

What if my F-1 visa application is denied?

The SEVIS fee will not be refunded. However, if you reapply for a new F-1 visa within 12 months of the denial, you will not have to pay the fee again.

You must be able to print the Form I-901 payment coupon or payment receipt when you complete the form online. Ensure a printer is connected and working before continuing. *You cannot return to the page and print the coupon or payment receipt at a later time.*

You must provide a copy of your SEVIS Fee receipt upon entry to the U.S. along with your passport and visa.