

-- STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS) --

F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa applicants with I-20 or DS-2019 forms are required to pay a SEVIS fee before applying for the visa.

What is a SEVIS Fee?

It is a one off fee charged to F, M and J visa applicants to cover the cost of administering the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Who pays the fee?

F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa applicants with I-20 or DS-2019 forms issued on or after September 1, 2004

Who does not pay the fee?

Derivative F-2, M-2 or J-2 visas applicants, individuals participating in U.S. government sponsored programs with a prefix G-1, G-2 or G-3, and those with I-20 or DS-2019 forms issued before September 1, 2004.

How much is the fee?

The fee is US\$ 200 for F-1 and M-1 visas and US\$ 180 for J-1 visa. Certain short-term exchange visitor (au-pairs, summer work/travel and camp counselors) will pay a reduced fee of \$35.00.

When and how must the fee be paid?

The fee is paid to the Department of Homeland Security in the United States prior to applying for the visa. It cannot be paid at the Embassy. The applicant, the sponsor or a third party can pay the fee. The fee must be processed at least three business days prior to the date of the visa interview. Proof of payment of the fee should be presented at the time the applicant applies for the visa.

The SEVIS fee may be paid in one of the following ways:

- On the Internet at <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).
- [At any office of Chilexpress.]
- 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 and sent to the DHS address listed on the Form I-901.

- By a third party such as a school or sponsor.
- By selected sponsors of an exchange program by submitting a bulk or group payment.

The fee is nonrefundable. No refunds will be made because a visa has been refused.

Students who have been accepted at more than one school may have more than one SEVIS record. As the SEVIS fee is based on the individual applicant, not program, there may be cases where the applicant has paid the fee against one SEVIS record but is applying for a visa against another.

Applicants taking part in two or more different programs, such as exchange visitors, are required to pay separate SEVIS fees for each program, even if only one visa is issued.

How do I show that the fee has been paid?

If the fee has been paid on your behalf, you should check with your school or sponsor. The person paying the fee will receive a receipt, either by return mail or electronically. Those paying through the internet may print off the fee receipt. You will require this receipt to apply for the visa. If there is any doubt as to whether or not the fee has been paid, you may confirm receipt of payment by either e-mailing the SEVP I-901 Case Resolution Unit at fmjfee.sevis@dhs.gov or calling them at 785-330-1048.

Will I be required to pay the SEVIS fee each time I apply for a visa?

No, it is a one off fee charged at the time of the initial visa application. If you reapply for a visa based on the same program then you will not be required to pay a new fee. However, if you apply for a new visa based on a different program a new fee will be required.

The SEVIS fee receipt is valid for twelve months. If your application is refused, you may reapply using this fee receipt provided it is within twelve months of the initial payment.