

SEVIS

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is an Internet-based system in which the university maintains information on non-immigrant visitors holding F visas.

SEVIS enforces a policy of zero tolerance to people who violate the terms of their status. There is no room for error and many issues need prior approval. Failure to maintain status may jeopardize your ability to remain in the U.S. as a student.

Students must comply with the following:

- maintaining status;
- reporting to OIS any change of your course of study, transfers, employment, change of address, or change in enrollment status; and
- Travel and re-entry.

SEVIS I-20 Form

F1 visa is issued to students who are attending an academic program in the United States.

They are required to maintain the minimum course load for full-time student status.

Students are expected to complete their studies no later than the expiration date on the SEVIS I-20 form. They can remain in the United States up to 60 days beyond the expiration date.

Before the certificate of eligibility for non-immigrant (F-1) student status (SEVIS I-20 Form) will be issued by the university, the applicant must have met all admission

requirements, submitted the certification of financial verification form and is eligible to enroll at the university.

Once you have met all applicable admissions and related requirements, the Office of International Services will issue you a SEVIS I-20 Form. Typically, this is done within 5 business days after you have been admitted.

At the time you receive a SEVIS I-20 Form, you would need to apply for visa to enter the United States.

SEVIS Tips for Emergency Situations

Take the following documents with you:

- Passport
- Visa
- SEVIS-issued I-20
- I-94
- Social Security Card
- Financial Records
- Checks and credit cards

Keep contact numbers or e-mail addresses from OIS to stay in touch with your designated school officials. Visit the OIS website to find out how to contact them if you are displaced.

If you cannot get in touch with your designated school official, contact SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) to let them know where you are. E-mail to SEVP at SEVIS.source@dhs.gov, or call 1.800.961.5294 from any phone.

Should you decide to transfer to another school, visit [SEVP](#) or call 1-800.961.5294 to determine if your school is on the list of certified schools.

SEVIS Fee

The Collection of Fee Levied on F and J Students

Effective January 1, 2008, students and exchange visitors and scholars attending schools or conducting research in the United States will be required to pay a SEVIS fee of \$131 prior to obtaining their visa. Specifically, all individuals receiving the SEVIS Form.

Who needs to pay?

- Prospective students with "initial attendance" Form I-20 dated on or after September 1, 2004
- Applicants who are applying for a change of status from another visa category
- Current F-1 students in the U.S. filing for reinstatement after being out of status for more for more than five months
- Applicants applying for the same status after 12 months
- Applicants who are in violation of status

Who are exempted?

- Travel outside the United States not exceeding five months

- Transferring between approved schools, changing educational levels, or applying for post-completion practical training
- Applying /requesting for an extension of stay in a single program
- Reapplying for a visa abroad after having paid the SEVIS fee for previous F-1 visa that was denied, and is applying again for the same program within 12 months of the initial denial.
- Has paid SEVIS fee in conjunction with an application for the change of status denied, and is applying for a motion to re-open the case within 12 months of the original denial.

How can the fee be paid?

- By mail using Form I-901 together with a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank and paid in U.S. dollars. (See Form I-901)
- By mail completing Form I-901 through the Internet and using a credit card

If you want to have someone in the U.S. pay the fee on your behalf, send them either a copy of your completed Form I-901, or provide them with the information needed to complete the Form I-901 for you.

You may also have someone pay your fee online. The person who pays the fee for you may complete the Form I-901 online and pay by credit card or check according to the instructions on the web site. For more information on the fee payment process go to SEVP at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>

Note:

The fee payment does not need to be completed prior to SCHEDULING an interview with the consulate, or any other activities undertaken prior to the in-person application process at the consulate. However, in order to assure that fee payment can be verified for purposes of visa issuance, the fee payment must be processed at least three business days prior to the visa interview date.

For non-immigrants paying the fee electronically using the Internet, and who choose to rely on electronic fee verification at the consulate, the fee must be submitted at least three days in advance of the interview. However, a non-immigrant paying the fee electronically by using the Internet is able to print out a receipt at the time of fee payment, and will be able to use that printed fee receipt for immediate verification of payment.

For non-immigrants paying the fee by mail, the fee must be submitted in a manner that assures arrival at the Department of Homeland Security address listed on Form I-901 at least three business days before the scheduled interview. Again, a non-immigrant paying electronically using the Internet who is able to print out the receipt at the time of fee payment will be immediately able to use that printed fee receipt for verification of payment.

SEVIS fee must be paid prior to visa issuance. No refunds will be made because of a visa refusal for any reason.

Online payment by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Amex OK)

Students can make the fee payment by submitting Form I-901 online using a credit card.

Once payment is submitted, a receipt can be printed and can be used for immediate verification of fee payment.

Payment by check via mail Internet-generated coupon

The student can go to the fee payment web site, enter basic information, print out a coupon, and then mail a check or money order with the coupon to a lock-box address in Missouri.

Paper option

The student downloads Form I-901, fills it in, and sends it with a check or money order to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee, P.O. Box 970020, St. Louis, MO,
63101.

By courier/express delivery, send it to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO
63101

Check Specifics

- All checks and money orders must be payable to the "I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee."
- Only checks and money orders may be used when paying by mail. The check or money order must be made in U.S. dollars and drawn on a bank located in the United States.
- If you rely on electronic verification of the SEVIS fee, you must pay the fee atleast three business days prior to the date verification needed.

- If you pay with a credit card over the Internet, you may print out a receipt online as soon as the payment is made.
- All SEVIS fee payers will also receive a fee receipt (I-797) that can be used to prove payment of the fee. The receipt notice will take time to process and to arrive in the mail.
- The SEVIS fee cannot be paid directly at a U.S. consulate, port of entry, or USCIS Service Center.

Online Verification of SEVIS I-901 Fee

As of May 5, 2006 students and exchange visitors can verify online if ICE has received their SEVIS I-901 fee payment and when the official receipt for the payment was issued.

To check the status click on the following link: www.fmjfee.com.

As of November 1, 2004, Western Union's "Quick Pay" service became a third option for paying the SEVIS I-901 fee for F-1 students. The Western Union Quick Pay service allows you to send your payment fee in local currency electronically, directly to the Department of Homeland Security. The Western Union office will then issue you a receipt that serves as immediate proof of payment for a visa interview at the U.S. consulate. More information is posted on the Web at:

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.htm>