

SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT FOR F & J STUDENTS

What is the SEVIS fee required for?

This rule requires F-1 and J-1 **visa applicants** to pay a one-time fee of \$200 for F Students and \$180 for J Students or Scholars to supplement the administration and maintenance costs of the Student and Exchange Information System (SEVIS).

Who pays the SEVIS fee? F-1 and J-1 Visa Students:

Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s or DS-2019 dated on or after September 1, 2004 who are applying for an “initial” F-1 or J-1 visa from outside the US.

Will other F-1/J-1 students/scholars in the US have to pay?

No fee must be paid by a continuing F or J nonimmigrant who maintains that status, and whose initial form I-20 was issued before September 1, 2004 unless the student’s circumstances change so that he or she fits one of the categories mentioned above. In addition, no fee is required of J-1 participants in exchange visitor programs sponsored by the Federal government.

What about my F-2 or J-2 dependents?

F-2 or J-2 dependents do not have to pay the fee, even if the I-20s or DS-2019s that the F-2 or J-2 dependents use are issued on or after 9/1/2004.

Do I have to pay if I transfer to another school, change educational level, apply for a program extension, travel outside the US, or renew my visa to return to the US as a continuing student or a continuing participant of an exchange visitor program?

The SEVIS fee is not required when transferring schools, changing to another degree program or level, requesting a program extension, renewing an F-1 or J-1 visa or using F-1 or J-1 program benefits such as practical/academic 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. This provision also includes F students returning as continuing students after working towards completion of the US program in authorized overseas study.

If my initial application for a visa is denied, must I pay the SEVIS fee again when reapplying?

The SEVIS fee will not be refunded. Payment of a new SEVIS fee, however, is not required of a non-immigrant who paid an initial fee when seeking an F-1 or J-1 visa from a US Embassy or consulate abroad, was denied the visa, and is applying again for a visa for the same type of program within 12 months of initial denial.

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 US 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.

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

No. At this time 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 US.

Paying the SEVIS Fee 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 or download the form: <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/pdf/I-901.pdf>
You can request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the US). Request the form from the Office of International Services Office at FGCU.
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your 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 \$200 USD (for F Students) or \$180 (for J Students or Scholars), made payable to “The Department of Homeland Security”
4. Mail the completed I-901 and payment to the address 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 www.FMJfee.com.
2. Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express.
*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.

Will the DHS keep a record of my payment on file?

Fee payments should be entered into your permanent immigration (SEVIS) record but it is strongly recommended that you retain a copy of your fee receipt (form I-797) to use as needed.

I applied to more than one school, and have more than one I-20 form. What happens if I pay the SEVIS fee for one school, and then I change my mind and decide that I want to attend the other school? Is my paid SEVIS fee transferable? Yes. But you must submit the I-20 or DS-2019 form with the SEVIS ID number that you listed on the I-901 form with you to the U.S. consulate/embassy. For change of status or reinstatement applications, please see next question. 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. 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 or DS 2019. It will not be possible to pay the fee at the port of entry. For 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 or DS 2019 form with your application.

For more information regarding the new SEVIS fee requirement or other visa-related matters, please contact the office of International Services Office at FGCU.