How to Process Your SEVIS Fee Payment

The SEVIS I-901 fee is mandated by the U.S. Congress to support the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System which is an automated system that keeps track of students and exchange visitors in the U.S. and ensures that they maintain their status while in the United States. Each student or exchange visitor issued an initial Form I-20 or DS-2019 on or after October 27, 2008, is responsible for paying this fee. Proof of fee payment must be presented at the visa interview.

Please refer to this Frequently Asked Question page for more information about the SEVIS fee payment

F-1 and J-1 Students Who Must Pay the SEVIS Fee

- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you are applying for a change of non-immigrant status to F-1 or J-1. The fee must be paid before you submit your change of status application.

- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you are an F-1 student who has violated the terms of your non-immigrant status and will be applying for reinstatement, and you have been out of status for more than five months. The fee must be paid before you submit your reinstatement application.

- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you are an F-1 student who has violated the terms of your non-immigrant status and will seek reinstatement by traveling abroad and re-entering the United States, even if you have an unexpired F-1 visa in your passport.

- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you were previously an F-1 student at the University of Hartford, departed the United States and have not maintained your registration for more than five months, and now plan to return to resume your studies, even if you have an unexpired F-1 visa in your passport.

- You must pay the SEVIS fee if you are an F-1 student who wishes to transfer from a U.S. government-sponsored J-1 program (the program code starts with G-1, G-2 or G-3) to a program where the SEVIS fee is required.

F-1 and J-1 Students Who Do NOT Need to Pay the SEVIS Fee

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are a continuing student and plan to travel abroad, even if that travel includes applying for a new U.S. F-1 or J-1 visa.

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are a continuing student who is requesting a new I-20 or DS-2019 that is for continued attendance.

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are a continuing student applying for an extension of stay, change in level of study, change in field of study, or if you are applying for reinstatement if you have been out of status for less than five months.

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are a continuing student applying for employment authorization, including Optional Practical Training.

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you are transferring your F-1 status from one U.S. school to another.

- You do NOT need to pay the SEVIS fee if you were in valid F-1 or J-1 status, departed the United States and are returning after being absent for less than five months, even if you need to apply for a new visa.

- Applicants for F-2 or J-2 dependent visas are NOT required to pay the SEVIS fee.

SEVIS Fee Rules

If you are required to pay the SEVIS fee and will be applying for a visa abroad, or will be re-entering the United States on an unexpired visa, the SEVIS fee must be processed at least three business days before the visa interview or re-entry, unless you have a printed receipt from an internet payment.
The SEVIS fee cannot be paid at the embassy or consulate, or at the U.S. Border.

If you are required to pay the SEVIS fee, a visa will not be issued unless the visa officer can verify that the SEVIS fee payment has been made. However, you may schedule your visa interview prior to paying the SEVIS fee. The SEVIS fee is not refundable. If your visa application is denied, and you decide to re-apply for the same type of visa at a later date, you will not be asked to make a second SEVIS fee payment as long as your visa application is made within 12 months of the initial denial.

How to Pay the SEVIS Fee

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) provides alternative methods for payment of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. A potential F or M student or J exchange visitor must pay this fee prior to the visa interview.

You can pay your fee by credit or debit card if you are submitting your form online. See the section on credit and debit cards for more information about the cards SEVP will accept.

You can pay by international money order or check drawn on a financial institution in the United States and payable in United States currency. (See the section on payment by check or money order for more information.)

Checks are accepted subject to collection. If the bank on which it is drawn does not honor the check, you will be charged a $35 fee.

- If you fill in the Form I-901 online and choose the option to pay by check or money order, you will be able to print a payment coupon. There is a control number on the top of the coupon. Write the control number, your name and your SEVIS ID number on your check or money order and attach the coupon.
- If you use a paper Form I-901, write your SEVIS ID number and name on your check or money order and attach the form before sending it in.

Procedure for Paying the SEVIS Fee

1. Obtain form I-20 or DS-2019 from the University of Hartford
2. Access form I-901 on the internet at here OR use the form I-901 included with your I-20 or DS-2019
3. Complete form I-901, answering all questions (you must have an I-20 or DS-2019 from the University of Hartford in order to complete form I-901). Be sure that you enter your personal information exactly as it appears on the I-20 or DS-2019
4. Pay the $200 SEVIS fee according to one of the methods described below.

Note: to complete form I-901, you must enter the University of Hartford School Code of BOS(214F)1006.0000 if you have been sent an I-20, OR the University Program Number of P104465 if you have been sent a DS-2019. You must also enter your SEVIS ID number, which is printed at the top right of the I-20 or DS-2019, above the bar code. It starts with the letter "N."

Paying on the Internet:

Once you have received your I-20 or DS-2019, you can make the fee payment by submitting form I-901 on-line using a credit or debit card. The web address is http://www.fmjfee.com

MasterCard, Visa, or American Express debit or credit cards are accepted. It does not matter if the card was issued in the United States or overseas. Follow the on-line instructions, include the required credit card information, and print out the payment screen to verify your payment. The printed receipt should be presented at the visa interview or at the U.S. port of entry as proof of payment. Thus, when paying the fee on the Internet, it is essential that your printer be ready before starting the payment process. Do not exit the receipt page until you have successfully printed the receipt. You will not be able to return to the receipt page.
Paying by Western Union "Quick Pay":

Potential F or M students or J exchange visitors in more than 130 countries can pay the I-901 SEVIS fee using the Western Union Quick Pay™ service located in the communities. This initiative allows Western Union to collect the I-901 SEVIS fee in local currency. Western Union transmits both the payment and the Form I-901, "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Nonimmigrants," data to ICE.

There are five steps that you should follow:

**Step One:** Do not file the Form I-901 online.

**Step Two:** Print a copy of these instructions, a copy of the Western Union form example and a copy of either your Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," or Form DS-2019, "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status." Take a copy of each of these three documents with you when you visit your local Western Union Quick Pay location.

**Step Three:** Go to a local Western Union agent location and pay the I-901 SEVIS fee in the local currency.

**Step Four:** Review the Western Union form to make sure that the Western Union agent uses your name, your SEVIS ID number and your date of birth (not the information that appears on the Western Union form example).

Find the nearest Western Union location or call the telephone number of the Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in your country as listed in your phone book

**Step Five:** After three business days, check on your payment status. Once you see confirmation of payment on FMJfee.com, print out the confirmation page. The confirmation page is proof of payment of the I-901 SEVIS fee, and you can use it for a visa interview at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy and for admission at a U.S. port of entry.

If you are paying on behalf of an F or M student or J exchange visitor, Western Union may require you to use your own name and address. If this happens please make sure that you are entering the F or M student or J exchange visitor’s SEVIS ID. After submitting the payment, please send an e-mail or have the student send an e-mail to fmjfee.sevis@ice.dhs.gov with INFO CHANGE in the subject line. Include the SEVIS ID for which the payment was made and any information requiring an update

**Remember: It takes two or three business days to process your I-901 SEVIS fee payment.**

**Payment by mail is not the recommended process for fee payment from abroad, as it can take as long as four weeks or more from the day you mail in the fee to the day that you receive the required receipt in the mail if you are applying from outside the United States, unless you pay for courier service.**

**Showing Proof of SEVIS Fee Payment at the Visa Interview and/or the U.S. Port of Entry**

You must be able to prove that the fee has been paid when you appear for your visa interview, and when you enter the United States. This is done by presenting a printed receipt, either from the Internet if you made an on-line payment, or a mailed receipt if you paid by mail.

Visa officers and U.S. port-of-entry inspectors should be able to verify SEVIS fee payment electronically three business days after payment is processed, but in case of problems, having a printed receipt is the best evidence of fee payment. If you lose or did not receive a receipt for fee payment, the U.S. government does retain an electronic record that the fee has been paid.

**A visa will not be issued unless verification of the SEVIS fee payment can be made.**

For detailed information on the SEVIS fee payment process and for a list of frequently asked questions visit here

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