

SEVIS Fee Requirement – F1 Students

How Much is the SEVIS Fee?

US\$200

Who Should Pay the SEVIS Fee?

- ◆ Prospective IEI F-1 students who are:
 - applying for an initial F-1 visa at a U.S. consulate
 - visa exempt and applying for entry to the U.S. in F-1 status at a Port of Entry (Canadians, Bermudians)
 - applying for a change of status to F-1 from another visa status
- ◆ Current F-1 students who:
 - have fallen out of status and are applying for reinstatement after more than 5 months
 - have been outside the U.S. for more than 5 months and are returning to resume a degree program or begin a new degree program

NOTE: F-2 dependants (children and spouses) do NOT pay the fee.

When Do I Pay the Fee?

- ◆ The fee must be paid **at least 3 U.S. government business days** before your visa interview
- ◆ The fee must also be paid before an application for change of status to F-1 or application for reinstatement to F-1 status is submitted to the Department of Homeland Security.
- ◆ You may set up the visa appointment before paying the fee.

How Do I Pay the Fee?

- ◆ The fee can be paid online (which we strongly recommend), through Western Union Quick Pay, or by mail.
- ◆ A third party, such as a family member or friend, may also pay the fee for you.
- ◆ Online payment is recommended because you will be able to print a receipt immediately, which you can bring to your visa interview.

Online Payment:

- Go to **www.fmjfee.com** for the electronic I-901 SEVIS fee application
- Complete the form online and pay with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express) or debit card (with Visa or Mastercard logo). *Note: Your name should be written EXACTLY as it is on your I-20
- Print a copy of the online receipt
- Make extra copies of your receipt and keep the receipts in a safe place with your other immigration documents. You may need to provide proof of having paid the fee later on.

Western Union Quick Pay:

- Go to http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu_instr.htm for instructions and sample Western Union forms, which you should print out, so you can refer to them while at the Western Union office. Note: make sure you read the instructions for F1 visas.
- Find your local Western Union Quick Pay office by going to:
<http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent.asp>. **Note:** not all Western Union locations have Quick Pay available.
- Request the **Blue Form** and complete it as shown in the sample form you printed out. Pay the \$200 fee in your local currency.
- Make sure you enter the address where you wish to receive the SEVIS fee receipt from the U.S.
- A form I-797 receipt will be airtailed to you. Be sure to make extra copies of your receipt and keep them in a safe place with your other immigration documents. You may need to provide proof of having paid the fee later on.

Mail Payment:

- Go to www.fmjfee.com, complete the form online and choose the option to pay with a check or money order, and print out a payment coupon, or Go to
<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm> for the PDF version of the I-901 SEVIS fee application, print out the I-901 form and complete it. ***Note:** Your name should be written EXACTLY as it is on your I-20
- Mail the payment coupon or I-901 form with a check or international money order in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. The check or money order should be payable to "I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee" and should have your SEVIS ID # in the memo section.
- A form I-797 receipt will be airtailed to you. Be sure to make extra copies of your receipt and keep the receipts in a safe place with your other immigration documents. You may need to provide proof of having paid the fee later on.

My Visa Application Was Denied – What Now?

- ◆ Your fee payment remains valid for 12 months, so you can re-apply for an F-1 visa within the 12-month period without paying a new fee. The fee is not refundable.

Does SEVIS Keep a Record of Fee Payment?

- ◆ Yes, an electronic record of your fee payment should be created in your SEVIS record, but it is **strongly** recommended that you also keep several paper copies of your receipt.

If you have additional questions, please visit the Immigration and Customs Enforcement website at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm> or contact IEI admissions at iei@memphis.edu.