

# New SEVIS Fee Requirement

SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is a central computerized system that maintains and manages data about foreign students (F-1), exchange visitors (J-1), and their dependents (F-2 and J-2) during their stay in the United States. The SEVIS program was implemented in January 2003 for all international students and scholars.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced a new fee of \$100 beginning Sept. 1, 2004, for all new F-1 and J-1 applicants. The fee is required under SEVIS and is to be used to cover the costs of the operation of the program.

## Who must pay the fee?

F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors beginning new programs with documents (I-20 forms for F-1s, DS-2019 forms for J-1s) **issued on or after Sept. 1, 2004**, will be required to pay the \$100 fee before applying for a visa. *Canadians will be required to pay **before** going to a U.S. port of entry — the fee cannot be paid at the port of entry.* The \$100 SEVIS fee is in addition to any other visa or consulate application fees. **F-2 and J-2 dependents are exempt from the fee.**

## When do prospective students or exchange visitors pay the SEVIS fee?

- Applicants needing a visa to enter the U.S. should pay the \$100 SEVIS fee **at least three business days before going to the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interview.**
- Applicants who are citizens of Canada or Bermuda, or residents of certain other islands described in 8CFR 212.1a, wishing to apply for F-1 or J-1 status should pay the SEVIS fee **at least three business days before entering the U.S. at a port of entry into the U.S.**

## How does one pay the fee?

### To pay by mail:

1. Obtain a Form I-901 "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Nonimmigrants."
  - Download the form from <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/pdf/I-901.pdf>
  - Request the form by phone at (800) 870-3676 (inside the U.S.)
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on the I-20 or DS-2019.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on U.S. banks only) in the amount of \$100 (U.S.), made payable to The Department of Homeland Security.
4. Mail the completed I-901 and payment to:  
I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
P.O. Box 970020  
St. Louis, MO 63197-0020

If you wish to have it couriered, send it to:  
I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
1005 Convention Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63101

5. A receipt notice (Form I-797) should be mailed within three 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 <http://www.FMJfee.com>.
2. Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express information. \*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.**

**For more information visit <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/faq.htm>**