

SEVIS I-901 Fee

Dear prospective international student:

Each student (F-1) or exchange visitor (J-1) issued an initial form I-20 or DS2019 on or after September 1, 2004 is responsible for paying the SEVIS I-901 fee (\$100) to SEVP.

Fee payment is required if the applicant is:

- A. A student seeking an F-1 or J-1 visa from an American Embassy or Consulate abroad for initial attendance (F-1) at a school approved by (DHS) or for initial participation in an exchange visitor program (J-1) designated by the (DOS) Must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee.
- B. A student who does not need a visa (Canadian) to enter the United States as an F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor, who will be applying for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry to begin initial attendance must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee.

Documents needed to fill out this form:

F-1, status only: Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student [F-1] Status) issued to you by the SEVP-approved school you will attend.

J-1 status only: Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor [J-1] Status) issued to you by the designated exchange visitor program in which you will participate.

All forms must be completed in English. The personal information used to fill out your form must be an exact match for information on your I-20 or DS-2019.

Can someone pay the fee for me?

Yes. You may have a relative, friend or even a school or program sponsor pay the fee for you. If you are paying from overseas and you do not have access to the payment methods described in this web site, you may find it easier to have someone in the United States pay the fee for you. If someone else fills out the form for you, be sure you give them a copy of your Form I-20 or DS-2019 or the information from the form. Whoever fills out the form will need your personal information **exactly** as it appears on one of these documents.

How can the fee be paid?

1. The fee can be paid electronically/online by completing Form I-901 **through the Internet** and using a credit card at www.fmjfee.com. A receipt will be sent by mail to the address that you indicate with your payment. Further, for those that pay the SEVIS fee on-line, a payment confirmation can be printed out immediately after the payment is made, and used as a receipt until the mailed receipt is received.
2. Beginning November 1, 2004, nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors in more than 130 countries are able to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee locally using the **Western Union Quick Pay™** service.

The Western Union Quick Pay™ service allows you to send your payment electronically, directly to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Simply bring your cash payment in local currency – where applicable – to a participating Western Union location. Within minutes, DHS will receive a notification indicating that you have made your SEVIS fee payment.

There are three steps that you should follow:

Step One:

Print out and bring a copy of these instructions along with a copy of the sample form to a local participating Western Union Agent location.

Step Two:

Go to a local participating Western Union Agent location. To find the nearest Western Union Agent location go to <http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent.asp> and select a country or call the telephone number of the Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in your country as listed in your phone book.

Step Three:

Request and fill out the blue form. You must request a **Blue Form** at the participating local Western Union Agent location. This form may show words such as "Payment Services" or "Quick Pay" printed in the applicable local language. However, please note that **all** Quick Pay forms will be **blue**.

When Can I Get My Visa and/or Enter the U.S.?

The SEVIS fee must be paid and fully processed before the applicant arrives at the American consulate for the visa interview.

For those nonimmigrants who do not need a visa to enter the U.S. as a student or exchange visitor from Canada, the fee must be paid and fully processed before applying for entry at a U.S. port-of-entry.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to bring a SEVIS fee payment receipt with them to the American Consulate for the visa interview, or, for those that do not need a visa (Canadians), to the U.S. port-of-entry.

Having a receipt for the SEVIS fee payment will facilitate the visa application process. However, if you are unable to print a receipt from an on-line payment and/or do not receive your mailed receipt in time for your visa interview you can still go to your interview as long as your fee has been processed by DHS.