

## SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT – F-1 STUDENTS

SEVIS, the Student and Student Information System, is a central computerized system that maintains and manages data about students (F-1) and their dependents (F-2) during their stay in the U.S. People applying for F-1 status of a F-1 visa for the first time must pay a \$200 SEVIS fee.

### Who Must Pay the Fee?

- F-1 Students beginning new programs with I-20 forms **issued on or after September 1, 2004.**
- Non-immigrants already in the U.S. in another immigration status who want to change to F-1 status.

### What about my F-2 dependents?

- F-2 dependents do not have to pay the fee, even if the I-20 they use was issued on or after 9/1/04.

### Do I have to pay if I transfer to another program, travel outside the U.S. or renew my visa stamp?

- F-1 visitors who began their current programs with I-20 forms issued prior to 9/1/04 do not have to pay even if they transfer to another program, travel outside the U.S. or apply for a new visa stamp.

### When do I pay the SEVIS fee?

- Students needing a visa to enter the U.S. to begin a new F-1 program should pay the SEVIS fee ***at least*** 3 business days before going to the U.S. embassy/consulate for their visa interview.
- Applicants who are citizens of Canada or Bermuda who want to enter the U.S. in F-1 status with an I-20 issued after 9/1/04 should pay the fee at least 3 business days **before going to the U.S. port-of-entry.**
- Non-immigrants currently in the U.S., who want to change to F-1 status, must pay the fee prior to filing their change of status application.

## **To Pay by Mail**

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1. Obtain a Form I-901 "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Non-immigrants."
  - Download the form from [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com)
  - Request the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the US)
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on U.S. Banks only) in the amount of \$200 USD, 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 to you 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**

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1. Find the Form I-901 at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com).
2. Complete the form online and supply necessary debit or credit card information. \*Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 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.

### **Can I pay the fee at the 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.

### **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.

### **What if my F-1 visa application is denied?**

The SEVIS fee will not be refunded under any circumstance. However, if you reapply for a new F-1 visa stamp within 12 months of the denial you will not have to pay another fee.

**For more information regarding the new SEVIS fee or other visa-related matters, please contact the UT Southwestern International Office.**