

SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT – J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is a central computerized system that maintains and manages data about exchange visitors (J-1) and their dependents (J-2) during their stay in the U.S. People applying for J-1 status or a J-1 visa for the first time must pay a \$180 SEVIS fee.

Who Must Pay the Fee?

- J-1 Exchange Visitors beginning new programs with DS-2019 forms **issued on or after September 1, 2004.**
- Non-immigrants already in the U.S. in another immigration status who want to change to J-1 status.

What about my J-2 dependents?

- J-2 dependents do not have to pay the fee, even if the DS-2019 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?

- The SEVIS fee only has to be paid one time during each J-1 “program”. A program may last as long as 3 years. Therefore, even if you transfer programs, travel outside the U.S. or apply for a visa stamp you will not have to pay a second fee.
- If you complete a program, leave the U.S., and sometime in the future decide to start a new program, you will pay another SEVIS fee.

When do I pay the SEVIS fee?

- Exchange Visitors needing a visa to enter the U.S. to begin a new J-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, Bermuda or certain islands described in 8CFR212.1(a) who want to enter the U.S. in J-1 status with a DS-2019 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 J-1 status, must pay the fee prior to filing their change of status application.

To Pay by Mail

1. Obtain a Form I-901 "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Non-immigrants."
 - Download the form from 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 DS-2019 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft(drawn on U.S. Banks only) in the amount of \$180 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

2. Find the Form I-901 at www.FMJfee.com.
3. Complete the form online and supply necessary credit or debit card information. *Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your DS-2019 form.
4. Print a copy of the online receipt.
5. 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 J-1 visa application is denied?

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

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