

# SEVIS FEE

## PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAREFULLY

### SEVIS FEE

- Individuals seeking initial entry to the U.S. in F-1 (Student) or J-1 (Exchange Visitor) status, as well as individuals seeking a change of status to F-1 or J-1, are required to pay a fee: **\$200 for F-1 students and \$180 for J-1 Exchange Visitors**. The fee supports the automated system (SEVIS) that keeps track of students and exchange visitors and verifies that they are in valid status while in the United States.
- You must have proof of payment of this fee before appearing for a visa interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- If you do not need a visa to enter the U.S., you must have proof of payment of the fee before seeking admission to the U.S. at a U.S. port of entry.
- If you are applying for a change of status to F-1 or J-1, proof of payment of this fee must be submitted to USCIS along with your petition.
- You may pay this fee yourself, or you may have someone else pay it for you. The person paying the fee must have the following information available: your passport number, school code (F-1 students): **DET214F00004000**, program number (J-1 students): **P101811**, SEVIS ID number (the 10-digit number preceded by **N**, located above the bar code on page 1 of the I-20 or DS-2019 form).

### HOW TO PAY THE SEVIS FEE

There are three options for payment of the SEVIS fee:

- Payment in U.S. dollars **by credit card** over the Internet (**recommended**)
- Payment in U.S. dollars **by bank check** or bank draft, drawn on a U.S. bank
- Payment in U.S. dollars **through Western Union Quick Pay**

#### **Online payment by credit card**

- Acceptable credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, or American Express issued in the U.S. or overseas.
- Web address: <http://www.FMJfee.com>
- Fill out Form I-901
- Submit payment
- Print receipt (A formal receipt will also be mailed to you, but the printed receipt can be used immediately at the Consulate or the U.S. port of entry to verify payment.)

#### **Payment by bank check or money order via mail**

- Obtain a check or money order in U.S. dollars that is drawn on a bank located in the U.S.

You can obtain a check from:

- A bank chartered or operated in the U.S.
- A foreign subsidiary of a U.S. bank
- A foreign bank that has an arrangement with a U.S. bank to issue a check, money order, or foreign draft that is drawn on a U.S. bank

The check must be made payable to: **"I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee."**

- One of the following forms must accompany your mailed check: a payment coupon **or** a paper Form I-901.
  - To obtain a payment coupon, fill out Form I-901 on line at <http://www.FMJfee.com>. Then print out a payment coupon.
  - A paper Form I-901 is included with this information
- Mail your check or money order along with the payment coupon **or** the paper Form I-901 to:

PO Box address:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
PO Box 970020  
St. Louis, MO 63197-0020

Street address for courier/express delivery:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
1005 Convention Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63101

#### **Payment through Western Union Quick Pay**

Instructions for this method of payment can be found online at the following URL: <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/index.htm>

### TIMING OF PAYMENT

- You must pay the SEVIS fee sufficiently in advance of your visa interview (or prior to the date of your initial border crossing if you are visa exempt) to allow verification of your fee payment. Fee payment can be verified either by **paper receipt** (preferred) or **electronically** at the Consulate or U.S. port of entry.
  - A paper receipt will be mailed to all SEVIS fee payers by air mail at no cost. However, the fastest way to obtain verification is to pay by credit card via the Internet and then print out a receipt. The printed receipt may be used immediately at the Consulate or port of entry as proof of payment. **We strongly suggest you pay online and print a receipt if possible.**
  - If you plan to rely on electronic verification (without a paper receipt), you must pay the fee at least three business days prior to the date verification is needed. This means that you must pay the fee either electronically via the Internet or by mail so that it arrives at the address listed above at least three business days before your visa interview (or before your initial border crossing if you are visa exempt).

*For more information, please visit <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>*