

SEVIS FEE REQUIREMENT

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule says that people who want F-1 and J-1 visas have to pay a one-time fee of \$200 (F-1) or \$180 (J-1). This fee helps pay for SEVIS (Student and Exchange Information System) that U.S. schools use to make I-20 forms. If you are applying for a student visa, you have to pay this visa application fee.

Please read this information carefully:

Can someone else (friend or family member) pay the fee for me?

Yes. But you should have a copy of the fee payment receipt that proves that they paid the fee for you.

When do I pay the SEVIS fee?

The fee should be paid at least 3 business days before you apply for your visa.

How do I pay the fee?

The fee can be paid to the DHS by mail or online. You must include the Form I-901 with the fee. The fee can be paid by the student or by someone else (family member or friend) inside or outside the US.

To Pay By Mail

1. Get a Form I-901 "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J, and M Nonimmigrants."
 - a. Download the form from <http://www.FMJfee.com>
2. Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.
3. Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on US banks only) in the amount of \$100 USD, made payable to "The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement."
4. Mail the completed I-901 and payment to the address listed on Form I-901.
5. A Form I-797 receipt confirmation notice should be mailed within 3 days of processing the fee. . Be sure to make copies of this receipt notice, 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 how 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

*If you pay the SEVIS fee by Internet, you can print a receipt directly from your computer at the same time. This computer-generated receipt can be used to prove you have paid the fee at an embassy, consular post, or port-of-entry.

*If you mail the fee, then you must wait at least 3 business days after DHS **receives** your payment before trying to apply for your visa. DHS will mail you a paper receipt (called an I-797) to be used as evidence that you paid the fee, but there should also be an electronic record of your fee payment in the US Consulate's database. If there is an electronic record of fee payment in the database, you will not need to show your paper receipt (Form I-797) to apply for the visa or enter the US. However, due to potential technical problems, it is strongly recommended that you wait for a copy of the paper fee payment receipt before making a visa application.

The paper receipt (Form I-797) is mailed to the address you wrote on Form I-901. If you want to pay more, you can ask DHS to express mail your receipt. Or you can wait until the receipt is mailed to via regular postal service.

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 keep a copy of your fee receipt (form I-797) to use in the future.

What do I need to do to apply for an F-1 visa?

- ✓ Get a Form I-20 from the school that you want to attend.
- ✓ Pay the SEVIS fee by mail or online.
- ✓ Make a copy of the I-797 (mail) or computer receipt (online) for your records.
- ✓ Submit a copy of the I-797 or computer receipt with your visa, change of status or reinstatement application OR

What if my F-1 visa application is denied?

The SEVIS fee will not be refunded, but if you apply again for an F-1/J-1 visa within 12 months of a visa denial you will not have to pay the fee again.