

SEVIS I-901 Fee Instructions for F-1 Students

Effective September 1, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security implemented regulations requiring a SEVIS fee for students and scholars in the SEVIS system. Effective June 24, 2019 the I-901 SEVIS fee is \$350 for all the students applying for F-1 visa. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.ice.gov/sevis>.

FEE MUST BE PAID BEFORE A VISA WILL BE ISSUED!!

Who Must Pay and When:

1. New Applicants for Student Status (F-1)

If you are applying for an F1 student visa for the first time ever, pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee. (New students may skip the immediate following paragraphs and go directly to the How to Pay section.)

2. Applicants Reapplying for Student Status (F-1) after a Denial of that Status

If you have not previously paid the SEVIS I-901 fee, pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.

3. Do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee, if you already paid the SEVIS I-901 fee and are:

- Reapplying for a visa within twelve months of the date of initial denial
- From a country for which an F-1 visa is not required and you are reapplying for status as a student at the POE within 12 months of the date of initial denial
- Filing a motion to reopen a denied change of status application for a change of status to F-1

4. Continuing Students (F-1) in the United States

- If you are a continuing student, who has maintained status and has not completed your program of study, do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- If you are a continuing student, who has maintained status and is transferring or changing program levels, do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- If you are a student who has been out of status for less than five months, do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- If you are a student who has been out of status for more than five months, pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee before you file for reinstatement.

5. Continuing Students (F-1) not in the United States

- If you are a continuing student who has been out of the United States for less than five months and maintained your status prior to leaving the United States, do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- If you are a continuing student who has been out of the United States for more than five months, maintained your status prior to leaving the United

States, and have been participating in authorized study abroad, do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.

- If you are a student who has been out of the United States for more than five months and have not participated in authorized study abroad, you are no longer considered a continuing student by DHS. You need a new initial Form I-20 from a school and you need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.
- If you are a student who did not maintain status or you completed a previous program, you are no longer considered a continuing student by DHS. You need a new initial Form I-20 from a school and you need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.

6. Spouse or Minor Children of Students

- If you are the spouse or minor child of a student, **do not pay the SEVIS I-901 fee** unless you are applying to change status to F-1, M-1, or J-1.

How to Pay:

What are the options for fee payment?

Currently, the options for individuals to pay the fee are 1) by credit or debit card via the Internet 2) by check or money order mailed to SEVP (address below) or 3) by Western Union Quick Pay™ service (available in more than 130 countries).

Form I-901

You will need to fill in a Form I-901 with information from your Form I-20 and pay the required fee. For most people, **the SEVIS I-901 fee is \$350**. You have the option of paying an additional \$30 to have your receipt sent by expedited delivery (courier service) rather than by mail.

You can [fill in the Form I-901 online](#) or send a paper version to:

By Mail

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee
P.O. Box 970020
St. Louis, MO 63197-0020
United States

By Courier (to expedite delivery to SEVP)

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee
3180 Rider Trail S.
Earth City, MO 63045
United States
Phone Number: 1-314-418-4393 (United States Country Code 011)

If you have Internet access, completing the form online will help ensure that you provide all the information in the correct format. **This helps speed processing.** Paper forms are scanned and read by machine. If information is missing or hard to read, the form will be

manually reviewed. SEVP will attempt to fill in missing or hard-to-read information. This could cause a short delay in processing your form or could result in the form being returned to you for correction. When using a paper form, please print clearly. Your SEVIS ID number, last name (surname or family name) and date of birth are critical data elements. These are needed to match the information on your Form I-20.

Payment Options

1. You can pay your fee by credit or debit card if you are submitting your form online. If you pay by credit or debit card, you should print out a so that you do not have to wait to receive a receipt through the mail. See the section on the website on credit and debit cards for more information about the cards SEVP will accept.
2. You can also pay by international money order or check drawn on a financial institution in the United States and payable in United States currency. Checks are accepted subject to collection. If the bank on which it is drawn does not honor the check, you will be charged a \$30 fee:
 - If you fill in the Form I-901 online and choose the option to pay by check or money order, you will be able to print a payment coupon. There is a control number on the top of the coupon. Write the control number, your name and your SEVIS ID number on your check or money order and attach the coupon.
 - If you use a paper Form I-901, write your SEVIS ID number and name on your check or money order and attach the form before sending it in.
3. You can pay the fee locally by the Western Union Quick Pay™ service. This will allow Western Union to collect the fee, in local currency, along with the needed Form I-901 and electronically transmit the payment and date to SEVP. The properly completed Western Union receipt serves as immediate proof-of-payment for a visa interview at a U.S. consulate and for admission at a U.S. port of entry. The instructions along with a completed sample of the Western Union form can be found at the [SEVP website](#).

Record of Payment

There are two records of payment:

- Electronic payment confirmation kept in the SEVIS I-901 fee payment system
- A paper receipt

You will get a paper receipt in the mail for all payments. You can also print a paper receipt immediately if you file via the internet and pay with a credit or debit card or if you pay through Western Union.

Why do I need a receipt?:

The federal law relating to SEVIS, (8 USC §1372 (e)(5), requires that a student present proof of payment before being granted a visa or admission.

The SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt, along with the electronic record in SEVIS and the I-901 payment system, serve as proof of payment. In most cases, your payment can be verified electronically. However, SEVP recommends that you retain a copy of your receipt. Having the receipt will make it easier to prove you have paid. There are cases where your current SEVIS ID number may be different from the number you paid on. The receipt is also useful when you go to a visa interview or, if you are visa-exempt, apply for F-1 status at the POE. The receipt is also your assurance that your payment and fee information were properly processed and posted.

What do I need to take to the embassy or consulate to prove I paid my SEVIS I-901 fee?

We highly recommend bringing your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt. While the embassy or consulate should be able to electronically verify your payment, having the receipt with you proves that the payment was processed correctly and speeds the verification process.

If you paid the SEVIS I-901 fee using a Form I-20 from a different school than the one you will attend, bring the Form I-20 you used when paying the fee, in addition to the form for the school you will actually be attending. If there is no fee differential, the SEVIS I-901 fee you paid will be accepted.

When do I need a receipt?

Only those who are required to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee will need a receipt. If you are required to pay the fee, you need to do so **before** your visa interview or filing an application for reinstatement, change of status, etc.

Keep your receipts along with other records pertaining to your nonimmigrant status. It will help to have a copy when:

- Applying for subsequent visas while continuing at the same school
- Applying for any work-related benefits
- Entering the United States
- Filing a petition or application with CIS

How long will it take for me to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and get a receipt?

The length of time it takes to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and get a receipt depends on how long it takes for:

- You to get your Form I-901 information and payment to SEVP
- SEVP to process the payment
- SEVP to deliver the receipt to the address you provided

Transferring a SEVIS I-901 payment from one SEVIS ID # to another:

What are the basic rules for applying a SEVIS I-901 fee payment from one SEVIS ID number to another?

The basic rules for moving a SEVIS I-901 fee payment between SEVIS ID numbers are:

- The SEVIS I-901 fee must be moved between SEVIS ID numbers for the same individual
- An additional SEVIS I-901 fee is not required (For more information, see the website)
- The SEVIS I-901 fee amount for the new school or program must be less than or equal to the SEVIS I-901 fee already paid
- Only the student may request the move

Follow the directions for requesting that SEVP move your fee payment.

What do I do if I paid on one SEVIS ID number and now want to go to a different school?

If you have not received a visa or if you are visa exempt and have not applied for nonimmigrant status at the port of entry (POE), you can apply the SEVIS I-901 fee that you already paid to another Form I-20 if you meet the basic rules for reapplying fees.

How do I ask SEVP to transfer the SEVIS I-901 fee payment information from one SEVIS ID number to another?

I-901 fee transfer requests can be made directly from www.fmjfee.com. To request a fee transfer on the website, check your payment status. Once you've entered the required information, you will be taken to your I-901 records. If there is a valid fee payment on your record, you will see a 'request transfer' button next to the 'print confirmation' button. Select the transfer option and you will be prompted to enter your new SEVIS ID, School or program code, and verify that your personal information is correct. After submitting your request, you will receive an initial email informing you that your transfer request was received, and then you will receive another email either confirming the transfer or a denial explaining why the transfer request could not be processed.

Requests for fee transfers can also be made by e-mailing SEVP or by mail. See ice.gov for the [basic rules for transferring fees](#).

When emailing your request, put '*Fee Transfer*' in the subject line.

Provide:

- Your name
- Date of birth
- The SEVIS ID number that you originally paid on
- The SEVIS ID number you want to transfer the payment to

Explain why the fee needs to be transferred. Including a copy of your receipt number will help speed up your request.

If SEVP approves your request, you will receive an email or letter indicating that you can print your updated I-901 payment confirmation at www.fmjfee.com.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact the International Students and Scholars (ISS) office at intlnyc@pace.edu.