UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

SEVIS FEE INFORMATION
For International Students and Exchange Visitors

What is the SEVIS fee?

This SEVIS fee is a congressionally mandated fee to cover the costs for the continued operation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and to administer and maintain the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). The fee is required of all international students and scholars.

This fee goes into effect September 1, 2004 and will be collected by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Who must pay the SEVIS fee?

Those who wish to enter the United States either as a student or exchange visitor with a Form I-20 or DS-2019 dates on or after September 1, 2004 are required to pay the SEVIS fee. Spouses and dependent children (F-2, J-2) do not pay this fee.

Applicants who require a visa to enter the United States must pay the SEVIS fee before going to the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interview. Applicants who are citizens of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and residents of certain other islands) wishing to apply for F or J status at a Port of Entry into the United States must pay and process the SEVIS fee before appearing at the Port of Entry.

Nonimmigrants currently in the United States who apply for student or exchange visitor status must pay the fee prior to filing their change of status application.

How much is the SEVIS fee and how do I pay it?

The SEVIS fee is US$ 100. This fee is separate from and in addition to the visa application fee. The SEVIS fee must be paid by the Internet or by mail. It cannot be paid at a U.S. embassy or consulate and it cannot be paid at port of entry.

The fee can be paid by one of two means:

1) Electronically through the internet at www.FMJfee.com by using a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit card and completing the online Form I-901.
2) By mail, by submitting Form I-901, Fee remittance for Certain F, J, and M Nonimmigrants, together with a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency. Sources for such checks and money orders include banks chartered or operated in the U.S., foreign subsidiaries of U.S. banks, or foreign banks that have an arrangement with a U.S. bank to issue a check, money order, or foreign draft that is drawn on a U.S. bank.

3) Through Western Union Quick Pay service. Detailed instructions can be found at www.uccis.gov/sevis. a) Go to a local participating Western Union Agent location. To find the nearest Western Union Agent location go to http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent.asp and select a country or call the telephone number of the
Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in your country as listed in your phone book. b) Request and fill out the blue form. You must request a Blue Form at the participating local Western Union Agent location. This form may show words such as “Payment Services” or “Quick Pay” printed in the applicable local language. However, please note that all Quick Pay forms will be blue. c) Once you have obtained the Blue Form from the Western Union Agent location, you must fill out all appropriate information. Below are specific instructions for each field and sample forms for F, M, and J visas at international Western Union Agent locations as well as instructions and sample forms for Western Union Agent locations in the United States. Please bring a copy of these instructions and sample forms to the Western Union Agent location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>INSTRUCTIONS</th>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAY TO</td>
<td>Write the amount of your I-901 SEVIS Fee in words. The fee is &quot;ONE HUNDRED US DOLLARS&quot; if you want us to send you the I-797 receipt via air mail (or &quot;ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY US DOLLARS&quot; if you want us to send you the I-797 receipt via expedited delivery).</td>
<td>&quot;ONE HUNDRED US DOLLARS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMOUNT (IN WORDS)</td>
<td>Write the amount of your I-901 SEVIS Fee in US Dollar amount. This will be either &quot;$100.00&quot; or &quot;$130.00&quot; depending on how you want us to send you the I-797 receipt.</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPANY NAME</td>
<td>Write &quot;U S BANK DHS&quot;.</td>
<td>U S BANK DHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPANY CODE</td>
<td>Write &quot;FMSEVISFEE.MO&quot;.</td>
<td>FMSEVISFEE.MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTRY</td>
<td>Write &quot;USA&quot;.</td>
<td>USA</td>
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**SENDER**

| FIRST NAME             | Write your First (given) Name above "First" (and middle name above "Middle", if applicable) exactly as it appears on your Form I-20. | SAMUEL ANTHONY                      |
| LAST NAME              | Write your Family Name (surname) above "Paternal" exactly as it appears on your Form I-20. | OLMAN                               |
| ADDRESS                | For the address to which you want us to send your I-797 receipt, write the street address (and apartment number or P.O. Box if applicable) above "Street", the city above "City", the country (or province/provincial abbreviation if applicable) above "Province/Country", and the postal or zip code above "Postal Code". | 123 GREEN STREET LISBON PORTUGAL 1234 |
| TELEPHONE NO.          | If you have requested expedited delivery, write the telephone number for the address to which we are sending the I-797 receipt including the country code and area/city code, to facilitate delivery. | (34) 65-4-123-654                   |
| ACCOUNT NUMBER         | Write your SEVIS Identification (ID) number (exactly as it appears above the barcode towards the top right corner on your Form I-20) followed by a hyphen and then your Date of birth (exactly as it appears on your Form I-20 in MM/DD/YYYY format). | N1234567890-12/30/1980              |
| REFERENCE NUMBER       | Write the School code (including the suffix, if any) exactly as it appears on your Form I-20. | LOS214F0009909                      |
| NAME/DEPARTMENT        | Write your gender.                                                           | MALE                                |

A third party such as a friend, family member, or other interested party can pay the fee on your behalf through the same means described above.

**A Note About Processing Times and Payment Verification**

If you pay the SEVIS fee by Internet, your payment is processed immediately and, at the time you make payment, you can print a receipt directly from your computer. This computer-generated receipt can be used to verify you have paid the fee at an embassy, consular post, or port-of-entry. Mailing the SEVIS fee does not constitute payment. The fee is processed when it is received by DHS. If you mail your payment rather than pay on the Internet, it can take a considerable amount of time for payment to be received and for you to receive a receipt by return mail.

Whether you choose to pay the fee by the Internet or by mail, a paper receipt will be mailed to the address you provide on Form I-901. You may choose to have this receipt sent to you either by regular mail or, at an additional charge, by express delivery.
A paper receipt is not required in order for you to be issued a visa or to be admitted at the port of entry. Embassies and consular posts will be able to verify your fee payment without a receipt in most circumstances if you pay the fee far enough in advance of your visa interview. Electronic payments must be submitted at least 3 business days in advance of the interview if you will rely on electronic fee verification at the consulate. Mailed payments must be sent in a manner that assures arrival at the DHS address listed on the I-901 at least 3 business days before the scheduled interview.

If I have already paid the SEVIS fee for one school, and then decide to enroll in another, do I have to pay the fee again?

If you have been accepted to more than one institution and paid the fee using the SEVIS ID number of an institution you will not be attending, you will not have to pay the fee again. Bring the I-20s of both the school for which you paid the fee and the school you will be attending, as well as your SEVIS fee payment receipt, to the consulate or port-of-entry (if you are applying for a visa, you should bring both of the I-20s back to the consulate).

Is the SEVIS fee refundable if I am denied a visa?

Once paid, the SEVIS fee is non-refundable, unless paid by mistake, even if your visa is denied or, subsequent to issuance of the visa, you choose not to come to the United States.

If you applied for an F-1 or F-3 visa and paid the SEVIS fee within the last year but were denied a visa, you do not have to pay the SEVIS fee again as long as you re-apply for the same kind of program with 12 months of the initial denial.

When must continuing students (F-1) pay the SEVIS fee?

Before filing an application for reinstatement when they have been out of status for more than 5 months; or
When applying for a new visa or returning to the United States after an absence of more than 5 months that did not involve authorized overseas study; or

When filing an application for a change of status to an F or J classification except for changes between F-1 and F-3.

When must continuing exchange visitors (J-1 nonimmigrants who have begun, but not finished a program) pay the fee?

Continuing exchange visitors must pay the SEVIS fee before:

Filing a reinstatement application after a substantive violation; or
Filing a reinstatement application after they have been out of status between 121 and 269 days; or
Applying for a change of exchange visitor category unless the new exchange visitor category is fee exempt.
For additional information on the SEVIS fee contact the International Scholar and Student Services office.

Helpful Links:

For visa related issues - [http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html).


Visas for Canada or Mexico - [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tcn.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tcn.html)


For additional information about the SEVIS program - [http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/index.htm)

