

Carnegie Mellon University

Office of International Education

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The SEVIS Fee For F-1 and J-1 Students

F School Code - Pittsburgh campus = PHI214F10187000	F School Code - Silicon Valley campus = PHI214F10187001
F School Code -New York campus = PHI214F10187002	F School Code - ETC-SV campus = PHI214F10187005
J Program number = P-1-00292	

What is the SEVIS fee?

The SEVIS fee is required of all foreign nationals who come to the United States for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study. The fee is paid one time for each continuous, uninterrupted period of F-1 or J-1 status. SEVIS fee payments will be used by the United States Department of Homeland Security to fund the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information system).

Who must pay the SEVIS fee and when?

You will need to pay the SEVIS fee if you have been issued an I-20 or DS-2019 form **AND** one of the following conditions applies:

1. You are seeking an F-1 or J-1 student visa from a United States Embassy or Consulate to begin a new program of study. In this case, the SEVIS fee must be paid BEFORE visa issuance.
2. You hold a valid F-1 or J-1 visa, but have been absent from the US for a period of more than 5 months (not working on your studies during this time with the prior approval of your school or returning from a leave of absence), and will re-enter the US with a new "Initial Attendance" or "Begin a new program" document. In this case, the SEVIS fee must be paid BEFORE re-entry to the US.
3. As a citizen of Canada, or certain adjacent islands, you are exempt from the visa requirement and will apply for admission at a port of entry to begin your studies at a US school. In this case, the SEVIS fee must be paid BEFORE application for entry at the US border.
4. You are a non-immigrant holding another status in the US, and you will apply for a change of status or reinstatement through the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). In this case, you will need to pay the fee before submitting the change of status application to the USCIS.

****F-2 and J-2 visa holders, the spouse and dependents of the F-1 and J-1 students, are not required to pay the SEVIS fee.****

Who is exempt from the fee?

- Most current, continuing F-1 and J-1 students including those transferring from another school in the US (unless the student has failed to maintain F-1 or J-1 status)
- F-2 or J-2 dependents (spouse and/or children) of the F-1 or J-1 student
- J-1 exchange visitors participating in federally-sponsored programs (G-1, G-2, or G-3)

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

The [SEVIS Fee](#) is required for F-1 and J-1 students. You must have a current, valid I-20 for F-1 or DS-2019 for J-1 from the school you plan to attend **before** you can pay the fee. The SEVIS fee is separate from the visa application fee (DS-160 fee) or fees payable to USCIS for an application to request a change of status. The SEVIS fee can be paid [online](#) or by mail. It can be paid by you, or by a third party such as a friend, family member, or other interested party. However, if someone pays the fee for you, they will need information from your I-20 or DS-2019 to complete the fee payment form.

Pay Online

1. Access Form I-901 at www.fmjfee.com
2. Complete the form online and supply the necessary credit card information.
3. Using the I-20 or DS-2019 form, enter your name exactly as it appears on the document (which should match the name as it appears in your passport) and use the SEVIS Number from the upper right hand corner.
4. F School Code = PHI214F10187000 (Pittsburgh) and J Program number = P-1-00292.
5. Print a copy of the online receipt and keep it with other important immigration documents.

Pay By Western Union Quick Pay™

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) provides alternative methods for payment of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. A potential F or M student or J exchange visitor must pay this fee prior to the visa interview.

Potential F or M students or J exchange visitors in more than 130 countries can pay the I-901 SEVIS fee using the Western Union Quick Pay™ service located in the communities. This initiative allows Western Union to collect the I-901 SEVIS fee in local currency. Western Union transmits both the payment and the Form I-901, "Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Nonimmigrants," data to ICE.

There are five steps that you should follow:

1. Do not file the Form I-901 online.
2. Print a copy of the instructions, a copy of the Western Union form example and a copy of either your Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," or Form DS-2019, "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status." Take a copy of each of these three documents with you when you visit your local Western Union Quick Pay location.
3. Go to a local Western Union agent location and pay the I-901 SEVIS fee in the local currency.
4. Review the Western Union form to make sure that the Western Union agent uses your name, your SEVIS ID number and your date of birth (not the information that appears on the Western Union form example). Find the nearest Western Union location or call the telephone number of the Western Union Commercial Services Network Agent in your country as listed in your phone book.
5. After three business days, check on FMJfee.com to view your payment status. Once you see confirmation of payment on FMJfee.com, print out the confirmation page. The confirmation page is proof of payment of the I-901 SEVIS fee, and you can use it for a visa interview at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy and for admission at a U.S. port of entry.

Processing Times and Payment Verification

If you pay the SEVIS fee online, your payment is processed immediately; 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. On the other hand, *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 online, it can take a considerable amount of time for payment to be received and for you to receive a receipt by return mail. OIE recommends online payment, if possible.

A paper receipt is not required in order for you to be issued a visa, be admitted at the port of entry, or apply for a change of status or reinstatement. Embassies and Consular posts, ports of entry and USCIS offices *should* be able to verify your fee payment without a receipt in most circumstances. However, OIE recommends that you carry a copy with you when you travel or submit a copy with any application (visa, change of status, reinstatement). 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 (or at the port of entry, if exempt from the visa requirement). 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***I applied to more than one school, and have more than one I-20 form. What if I paid the SEVIS fee for one school and then I change my mind? Is my paid SEVIS fee transferable?***
 - Yes. There is a formal application procedure. Follow the instructions on the USICE website: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq>
- ***Is the SEVIS fee refundable if I am denied a visa, change of status or reinstatement?***
 - No. Once paid, the SEVIS fee is non-refundable, unless paid by mistake, even if your visa application 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 J-1 visa and paid the SEVIS fee within the past 12 months, but were denied a visa, you do not pay the SEVIS fee again if you re-apply for the same kind of program ***within 12 months of the visa denial.***
- For answers to other "frequently asked questions," consult: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq>