

The SEVIS Fee and Form I-901

What is Form I-901? How much is the SEVIS I-901 fee and how do I pay it?

Form I-901 is a form for SEVIS fee for F-1 students before being admitted into the U.S. The SEVIS I-901 fee is mandated by Congress to support the program office and the automated system that keeps track of students and exchange visitors and ensures that they maintain their status while in the United States. Each student or exchange visitor issued an initial Form I-20 is responsible for paying this fee to SEVP.

The SEVIS fee is **US\$ 200**. 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:

Online payment:

- Go to www.fmjfee.com for the electronic I-901 SEVIS fee application
- Complete the form online and pay with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express). Your name should be written EXACTLY as it is on your I-20.
- Print a copy of the online receipt
- Make extra copies of your receipt and keep the receipts in a safe place with your other immigration documents.

Mail payment:

- Go to www.fmjfee.com complete the form online and choose the option to pay with check or international money order
- Go to www.ice.gov/sevis/i901 for the PDF version of the I-901 SEVIS fee application, print out a copy. Your name should be written EXACTLY as it is on your I-20
- Mail payment coupon or I-901 form with check or international money order in **U.S. dollars**. International money order should be payable to "I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee" and should have the name of the student and the SEVIS identification number on the check. (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.)
- A form I-797 receipt will be airtailed to you. Be sure to make extra copies of your receipt and kept the receipts in a safe place with your immigration documents.

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 to be granted a visa or admission. 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. However, we highly recommend bringing your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt to the embassy or consulate.

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. (Keep your receipt along with all your other records pertaining to your nonimmigrant status.)