

II. Paying The SEVIS Fee (F-1 Students)

WHO PAYS THE I-901 SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) FEE?

- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s who are applying for an “initial” F-1 visa from outside the United States. *Payment due at least 3 business days prior to applying for the student visa.*
- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s who are applying for a change to F-1 status from another visa category. *Payment due prior to submission of change of status petition.*
- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s who are exempt from the visa requirement (for example, Canadian citizens). *Payment due at least 3 days prior to applying for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry.*
- Current F-1 students in the U.S. filing for reinstatement after being out of status more than 5 months and are issued an I-20 issued for reinstatement. *Payment due prior to reinstatement application.*

You must pay the I-901 SEVIS fee at least three business days prior to your visa interview.

HOW IS THE FEE PAID?

Most international students and exchange visitors can pay online by using a credit or debit card; by check or money order drawn on a U.S. account and mailed to the lockbox address given in the instructions; or by Western Union Quick Pay Service™. The fee can be paid by you or a third party (friend or relative), inside or outside the United States. If paid by a third party they will need information from your I-20 to complete the required form. You cannot pay the fee at a university, consulate, or port-of-entry. International students and exchange visitors who are citizens of or were born in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, or Gambia cannot pay the fee online. More information about paying the I-901 SEVIS fee can be found at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901.

HOW MUCH IS THE SEVIS FEE?

The I-901 SEVIS fee for students on an F-1 visa is US \$350 payable to the processing agency. Please note that there may be additional service fees associated with the particular method of payment or personal credit card agreement.

TO PAY ONLINE

- Find the Form I-901 at www.FMJfee.com.
- Complete the form online using information from your I-20 and provide Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit card information. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20.
- Print a copy of the online receipt.
- Be sure to make copies of your receipt and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

TO PAY BY MAIL

- Obtain a Form I-901 “Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Nonimmigrants” which can be downloaded from <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i901.pdf>. Alternatively, you can submit the online form at www.FMJfee.com, choose the option to pay by check or money order, and print a payment coupon.
- Complete the form using information requested and writing your name exactly as it appears on the I-20.
- Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft drawn on U.S. bank*, in the amount of US \$350, made payable to the “I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee.”
**Many foreign banks are able to issue checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank. You may obtain a check from 1) a bank chartered or operated in the United States, 2) a foreign subsidiary of a U.S. bank, or 3) a foreign bank that has an arrangement with a U.S. bank for this kind of transaction. Be sure to write the name of the student and the SEVIS number on the check.*
- Write your name and SEVIS ID number on your check or money order.
- Mail the completed I-901 form (or payment coupon, if form was submitted online) and payment to the address listed on the form instructions. If using courier mail, please note there is a separate address designated for “courier.”
- Form I-797C, receipt for payment of the SEVIS fee, is no longer mailed. You can print a receipt of your SEVIS fee payment at www.FMJfee.com by clicking on the “Check Status” button and entering your SEVIS ID, last name, and date of birth.

TO PAY BY WESTERN UNION

- Nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors in more than 130 countries will be able to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee locally using the Western Union Quick Pay™ service. This initiative allows Western Union to collect the SEVIS I-901 fee, in local currency, along with the Form I-901 data and electronically transmit the payment and data to SEVIS. This option is available in any country where Western Union offers its Quick Pay™ service.

The instructions along with a completed sample of the Western Union form can be found on the SEVIS website at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu-instructions. Students should bring a printed copy of the instructions and the complete sample to the Western Union Agent in order to correctly process their payments.

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IS THE SEVIS FEE REFUNDABLE IF I AM DENIED A VISA?

Once paid, the SEVIS fee is non-refundable even if your visa is denied or, subsequent to issuance of the visa, you choose not to come to the United States. If you are denied the visa, you do not have to pay the SEVIS fee again if you re-apply to a similar program within 12 months of the initial denial.

IS A SEVIS FEE TRANSFERABLE FROM ONE SCHOOL TO ANOTHER SCHOOL'S SEVIS RECORD?

If you have been accepted to more than one institution and paid the fee using the SEVIS number of an institution you no longer wish to attend, you do not have to pay the fee again. Bring the I-20s of both schools as well as your SEVIS fee payment receipt to the consulate at the time you apply for the visa. You may also request an I-901 fee transfer online at www.FMJfee.com by clicking "Click Here to Request an I-901 Fee Transfer."

If you have questions, please contact Alex Pia, director of international student services at Knox College, at apia@knox.edu or by phone at +1-309-341-7538.