

HOW TO PAY THE SEVIS FEE

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires the payment of a \$200.00 fee from F-1 students. This fee is being collected to fund SEVIS – the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System.

WHO HAS TO PAY THE FEE?

- **Canadian Students:** The SEVIS fee must be processed at least **3 business days** prior to entering the U.S. ***You CANNOT pay the SEVIS fee at the U.S. border.***
- **Students applying for the F-1 visa OUTSIDE the U.S.:** The SEVIS fee must be processed by DHS at least **3 business days** prior to the consular interview. **Fees can NOT be paid at the consulate.** To get the F-1 visa from outside the U.S.:
 - Receive the I-20 from your university.
 - Make visa appointment with U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Please do not make your visa appointment until you have confirmed that your UNLV I-20 has been issued and mailed!
 - Submit SEVIS fee payment and print receipt at least 3 days prior to visa interview. **See payment instructions on reverse.**
 - Apply for F-1 visa stamp in passport from U.S. Embassy/Consulate.
- **Changing status to F-1:** People in the U.S. wanting to change status to F-1 (student status) must pay the SEVIS fee to DHS before submitting the application to change visa status.
- **Applying for reinstatement:** An F-1 student, who is applying for reinstatement after being out-of-status for more than 5 months, must pay the SEVIS fee to DHS prior to applying for reinstatement to F-1 status.
- **Absent from the U.S.:** An F-1 student who is planning to return to the U.S. after being OUT OF THE U.S. for MORE THAN 5 months and has not been doing study abroad, must pay the SEVIS fee at least **3 business days** before trying to enter the U.S (if their F-1 Visa stamp is still valid).

Fees can NOT be paid as you enter the U.S.

HOW DO I PAY THE FEE?

There are **three** ways to pay the fee:

- You should go to www.FMJfee.com and read the instructions very carefully. You will need information from your I-20. Your SEVIS number is in the top right corner of your I-20. It is the “N” number right under where it says “student’s copy.” Pay the fee with your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or American Express accepted). **This is the easiest, fastest, and most reliable way to pay the fee.**

Or....

- Go to your local WESTERN UNION. To find your closest Western Union, see: <http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent.asp>. Then,
 - Go to www.ice.gov/sevis and print out instructions.
 - Request and fill out **BLUE FORM** at the Western Union location.
 - Pay the SEVIS fee in your local currency. **DO NOT LOSE THE RECEIPT!**

Or...

- Mail-in form I-901 to DHS address on form, along with the \$100 SEVIS fee paid by check, money order, or foreign draft in U.S. dollars. **We do NOT recommend using the payment by mail method.**

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY RECEIPT?

If you pay by credit card on the internet, **print out the electronic receipt** immediately at the time of payment for use before the mail delivery of the official paper receipt. **Students should bring their receipt for their SEVIS FEE PAYMENT with them when they enter the U.S.** DHS will issue and mail an official paper receipt (I-797) for every payment regardless of payment method. Express delivery service for the I-797 receipt may be requested at an additional cost.

The government will electronically record SEVIS fee payments in the F-1 student’s SEVIS record. However, ISS recommends that your SEVIS fee receipt be used to request any status-related benefit (application for visa, admission at U.S. port-of-entry, application to change status).

CAN I GET A REFUND IF I DON’T GET THE VISA?

NO! DHS will not refund the SEVIS fee if the student is not granted a visa or chooses not to come to the U.S. after the F-1 visa is granted.

If you have questions about the SEVIS fee, please contact the UNLV Office of International Students & Scholars at newinternational@unlv.edu.