

SEVIS Fee Instructions **Changing to F-1 status within the U.S. or** **Applying for F-1 at American Consulate/Embassy Abroad**

What is the \$100 SEVIS fee?

For detailed information, please refer to:

<http://www.ice.gov/pi/news/newsreleases/articles/sevisfactsheet.htm>

SEVIS fee payments are used by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fund the Student and Exchange Visitor Program. This program makes it possible for international students and exchange visitors to attend schools in the United States. The fee also funds the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a computer system employed to track international students and exchange visitors during their stays in the United States.

When is the SEVIS fee paid?

First, you must have your I-20; the application form requires the SEVIS number printed above the bar code on your I-20. The SEVIS fee (Form I-901) is paid separately from and in addition to the other filing fees.

How do I pay it?

The fee must be paid by the Internet or by mail prior to filing for a change of status within the U.S. or before going to the U.S. Consulate or Embassy to obtain an F-1 visa.

Download Form I-901 from www.FMJfee.com (Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20.)

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. 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.