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**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Student and Exchange Visitor Program

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) acts as the bridge for varied government organizations that have an interest in information on foreign students. SEVP uses web-based technology, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), to track and monitor schools and programs, students, exchange visitors and their dependents throughout the duration of approved participation within the U.S. education system.

SEVP collects, maintains and provides the information so that only legitimate foreign students or exchange visitors gain entry to the United States. The result is an easily accessible information system that provides timely information to the Department of State, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Fee Increases

Congress mandated a fee-based system to better keep track of international students and exchange visitors in the United States. To accomplish this task, the Department of Homeland Security established the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) under U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the database that allows SEVP to track international students, exchange visitors and their dependents to ensure that they are in the United States for the purposes they stated. SEVIS currently monitors more than one million records of international students, exchange visitors and their dependents.

Following months of study and consultation with stakeholders in the educational community, SEVP is implementing program changes needed to further improve the important task of welcoming international students and exchange visitors while protecting national security. These changes include fee increases that will dramatically improve the administration of the program. The fee increase is the first of its kind in five years and will affect foreign students, exchange visitors and the schools that host them. The new funding will create a new database that will improve interactive features for school administrators and dramatically reduce user errors. SEVP will begin school recertifications to help verify and further educate school administrators on program requirements. The fee increases will allow the program to hire more regional field liaisons to provide day-to-day advice and assistance to schools in support of their

programs. Additional field agent positions will also be added to investigate threats to the system. Schools currently participating in SEVP will not be required to pay additional fees to recertify under this new fee structure.

Fee changes	Previous Fee:	New Fee:
Nonimmigrant students	\$100	\$200
Most exchange visitors	\$100	\$180
Au Pair, Camp Counselors, Summer Work/Travel Program	\$35	\$35
Government sponsored exchange visitors	\$0	\$0
School Certification	\$230	\$1,700
School site visit	\$350	\$655
Recertification of SEVP certified schools	\$0	\$0
Petitions for change in ownership of certified SEVP schools	\$230	\$1,700
Additional campus site visit	\$350	\$655

ICE

September 24, 2008

New Fee Schedule for Students, Exchange Visitors and Schools

(updated: November 6, 2008)

New fees for students, exchange visitors and schools went into effect on October 27, 2008. The new fees, which will fund the much anticipated program enhancements, are as follows:

- Foreign citizens applying to become F or M students or J exchange visitors pay the following SEVIS I-901 fee amounts:

I-901 F-1/M-1 visa applicants (full payment)	\$200
I-901 J-1 visa applicants (full payment)	\$180
I-901 Special J-visa categories (subsidized payment)	\$35
I-901 Government visitor (no payment)	\$0

- For schools petitioning for initial SEVP certification:
 - Petition fees increased from \$230 to \$1,700.
 - Site visit fees increased from \$350 to \$655 per campus.
- For schools that are already SEVP-certified:
 - Petition fees for change of ownership increased from \$230 to \$1,700.
 - Site visit fees for addition of a campus increased from \$350 to \$655.
 - There is no fee for recertification.

When do prospective students or exchange visitors pay the SEVIS fee?

- Applicants who require a visa to enter the United States must pay the SEVIS fee before going to the U.S. embassy or consulate for their visa interviews.
- Applicants who are citizens of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and residents of certain other islands (see 8 CFR 212.1a) wishing to apply for F-1, F-3, M-1, M-3, or J-1 status at a Port of Entry into the United States must pay the SEVIS fee before appearing at the Port of Entry.
- Nonimmigrants currently in the United States who apply for student or exchange visitor status must pay the fee prior to filing their change of status application.

How is the fee paid?

- Through the Internet at www.FMJfee.com by using a credit or debit card and completing the online Form I-901 (Fee for Remittance for Certain F, M, and J Nonimmigrants); or
- Through the mail by submitting a completed Form I-901 and a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency; or
- By a third party such as a school or sponsor; or
- By selected sponsors of an exchange program by submitting a bulk or group payment.

When must the fee be paid?

The fee must be paid to ensure that the payment can be deposited and recorded in SEVIS prior to the scheduled visa interview. The interviewing consular officer will confirm that the fee has been paid by accessing SEVIS. To allow for adequate processing time the fee must be paid:

- At least three business days prior to the visa interview date for electronic submissions.
- For regular mail submissions, 15 business days should be allowed before the scheduled visa interview. This time frame allows adequate time for the fee payment to be received at the DHS address listed on the Form I-901, deposited, and recorded in SEVIS.
- Add local mail processing times to these processing times for accuracy.

How will the payment be verified?

The payment will be recorded in the SEVIS system. However, it is recommended that the paper I-797 or the Internet-generated receipt be brought to the visa interview.

- DHS will issue an official paper receipt (I-797) for every payment received.
- Individuals who are paying by mail, may request Express delivery service for the I-797 receipt at an additional cost of \$30.
- Individuals who file electronically will be able to print an electronic receipt immediately at the time of payment.

When must continuing students (F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrants who have begun but not finished a program) pay the SEVIS fee?

Continuing students must pay the SEVIS fee before:

- Filing an application for reinstatement when they have been out of status for more than five months; or
- When applying for a new visa and returning to the United States after an absence of more than five months that did not involve authorized overseas study; or
- When filing an application for a change of status to an F, M, or J classification except for changes between F-1 and F-3 or between M-1 and M-3.

When must continuing exchange visitors (J-1 nonimmigrants who have begun, but not finished a program) pay the SEVIS fee?

Continuing exchange visitors must pay the SEVIS fee before:

- Filing a reinstatement application after a substantive violation; or
- Filing a reinstatement application after they have been out of status between 121 and 269 days; or
- Applying for a change of exchange visitor category unless the new exchange visitor category is fee exempt (federally sponsored programs with program codes that start with G-1, G-2, or G-3).

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.