

The purpose of this announcement is to update all De Anza F-1 visa international students on recent developments that may affect travels overseas. Please plan accordingly if you must travel and be prepared for any potential delays in re-entering the United States.

**Visa applications are now subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past. For many applicants, a personal appearance interview is required as a standard part of visa processing. Additionally, applicants affected by these procedures are informed of the need for additional screening at the time they submit their applications and are being advised to expect delays. The time needed for adjudication of individual cases will continue to be difficult to predict. For travelers, the need for an interview will mean additional coordination with the embassy or consulate is needed to schedule an interview appointment. We recommend that individuals build in ample time before their planned travel date when seeking to obtain a visa.**

These delays are having an impact on visa applicants. The State Department is working hard with other government agencies to rationalize clearance procedures in ways that continue to protect US borders, our first priority, while facilitating legitimate travel.

### **Apply for your Visa well in advance of your travel! Important steps to remember:**

1. Review your visa status, and find out if you need a U.S. visa or a renewal.
2. Contact the Embassy Consular Section, to learn about timeframes for visa interviews and other issues, such as how to pay fees. Waiting time for an interview appointment is usually a few weeks or less, but it can be considerably longer.
3. Plan on an interview at the embassy or consulate, necessary by most visa applicants. As part of the visa interview, a quick fingerprint scan should be expected. Applicants who need additional screening are informed during the application process.
4. U.S. embassies/consulates in Mexico and Canada **MAY NOT** accept F-1 visa applications or renewals from non-citizens or residents of these two countries while these special requirements are in effect.
5. If you need to apply for or to renew your F-1 visa, you **must** apply in your country of citizenship or residence. Contact the U.S. embassies/consulates in advance for additional information, such as appointments and interviews. U.S. Department of State's list of Consulate links:  
[http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/questions\\_embassy.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html)

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Documents to carry with you in order to re-enter the U.S. and/or apply for F-1 visa. (some are required, others are recommended in case the visa officer or airport immigration inspector ask for them):

1. A valid passport. (*Required*)
2. An un-expired SEVIS Form I-20, whereby page 3 has been signed (endorsed) by the International Student Programs advisor, within the past 6 months. (*Required*)
3. Current De Anza transcript, (*Recommended*)
4. De Anza student ID card. (*Recommended*)
5. Proof of registration for next quarter with tuition and fees paid in full. (*Recommended*)
6. **Proof of payment of SEVIS Fee (From I-901) \***

\* *Required For F-1 Visa Renewal Applicant or F-1 Reinstatement Only!* (see reverse side for additional instructions) 

# SEVIS Fee

Beginning September 1, 2004, a new United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule goes into effect. This rule requires F-1 visa applicants to pay a one-time fee of \$100 to supplement the administration and maintenance costs of the Student and Exchange Information System (SEVIS).

## Who must pay the SEVIS fee?

- Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s dated on or after 9/1/2004 who are applying for an “initial” F-1 visa from outside the US.
- Students with “Initial Attendance” I-20s dated on or after 9/1/2004 who are applying for a change to F-1 status from another visa category.
- Current F-1 students in the US filing for reinstatement after being out of status more than 5 months, and who are issued an I-20 issued for reinstatement that is dated on or after 9/1/04.

**Prospective students who are exempt from the F-1 visa requirement (residents of a contiguous territory or adjacent island, for example, citizen of Canada or Bermuda), and will be applying for admission at a U.S. port-of-entry to begin initial attendance at a U.S. school. In this case, the SEVIS fee must be paid BEFORE entry to the U.S. A valid receipt is required at the port-of-entry.**

## Payment Options

### 1. To Pay SEVIS Fee by Mail

- (a) Get a Form I-901 “Fee Remittance for Certain F, J, and M Nonimmigrants.”
  - Download the form from <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/>
- OR**
- Ask for the form by phone at 1-800-870-3676 (inside the US)
- (b) Complete the Form I-901. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.
- (c) Prepare a check, international money order or foreign draft (drawn on US banks only <sup>1</sup>) in the amount of \$100 USD, made payable to “The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”
- (d) Mail the completed I-901 and payment to the address listed on Form I-901.
- (e) A receipt will be sent by mail to the address that you indicate with your payment.  
*(Depending on your country’s postal service, the total amount of time between mailing the check, processing of check and receiving the confirmation letter/receipt, the entire process could take a minimum of three weeks or longer.)*

<sup>1</sup> Many foreign banks are able to issue checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank. You may therefore obtain a check from:  
1) a bank chartered or operated in the United States; b) a foreign subsidiary of a U.S. bank, or c) a foreign bank that has an arrangement with a U.S. bank to issue a check, money order, or foreign draft that is drawn on a U.S. bank

### 2. To Pay SEVIS Fee Online

*If you have a personal credit card or have access to one, payment online is the fastest method.*

- (a) Find the online Form I-901 at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
- (b) Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express information.  
**\*Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.**
- (c) Print a copy of the online receipt.
- (d) Be sure to make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.
- (e) A receipt will be sent by mail to the address that you indicate with your payment.