

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS)

What is SEVIS?

SEVIS is an internet-based method used by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for tracking international students and scholars, as well as their dependents, while in the United States.

Federal law requires that Pacific Union College report certain personal, academic and employment related data information on international students and scholars, via SEVIS, on an on-going basis to both DHS and the State Department. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- Student, scholar and dependent names and current US. addresses
- Visa classification (F-1 and F-2)
- Dates visa issued or classification granted
- Recent dates-of-entry and ports-of-entry
- Current enrollment status (full-time, part-time or not enrolled) as well as hours enrolled
- Academic majors
- Beginning and ending dates of studies, research or teaching
- Sources of funding
- Program extensions (should a student or scholar not finish their academic program by the anticipated completion date recorded on the Form I-20 or DS-2019)
- Terminations
- Practical training beginning and ending dates
- School transfers
- Any academic disciplinary action taken against international students due to criminal conviction

Consequences of Non-Compliance

SEVIS requires that all students and scholars be informed of F-1 status rights and responsibilities. A violation of any visa-related regulation (intentionally or unintentionally) must be reported to DHS and the State Department, and may result in the loss of F-1 immigration status. Loss of your visa status could ultimately lead to deportation from the United States. Pacific Union College is required to report violations of status via SEVIS.

SEVIS Fee

What is the SEVIS fee?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) charges a one-time \$100 SEVIS fee for every new F-1 student. This fee is separate from the visa application fee. Detailed information on the fee can be found on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website.

Who must pay the SEVIS fee?

- An incoming student or scholar applying for an F-1 visa, whose Form I-20 is marked for initial attendance.
- An incoming student or scholar applying for a change of status to F-1 from another visa category inside the U.S.
- A current F-1 student in the United States who is filing for reinstatement after being out of status more than five months.

Who is exempt from the SEVIS fee?

- Students and scholars transferring their immigration status to Pacific Union College from another institution.
- Dependents (spouses or children under the age of 21) of F-1 visa holders.
- F-1 students applying for reinstatement who have been out of status for less than five months.

When do I pay the SEVIS fee?

- At least three business days prior to your visa interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- At least three days before entering a U.S. port of entry if you are exempt from the visa requirement.
- Prior to the submission of a change of status application.

How do I pay the SEVIS fee by credit card?

1. Got to www.FMJfee.com.
2. Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express information.
3. Print a copy of the online receipt.
4. Keep one copy of the receipt with other important immigration documents. Take a second copy of the receipt to the consulate of embassy for the interview. When applying for a change of status to F-1 within the United States, make a copy of the receipt to include with the application.

How do I pay the SEVIS fee in my local currency?

This option is available in any country where Western Union offers its Quick Pay service.

1. Access the instructions with a completed Western Union form, on the SEVP website.
2. Find the nearest Western Union location.
3. Bring a printed copy of the instructions and the completed Western Union form to the nearest Western Union office to process payment.

4. Use the completed Western Union receipt as immediate proof-of-payment for a visa interview at a U.S. consulate or embassy and for admission at a U.S. port of entry.

How do I transfer the SEVIS fee?

The SEVIS fee is transferrable. It is attached to the applicant's name, not the SEVIS number. Save the receipt of payment with all important immigration documents. If a student or scholar pays the SEVIS fee using another institution's Form I-20 and then decides to attend Pacific Union College, she/he should save both the receipt and the unused immigration form for which the original SEVIS fee was paid and bring them to the visa interview. To request a refund of the fee or assistance in transferring the fee from one institution to another, contact fmjfee.sevis@DHS.gov.

More information about the SEVIS fee can be found on the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement website or by contacting your IS Advisor.