

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

### SEVIS FEE

#### **What is the SEVIS fee?**

The SEVIS fee is required of all foreign nationals who come to the United States for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study in institutions such as colleges, universities and language training programs. It is payable one time for each single educational program in which an F-1 or F-3 student participates, extending from the time the student is granted F-1 or F-3 status to the time the student falls out of status, changes status or departs the U.S. for an extended period of time.

#### **Why do I have to pay the SEVIS fee?**

SEVIS fee payments are used by the United States Department of Homeland Security 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.

#### **Who should pay the SEVIS fee?**

You will need to pay the SEVIS fee if you were issued an I-20 on or after September 1, 2004. The fee is \$200. **Please note that the SEVIS fee will be increased to \$350.00 as of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** This fee is separate from and in addition to the visa application fee. The SEVIS fee must be paid by the Internet or by mail. It cannot be paid at a U.S. embassy or consulate and it cannot be paid at the port of entry.

#### **How do I pay the SEVIS fee?**

The fee can be paid by one of two means:

1. **Online** —Complete a form I-901 through the Internet and use a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit card at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com). Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 form. Print a copy of the online receipt.
2. **By mail** —Submit form I-901 together with a check or money order drawn On a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency, made payable to “The Department Of Homeland Security”, to the address listed on form I-901. You can download the form from [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com).

Whether you pay by mail or on line, you must bring a copy of the receipt form I-797 with you to the embassy or consulate when you are applying for the student visa

# PREPARING FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

This information is for students who plan to enter the United States for the first time to study. For information on bringing dependents to the U.S., returning to continue studies, or renewing visas, or for more details on how to apply for a student visa, please access the U.S. Department of State website, at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html)

## STEPS

1. After you receive your I-20 form from Palm Beach State College, please follow the instructions from your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
2. Complete the following forms:
  - i. DS-156 Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
  - ii. DS-158 Contact Information Work History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant
  - iii. If you are male between the ages of 16 and 45, DS-157 Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application.
3. Pay the visa application fee by following instructions on your local U.S. embassy or consulate's web site.
4. If your I-20 is marked for "initial" attendance" (see #3 on your I-20 form), you will also need to pay the \$200 SEVIS fee. **Please note that as of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the SEVIS fees will be increased to \$350.00.**
5. Print a copy of your online receipt and keep it with your other important immigration documents. **You must bring the receipt of fee payment with you to the interview.** If you have lost the receipt, the Visa Officer should be able to view your payment history in his/her database
6. Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:
  - (a) A passport valid for at least six months
  - (b) Form I-20 (sign the form under Item 11)
  - (c) School admission letter
  - (d) Completed visa applications (DS-156, DS-158, and, if applicable, DS-157)
  - (e) Two 2"x 2" photographs in the prescribed format (see the travel.state.gov website)
  - (f) A receipt for the visa application fee
  - (g) A receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you paid the fee electronically, the consulate will accept the temporary receipt you printed from your computer. If you do not have a receipt, the consulate may be able to see your payment electronically if your fee payment was processed at least 3 business days before your interview.
  - (h) Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.

- (i) Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community.
- (j) Please remain calm and answer all the Visa Officer's questions to you openly and honestly.

7. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of International Admissions at Palm Beach State College at: **(561) 868-3029** or [international@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:international@palmbeachstate.edu)

**Many foreign banks are able to issue checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank. You may therefore obtain a check from a:**

- a) Bank chartered or operated in the United States;**
- b) Foreign subsidiary of a U.S. bank, or**
- c) 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**