

Press Release



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STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NEW FEE STRUCTURE TO STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today published a final rule establishing a new fee structure for certain schools and international students and exchange visitors within the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). This final rule will adjust the SEVP school certification petition fees and the SEVIS I-901 fees for foreign citizens seeking to become academic or vocational students, or exchange visitors. This increase, which is the first of its kind since the inception of the program, will significantly enhance SEVP operations and establish procedures for the oversight and recertification of participating schools.

“U.S. colleges and universities attract hundreds of thousands of individuals from overseas every year,” said Julie L. Myers Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for ICE. “Validating the identity of foreign students, verifying their intentions for entering our country, and knowing where they are while they are here is critically important to the security of our country. The SEVP fee rule ensures that America remains a welcoming place for foreign students to study, while enhancing our abilities to protect our national security.”

Fee changes made in the SEVP rule will affect both students and schools and include: \$1,700 for a school certification petition; \$655 for each site visit for certification; \$200 for each F or M student; and \$180 fee for certain J exchange visitors. Schools currently participating in SEVP will not be required to pay additional fees to recertify under this new fee structure. The return from the new fees will fund the creation of a new database used to track visiting students, improve interactive features for school administrators, and dramatically reduce on user errors

All fee payments addressed in SEVP final rule must be made in the amounts established by this rule. ICE first announced the new fee structure in April to a group of post-secondary education stakeholders and their respective national associations as well as through publication in the Federal Register inviting public comment on this proposed rulemaking. SEVP does not receive any federal appropriated funds. The program is obligated to increase its fees to comply with regulatory requirements and periodically review its fee structure to ensure its’ costs are fully covered; and to enhance its capability to improve national security and counter immigration fraud. More information can be found at www.ICE.gov.

ICE

Fact Sheet

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.

Fees 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