

SEVIS FEE: HOW TO PAY

WHAT IS THE SEVIS FEE?

J-1 visa applicants are required to pay a one-time fee of US\$180 to cover the costs of the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS). This fee is different from the visa application fee and is paid separately.
NOTE: This fee does NOT apply to anyone already in the U.S. in J-1 scholar status.

WHO CAN PAY THE FEE?

The fee can be paid by the exchange visitor or a third-party such as your inviting department, friend, relative, agent, or school. NOTE: Generally, a visa interview appointment cannot be scheduled until this fee is paid and received by Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

HOW CAN I PAY THE SEVIS FEE?

Scholars must pay the US\$180 to DHS at least 3 business days before applying for a visa. The SEVIS fee can ONLY be paid by one of the following methods:

1) Internet at www.fmjfee.com (RECOMMENDED)

2) **Western Union Quick Pay™ Service** - For a list of agents in your home country, visit <http://www.payment-solutions.com/agent.asp>

3) **Mail**- Instructions available at www.fmjfee.com

NOTE: Mailing the SEVIS fee does NOT constitute payment. The fee is processed when it is received by DHS. If payment is mailed, it can take 4-6 weeks to receive a receipt. Therefore, we highly recommend payment be made via the Internet to expedite the process.

RECEIPT NOTICE

Keep the payment receipt notice safe. The receipt is required to verify payment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate when applying for the visa stamp as well as the port of entry when entering the U.S. The electronic print out or official mailed receipt notice is acceptable.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit the SEVIS Fee web site at www.fmjfee.com or contact the Visa & International Services Administration (VISA).

HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

REQUIREMENTS

All J-1 visitors and their J-2 family members are required by U.S. federal law to have the following minimum health insurance coverage throughout their stay (as indicated under 1(f) on back of the DS-2019 form):

- Medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per accident or illness
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500
- Medical Evacuation expenses in the amount of \$10,000
- Deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness

BEFORE ARRIVING TO CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

- Verify with your sponsoring department who will be responsible for payment of the insurance premiums.
- We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance for up to 2 months after your arrival in the U.S. since you might not get medical coverage immediately.
- The average cost for one person ranges from approx. \$75-\$150 per month. Additional cost for family coverage ranges from approx. \$500-\$1,500 per month.

CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES:

You should be eligible for the Medical Center's health insurance plans. Please refer to your offer letter from your Research Recruiter for clarification on coverage. In general, the cost ranges from \$75- \$150 a month for a single person. For a family, the additional cost ranges from \$500-\$1,500 per month.

CHOOSING OWN INSURANCE POLICY

If you choose your own insurance policy or bring coverage from your home country, the insurance corporation underwriting the policy must have one of the following ratings:

- An A.M. Best Rating of "A-" or above
- An Insurance Solvency International Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-i" or above
- A Standard & Poor's Claimspaying Ability rating of "A-" or above
- A Weiss Research Inc. rating of B+ or above

Alternative Providers (not endorsed or affiliated with Cedars-Sinai):

- Compass Benefits Group
Ph: 800-683-1467
Website: www.compassbenefit.com
- International Medical Group, Inc.
Ph: 800-628-4664
Website: www.imglobal.com
- International Student Organization
Ph: 800-244-1180
Website: www.isoa.org
- Scholastic Insurance Services
Ph: 800-537-1777
Website: www.renstudent.com