



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

June 29, 2004

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS & PROGRAM SPONSORS

FROM: Jill Drury
Director
Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

SUBJECT: Final Rule Authorizing The Collection Of The Fee Levied On F, J,
And M Nonimmigrant Classifications Under Public Law No. 104-208

Purpose

To summarize the current status of the final rule authorizing the collection of the fee levied on F, J, and M nonimmigrant classifications under Public Law No. 104-208; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Background

Section 641 of Public Law 104-208 IIRIRA, published September 30, 1996 mandated the establishment of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program and that it be fee funded.

Discussion

This memorandum is to inform you of the current status of the final rule authorizing the collection of the fee levied on F, J, and M nonimmigrant classifications under Public Law No. 104-208; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have approved the final rule and we anticipate that it will be published on or about July 1, 2004. Upon implementation on September 1, 2004 students and exchange visitors, unless exempted, will be required to pay the appropriate fee prior to obtaining their visa. Specifically, all individuals receiving SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 with an issuance date of September 1, 2004 or later will be required to pay the SEVIS fee.

This rule amends the DHS regulations to provide for the collection of a fee to be paid by certain aliens who are seeking status as F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3 nonimmigrant students or as J-1 nonimmigrant exchange visitors. As the following chart depicts, the rule levies a fee of \$100,

although applicants for certain J-1 exchange visitor programs will pay a reduced fee of \$35, and certain other aliens will be exempt from the fee altogether.

SEVIS Fee Chart

For spouses and dependent children (F-2, M-2, or J-2) of students or exchange visitors	None
For students (F-1, F-3, M-1, or M-3)	\$100
For exchange visitors (J-1) <i>unless</i> participating in:	\$100
Federally sponsored exchange visitor program (program codes starts with G-1, G-2, or G-3)	None
Summer work/travel program	\$35
Au pair program	\$35
Camp counselor program	\$35

The purpose of this fee is to cover the costs for the continued operation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) including the administration and maintenance of SEVIS, compliance activities, and the establishment of SEVIS Liaison Officers.

The current SEVIS fee regulation includes several fee payment options. Students and exchange visitors will have the option to pay with a check by mail or with a credit card via the Internet. In addition, exchange visitor sponsors can pay for an entire group of individuals through a batch payment process. DHS also will accept fee payment from a third party, either in the United States or abroad. The SEVP continues to explore additional means of payment (i.e., Department of State pilot program, Western Union Quick Pay), and notification will be given as these additional payment methods are implemented.

The SEVP will continue to issue updates in an effort to keep all stakeholders informed regarding the new SEVIS fee. In the future, SEVP will also establish a web address specifically for SEVIS fee information. For current SEVIS information, please see the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement SEVP web site, www.ice.gov/graphics/enforce/imm/sevis/index.htm.