



## PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

### VISA INFORMATION

Seminarians who are international students are sponsored by a U.S. diocese. These students must acquire a Form I-20. The Registrar is the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) as administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Information about U.S. consulate policies, procedures, and requirements can be obtained from the U.S. Department of State:

- [Visas Information](#)

Applicants for student visas usually apply at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country of his or her permanent residence. Please [click here](#) for the list of websites for U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Although visa applicants may apply at any U.S. consular office, it may be more difficult to qualify for the visa outside the country of permanent residence.

#### Required documents/evidence

- I-20
- Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses
- Evidence of English ability sufficient for course of study
- Evidence of intent to depart the U.S. after completion of studies
- Passport valid for at least 6 months
- Photograph (check with embassy for specific dimensions)
- SEVIS Fee payment proof - [Current SEVIS Fee Information](#)

#### Additional Information

- [10 tips to remember when applying for a nonimmigrant visa](#)
- Canadian citizens do not need to obtain a visa before entering the U.S. A Canadian citizen simply shows his or her I-20 at the U.S. border, along with proof of Canadian citizenship. Upon entrance into the U.S., a Canadian student should make sure to have his or her I-20 properly processed and to receive an I-94 card. Without the I-94 card, students may not be able to fully check-in.
- Plan to enter the U.S. on the F-1. Changing from B-2 (visitor) to F-1 status in the U.S. can take several months. You may not work or be paid while waiting for the change in status. Sometimes this change of status request is denied. Those entering the U.S. on a visa waiver program cannot change status in the U.S.

## **SEVIS Fee**

The SEVIS fee, implemented by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is a fee intended to defray costs associated with the administration of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). This rule took effect on September 1, 2004.

### **Who Must Pay the SEVIS Fee?**

1. Students seeking an F-1 visa from a U.S. consulate abroad for "initial" attendance at a U.S. school
2. Persons applying for a change of status to F-1
3. Canadians exempt from the visa requirement who are seeking entry at a U.S. port of entry for "initial" attendance at a U.S. school or Exchange Visitor Program
4. F-1 students applying for reinstatement
5. F-1 students who have been absent from the U.S. for more than five months and wish to reenter the U.S. to further study in the same course of study

### **How Do I Pay the SEVIS Fee if Required to do so?**

Those required to pay the fee must do one of the following:

1. File Form I-901 (available at [FMJfee.com](http://FMJfee.com)), with DHS by mail along with a check, money order, or foreign draft drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency
2. Electronic submission of Form I-901 to DHS using credit card or other electronic means of payment accepted by DHS (please visit: [FMJfee.com](http://FMJfee.com) for more information)
3. Western Union Quick Pay. [Click here](#) for instructions.
4. Any future DHS-approved payment services

Please note that affected persons must have a DHS fee receipt before applying for a visa or change of status. Third parties may pay the fee on behalf of the student or scholar.

Additional information on SEVIS I-901 Fee - [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### **Who Does Not Pay the SEVIS Fee?**

1. Persons with I-20s issued prior to September 1, 2004
2. F-1 students who are seeking an extension, transfer, change in educational level, or post-completion practical training (Optional Practical Training)
3. F-1 students who have previously paid the fee and are applying for a visa to return to the U.S. as continuing students in the same course of study
4. F-1 students who have paid the fee but have been denied a visa who are reapplying for the same visa within 12 months
5. Persons who have paid the SEVIS fee but have been denied a change of status to F-1 and who are reapplying for the same status within 12 months after being granted a motion to reopen by immigration
6. F-1 students who have been absent from the U.S. for more than five months due to participation in a school-approved study abroad program