

Paying your I-901 SEVIS Fee

Regulation requires all prospective J visiting scholars to pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee before the Department of State issues you a visa. The amount is \$180 USD. To pay the I-901 SEVIS fee, go to FMJfee.com. Please read the instructions before you pay. **Don't forget to print your receipt!**

Note: The visa Fee is a separate fee from the I-901 fee.

Applying for a Visa to Travel to the United States

Follow the instructions at the website of the embassy or consulate where you will apply for a visa. After you receive your visa, check to see that you received the right type of visa and that your name and date of birth are correct and match the information in your passport. If anything is incorrect, you will have to ask the embassy or consulate to correct your visa before you travel.

INA 212(e) Home Residence Requirement

Exchange visitors who are subject to the two-year home country residence requirement must “reside and be physically present” in their “home” country for an aggregate of two years before being eligible for certain immigration benefits. You are not eligible for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident (immigrant/green card) status. You are not eligible for an H-visa (temporary workers and dependents), or an L-visa (intracompany transferees and dependents). You are not eligible for a change of non immigrant status within the United States from J to any other non immigrant category.

Preparing for your trip to the United States

Before you leave for the United States, make sure you have all the required documentation:

- Passport
- Visa
- Form DS-2019
- I-901 receipt

It is always a good idea to carry your original documents with you at all times. Do not put them in your checked baggage. It is also a good idea to make at least two sets of copies of these documents: one digital copy and one copy to give to your school officials.

Arrival Information

Upon entering the United States, you will receive an automated Form I-94 record that will automatically be generated for you by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. CBP will provide you with an admission stamp on your passport that is annotated with date of entry, class of admission and admitted-until date. The electronic arrival/departure record can be obtained at www.cbp.gov/I94, should you need proof of entry.

Reporting to your School

You have 30 days to enter the country **before** your official program start date, which you can find on your DS-2019. It is best to contact your school immediately after entering the country so that there is no question of your arrival. If you cannot enter the United States for the term listed on your DS-2019 or if you will be late by a few days, immediately contact your designated school officials so that they can accurately enter this information in your SEVIS record.