

International Programs and Exchanges

Bellingham, Washington 98225-9046
Phone (360) 650-3298 Fax (360) 650-6572
ipe@wwu.edu**Re: WWU SEVIS Administration Fee**

To all matriculated international students and exchange students at WWU:

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security established the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) in order to manage international and exchange visitor data. The SEVIS system is used for tracking of information on all nonimmigrant students (F1 status), exchange visitors and scholars (J1 status), and their dependents (F2 and J2 status).

As of August 1, 2003, all continuing students and exchange visitors were input into the SEVIS database and all new I-20 and DS-2019 forms are now created through SEVIS. SEVIS reporting has changed from requiring twice a year reporting on students and exchange visitors to regular monitoring of changes in status and other information related to students' and exchange visitors' I-20 and DS-2019 forms.

In order to comply with these mandatory regulations and the demand of regular reporting, International Programs and Exchanges must input information for approximately 150 international visitors each quarter with constant updating throughout the quarter and the year. Any school that does not comply with these regulations will not be allowed to admit or retain international students.

Because SEVIS is an "unfunded mandate" the cost of implementation must be borne by the university. In order to meet the cost of additional personnel and work hours, colleges and universities have found different solutions. Like many other schools, International Programs & Exchanges at Western does not receive extra funding for SEVIS administration. Therefore, we must charge students a yearly fee.

Western's Board of Trustees approved a new WWU SEVIS Administration Fee to meet the ongoing costs in personnel and operations for international student services. This will be a yearly \$100 fee. The fee will be automatically charged to students' accounts, like other WWU mandatory fees, and will need to be paid by the quarterly deadline for tuition and fee payments. Note: This fee is entirely separate from the Department of Homeland Security SEVIS Fee that is paid prior to obtaining a visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy abroad or entering at a port of entry as a Canadian student.

We understand that this new fee may be inconvenient and unexpected to students. For this reason we would like to make sure that everyone is well informed and has their questions answered. If you have any questions about this, please contact Richard Bruce, Richard.Bruce@wwu.edu.

Sincerely,

Liz Partolan-Fray, Director
Richard Bruce, International Programs Advisor
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