



Hello from Southwest Minnesota State University!

Congratulations on being accepted to Southwest Minnesota State University. We are writing to inform you that students applying for an F1 Student Visa are required by our US Government to pay a \$200 fee to cover the costs of administering and maintaining the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). This fee will apply to any potential academic students who are issued an initial Form I-20. This \$200 fee may be paid in one of the following ways:

- (1) The fee may be paid by mail, by submitting Form I-901, together with a check or money order to our US Government that has been drawn on a U.S. bank and has been made payable in U.S. currency. (An application fee submitted from outside the United States may be made by an international money order or foreign draft drawn on a financial institution in the United States, and payable in U.S. Currency.) In other words, many foreign banks are able to issue checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank. Instructions on how you the SEVIS Fee can be found at this website: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/> . **Do not send the form and fee to SMSU, but rather the address provided on the downloadable form.**
- (2) The fee may be paid electronically, by completing the Form I-901 through the internet and using a credit card. The electronic form can be accessed by clicking on the following website: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp> .

The Department of Homeland Security acknowledges that some people may experience difficulty making these payments. To reduce problems, the Department of Homeland Security will accept fee payment from a third party, either in the United States or abroad, using the previously mentioned methods.

This fee payment does not need to be completed prior **to scheduling** an interview with the consulate, (or any other activities undertaken **prior** to the in-person application process at the embassy). However, the fee payment must be processed at least **3 days** before you go for your visa interview. If the payment has not been processed more than 3 days prior to your visa interview, you will not be issued an F1 Visa. (Those submitting their payment via the internet will be able to print out a receipt and will be able to use that printed receipt for immediate verification of payment. Those submitting their fee by mail will be mailed a paper receipt to the address provided on the Form I-901)

Finally, previously admitted students who have paid the fee but were denied a visa DO NOT have to pay another fee for the same visa classification for a period of **12 months**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Robertson".

**Donald Robertson, Ph.D., Director  
International Student Services**