OVERVIEW OF VISA & CHECK-IN PROCESS

Congratulations on your admission to Cornell Tech! For more details on the new student visa and check-in process, please visit isso.cornell.edu/students/new-students-visas.

Overview

Step 1. Provide proof of financial support.
- As soon as you’re admitted, you should begin gathering documentation of your financial support. You will need to show proof of funding for one academic year: tuition, health insurance, student activity fee, and cost of living.
- The admissions office will send you specific details on the amounts needed and how to provide your documentation.
- If you are transferring from another school in the United States, you still need to provide proof of financial support. Please be sure to share this information with the admissions office as well.

Step 2. The admissions office reviews your financial documentation and issues an initial I-20.
- You will need your I-20 to apply for your student visa at a US Consulate.

Step 3. Pay the SEVIS fee.
- https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html
- See the FAQ below for more information about the SEVIS fee and who must pay it.

Step 4. Make an appointment at a US consulate to obtain a US entry visa.
- Please be sure to have the following documents for your appointment:
  - Valid passport
  - Valid I-20
  - Admission letter
  - SEVIS fee receipt
  - Financial documentation
  - Documentation in support of your non-immigrant intent
- See more details here: http://isso.cornell.edu/students/travel/apply-f1j1-visa.

Step 5. One you arrive at Cornell Tech, complete the ISSO check-in procedure.
- Students should check-in online: http://isso.cornell.edu/students/new-student-visas/issos-check
- Documents needed for check-in:
  - I-20
  - I-94 (your I-94 can be obtained here: https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions)
SEVIS FEE FAQ

SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is a central computerized system that maintains and manages data about foreign students (F-1, J-1 and M-1), exchange visitors (J-1), and their dependents (F-2, J-2 and M-2) during their stay in the United States. The fee is $200 to for all new F-1 and M-1 applicants. This information is for F-1 students.

1. Who pays the SEVIS fee?
   • Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s who are applying for an “initial” F-1 visa from outside the US. (Since Canadians are not required to get a visa stamp, they will be required to pay the fee before going to the port of entry.)

   • Prospective students with “initial attendance” I-20s who are applying for a change to F-1 status (or M-1) from another visa category.

   • Current F-1 students in the US filing for reinstatement after being out of status more than 5 months.

2. Who does NOT have to pay the fee?
   • Continuing F-1 students do not have to pay the fee unless circumstances change so that he or she fits one of the categories mentioned above.

3. What about my F-2 dependents?
   • F-2 dependents do not have to pay the fee.

4. Do I have to pay if I transfer to another school, travel outside the US or renew my visa?
   • The SEVIS fee is not required when transferring schools, changing to another degree program or level, requesting a program extension, renewing an F-1 visa or using F-1 program benefits such as practical training. If you are in status when you travel internationally and are not physically outside of the U.S. for more than five months, you will not be required to pay the fee.

5. I applied to more than one school, and have more than one I-20 form. What happens if I pay the SEVIS fee for one school, and then I change my mind and decide that I want to attend the other school? Is my paid SEVIS fee transferable?
   • Yes, but it is difficult and can cause delays. You can find the directions here: https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.

6. When do I pay the SEVIS fee?
   • The fee must be paid at least 3 business days prior to applying for your visa

   • or 3 business days prior to applying for admission at a US port-of-entry for those exempt from the visa requirement (Canadians)
• The fee must be paid prior to submission of a change of status petition or reinstatement application (for those who have been out of status for more than 5 months)

7. What if my F-1 visa application is denied?
• The SEVIS fee will not be refunded. However, if you reapply for a new F-1 visa within 12 months of the denial, you will not have to pay the fee again.

HELPFUL LINKS

SEVIS fee factsheet

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm

SEVIS fee Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.htm