

SEVIS Reimbursement

Background

There are two different fees called “SEVIS” that pertain to international students:

1. A \$50 fee charged by Wayne State each semester of registration to international students. Not all universities charge a fee like this.
2. A charged by the federal government the first time an international student comes to study in the US. This is also called “I-901.” The amount was \$200 before June 24, 2019, and is now \$350.

GEOC has negotiated an agreement for the University to reimburse these fees. GEOC can help you navigate the application process and check on the status of your application, but the University will decide on your application and will pay you if you are eligible.

Requirements

All international GTAs and GSAs (and also GRAs, although they are not covered by the GEOC contract) can have the \$50 University SEVIS fee reimbursed each term. The only requirements are:

- Have paid the fee before the deadline
- Be a GTA, GSA, or GRA
- Submit a request by November 1 (Fall), March 1 (Winter), or July 1 (Spring/Summer)

GTAs and GSAs can also have the \$200-\$350 Federal SEVIS fee reimbursed. Because GEOC has gradually negotiated for the requirements to be made less strict, different rules apply depending on when you started your graduate program. If you started your graduate program *before* Fall 2018, you were eligible only in your second year, and only if you were a GTA or GSA in both your first and second year. If you started your program *in or after* Fall 2018, to apply you must:

- Be in at least your second year as a GTA or GSA
- Have remained in good standing as a student for the first year of your graduate program

In any case, you must also:

- Be in good standing at the time that you apply
- Have paid the fee for study at Wayne State (*not* at a previous US college or university)
- Submit a request, with receipt, by the November 1 deadline

(more on back)

How to Apply

The forms are at <https://gradschool.wayne.edu/funding/assistantship-sevis>

The \$50 University fee reimbursement is submitted online. The Federal fee reimbursement can be brought to the Graduate School office on the 6th floor of the Maccabees Building, or it can be given to GEOC by October 31 and we will submit it for you.

How to Check your Application Status

The \$50 University SEVIS fee reimbursement is usually processed by the end of November (Fall), March (Winter), or July (Spring/Summer). Look in your student account for a \$50 credit with the code "Q140." You may not receive the \$50 for a long time after that, because it will not be paid to you until you have a positive balance on your account. That means you will have to wait until your tuition is paid, you have paid your rent if you live in University housing, etc. After that, payments are made on Wednesday evenings or Thursdays.

If your application for the \$50 University SEVIS fee reimbursement is not approved, you won't be notified. If you don't see the "Q140" code in your account, contact GEOC and we can help you find out what happened.

The Federal SEVIS fee reimbursement is usually processed by the end of the Fall semester. If your application is denied, you should receive a letter telling you why.