INTRODUCTION

This message contains important information about new visa services that will become available on February 1, 2012 through the International Center’s Faculty and Staff Immigration Services (FSIS) area. These services when performed by FSIS staff will reduce the fees academic units now pay to retained immigration counsel for certain employment based visa applications.

Also in this message is information about a change in the fee charged by FSIS for processing the initial Form I-129 for certain non-immigrant visa categories, most significantly the H-1B visa. After five years of no fee increases due to a commitment to cost containment, FSIS must now increase one fee as a result of new regulatory and compliance requirements. The fee increase will be effective on February 1, 2012.

OVERVIEW

FSIS provides U-M departments with both non-immigrant and immigrant visa petition services for faculty and staff members. Currently, these services include filing Form I-129 and supporting documentation for the non-immigrant H-1B visa and occasionally for the E-3 and P visas, as well as petitions for the EB-2 “Special Handling” immigrant visa (Permanent Residency).

Effective February 1, 2012, FSIS will begin to provide additional services that include filing Form I-129 and supporting documents for the non-immigrant O-1 visa, and petitions for the EB-1 immigrant visa(Permanent Residency). When these petitions are able to be processed in-house, the FSIS fee will be lower than fees charged by retained counsel (see chart on next page).

The IC decided to expand its services to include O-1 and EB-1 petitions because there are periods of time during the year that FSIS staff members are able to absorb this work. Additionally, it will benefit departments financially to have some of this work done in-house. Based on staffing and work load, Tracy Schauff will determine which of these applications will be processed by FSIS.

The first FSIS fee increase since 2007 will only have an impact on processing and submitting the initial Form I-129 for non-immigrant visa categories such as H-1B, E-3 and P (see chart on next page). The new fee is necessary because of recent changes in both Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labor regulations that increased the time required for staff to process these petitions, and to ensure university compliance with all regulations after petitions have been approved.

FEE SUMMARY

Please note that the fee increase will go into effect on February 1, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa Type</th>
<th>Old Fee</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Retained Counsel</strong></td>
<td><strong>IC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-129 Application¹ – New Petition</td>
<td>$1125.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-129 Application - Extension</td>
<td>$1125.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Counsel Case Management</td>
<td>$525.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Resident - Special Handling</td>
<td>$1825.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Application</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3500²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB1 Application</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3500³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The I-129 Application includes the following visa types: H-1B, E-3, P, Q and R.

This fee does not include the required fee of $525 to FSIS for Retained Counsel Case Management. Therefore, the fee for the O-1 application currently is $4025 plus filing fees.

This fee does not include the required fee of $525 to FSIS for Retained Counsel Case Management. Therefore, the fee for the EB-1 application currently is $4025 plus filing fees.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

We request your support in ensuring that the appropriate personnel in your unit(s) receive and review this memo; make note of the fee increase and its effective date; and contact FSIS if there are any questions related to this matter.

Additionally, we request that you convey the following to your unit(s).

1. FSIS staff members are responsible for ensuring that the University complies with all U.S. immigration and labor regulations related to the employment of foreign nationals.
2. FSIS staff members are authorized to determine the appropriate employment visa category for U-M positions.
3. The appropriate employment visa category decision will be based on the purpose, scope, and duration of a particular position.

CONCLUSION

Over the past several years FSIS has instituted a number of improvements that have enhanced services for international faculty and staff, reduced the workload for departmental staff, and improved University compliance with federal regulations. In particular, these improvements have included:

1. Establishing policies and procedures that assist departments in maintaining compliance;
2. Customizing processes and procedures to fit individual department needs;
3. Expanding services and programs for departmental faculty and staff;
4. Providing on-site visits to departments for consultation purposes; and
5. Enhancing communication with, and oversight of, retained counsel.

Please let us know if there are additional ways that FSIS staff members may be able to assist and support you in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about FSIS services or the fee increase, please contact Tracy Schauf, Assistant Director, Faculty and Staff Immigration Services, International Center, at 734.647.7277 or tschauff@umich.edu.