

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Updated 04/23/2024

TRAVEL GUIDELINES & REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Policy BFB-G-28: <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3420365/BFB-G-28>

UCLA Travel Guidelines: <https://ucla.app.box.com/v/travel-ent-exp-guidelines>

UCLA Travel Resources: <https://www.travel.ucla.edu/resources>

UCLA Travel Policy: <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3420365>

Reimbursements to be issued for research/work related travel only which includes transportation to and from research/work function(s), meals, and registration fees. Traveler is responsible for all other personal/extracurricular activities during travel period.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SUBMISSION

Travel Reimbursements should be submitted within **45 days** after the end of the trip of when the travel occurred. Please note that there will be no more exception request for travel reimbursements that are submitted after the fiscal year end closing deadline (usually 3rd week in June) unless you traveled the last week of June and will not be back until July if the next fiscal year.

All travel reimbursement requests should be submitted within 45 days of the travel or event. If submissions are made after 45 days, the amount of the travel or event expenses may be imputed as income to the employee on the employee's W-2 unless there is a reasonable justification for the late submission. In all cases, if the submission is made more than 6 months after the end of the trip or event, income will be imputed on the employee's W-2. Please include a justification for delay in submitting your travel reimbursement on the form if request is more than 45 days.

Please note: Reimbursements submitted 1 year later, will not receive a reimbursement, no exceptions. Reimbursements need to be submitted in timely matter.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

Do NOT pay for anyone's travel expenses other than your own (applies especially towards meal expenses). University travelers shall not be reimbursed for expenses paid on behalf of other persons, except in the case of co-travelers who are sharing a room. Exceptions to this rule, such as supervised group trips, must be approved in advance. (See Section VIII.D, Payment of Group Subsistence Expenses, for more information.). If you want to pay for group registration, you can work with the department staff to request prior approval and issue a PO for payment.

TRAVEL OVER 30 DAYS

Please seek advance approval for all trips longer than 30 days. Please email ceehelp@seas.ucla.edu so we can request the approval with Travel Accounting.

AIRFARE

General Information for Air-Car-Hotel: <https://www.travel.ucla.edu/air-car-hotel>

Airfare can be purchased through the UCLA Travel Center which can be paid directly using university funds to avoid out of pocket expenses for the traveler. Travelers can choose to purchase their own airfare and get reimbursed after the trip. Please note that airline upgrades such as paying for **premium economy or**

economy plus seats are not reimbursable. Please try to purchase the lowest airfare when given the choice of two identical flights.

If vacation days comprise over 50% of international trips longer than one week in duration, UCLA will prorate airfare and other general expenses between vacation and work days. In order for UCLA to pay for even a prorated portion of the airfare, the primary purpose of the trip must be UCLA business, not personal.

Please save receipt and confirmation emails from Flight and include with Reimbursement Form.

Airfare Pre-Booking:

- Please fill out Travel Request form for Pre-Bookings:
 - <https://forms.gle/Dw5n6YV84xhFE4CD9>
 - Must fill out form completely and provide PI approval.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERNET PACKAGE DEALS

Many internet booking agencies, such as Expedia and Orbitz, offer discounts on package deals that include a combination of travel expenses purchased together (such as airfare and lodging). While they often provide a cost savings, these packages rarely include the documentation requirements necessary for University reimbursement. Travel Packages Purchased from Internet Vendors. Travel "packages" offered by Internet vendors typically do not include itemized expenses. Therefore, no business-related travel should be booked through such vendors unless the traveler has confirmed that each aspect of the package will be separately itemized (e.g., itemized hotel charges, airfare, car rental, etc.) to assure appropriate documentation for reimbursement.

If a breakdown of all expenses and applicable taxes (such as airfare, airfare tax, room rate per night and room tax per night) cannot be provided by the vendor, UCLA cannot reimburse this expense. The IRS requires that receipts provide a certain amount of detail, and if that detail is not provided by the vendor, IRS requirements have not been met. Please refer to section I.2.b. of the G-28 bulletin for this policy.
<http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3420365/BFB-G-28#page=42&zoom=auto,69,264>

OPTIONS FOR PAYING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Travelers must often pay registration fees for conferences, conventions, meetings of professional or learned societies or community organizations. Receipts and a completed copy of the meeting registration form provided by the conference sponsor are required for all registration fee payments, regardless of the amount. Acceptable registration receipts must clearly document the form of payment used for the expense.

Please be aware of the following considerations when submitting the form for reimbursement:

- A copy of the registration form is required for any direct payment or reimbursement.
- Any expenses appearing on the registration form that are not business related must be deducted from the total payment.
- Meals included in the registration fee must be deducted from the daily per diem claim (for foreign trips) and meals should not be claimed on domestic trips if included in the registration fee.
- Training, development, membership and subscription fees are not considered travel expenses and should be submitted through Accounts Payable, unless it is absolutely necessary that they be purchased in conjunction with the registration fee, such as cases in which they provide a cost savings to the University.

There are three payment options for registration fees:

Have UCLA pay your registration fee directly to the vendor.	Mail a copy of the registration form with a BruinBuy order number to the UCLA Travel Accounting office at the address listed below. The BruinBuy order must show the conference as the payee and the conference sponsor's mailing address. Make sure the BruinBuy order number, registrant's name and the registration due date are clearly indicated on the registration form. A check will be sent directly to the conference sponsor.
Pay with your UC Travel & Entertainment Card.	Registration fees charged to the Travel & Entertainment card can be reimbursed in advance of the conference if the claim is submitted through Express. The payment will be sent and directly credited to your T & E account.
Pay with your own funds (such as a personal credit card or personal check).	Submit a reimbursement claim after the trip has been completed. Registration expenses paid with personal funds cannot be reimbursed in advance of the conference.

CAR RENTALS

Should your travel require a car rental and refueling costs, you must receive prior approval from your PI. Please retain approval in writing for the department. Please note that UC will not reimburse you for rental car insurance fees, upgrades, and navigation features. Please decline car rental insurance fees. Please send email to ceehelp@seas.ucla.edu along with Full information of Trip Dates, Time, Location of Pick-up and Drop-off location for pre-trip bookings. We are able to check UCLA Concur website for car rental availability. For a list of car rental contract rates, please go to: <https://www.travel.ucla.edu/air-car-hotel/ground-travel/car-rental-contract-rates>

HOTEL LODGING REIMBURSEMENTS

Room rates for domestic hotels (within the Continental United States) should not exceed \$275 per night, before taxes and other fees. If the traveler is unable to secure lodging at \$275 per night or less, the traveler must submit additional documentation such as price comparisons within the proximity of the meeting location that supports the higher lodging rate. The price comparisons should be performed at the time of booking. Please take make sure to take screenshots with price comparisons, to use for reimbursement form.

- 1) A traveler who is required for attend a conference where the prearranged conference lodging rate exceeds the **\$275** per night cap may stay at the conference hotel without exceptional approval.
- 2) If per night rate exceeds \$275, you can only get reimbursed if one of the following apply:
 - a. You are staying at the hotel where the conference is being held. (Must include proof)
 - b. You are staying at the hotel with the lowest rate, compared to surrounding hotels. This will then require higher up Pre-approval from Scott Monatlik in the Finance Department. **Please note: Must receive Pre-Approval before trip.**
- 3) Travelers should obtain advance approval (i.e., prior to the hotel stay) from their department CAO/CFO for hotel rates in excess of these guidelines.
- 4) The UC Travel Center can assist in booking all hotels (other than those with negotiated conference rates).
- 5) When necessary, the UC Travel Center is trained in providing appropriate documentation for exceeding the hotel per diem requirements.

UC will not reimburse for incidentals during hotel stay. Hotel receipts must be itemized in order to be reimbursed. Lodging expenses are reimbursed on the following terms:

- Reimbursement is based on the amount actually incurred, and is subject to a maximum dollar limit.
- Original, itemized receipts for all lodging expenses as well as any entertainment expenditures included in the lodging claim are required for reimbursement. As per policy G-28, Lodging is not reimbursable if the lodging site is within a 40-mile radius of the traveler's residence or office.
- When non-commercial facilities such as cabins, house trailers, vans, field camping equipment or other such facilities are used, the traveler shall be reimbursed a daily amount based on an estimate of actual expenses up to 100% of the applicable federal per diem rate for the appropriate geographic area.

To make reservations, contact the UC Travel Center by phone, (310) 206-2639, email travel@finance.ucla.edu or by logging in to [Connexus](#) to book online with the UC Travel Center.

NOTE: UC does not allow for reimbursement of package deals from internet vendors such as Expedia, Orbitz, Hotwire, Travelocity, and etc., **unless the required receipt documentation (airline passenger receipt and itemized hotel folio) can be provided.**

Daily domestic hotel rates should not exceed 200% of the federal per diem guidelines and daily international hotel rates should not exceed 300% of the federal per diem guidelines located at:
http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877?utm_source=OGP&utm_medium=print%E2%80%90radio&utm_term=perdiem&utm_campaign=shortcuts

Travelers should obtain advanced approval (i.e., prior to the hotel stay) of hotel fees in excess of these guidelines.

Airbnb:

UCLA preferred Airbnb Booking linked below:

<https://www.ucop.edu/procurement-services/uc-procurement-newsletters/spring-2019/work-hard-travel-easy-with-airbnb-for-uc.html>

Time to get onboard with the new '[Airbnb for UC](#)' program launched by the UC Central Travel Office in October 2018. Already, thousands of UC travelers – employees, students and guests – have stayed at 'Airbnb for UC' lodging throughout the US and global locations. And, they've saved the university money while enjoying a unique business travel experience through 'Airbnb for UC.'

Start by visiting the [University of California/Airbnb home page](#) and scroll down to the "Haven't signed up yet?" box to add your UC email address. From there, you can search the listings tailored to meet the University of California's travel preferences, with amenities like:

- Properties with 4.8 (or above) star ratings
- Flexible or moderate cancellation policies
- Self check-in
- Complimentary wifi
- Laptop friendly work spaces
- Hotel-like conveniences: shampoo, soap, hair dryers, irons, etc.
- Security features, like smoke and CO2 detectors
- Some 'Airbnb Plus' listings with 100+ point quality inspections and star ratings

And, you can feel secure knowing that your ‘Airbnb for UC’ reservation is automatically registered with UC Risk Services travel insurance just like other lodging booked through our easy and convenient [Connexus portal](#).

MEALS & IE

- **For Travel more than 24 hours:** Itemized receipts are **required** for all meals to show actual meal cost per individual and alcoholic beverage restrictions. UC will not reimburse you for exceeding the maximum allocation of \$62/per day. If you cannot provide receipts for meal purchases, you will be reimbursed a maximum of \$25/day provided that you submit a signed memo with business justification.
- **For Travel less than 24 hours:** Section VIII.C. prohibits the reimbursement of meal expenses for travel of less than 24 hours unless the traveler is away from his or her home overnight ***as supported by a lodging receipt*** or other evidence explaining why the traveler was unable to obtain a receipt. Reimbursement for meals will be approved according to your time of departure and return from research/work related function(s).

TRANSPORTATION

Travelers are advised to use taxis, shuttles or other relatively inexpensive methods for transport to and from the airport. When a driver is needed, an adequate business justification specific to the event is required.

Individuals traveling alone who need rental cars should select an intermediate or smaller car. Excess charges for larger cars need proper business justification; the traveler may be asked to pay the difference between an intermediate and larger car if the business justification is inadequate. Advance permission is recommended.

Tips should not exceed 20% of the transportation costs. The traveler may be asked to pay the difference between a 20% and larger tip.

If using App Based Transportation such as Lyft or Uber, please be sure to save receipts with payment method used.

MILEAGE FOR USE OF PERSONAL VEHICLE

Effective January 1, 2016, the mileage reimbursement rate is .655 cents per mile. When private cars are used on University business, the employee must certify that the vehicle has the minimum liability coverage prescribed by UC Travel Guidelines:

- \$50,000 for personal injury to, or death of, one person.
- \$100,000 for injury to, or death of, two or more persons in one accident.
- \$50,000 for property damage.

NOTE: You cannot be reimbursed for gas if you claim mileage for using your personal automobile for the trip. You can only be reimbursed for gas if you have used a car rental.

When two or more persons on University business share a private vehicle, only the driver may claim reimbursement for mileage.

TRAVEL SECURITY AND HEALTH COVERAGE BENEFITS (<https://www.irm.ucla.edu/travel-insurance/travel-security-health-coverage-benefits>)

All University travelers, including employees, medical residents, students, and fellows, are covered worldwide, 24 hours a day, for a wide variety of accidents and incidents while on official travel status. The coverage includes accidental death, accidental dismemberment, paralysis, and permanent total disability. The coverage also includes travel assistance services when the traveler is 100+ miles from his or her home or headquarters, such as:

- Security extraction (security extraction is not subject to mileage limitation),
- Emergency medical evacuation and repatriation,
- Repatriation of remains,
- Out-of-country medical,
- Loss of personal effects (employees only), and
- Other travel assistance services.

Registration for Travel Outside of California:

<https://www.uctrips-insurance.org/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=2>

Accurate information on travel plans is needed in order to deliver the services and protections the travel insurance policy offers. As such, all employees on University business and students participating in UC-sponsored programs traveling out of state or overseas are required to register their travel plans prior to departure. Register using the Business Traveler Insurance form in Related Information or make your travel arrangements through the UC Travel Center. All arrangements booked through the UC Travel Center will automatically be routed to iJet for international travel alerts and on to ACE for registration. You will receive a Confirmation of Coverage card after registering. Carry the card during your trip; it will help you obtain services. Upon registration, you'll also receive a list of telephone numbers for medical emergency care or travel assistance.

Booking travel through Connexus automatically enrolls the traveler in the insurance program for travel outside of California; otherwise the traveler must register at <https://www.uctrips-insurance.org/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=2> complete the Traveler Insurance form before an out-of-state trip occurs. Registration is not required for travel within California as coverage is automatic.

REQUIRED REIMBURSEMENT DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

Please submit all documents to ceehelp@seas.ucla.edu

Travel Reimbursement form

(https://www.cee.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/cee/CEE_Travel-Reimbursement-Form_6.2018.xlsx)

- Completely filled out and signed by your faculty advisor upon completion of travel.
- Submit reimbursement paperwork within 45 days after business travel.
- Explanation of business purpose required.
- Justification required if reimbursement is submitted after 45 days.

For Faculty – Entertainment expenses during travel with Non-UC employees

Please provide name and affiliation of attendee(s). See Policy BUS-79 which addresses reimbursements for business meals and entertainment.

Registration / Conference Fees

Registration confirmation required w/ proof of payment (ie.1234-1234-1234-xxxx or provide credit card statement).

Proof of Payment

For hotel, airfare, & registration receipts that do not display the last four digits of your credit card number or if you paid by check, please provide proof of payment (credit card statement or return check).

Claiming mileage

Please use Google Maps to map out your start to destination point to obtain proof of mileage and attach along with travel reimbursement request form. Please include your license plate number on Travel Reimbursement Form for all mileage reimbursement. Note: If you claim mileage, you cannot be reimbursed for gas. You can only be reimbursed for gas if you have a car rental.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVEL POLICIES, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS?

CONTACT: ceehelp@seas.ucla.edu

All Helpful Resources for Faculty can be found: <https://www.cee.ucla.edu/resources-for-faculty/>
All Helpful Resources for Students can be found: <https://www.cee.ucla.edu/resources-for-students/>