

Travel Information/Procedures for CSR/TSGC Faculty, Researchers, Staff and Students

Prior approval for all business travel is required for absences of faculty/employees/students from the campus for periods of half a day or more during the normal working period, whether or not there is a cost to the University. This includes conferences, driving to a local field site or another entity within the Austin area.

BASIC STEPS FOR UNIVERSITY TRAVEL

First, familiarize yourself with UT's travel's rules and regulations: <https://financials.utexas.edu/hbp/part-11-travel>

Before you travel:

1. International travel only: while COVID-19 travel restrictions have largely been removed, certain regions are still considered restricted and require additional approvals/steps. To check if your trip requires them, please start here: <https://global.utexas.edu/risk/travel/faculty-staff-travel>
2. Submit a Request for Travel Authorization (RTA). The travel request submitted online will route to the Travel Coordinator. Please make sure it encompasses the entirety of your trip, including any vacation or non-workdays that may fall within the date range of your trip. RTA submissions can be filled out here: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/services/requests/>
 - a. Please assign all requests to **CSR-TSGC Travel (00329)**.
3. Approval must be received from the Principal Investigator of the account to complete the RTA process. Prior approval from the PI is required. Please upload PI approval in the request system.
4. Once your request is processed, you will receive an RTA approval email with a Document ID (ex: 60VE5123456).
5. Now you can reserve your flight, hotel, and rental car. Save all your receipts!

After you travel:

1. To submit a travel reimbursement: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/services/requests/>
 - a. Please assign all reimbursements to **CSR-TSGC Travel (00329)**.
2. Submit clear scanned copies of your receipts with the online form or the originals as soon as possible upon completion of travel. Reimbursements turned in after 60 days of your return date will require an explanation for their lateness and are subject to IRS withholdings.
3. Failure to follow the rules and policies for travel can result in a denied reimbursement request. Prepayment for any travel expenses may not be reimbursable. The University does not have to reimburse you for any completed travel. If any portion of the reimbursement exceeds the allowable rate, the amount in excess will need to be covered by non-grant funds. Please follow the rules and guidelines outlined not only by the University but by your sponsoring agent to ensure reimbursement.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: <https://travel.utexas.edu/travelplanning/contact-travel-agency>

Air Travel

The choices for UT travel:

1. You may use the University's online tool, [Concur](https://travel.utexas.edu/travelplanning/concur-booking-tool).
<https://travel.utexas.edu/travelplanning/concur-booking-tool>
2. You may direct bill through one of the University's two approved travel agencies:
 - a. Anthony Travel <https://utsystem.anthonystravel.com/travel-request/>
 - b. Corporate Travel Planners <http://ut-ctp.com/>

Provide them with your RTA number and Document ID. Send a copy of your approved itinerary to the Travel Coordinator.

3. If you are traveling on federal funds, you must use a domestic carrier in accordance with the “[Fly America Act](#).” A complete list of certified air carriers can be [found here](#). If you are unsure if your travel funds are federally sponsored, please ask the Contract Admin.
4. You may purchase your own airfare through a domestic carrier. You must find the lowest available rate. If using an online reservation tool other than Concur, the purchase receipt and form submitted for reimbursement must include the traveler's statement: **"Online selection is best value as consistent with institutional priorities."**

Ground Transportation

Keep all taxi, bus, and other ground transportation receipts for reimbursement, including Uber and Lyft. You are allowed taxi/shuttle costs to and from the airport, both in Austin and at your destination. Tips are not allowed on state accounts.

Car Rental

All rental car reservations are required to be made using one of the University's five contracted car vendors. Rental car contract rates apply to Domestic/US rentals only. Please provide the UT Discount Number when making your reservation. Direct billing options and dedicated customer service rep information can be found at Travel Management's [Rental Car](#) site.

Rental Car Vendor	UT Discount Number
Avis	S828090
Budget	R524190
Enterprise	UTS999
Hertz	1989415
National	UTS999

If you are using Avis, Enterprise, or National, then go through Travel Management Services to direct bill your rental car charges. You will need to complete the [Rental Car Direct Billing Request](#) form for Avis, while you will use the [booking link](#) for Enterprise and National and select the “direct bill” option.

Personal Vehicle

If you travel using your own personal vehicle, you are authorized to request reimbursement for either mileage or gas – not both. If you request a mileage reimbursement, you must submit a map (Google or MapQuest) showing the route and the starting/ending addresses. UT accepts both types of maps, but state accounts will only accept MapQuest. Please make sure you are following the account's guidelines.

Meals and Lodging

Meals and lodging rates are based on the account you will be traveling on. If you are unsure of your per diem rates, please check with your Contract Administrator or Travel Coordinator. Meals and lodging cannot be reimbursed without an overnight stay.

Meals

Save your itemized receipts. You must stay within your daily rate, generally \$51 per day, but certain accounts have stricter rules and rates. No alcoholic beverages may be on your itemized receipts. If your meals exceed \$51/day, then all receipts must be provided for that day along with a justification for the

reimbursement request. The PI will have to approve the cost increase. Only one person per receipt. Tips are not allowed on state accounts.

Lodging

Reservations can be made either through UT travel agencies or the hotel directly. Original hotel bills are required showing itemized room rates, taxes, the last four digits of your credit card, and a zero balance. Third party booking receipts are not allowed. Certain accounts have very strict parameters on the daily lodging rate. Please double-check that your hotel’s rate is within this limitation prior to booking. All hotel/lodging expenses must be submitted including direct billed hotel rooms. If you are sharing a hotel with someone else, be sure to get the hotel to split the invoice per traveler. Only one person per receipt.

A UT employee must provide a Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate at Texas lodging establishments in order to be exempt from state lodging taxes. You cannot be reimbursed for State of Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax. Please take a copy of this form with you if you are traveling in Texas. The form can be found here: <https://www.csr.utexas.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/TX-Hotel-Occupancy-Tax-Exemption-Form.pdf>

Miscellaneous Travel Expenses

Parking, wireless, business telephone charges, out-of-state tax, mandatory baggage fees are examples of allowable expenses. A complete list of allowable miscellaneous expenses can be found here: <https://financials.utexas.edu/hbp/part-11/5-3-other-expenses>

Tips of any kind are not an allowed. You cannot be reimbursed for them. Keep your receipts!

Registration/Abstract Fees

All abstract and registration fees must be paid through the center’s procard. Please contact the Purchasing Agent for procard information. These are the only travel expenses that may go on the procard.

Account Rules

State Rules Accounts	Local Rates Accounts
<p>Overnight travel in Texas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual lodging and meal expenses not to exceed current US General Services Administration rates * <p>Overnight travel in continental US is based on limits set for each locality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed GSA rates by location * <p>NOTE: Gratuity on food services is NOT allowed. State rules accounts will require itemized meal receipts.</p>	<p>Overnight travel in Texas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$260/day in-state travel, of which no more than \$51/day may be for meals <p>Overnight travel in continental US:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$375/day for travel outside of TX but in the continental US, of which no more than \$51/day may be for meals <p>Overnight travel outside of US (foreign travel):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$425/day, of which no more than \$51/day may be for meals

*GSA rates can be found here: <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates-lookup>

*Textravel rates can be found here: <https://fmxcpa.texas.gov/fmx/travel/texttravel/rates/current.php>

International Travel

Some foreign destinations are considered restricted regions and travel must be approved by the International Oversight Committee. For information on this policy and its procedures, go to the following link: <https://global.utexas.edu/risk/travel/restricted-regions>

All expenses during international travel must be converted to US dollars. Please use the following website to convert all expenses: <https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>
You must print out the page you are using for your reimbursement and submit it along with your receipts. Conversion rate must match the first day of travel.

Registration of your itinerary details is **required** when travelling to a foreign destination.

1. Register your trip in the UT Austin International Travel Registry (ITR). All employees must register their foreign travel at this link: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/io/abroad/itr/index.WBX>
 - a. All employees are also required to read and agree to the terms of a COVID-19 waiver as part of the ITR registration process.
 - b. Once the trip is registered, email a copy the confirmation page to grs@austin.utexas.edu.
2. All registered travelers will be covered by On Call International Travel Insurance.

Export Control

For general export control information at UT: <https://research.utexas.edu/osp/manage-awards-and-subawards/export-control/>

If you plan to travel on any research project(s) and take a UT-owned laptop and/or equipment the Export License Exception (TMP) Certification form must be filled out and approved by David Ivey prior to traveling.

The TMP certification is required any time our PI/covered individuals on the project take laptops or equipment out of the country. Fill out the [Export License Exception \(TMP\) Certification](#) and send it to David Ivey (ivey@austin.utexas.edu). David Ivey will then review whether any additional restrictions or requirements are needed. Please provide a copy of the completed TMP Certificate to the Travel Coordinator.

CSR POINTS OF CONTACT

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