



FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Controller

Travel & Other Expenses Manual

Updated February 2025



Office of the Controller

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A. Introduction

The Florida International University Travel and Other Expenses Manual provides direction and guidance for employees, students, and travelers who undertake travel on behalf of the University in accordance with the University Travel Expense Policy. This manual has been prepared to familiarize University employees and others with the travel provisions of [Florida Statute 112.061](#) and the FIU policies [1110.060](#) and [320.099](#). It provides a quick reference to policies and procedures for incurring and reimbursing travel and other expenses.

It is the responsibility of all travelers to familiarize themselves with the FIU Travel Manual to ensure they are following the proper process, whether seeking reimbursement or not. The Controller's Office provides guidance on travel requirements to all travelers to ensure proper compliance with all policies.

All facets of travel are to be by the most efficient and economical means. Expense reports are processed by FIU in compliance with Florida laws and University policies and procedures. Receipts and/or additional documentation or justification will be required to support the reimbursement of expenses claimed. As needed, reimbursement requests may be adjusted to comply with applicable statutes, policies, and procedures.

All travel is contingent upon the approved travel, available budget, and cost center approval. The travel manual in no way obligates the university to reimburse all allowable expenditures in connection with approved travel.

Travel Expenses

B. Travel Authorization

An **approved** Travel Authorization (TA) is a traveler's permission to incur expenses and travel on behalf of Florida International University. This includes FIU employees, FIU students, and others who travel on the University's behalf. The Authorization must include all travel expenses that are known or can be projected before the trip, must include a **descriptive business purpose**, and must consist of the correct trip start date, trip end date, and business destination(s), and provide an estimated cost of the trip.

A Travel Authorization is **always** required except for vicinity travel **unless** traveling to a conference or convention **within the vicinity**, in which case an approved Travel Authorization is required(per Florida Statutes). Without an approved travel authorization (TA), the payment of travel expenses on behalf of the University, using the procurement card, or by the traveler is prohibited. One TA per travel period is required. Please note: Webinars or Virtual Events do not need a Travel Authorization.

Group/Team Travel

FIU Faculty, Staff, and Students

A Travel Authorization (TA) **must** be created and approved prior to making travel arrangements for any student or non-employee who undertakes travel on behalf of the University. The TA should be in the name of the faculty or staff member responsible for all expenses. A list of the names of all travelers and their affiliation with FIU, such as prospective employee (candidate), student, collaborator, or speaker, must be included in the benefit area of the TA and imaged with the supporting documentation of the expense report. In addition, a **Group Travel Template** is encouraged to be included with the supporting documentation when traveling with multiple students/employees.

The team/group leader may purchase meals for all students traveling. The leader would be entitled to reimbursement for those students' meal allowances. Alternatively, students may request meal allowance reimbursement if the faculty/staff traveling with them did not pay for those meals. Group/team travel will normally include study abroad, the FIU band, athletic games, competitions, and upward bound. Students traveling on a Study Abroad Program will not be reimbursed for their meals.

Travel for Donor/Sponsored Affiliation

In the case where the affiliation of the traveler is a donor, a donor's family member, or an employee of the sponsor or entity that provided the source of funding that is being used, the faculty/staff member responsible for the trip must work with their expense/project manager and contact the administrative staff in the **Foundation** or **Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED)** (based on the funding source being utilized) for guidance before making any travel arrangements. Any affiliation must be specifically disclosed to ensure there are no conflicts of interest which could adversely affect the viability of the trip. Any approved travel expenses or reimbursements for a donor, a donor's family member, or an employee of the donor must be processed through the Foundation (FIU02), not through the University (FIU01).

FIU Student Travel

A process has been implemented in the PantherSoft Financials System to create travel/expense documents for FIU students so that they are eligible to travel for the university. This process expedites the ability to become a proxy for FIU students. [Click here](#) to view the instructions.

Student travel, in many instances, is handled in the same manner as for faculty and staff:

- A Travel Authorization (TA) is entered in PeopleSoft under the student's name, and (TA) approval is required before expenses are incurred.
- After returning from the trip (no later than 15 business days after completion), an expense report (ER) is created and submitted along with the receipts and any additional documentation.
- Departments may pay for travel expenses directly using a Departmental Travel Card or an Unencumbered Payment Form (these expenses must also be included with the expense report).

FIU Students Receiving a Cash Payment for Travel or Other Expenses

There are substantial differences when a student receives a cash payment (award).

- The payment must be requested through the Office of Financial Aid.
- The payment will be treated as a travel stipend (scholarship) to the student, and the student is not required to provide receipts to support the travel expenses.
- [Click here](#) for The Financial Aid link.

C. Travel Cash Advance

An employee may request an advance to help defray out-of-pocket costs when traveling outside the University's vicinity. A Travel Authorization must be approved prior to a cash advance being issued. The maximum allowed for a cash advance is 80% of the expected out-of-pocket expenses not to exceed \$5,000. An employee is only allowed one (1) cash advance at a time. All cash advance requests that exceed \$5,000 must explain the benefit to FIU or the project in the box provided within PeopleSoft. Explanations will be reviewed for reasonableness, and the Office of the Controller will give the final approval. The Office of the Controller reserves the right to approve or deny based on the information provided and adherence to University policies and procedures. An advance will be approved for payment no earlier than ten (10) business days prior to a trip and will not be issued after a trip has ended. Cash Advances must be settled ten (10) business days from the travel ending date. If a traveler does not resolve the Cash Advance within thirty (30) days, the traveler will not be allowed another Cash Advance for 12 months. If a cash advance is not resolved within sixty (60) days, the advance amount will be deducted from the employee's salary. Cash advances are only issued to FIU employees traveling on behalf of the University.

D. Allowable Travel Time

- A traveler is allowed up to two hours prior to the departure of their flight for domestic travel and one hour after their arrival upon returning from their travel. A justification should be provided if the return time differs considerably from the flight itinerary.
- Travel period commences no earlier than a day before an event and concludes no later than a day after the event.

E. Common Carrier

The University reimburses coach/economy/main cabin class airline travel. However, classes other than coach/economy/main cabin may be allowed under exceptional circumstances due to medical necessity. The employee must submit a request for an upgrade to the University Chief Financial Officer (CFO) **prior** to purchasing an airline ticket. **Upgrades** purchased without the CFO's approval will not be reimbursed. For questions and guidance on how to obtain approval, contact the [CFO Assistant](#). If the University Credit Card was used, the cardholder or the traveler must reimburse the University. If a business/first-class ticket costs less than an economy ticket, the CFO's approval is still required. If a flight change occurs, the original and the revised itinerary **must** be submitted with the expense report to support any change fees or changes in airfare. Justification for the change **must** be included with the supporting documentation. If flying a different route for personal reasons, the traveler **must** have **advance airfare quotes** showing round-trip to and from the business event and location in the receipt package for comparison purposes. The lesser of the two amounts will be reimbursed. Within the acceptable class of travel, the most efficient and economical means should be considered and approved by the appropriate individual.

FIU Traveler will be reimbursed for all airline fares in economy/coach/main cabin or equivalent classes. For guidance on allowable classes for the most commonly used domestic and foreign airlines, see the [Airline Class Guide](#) on the FIU Travel website.

Aircraft travel must be the most economical rate and class available, which will normally be the economy/coach/main cabin class. Airfare may be purchased through an online travel website (Travelocity, Priceline, Expedia, etc.), an airline website, or a travel agency (Uniglobe). The traveler is responsible for obtaining an itemized receipt from the above-mentioned vendors. A receipt for the airfare must accompany the expense report. The receipt may be a printout of the emailed flight itinerary and must contain all of the following information:

- Name of traveler
- Dates traveled
- Times of flights
- Destination of departure and arrival
- Class of travel (coach/economy/main cabin class)
- Fare paid

The receipt **must** clearly indicate that the ticket has already been paid. Include receipts for any separate baggage charges with the receipt package. Travelers will not be reimbursed for airfare

purchased using reward points or mileage memberships. The use of personal planes for university business is not reimbursed due to increased liability and administrative costs.

Penalties for cancellation of discounted airline tickets may be paid only if the cause for cancellation was in the best interest of the University. The cost of unused, non-refundable tickets or cancellation penalties incurred are allowable for the convenience of the University. If the traveler has to cancel a trip due to illness of the traveler or the death of a member of the traveler's immediate family, for which an employee is authorized to use sick, bereavement, or administrative leave, the cost incurred for the cancellation is reimbursable. Appropriate justification must be submitted in writing. The standard for non-employees is the same as for employees. The cancellation penalty may not be reimbursed if a ticket is canceled for the traveler's convenience. Carefully evaluate the circumstances and risk of cancellation prior to purchase of discounted tickets.

F. Hotel Accommodations/Lodging

Hotel rooms must be paid at the single occupancy rate, and the most economical means must be utilized. The traveler is responsible for making appropriate arrangements with hotels for room rental. After a travel authorization (TA) has been approved, the traveler's personal credit card or T&E card may be used when making hotel reservations.

An itemized lodging receipt showing zero balance due must be included with the supporting documentation of the expense report. If a department purchases a block of rooms to accommodate a large group, the Purchase Order Number (PO#)/ Smart Billing Invoice # must be provided in the benefits section of the report. The department must also provide the itemized documentation of the Traveler's name, Panther ID#, nightly room cost, and rental agreement (lease). Room service is not reimbursable or payable by the University.

Rates

The most economical means should be considered. Justification is required if the nightly rate of the hotel, Airbnb, or VRBO accommodation is in excess of \$225. However, no justification is required, even if the hotel rate exceeds \$225 if the rate complies with the General Services Administration (GSA) or Department of Defense (DOD) rates. Additionally, if the stay is at the "official" hotel of a conference/convention, and the rate claimed is less than or equal to the stated conference/convention rate, justification is not needed. The traveler and proxy are responsible for providing supporting documentation showing that the selected hotel is one of the "suggested" conference hotels.

If the University has an agreement with a hotel and uses the contracted rate, justification will still be required if the rate exceeds \$225 and the GSA or DOD rate.

The University uses the GSA domestic maximum lodging as the reference rate for all hotel accommodations in the continental United States. The GSA website is <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>. When the city of the ultimate

destination is not listed on the GSA website, the reference rate will be the standard CONUS (Continental United States) GSA rate for all destinations not explicitly listed.

The Department of Defense (DOD) maximum lodging rate should be used as the reference rate for non-continental United States as well as U.S. territories and protectorates. The DOD website is <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>. The Department of State (DOS) is used for the maximum lodging allowed for travel to foreign countries.

[Limiting Allowable Hotel Expenses Continues](#)

We have received the following guidance from the Office of the General Counsel:

House Bill (HB) 5003. In order to implement appropriations in the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act for state employee travel and notwithstanding s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, costs for lodging associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized or sponsored in whole or in part by a state agency or the judicial branch may not exceed \$225 per day.

As of July 1, 2023, the cost for lodging for FIU employees associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized or sponsored in whole or in part by FIU may not exceed \$225.00 per day if paid with state funding (E & G). Amounts exceeding \$225.00 per night may be paid through an alternative funding source.

Departments must ensure the requirements of this law are met when establishing lodging for FIU employees attending FIU-sponsored events.

[Travelers Sharing a Hotel Room](#)

Each employee traveling is responsible for their own hotel charges. However, there are circumstances that arise while on a trip when a traveler may need to pay for a co-traveler's hotel room. In these instances, the traveler and co-traveler need to properly record the appropriate information in the travel module so that the travel cost can be associated with the traveler and co-traveler. The traveler paying the hotel bill shall request reimbursement for the total amount on their travel reimbursement request. The traveler whose hotel bill is being paid must file an expense report and state on the expense report, "hotel room compliments of John Doe." Also, list the expense report ID of the traveler who paid the hotel bill and submit a copy of the lodging receipt. The maximum room rate must be in accordance with the University's policy. In addition, a Group Travel Template is encouraged to be included with the supporting documentation when traveling with multiple students/employees.

[Travelers Split Hotel Room Bill](#)

If two travelers share a hotel room and split the bill, each traveler may claim one-half of the hotel bill on their travel reimbursement request. They must obtain separate hotel folios indicating individual payment.

Vicinity Travel Per diem or Lodging

A traveler may not claim per diem or reimbursement for lodging for vicinity travel unless extraordinary circumstances that necessitate the overnight stay are fully explained by the traveler and approved by the Associate Vice President and University Controller in writing prior to the expense being incurred. Criteria for approval shall include late-night or early-morning job responsibilities. Reasonable justification would include an explanation indicating that the staff attending the event is either an organizer, presenter, or key contributor, which would support the need for the staff to be closer to the location of the event due to the responsibilities and obligations they would be expected to perform. A sample of the Hotel Accommodations within 50 miles approval memo can be found on the Controller's Travel [website](#). The request must be sent from your FIU email. It is encouraged that this request is submitted at least ten (10) business days before their trip to allow sufficient time for the request to be screened and approved by the Associate Vice President and University Controller.

Travel Packages

If multiple travel expenses are purchased together as a package that results in a cost saving for the University, it is the responsibility of the traveler or delegate to **obtain** a breakdown from the merchant.

Travel Agency

To support ongoing efforts to provide quality corporate travel services and reduce travel costs, FIU employees will be able to use Uniglobe Travel Designers to make reservations for airline tickets and hotels. For booking services, use the below information:

Phone Number: 614-237-4488

Email Address: FIU@uniglobetd.com

It is the traveler's responsibility to verify the information on the airline ticket and hotel reservation to make sure that dates, cities, and other relevant data are correct.

G. Auto Rental/ Transportation

Car Rental

Florida International University uses the State of Florida contract with Avis and Budget for the rental of vehicles. This contract is only applicable for renting from Avis and Budget in the continental U.S. Reservations.

University employees needing a rental car for official business must use the following website to make their reservations: STATE OF FLORIDA RESERVATION PORTAL:

<https://www.carrental.com/abgPartners/sof/>

When booking, renters must use their FIU Credentials (email) and select the Payment Type as Pay at the Counter.



The Department of Management Services is pleased to announce Avis Budget Group as the State of Florida's supplier for rental vehicle.



Pick-up
FROM
11/29/2023 12:00 PM

Return
RETURN TO SAME LOCATION
11/30/2023 12:00 PM

Business Travel Leisure Travel

Florida Entity Division
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITI FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

Change or cancel an existing reservation [Find My Car](#)

Using a personal or employer issued credit card, create your profile in **Avis Preferred** and **Budget Fastbreak** to personalize your next experience. By-pass the counter and experience the safest, contact free rental.

Reservation pick up and drop off times should be booked during normal operating hours. Key drop boxes are available for after hour vehicle returns at these [off-airport rental stations](#).

If an individual traveling on behalf of FIU chooses another rental agency, the traveler will be reimbursed at the rate of the State contract. If an employee is forced to rent from another rental agency, written justification must be provided with the expense report. For rentals other than the Avis or Budget contract, the excess cost may be required to be reimbursed to the University unless adequate written justification is provided if the rental was paid with a University Credit Card. Customers are strongly encouraged to only use airport locations for trips involving air travel.

Gas will be reimbursed for auto rentals and University vehicles only to the driver of the vehicle. Submit gas receipts with the Travel Expense Report as an incidental expense type.

Class of Car Allowable

Rental is restricted to a compact (Class B) vehicle unless traveling with multiple travelers or traveling with extra equipment or excess baggage when the car is shared with other travelers. The traveler must provide written justification for renting a larger vehicle.

If traveling with others, include a list of the other passengers with their respective Travel Authorization and /or Expense Reports numbers or include a Group Travel Template Form. If traveling with equipment or extra baggage, provide a detailed list and explanation. Include information with the receipts submitted with the Expense Report. Travelers will not be reimbursed for use of a car larger than the B-car class on the rental car contract because of the size or stature of the individual unless the requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) are met.

Sales Tax / Surcharge Fees

The total amount charged for the car rental should exclude State of Florida Sales Tax and

surcharges (when prepaid by FIU Pro-Card (Direct Billing Account)). Tax exemption will not apply to rentals when renters use personal funds for payment. All business travel out-of-state will be charged all taxes and fees assessed based on the rental location, including selected out-of-state city surcharges, if applicable. If you rent a car at the airport, you will be subject to the mandatory fees by the airport authority.

[Tax Exempt](#)

Florida International University is a tax-exempt organization. When traveling in the State of Florida, travel expenses in the name of the University (paid with Pro-Card) should not be assessed taxes. Travelers/ Proxy must request the taxes to be removed from the bill. Most vendors will want a copy of the University's Sales Tax Certificate of Exemption. If the supplier does not reimburse sales taxes, add the following statement to the supporting documentation: "Supplier would not honor University's Sales Tax Certificate of Exemption after requesting reimbursement."

[Direct Billing](#)

The department will need an Avis/Budget issued Billing Number. The billing number is issued to allow University Pro-Card Holders to reserve and pay rentals for other individuals (i.e., students, candidates, non-FIU employees, and faculty/staff). You can request the Billing Number by completing the [Avis/ Budget Global Electronic Billing Terms](#) of Agreement or [Budget Application Program Terms](#) of Agreement account prior to making a reservation. The form must be completed in full; you must initial each decline box under Optional Coverage and select compact 4-door (B) similar to the Ford Focus. You will email the completed document to floridahelp@avisbudget.com, subject line GEB Application, time-sensitive, and highlight it with a red exclamation point high importance flag. Do not disclose Billing Numbers to others as it is tied to your Pro-Card. A billing number is not needed for rentals reserved and paid by the individual traveler for themselves.

[Drivers under the age of 25](#)

Most car rental companies have strict guidelines regarding renting to drivers under the age of 25. The State contract provides that any state employee aged 18 to 25 can rent a car for business purposes from Avis or Budget with a valid driver's license. If the department did not setup a direct billing account for the driver, they must provide a [Letter of Introduction](#); this must be on FIU letterhead and signed by the Department Head, it must include the traveler's name, the confirmation # of the rental car, the days FIU approved for travel and the size car approved for travel. The traveler must print the letter and provide it to the Avis/ Budget counter representative.

[Non-Reimbursable Automobile & Insurance Expenses](#)

The University will not reimburse for any class of vehicle not authorized by the University Travel Expense Policy. Additionally, the University will not reimburse for Personal Liability Insurance, ALI: Additional Liability Insurance, LDW: Loss Damage Waiver Insurance, PAI: Personal Accident Insurance, or any additional insurance. If the State contract is not used, Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) is the only insurance allowed.

Taxi and Other Carriers

Taxi, Uber, Lyft, or shuttle fares require a receipt. Tips in excess of 20% will not be reimbursed. The most efficient and economical means of travel should be used. This considers the traveler's time, impact on the productivity of the traveler, and cost of transportation. The location of pick-up and drop-off must be noted on the receipt, i.e., home to airport, airport to hotel, etc. Uber reservation fees, Lyft Priority fees, and donations will not be reimbursed. Do not provide Lyft ride reports; we only accept individual ride receipts. Private, limousine or chauffeur transportation will not be reimbursed.

Damaged Vehicles

At pick-up, the traveler should examine the car to make sure it is not damaged. If the car is damaged, the traveler should notify the rental company and request another car or a written statement from a representative of the company acknowledging that the car was damaged when delivered to the traveler.

Seatbelt Use

All occupants of state rented vehicles are required by law to use seat belts while traveling in the vehicle. Failure to use seat belts may result in disciplinary action or reduced worker's compensation benefits in the event of an accident.

Accident Reports

All accidents are to be reported to the car rental company. Any forms or reports prepared by the police or car rental company should be turned in to the [FIU Insurance Manager](#) who can be reached at (305) 348-6970.

Use of Private Automobiles

Authorization may be granted for the use of privately owned vehicles to conduct official travel. Travelers using their own automobiles are reimbursed for the official mileage between the cities traveled and are entitled to a mileage allowance at a fixed rate. The traveler is not entitled to a mileage allowance when transported gratuitously by another person.

Use of FIU Automobiles

Employees may be reimbursed for gas, parking, and tolls when conducting official FIU business. The expense report must include the vehicle number and/or vehicle log.

Rail Transportation

Travel by rail is allowed and will be reimbursed when traveling in Coach Class on Amtrak and Smart Saver/Smart Class when traveling on [Brightline train](#). Employees must use their FIU Credentials(email) when booking to receive exclusive discounts. For instructions on how to set up an account with Brightline, click [here](#).

Bus Transportation

Travel by bus services is allowed and will be reimbursed when traveling in Premium Economy on Red Coach Bus and Classic Class on Greyhound and FlixBus.

H. Travel Expense Report Timeliness/Reimbursement

After returning from a trip, reimbursement is made by completing an expense report with accompanying receipts. The expense report must be submitted within fifteen (15) business days after the completion of the trip. Expense reports that do not meet the University's guidelines for reimbursement may be required to be paid through the payroll system and reported as income. Contact the Travel Accounting Manager (305-348-1141) for The Taxable Reimbursement Process instructions. The Expense Report must list all expenses associated with the trip, whether paid directly by the University or reimbursable to the traveler. The Expense Report must include a descriptive trip purpose, including the official conference or meeting name and benefit to FIU.

If expenses are split between the University and an outside organization, it is required that the expenses paid by an outside organization be reported in the form of a comment on the Expense Report or memo included with the receipt package. In most cases, the Expense Report will be pulled from the pre-existing Travel Authorization and modified as needed before submission. The Expense Report must be signed by the employee whose name appears at the top of the document via [DocuSign](#) or the "Print and Sign" option. If the expense report is created on behalf of a non-employee (candidate, speaker, etc.), the non-employee will not sign the report. The printed report, along with all supporting documentation, must be uploaded in a single PDF file and attached to the system report. If a University credit card or purchase order was used to pay for expenses, it must be noted on the receipts prior to uploading. University Credit Card items must be listed on the expense report.

Mileage

The traveler must use the most direct route. If the traveler uses an indirect route for his/her convenience, any extra cost must be borne by the traveler. Mileage shall be shown from the point of origin to the point of destination. Travelers will not be paid a mileage allowance for travel between their residence and their headquarters or regular work location. The current mileage rate is [0.445](#) per mile for official travel using a privately owned vehicle.

Mileage reimbursement should be requested on the expense report. All mileage claimed must be substantiated. The traveler must substantiate the mileage reimbursement using a mapping website such as MAPQUEST or the State of Florida DOT. The mapping website must include the beginning and ending addresses of the trip. Reimbursement for mileage **must** be submitted at least quarterly. Vicinity mileage, parking, and tolls will not be reimbursed if the date(s) claimed are over ninety (90) days old. If the traveler chooses to drive long distances rather than fly for personal reasons, comparable airfare quotes **must** be obtained before the travel occurs and provided as part of the receipt package. The lesser of the two amounts will be reimbursed.

Non-Reimbursable Items

Gas, costs of operation, maintenance, and ownership of a privately-owned vehicle are the responsibility of the traveler and are not eligible for reimbursement. The University will not reimburse a traveler for repairs, fines for violation of the law, or other related costs incurred while traveling on official business of the University this is the traveler's responsibility.

Classes of Travel

The University utilizes the per diem and meal allowance rates adopted in the Florida Statute, Section

112.061. Travelers on Class A or B travel (see below) are entitled to travel expense reimbursement and have two alternatives, either the Flat Per Diem Rate or Per Diem Meal Allowance.

For purposes of calculating the per diem and subsistence allowances provided in Section 112.061(6), F.S., use the following guidelines:

1. Class A travel is continuous travel of 24 hours or more away from official headquarters. The travel day for Class A is based on a calendar day (midnight to midnight).
2. Class B travel is continuous travel of less than 24 hours which involves overnight absence away from official headquarters. The travel day for Class B travel begins at the same time as the travel period.
3. Class C travel is short or day trips in which the traveler is not away from their official headquarters overnight.

Class C allowances have been reviewed by the State Legislature and are currently NOT to be reimbursed to travelers.

Prohibited Expenditures BOG 9.016

Per the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures regulation, expenses related to DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) are unallowable. The regulation became effective in January 2024, and university-wide compliance was effective July 1, 2024.

Budget managers must review all expenses before submitting to ensure these do not include unallowable services/deliverables. No purchases of goods or services related to DEI activities made with E&G funds can be approved as these are prohibited.

Please use the following tools to determine if an expense is prohibited:

[PE Decision Tree](#) – tool to determine whether an expenditure is permitted

[PE PowerPoint](#) – presentation by the PE Team

[PE Justification Form](#) – form to document justification for permitted expenditures

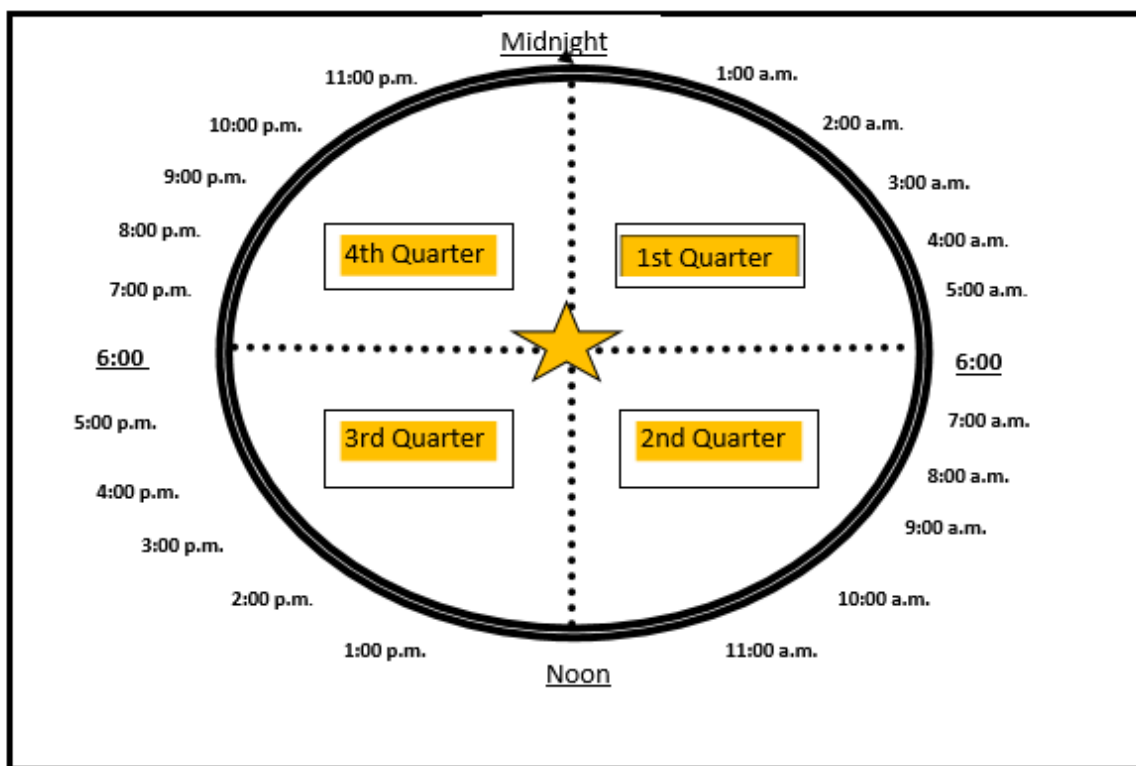
If you have any questions on prohibited expenses, please send an email to

prohibitexps@fiu.edu

Flat per diem rate

Per Florida Statute, a Flat Per Diem may be claimed for any domestic or foreign travel in lieu of claiming actual lodging receipts, lodging that is provided by others, and daily meal allowances. The \$80 daily rate is intended to compensate those travelers who do not claim actual lodging and meal expenses. A Flat Per Diem can be claimed when a traveler cannot provide actual receipts for lodging. The Flat Per Diem cannot be claimed in conjunction with any actual lodging or meal claims for the same day. Flat per diem is not reimbursed unless travel includes an overnight stay.

Any meals provided to the traveler via a paid registration must be deducted from the daily \$80 at the statutory rates of \$6 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch, and \$19 for dinner. For example, a traveler claiming a per diem on two full days of the conference when the conference provides lunch on both days is eligible for a Flat per diem up to $\$80 - \$11 = \$69$ **per day**. Travelers may claim flat per diem for the last day of travel, considering there will be no hotel charge. This amount is normally more than claiming only the meal allowance for the last day. Please refer to the clock:



There is no Flat Per Diem reimbursement for one day travel not involving an overnight stay.

Meal Allowance (Domestic Travel)

A meal allowance cannot be claimed in addition to the flat per diem rate. The following meal allowance is allowed for travel in the continental U.S., its territories, and possessions.

Domestic Meal Rate Table (Continental and Non-Continental US)			
The meal allowances are reimbursed based on the following criteria:			
<u>Meal</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Travel Begins prior to</u>	<u>Extends beyond</u>
Breakfast	\$6.00	6:00 am	8:00am
Lunch	\$11.00	Noon	2:00pm
Dinner	\$19.00	6:00pm	8:00pm
Total Rate per day	\$36.00		
Note that the meal allowance should not be claimed when the meals are provided by the host location (i.e. seminar that provides lunch to participants).			

Class "C" Meals Are Not Reimbursable – Class C Travel is a trip which is less than 24 hours with no overnight stay. There is no meal allowance. Travelers are allowed two hours prior to the departure time of their flights for domestic travel and three hours prior to the departure time of their flights when traveling to foreign countries. This allows time for the necessary airport security checks and boarding.

Employees on Travel Status over 30 Continuous Workdays

When an employee is stationed in a city or town for a period of over thirty (30) continuous workdays, such city or town shall be deemed to be their official headquarters. They shall not be allowed per diem or subsistence after the period of thirty (30) continuous workdays has lapsed unless extended by prior approval of the Divisional Vice President or their designee. A University employee on travel status may leave their assigned post to return home overnight, over a weekend, or during a holiday, but any time lost from regular duties shall be taken as annual leave and authorized in the usual manner. The employee shall not be reimbursed for traveling expenses in excess of the established rate for the per diem allowable had they remained at their assigned post.

Registration Fees

Registration fees may be paid by the traveler, Accounts Payable, the Department Travel Card, Smart Billing, Purchase Order, or the Travel and Entertainment VISA Card (T&E Card). An agenda **must** be submitted with the expense report for all travel to conferences, conventions, workshops, seminars, or formal meetings. For payments through Accounts Payable, the following documents should be submitted at least three (3) weeks prior to the due date of the registration fee:

- An approved Travel Authorization (TA)
- An Unencumbered Payment E-form

- A copy of the completed registration form
- After the trip, the registration fee should be included in the expense report.

Registrations for, or inclusions of, events such as luncheons, awards ceremonies or banquets may be allowable with an explanation as to how it will directly enhance the public purpose of Florida International University. If applicable, an agenda and itemized costs must be included as supporting documentation.

Membership Dues

Public funds may be used for the purpose of paying professional institutional/organizational membership dues, provided that the membership is essential to the duties and responsibilities of the institution or organization. Individual memberships are not reimbursable unless there is written certification by the organization stating that it does not accept institutional memberships. Individual memberships also must be essential to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the individual. The traveler must provide written justification for those expenses, and it must be included with the supporting documentation. Do not include departmental/organizational memberships on an expense report.

Communication Expenses

Communication expenses incurred while conducting University business require a receipt. These items may include telephone use, computer use, or a fax document. The traveler must provide written justification for those expenses, and it must be included with the supporting documentation.

Traveling with Equipment

When traveling with equipment, check with the Office of Sponsored Research or Export Control Office before traveling with equipment outside of the US to avoid any export licensing issues. Best practice for international travel with a laptop is to not have specialized software installed and to not contain unpublished data or research.

Receipt Requirement

Receipts must document the transaction information. Accurate and detailed records of purchases allow the FIU Travel Department, FIU, and State and Federal auditors to verify and audit the purchases for compliance with University, State, and Federal policies, statutes, rules, and regulations.

All receipts/invoices must contain the following information:

- Vendor Name and Address
- Transaction Date
- Description of the transaction (hotel folio, flight information, or a list of items being purchased)
- Unit costs for items purchased
- Itemized items
- Total amount paid

- Proof of payment

All of the information on the receipt must be clear and legible and must include all of the required information. Transactions with a greater financial risk to the Institution may require a greater documentation standard than lower-value financial transactions. Low-risk transactions are generally defined as transactions under \$100, charges that appear reasonable in nature, and charges that have additional support. High-risk items generally have a high dollar value or are unusual in nature. Additional documentation may be required.

Items that will be paid with a Purchase Order do not have to show proof of payment but must show the unit price. All hotel folios, flight itineraries, registrations, etc., must show the payment.

Expenses that Require Receipts

The following information shall be required with the traveler's reimbursement request when claiming reimbursement or accounting for prepaid items by the University:

1. Storage, parking fees or tolls in excess of \$25 per occurrence. Such fees are not allowed on a weekly or monthly basis unless it can be established that such method results in savings to the State.
2. A statement that communication expenses were business-related. This includes fax charges.
3. Dry-cleaning, laundry, and ironing expenses when official travel extends beyond seven calendar days, and such expenses are necessarily incurred to complete the official business portion of the trip.
4. Passport and visa fees are required for official travel.
5. Necessary fees charged to purchase traveler's checks for official travel expenses.
6. Fee charged to exchange currency necessary to pay official travel expenses.
7. Costs of maps necessary for conducting official University business.
8. Receipts or canceled checks for registration fees paid by the traveler.

Please note personal telephone calls made to a traveler's family are not a reimbursable communication expense. Employees who frequently travel should request a phone allowance.

This link provides further information on cell allowance and Cell Phone Policy.

Expenses that do not require receipts

1. Tips paid to taxi drivers that do not exceed 20% percent of the taxi fare.
2. Tips paid for mandatory valet parking not to exceed \$1 per incident.
3. Portage paid shall not exceed \$1 per bag not to exceed \$5 per incident. Portage charges exceeding \$5 per incident will require additional justification. Examples of an incident will be if the traveler's bags are taken into the airport from the vehicle, then carried from the airport to the vehicle upon reaching the destination, etc. The number of bags must be included on the travel reimbursement request.

4. Photocopy charges that are business related and less than \$25.

Expenses related to lost keys or keys locked in a vehicle due to employee negligence are not reimbursable from public funds.

Missing Receipts

If the employee does not have a receipt for a transaction, a duplicate receipt must be obtained from the merchant. If duplicate receipts for items such as taxis or shuttles cannot be provided, the Lost/Receipt form may be used. The form must contain a detailed description and pricing of all items received, along with proof of payment (credit card or bank statement). The Lost Receipt Form must be signed by the payee, approved by a unit approver with budget authority, and dated. Excessive use is not acceptable.

Travel Expenses Funded by Multiple Departments

When expenses for a given trip are shared by multiple departments, only one Travel Authorization and Expense Report should be submitted. The traveler will enter multiple accounting detail lines to split the trip by percentage or separate accounting details for expense types to split the trip by expense and dollar amount. The chart fields entered will determine the overall portion of the trip or the specific expenses that are paid by each department. If the information is being entered by a delegate rather than the traveler, representatives from the respective units will need to collaborate before and during the submission of the Travel Authorization and Expense Report to ensure that the delegate enters all necessary information.

Personal Travel

All expenses for non-FIU-related travel are the responsibility of the traveler. If a traveler includes personal travel days at the beginning, middle, or end of a trip, the traveler is responsible for all expenses related to personal travel. The University Credit Card should not be charged for personal expenses. These expenses include hotel, meals, rental car, fuel, mileage, and airfare. Personal travel days should be noted as Personal on the Travel expense report. Suppose an indirect route was taken for personal reasons. In that case, **a traveler will be required** to submit documentation, such as **airfare quotes**, to show what the cost would be if a direct route was taken or those additional costs were not incurred due to personal travel. The lesser of the two amounts will be reimbursed. Travelers should be mindful that under IRS rules if the travel is determined to be more than a minimal amount of personal travel, anywhere from a portion to the full cost of the travel could be taxable to the traveler.

Travel Expenses not Reimbursed by the University

If emergency travel is required that prohibits the prior entry of a Travel Authorization into PantherSoft, a memo is required indicating the details of the travel and the circumstances that prohibited adherence to the normal authorization process, including evidence that the situation was out of the Traveler's control. This memo should be signed by the employee, the employee's Supervisor, and the appropriate Vice President. The notation "Post-Travel Authorization Memo attached" should be entered into the comment field of the Expense Report page in the Travel

Module. The Post-Travel Authorization Memo must be included with the Receipt Package that is submitted to the Travel Department with the Expense Report.

When a payment reimbursement request is made for travel expenses in excess of those ordinarily authorized pursuant to Section 112.061, F.S., and such excess travel expenses were incurred to permit the safe travel of an individual with disabilities, those excess expenses will be paid to the extent that the expenses were reasonable and necessary to the safe travel of the individual. All claims for reimbursement shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the “Americans with Disabilities Act.”

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)

When a payment, which would not otherwise be a lawfully authorized use of University funds, is requested pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the payment request shall include a signed statement from the agency head or designee certifying that: An employee of the University, an applicant for a position or other covered person has requested a “reasonable accommodation” pursuant to ADA to assist him/her in performing his/her duties, applying for a position or other covered activity. The University has determined that the individual is a “qualified individual with a disability” as defined in the ADA. The University has determined that the purchase of the item in question is a “reasonable accommodation” pursuant to ADA for that employee, applicant, or person. The University will maintain all records related to this purchase for seven years and make those records available for review to those persons authorized to review such records.

The ADA provides that records related to an individual's disability must be kept confidential; therefore, payment information related to providing a “reasonable accommodation” shall contain a file number or other code by which the voucher can be readily traced to the confidential records maintained by the agency. For questions, contact the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility](#) at 305-348-2785.

[Travel Expenses for Non-Employees](#)

When the University pays travel expenses incurred by independent contractors, consultants or other non-employees, the expenses may be paid either as part of the contractor’s flat service fee (all-inclusive) or the agreement may stipulate travel costs to be paid as separate reimbursable expenses. In the latter case, the travel reimbursement is made via a [Reimbursement of Travel Expenses for Non-Employees Payment Form](#) in addition to an expense report created on behalf of the non-employee.

Foreign Travel

Foreign Travel Authorization

An **approved** Travel Authorization (TA) is a traveler's permission to incur expenses and travel on behalf of the Florida International University. This includes FIU employees, FIU students, and others who undertake travel on behalf of the University. It provides an estimated cost of the trip. A Travel Authorization is always required for foreign travel. The Authorization must include all travel expenses that are known or can be projected before the trip. The payment of travel expenses on behalf of the University, using the procurement card, or by the traveler is prohibited without an approved Travel Authorization (TA). One TA per travel period is required. If the traveler embarks on the trip **without full TA approval**, the traveler will be **entirely** responsible for all trip expenses incurred, resulting in non-reimbursement of expenses paid by the traveler from personal funds as well as a **repayment** from the traveler to the University for expenses paid with university funds. This includes grant-funded international trips, as grant funds will not be disbursed without pre-departure TA approval. FIU will follow the requirement of FIU Regulation 1111, Employee Debt Collection, for the collection of any expenses for unauthorized trips. Further, an employee's international travel privileges may also be suspended/restricted. For further guidance and instructions on the consequences for non-compliant International Travel on behalf of FIU, please see the [Memorandum](#) issued on Feb 20, 2025.

When traveling to foreign countries on behalf of the University, all University employees and students must follow the procedure and guidance of the International Travel Policy. The policy and procedure can be viewed at FIU Policies and Procedures Library. No administrator may approve the use of department or project funds for travel or travel-related costs to countries identified by the U.S. Dept. of State as "state sponsors of terrorism." The countries that have been identified can be viewed at the U.S Department of State website.

Allowable Travel Time

- A traveler is allowed up to three hours prior to the departure of their flight for international travel and one hour after their arrival upon returning from their travel. A justification should be provided if the return time differs considerably from the flight itinerary.
- The travel period commences no earlier than two days before an event (depending on the destination)(this includes destinations when the flight time is more than (20) hours duration) and concludes no later than a day after the event.
- When a traveler, for their convenience, travels by an indirect route or interrupts FIU-related travel, the additional expenses are the traveler's responsibility.

Mandatory Use of The Travel Authorization (TA) Request Process For International Travel Approval

Pursuant to Florida State legislation (*HB 7017/ F.S. 1010.36*), the University has expanded its travel authorization process to require screening and pre-approval for **all** international travel and foreign activities. **All** (even if paid by 3rd party) international travelers **must** now complete a

Travel Authorization request (TA), which includes a [Foreign Travel](#) questionnaire, specific disclosure requirements regarding travel expenses, and the traveler's acknowledgement certifying that they have read this Guidance. You may refer to this [Quick Guide](#) to provide you with an overview of the international travel screening and reporting process.

It is encouraged that FIU travelers submit their TA request at least twenty (20) business days before their trip to allow sufficient time for the request to be screened and approved by the Export Control Office.

[How to Report Travel Expenses Paid by a Third Party](#)

All travelers to a foreign destination **must** complete an expense report even if no expenses are incurred. Report all expenses, payments, and honorariums paid by third parties via the [International Travel link](#) on the Expense Report. [Click here](#) for guidelines and instructions.

[Foreign Lodging](#)

Hotel rooms must be paid at the single occupancy rate and the most economical means must be utilized. The traveler is responsible for making appropriate arrangements with hotels for the rental of rooms. The traveler's personal credit card or T&E card may be used when making hotel reservations, after a Travel Authorization (TA) has been approved. The University can only make direct payments to hotels for room accommodations prior to the trip if either a saving to the University can be justified or team/group travel is required.

An itemized lodging receipt showing zero balance due must be included with the supporting documentation of the expense report. If a department purchases a block of rooms to accommodate a large group, the Purchase Order number (PO #) must be provided in the benefits section of the report. The department must also provide the itemized documentation of Travelers name, Panther ID# and nightly room cost. Room service is not reimbursable or payable by the University.

Maximum allowable foreign lodging rates are determined by the U. S Department of State, Foreign Per Diem Rate, and Maximum Lodging Rate for the city or region. If unique circumstances require that the nightly hotel rate exceeds the published U. S Department of State rate, justification is required, which must be included in the supporting documentation of the expense report.

Foreign Meal Allowance

The meal allowance for foreign travel does not start until the traveler arrives in the city of the country of destination and ends at departure. The flight time in route and layovers are paid at the domestic meal rate. When traveling to multiple cities within a country on FIU business, or to another country; the traveler should claim the meal allowance in each city/country of business travel. We encourage the departments to use the Foreign Travel Templates for Foreign Travel. An example of calculating foreign meals is indicated below.

The meal allowances are reimbursed based on the following criteria:				
Foreign Per Diem Rates by Location FTR 301, Appendix B (Breakdown of Foreign Meals/Incidentals)				This link shows the maximum lodging and meal allowance This link shows the maximum meal allowance
Example:				
Meal & Incidental Rate	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total Meal Allowance Per Day
\$183.00	\$27.00	\$46.00	\$73.00	\$146.00

Foreign Auto Rental

When traveling to a foreign country, car rental is restricted to a compact vehicle, and Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) is the only insurance allowed. If the car rental company has mandatory fees, documentation of fees or written justification must be provided with the expense report. The traveler must provide written justification for renting a larger vehicle. If traveling with others, include a list of the passengers with their respective Travel Authorization and /or Expense Report numbers. Provide a detailed list and explanation if traveling with equipment or extra baggage.

Receipts in Foreign Language and Currency

Receipts issued in a foreign currency should show a computation converting the amount into U.S. dollars. All claims on the Expense Report must be submitted in U. S. dollars. When converting foreign transactions into U.S. dollars, the conversion date should be the same as the transaction date. Foreign currency conversions should be obtained from the Oanda currency converter website and attached to the Expense Report. If a foreign transaction was made using a credit card, you may attach the credit card statement in lieu of an Oanda conversion.

Unavailable Receipt Form

If the foreign vendor is unable to provide you with a “Traditional hotel or transportation receipt” as shown below: You will need to complete an Unavailable Receipt Form. The form must contain a detailed description and pricing of all items received, along with proof of payment (credit card or bank statement). The [Unavailable Receipt Form](#) must be signed by the payee, approved by a budget approver with budget authority and dated.

RECEIPT		No. 123456
DATE	Dec 1, 2023	
FROM	Roary	\$ 500.00
	Five hundred	DOLLARS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR RENT	Hotel(\$83.33 per night for 6 days)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR		
ACCT.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH	12/1/23 12/7/23
PAID	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK	FROM TO
DUE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER	BY <i>Pauther</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD	A-2501 T-46820

Fly America Act

When traveling to and/or from foreign countries, travelers are required to use United States air carriers in accordance with the Fly America Act when funded by the U.S. government. Federal funds are identified by any project ID # using fund codes 660 & 661. FIU does not enforce this requirement when non-federal funds are used. This applies when commercial air transportation is used between the United States and a foreign country or between foreign countries. Cost savings, convenience, or personal preferences are not exceptions for using a non-U.S. flag carrier. For more information on carrier exceptions and the Fly America Act, see the website <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Grants/Pages/Foreign-Travel.aspx>

Foreign Travel Warnings

When traveling to a foreign country traveler should read the appropriate U.S. Department of State advisories before beginning travel to a foreign destination and exercise prudence when traveling to a foreign country. For current information regarding travel advisories, travelers should visit the U.S. Department of State’s Travel Advisory website.

International Travel Insurance Coverage

FIU has acquired a Global Business Travel Insurance Policy for the protection and benefit of the individual traveler as well as the institution. For an overview of policy coverage benefits, and to obtain the FIU Group/Policy #, please visit [Global Travel Insurance for Employees website](#).

Non-Travel Expenses

Materials/Supplies/Equipment

Materials, supplies and/or equipment needed for office spaces/training rooms/gyms and other business purposes must be obtained using either the University Credit Card, paid by FIU via a requisition, non-conforming form or an unencumbered vendor form. Supplies are not individually reimbursed. Items must be purchased by following the correct procurement process.

Entertainment Expenses

Entertainment expenditures **must be reasonable, prudent, appropriate** to the occasion, and consistent with the University's mission. The overage must be paid via the Foundation if business meals are excessive. Entertainment expenses are allowed to host FIU speakers, candidates, official visitors, etc. The maximum amount allowed for tips on entertainment meals is twenty (20%) percent. These transactions include entertainment expenses when the event aims to recruit individuals or directly promote the University. Fundraising events shall utilize Direct Support Organization (DSO) funds. "Designated University Officials" may include deans, vice presidents, development officers, senior administrators, and other employees who have been asked to serve in a host capacity. The types of charges may include:

- Food and/or beverages (excluding alcohol)
- Business or entertainment meals
- Employee recruitment meals
- Event admission
- Flowers (HR TLC Brigade Program only)
- Athletic Team recruitment meals

These transactions will require detailed receipts and documentation to support the need for the expenditure, a list of attendees, Panther ID# (if applicable), agendas, detailed receipts, a statement of the business purpose, and any additional information to support the expenditure. This documentation will be submitted with the completed expense report.

Receipts must document the transaction information. Accurate and detailed records of purchases allow the FIU Travel Department, FIU, and State and Federal auditors to verify and audit the purchases for compliance with University, State, and Federal policies, statutes, rules, and regulations. All receipts/invoices must contain the following information:

1. Vendor name and address
2. Transaction date
3. Description of the transaction (hotel folio, flight information, or a list of items being purchased).
4. Unit costs for items purchased
5. Itemized items
6. Total amount paid
7. Proof of payment

All of the information on the receipt must be clear and legible and must include all of the required information. Transactions with a greater financial risk to the Institution may require a greater documentation standard than lower-value financial transactions. Low-risk transactions are generally defined as transactions under \$100, charges that appear reasonable in nature, and charges that have additional support. High-risk items generally have a high dollar value or are unusual in nature. Additional documentation may be required.

Athletics Department Expenses

I. Athletic Department Travel Expenses

The purpose of this section is to provide guidance in accounting for and payment of allowable expenses specific to the Athletics Department. Only those topics identified as unique to Athletics are included in this section. All other Travel and Other Expenses items should be followed as dictated in the main portion of the University's Travel and Other Expenses Manual.

The University Travel and Other Expenses Manual and the University Travel Expense Policy must be adhered to unless differing guidance is provided. The decision to reimburse remains at the discretion of the Office of Controller. The expenses must be directly related to the purpose of the trip, evidenced by receipts and/or other supporting documentation, and must receive prior approval by the appropriate approver. Travel expenses must be authorized and expended within established budgetary limits. Any reimbursements prohibited by state statutes or regulations will not be reimbursed.

Travel Authorizations

An approved Travel Authorization (TA) is a traveler's permission to incur expenses and travel on behalf of the Florida International University. All TA's must be completed in accordance with the Travel and Other Expenses Manual.

Cash Advances

Athletic department employees may request an advance to help defray out-of-pocket expenses when traveling outside of the vicinity of the University. A Travel Authorization must be approved prior to a cash advance being issued. The maximum allowed for a cash advance is 80% of the expected out-of-pocket expenses, not to exceed \$5,000.

Athletics coaches and staff are allowed to have three (3) cash advances outstanding at a time. The exception to this limit is the coach of the Cross-Country Track teams, which is allowed four cash advances.

All cash advance request that exceeds \$5,000 must be explained using the Benefit to FIU or project section within PeopleSoft and will be reviewed by the Office of the Controller. The Office of the Controller reserves the right to approve or deny based on the information provided and adherence to University policies and procedures.

All cash advances must be requested and resolved in accordance with this Travel Manual. (See page 4).

Auto Rentals

Florida International University uses the State of Florida contract with Avis and Budget for the rental of vehicles. This contract is only applicable for renting from Avis and Budget in the continental U.S. Specific guidance on auto rentals can be found in Section F of the Travel Manual.

If the Athletics department chooses to use another rental agency, the traveler will be reimbursed at the rate of the State contract. If the auto rentals are paid by Purchase Order or any other procurement methods, the contract rate must be used. If an employee is forced to rent from another rental agency, written justification must be provided and included with the expense report. For rentals other than the Avis or Budget contract, the excess cost may be required to be reimbursed to the University unless adequate written justification is provided if the rental was paid with a University Credit Card.

Gas will be reimbursed for auto rentals and University vehicles only to the driver of the vehicle or the team leader.

Hotel Accommodations/Lodging

Hotel rooms must be paid at the single occupancy rate, and the most economical means must be utilized. All contracts/agreements must go through FIU's Total Contract Management system to obtain appropriate University approval. All contracts/agreements must comply with the maximum lodging rates as set by the University policy.

Receipt Requirement

Receipts must document the transaction information of all purchases and must contain the following information:

1. Vendor name and address
2. Transaction date
3. Description of the transaction (hotel folio, flight information, or a list of items being purchased).
4. Unit costs for items purchased
5. Itemized items
6. Total amount paid
7. Proof of payment

All of the information on the receipt must be clear and legible and must include all of the required information. Transactions with a greater financial risk to the Institution may require a greater documentation standard than lower-value financial transactions. Low-risk transactions are generally defined as transactions under \$100, charges that appear reasonable in nature, and charges that have additional support. High-risk items generally have a high dollar value or are unusual in nature. Additional documentation may be required. Items that will be paid with a Purchase Order do not have to show proof of payment but must show the unit price. All hotel folios, flight itineraries, registrations, etc., must show the payment.

Meal Allowances

Travel meal allowances are reimbursed in accordance with the University's policy. Any additional meals in excess of the allowable rate must be charged to the FIU02 Foundation. A meal worksheet and manifest (as indicated below) showing the breakdown of meals must be included with the expense report documentation. These documents must be completed in their entirety.

Team	Meal			Worksheet
Team Travel				
Depart:				
Return:				
TA#				
No. of Travelers: 19				
Allowable Per Diem				
Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total
3/1/2018	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$36.00
3/2/2018	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$36.00
3/3/2018	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$36.00
3/4/2018	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$36.00
	\$24.00	\$44.00	\$76.00	\$144.00
144 X 19 =				
Actual Used				
Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total
3/1/2018				
3/2/2018				
3/3/2018				
3/4/2018				
			Team Snacks Per diem	
				\$0.00
Expense over the allowable per diem - \$ (charge to FIU02)				

Occasional Non-Travel Meals

Pre- and post-game meals for home games, prospective athletes, team practice, and team participation are allowed. All expense reports for these items must include a manifest showing the individual's names and PIDs that received the meal or money for the meal and their signatures. These meals are not allowed for employees. The dollar amount of money received, or the cost of the meal must be reasonable and prudent.

Materials/Supplies/Equipment

Materials, supplies, and equipment needed for office spaces/training rooms/gyms and other business purposes must be obtained using either the University Credit Card, paid by FIU via a requisition, non-conforming form, or an unencumbered vendor form. Supplies are not individually reimbursed. Items must be purchased by following the correct procurement process.

J. Non-Allowable Expenses

The following list, which is not all-inclusive, represents travel expenses that are not reimbursable. If this manual does not provide specific guidance for reimbursement of an expense, or if the expense does not provide a direct benefit to FIU, the decision to reimburse is entrusted to the Office of Controller to ensure that the use of public funds is adhered to within University policy:

- Any purchases that do not provide a direct benefit to FIU
- Alcoholic beverages
- Airline upgrades (CFO approval required)
- ATM and bank fees
- Cancellation charges (unless justified)
- Childcare costs
- Cell phones and computers
- Compensation
- Credit card late fees and/or interest charges
- Expenses for non-business-related activities such as sightseeing or entertainment
- Expenses incurred by spouse or family
- Extra baggage charges for personal items (i.e., golf clubs or skis)
- Furniture
- Gift cards
- Hotel safe (only allowable if mandated by the hotel)
- Laundry, cleaning, and pressing expenses for trips of six days or less
- Professional license, certifications, renewals, etc.
- Lodging/meals within 50 miles of headquarters or home (unless approved by the University Controller)
- Lost or stolen cash or personal property
- Materials and supplies
- Meal per diem when meals are included in the cost of registration
- Memberships
- Mileage from home to headquarters or headquarters to home
- Mini bar charges
- Movies in hotel/motel room
- Notary fees/notary renewals
- Parking expenses at assigned workplace
- Parties (holidays, retirement celebrations, potlucks, etc.)
- Personal insurance on rental vehicles
- Personal phone calls, including calls home
- Personal plane use
- Pet care costs
- Phone plans
- Prohibited Expenditures BOG 9.016
- Repairs, maintenance, towing service, etc. for personal vehicles
- Room service
- Software (including other technology items)

- Supplies associated with the business activities of a trip costing more than \$100
- Tips for housekeeper/maid services
- Traffic citations, parking tickets, and other fines
- Travel insurance, hotel insurance, medical insurance
- Tuition

K. Definitions

1. Agenda- An agenda or schedule at a glance for all conferences, conventions, workshops, seminars, or formal meetings must be included with the Expense Report. The agenda or schedule must indicate the name of the conference or convention, the dates of the event, and any meals provided as part of the registration fee.
2. Authorized Person Other Than University Employee - An individual other than a University employee who is authorized to travel in the performance of official University duties. Some examples are:
 - A potential student as in recruitment
 - A candidate for a University position
 - A University consultant or advisor
3. Class A Travel - (Per Diem Reimbursement) - Continuous travel of more than twenty-four(24) hours away from official headquarters.
4. Class B Travel - (Per Diem Reimbursement) - Continuous travel of less than twenty-four (24) hours, which involves overnight absence from official headquarters.
5. Class C Travel – Travel for short trips, not requiring overnight absence from official headquarters. Class C travel is not reimbursable by FIU.
6. Common Carrier - Train, bus, or commercial airline operating scheduled flights.
7. Complimentary Expenses – Expenses that are of no direct or indirect cost to the University. These expenses are not reimbursable.
8. Complimentary – term for “payment” method when an expense is paid for or otherwise provided by an organization or entity outside the University by virtue of the Traveler’s business activities or employment.
9. Conference Hotel – the hotel where the conference, convention, workshop, or seminar is held. A neighboring hotel “suggested” by event organizers does not necessarily constitute the Conference Hotel.
10. Convention - an assembly of a group of persons coming together for the accomplishment of a purpose of interest to a larger group or groups. A convention does not mean the coming together of agency or interagency personnel.
11. Disbursement - the payment for expenditure.
12. Domestic Travel – travel within the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories and possessions.
13. DocuSign- A digital signature application that allows users to create and sign a variety of different document with ease. In addition, DocuSign provides the means through which FIU can ensure secure storage, information efficiency, and optimized workflow. Adopting DocuSign is a huge step in FIU’s effort to operate on a completely paperless basis and exponentially reduce its ecological footprint <https://docusign.fiu.edu/resources/index.php>
14. Emergency Travel – travel that must commence with less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the Traveler.

15. Expense Report – Report used to record and reimburse expenses incurred on behalf of FIU.
16. Foreign Travel – travel outside of the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions.
17. Group Travel – A University faculty or staff member traveling with a group of students (Study Abroad, Moot Competition, etc....)
18. Most Economical Class of Transportation - the class having the lowest fare and most economical class available.
19. Most Economical Method of Travel - the mode of transportation (state-owned vehicle, privately-owned vehicle, common carrier, Uber, Lyft, taxi, etc.) designated by an agency head in accordance with criteria prescribed by Section 112.061(7), F.S.
20. Non-Business Day - for a public officer or employee, a weekend, or an authorized state holiday; for an authorized person, it means a day on which such person was not scheduled to be performing service or contributing time to an agency.
21. Personal Time - the time outside the regular work hours of a business day, a non-business day, or a day for which the officer or employee had prior approval for a leave of absence.
22. Preferred Vendor – a merchant that has an established contract with the state and/or University for goods or services. Preferred Vendors should be used by any Employee requiring that merchant service for travel.
23. Official Headquarters - The city or town nearest to the area where the majority of an employee's work is performed or another city or town designated by the University president in the best interest of the University.
24. Portage – assistance in carrying or transporting the traveler's luggage and/or materials.
25. Receipt Package – the collection of expense receipts and any other required documentation that must be uploaded to the ImageNow Server.
26. Team Travel – A University faculty or staff member traveling with an athletic team, debate team, etc.
27. Traveler – the following may be considered allowable University travelers when performing authorized travel: 1) both full-time and part-time employees and students of FIU; 2) Candidates, speakers, etc.
28. Travel Authorization (TA) – The official travel authorization form required to secure approvals and encumbering the funds for any University related business trip.
29. Travel Expense – authorized travel expenses of travelers, limited to those expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of a University purpose. All travel expenses must be allowable within the scope of these directives and procedures.
30. Travel Expense Report – The official travel form requiring completion and submission to the University Controller's Office within fifteen (15) business days after the conclusion of the travel period. This form substantiates University paid travel expenses and represents the traveler's request for reimbursement of expenses.
31. Travel Period – a period of time between the time of departure and time of return to a traveler's headquarters vicinity. Travel period commences no earlier than a day before an

event and concludes no later than a day after the event. When traveling to a foreign country, the travel period may include two (2) days prior to or after an event, depending on the location.

32. University – Florida International University (FIU).
33. University Employee - An individual employed by Florida International University who is authorized to travel in the performance of official University duties.
34. Vicinity Travel – Travel within 50 miles one-way of the traveler’s official headquarters.
35. Vicinity Mileage - Mileage that is allowed to be claimed when traveling on behalf of the University 50 miles or less one-way from the traveler’s headquarters. Vicinity mileage cannot be claimed by employees who receive an auto allowance.
36. Unavailable Receipt Form- This form is to be used only when a foreign vendor is unable to provide you with a “Traditional receipt.”

L. Helpful websites

- a. [University Travel Expense Policy](#)
- b. [Travel & Expense Manual](#)
- c. [Office of Controller](#)
- d. [Travel and Expense System Manual](#)
- e. [Florida Statute 112.061](#)
- f. [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#)
- g. [U.S. Department of Defense \(DOO\)](#)
- h. [U.S. Department of State \(Lodging rate by locations\)](#)
- i. [ORED Policy – Travel on a Sponsored Project](#)
- j. [Foundation Inc](#)
- k. [U.S. Department of State \(Foreign Meal Breakdown\)](#)
- l. [Oanda Currency Converter](#)
- m. [Florida Department of Management Services](#)
- n. [MapQuest](#)
- o. [Reference Guide for State Expenditures](#)
- p. [FIU International Travel Committee](#)
- q. [FIU Export Control](#)
- r. [FIU Master Contract Hotels](#)
- s. [FIU Controllers Training Resources:](#)
- t. [FIU ADA and Accessibility](#)