

## TRAVEL/ EXPENSE CLAIM GUIDELINES

Please attach supporting documents and receipts to an online expense report.

- Expenses will not be reimbursed until travel/ expense has occurred. If you are attending a conference or traveling, you can initiate a Cash Advance so you will not be out-of-pocket.
- Expenses for a group can only be claimed by the most senior person present. Expenses are to be claimed only by the individual who incurred the expense.
- Maintain one claim per trip. If it's more than one claim, the subsequent claim must reference the initial claim.

For complete Western University Policies and Procedures, please refer to:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section2/mapp216\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section2/mapp216_procedure.pdf)

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section2/mapp216\\_research.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section2/mapp216_research.pdf)

### Completing a claim

Online Expenses Report Form, Go to:

<https://finance.uwo.ca/psp/fsprdweb/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>

Step by step guide is available at:

[https://uwo.ca/finance/restricted/training\\_reference\\_content/corporate\\_accounting/documents/documents/FAQs.pdf](https://uwo.ca/finance/restricted/training_reference_content/corporate_accounting/documents/documents/FAQs.pdf)

### **Cash Advances**

1. Cash advance is for prepaid expenses. An estimated breakdown of how the funds are to be used, and the claimant's working relationship with the PI, must be entered in the "Notes" of the Cash Advance.
2. Cash Advance must be received by Financial Services at least 5 working days prior to the start of the travel in order to allow for processing of funds.
3. Be sure to "apply the cash advance" when submitting your online claim following travel. If there is a residual fund, contact Miyako to clear it.

### **Purpose of Trip**

Each expense report must be supported by a detailed business purpose that includes the following information. You can enter the information in the "Notes and Research Documentation" section on the "Expense Summary" page which appears by clicking "Review and Submit". Please click "Add Notes" then "Done."

1. **Business relationship of all attendees included on the claim to the grantee**
2. **who** traveled or attended the event or activity;
3. **what** type of event or activity was attended or purchase was made;
4. **when** travel starting and ending dates;
5. **where** the event or activity took place (city, country); and

6. **why** the expense was incurred as related to university business

Please state all of this information in the ONLINE expense report, even if there is a document inside that indicates. The supporting documentation just supports what the report is saying.

### Conferences/ Meetings

Attach an image of a participant badge, proof of attendance, a copy of the front cover of a conference prospectus/ program, and a meeting agenda; include dates and location of the conference/ workshop. Screenshots from the web page will suffice.

**Receipts – Please retain your originals. Destroy paper one full year AFTER the end of the fiscal year your expense report was paid.**

1. Original, itemized receipts, as well as proof of payment, are required for all expenses except for mileage claims, meal allowances, parking meters, valet parking, tolls, and reasonable gratuities paid in cash.
2. Proof of payment is required if the receipt doesn't state it.
3. If receipts are lost, not provided, or are in a foreign language, an attestation form [https://www.uwo.ca/finance/forms/docs/corporate\\_accounting/attestation.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/finance/forms/docs/corporate_accounting/attestation.pdf) must be completed by the claimant. The attestation form should be submitted along with a proof of payment (i.e. a copy of a credit card statement) where possible.

### Currency Conversion

If the receipt is in another currency and you are NOT using the built-in People Soft conversion, you can either use 1. credit card or bank statement to show the conversion rate charged or 2. [www.Oanda.com](http://www.Oanda.com) for the exchange calculation. **Use the date of the purchase**, and include a screenshot of the exchange calculation with your submission.

Please see the link below for information regarding travel agencies, hotel rates, train travel, vehicle rental, airlines, and the top 5 travel questions:

[http://www.uwo.ca/finance/procurement/preparing\\_to\\_travel/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/finance/procurement/preparing_to_travel/index.html)

Western's policy is to reimburse travel expenses using **the most economical means**. If the supporting documentation does not adequately justify the amount claimed, the reimbursement may be adjusted accordingly.

**Accommodations - Western and CAUBO negotiated hotel rates may be found at the web link mentioned above.**

1. Lodging is limited to **single occupancy, standard room** accommodation. If not available, please print out the quotes for justification and submit.
2. Claims for accommodation with colleagues, friends, or relatives, in place of hotel accommodations, must state the name of such individuals. No receipts are required. Please refer to the Treasury Board Directive: <https://www.njc-cnm.gc.ca/directive/d10/v238/s659/sv17/en>

## Air and Rail Travel

1. Travelers are expected to book the lowest-priced non-stop economy airfare available when booking air travel.
2. All train travel is expected to be at the best value for money consideration. Discounted rates are available for all Western faculty and staff.

## Parking – Western has negotiated special rates with Park’N Fly.

Details-> [https://www.uwo.ca/finance/restricted/preparing\\_to\\_travel.html](https://www.uwo.ca/finance/restricted/preparing_to_travel.html)

## Private Vehicle and Rental

1. Use of a private vehicle should be limited to travel where **no suitable public transportation is available or where a private vehicle is more economical** considering all factors such as costs, time constraints, itinerary, etc. Car rental rates should also be considered as quite often more economical – see Western’s “Preparing to Travel” link below.
2. Kilometric reimbursement rates follow the [Treasury Board of Canada Travel Directive](#). If a traveler claims mileage, fuel costs cannot be reimbursed.
3. When claiming transportation-auto-km allowance, either the addresses of the starting location and destination are to be included in the line description OR a screenshot of a map that outlines the distance is required.

## Insurance

1. Flight cancellation insurance is an allowable expense. A receipt is required.
2. Expenditures for air travel accident insurance will not be reimbursed.
3. Health care insurance for travel outside Canada is allowable for Claimants who are not already covered. Full-time employees are covered for travel outside Canada under existing insurance coverage.

## Equipment/ Supplies

Any amounts over \$500 must be purchased via Mustang Market with a Purchase Order, or with Pcard (if allowable item). Purchases of necessary supplies valued at \$500 or less will be reimbursed using the Expense Report only in the following instances:

1. When the Claimant is away from the university on a field trip, at a conference, or other professional meeting.
2. When it is more practical and economical for an individual considering all costs and time constraints.

## Alcohol

Not eligible for reimbursement. If you had alcohol with your meal, please deduct it from the receipt and state that you did so in the line description.

## Hospitality

The purpose of the event as it relates to the research project and the names and affiliations of the individuals attended are required. Original, itemized receipts are required. If a guest (i.e. guest

speaker from outside of Western) is not present, this is not eligible under the funding of NSERC.

## Daily Meal Reimbursement

For meals incurred on University-related business, individuals have a choice either:

1. Meal allowances and per diems:

	Canada (CAD)	United States (USD)	Outside North America (CAD)
		1-30 days	1-30 days
<b>Breakfast</b>	\$15 CAD	\$15 USD	\$17 CAD
<b>Lunch</b>	\$20 CAD	\$20 USD	\$28 CAD
<b>Dinner</b>	\$30 CAD	\$30 USD	\$40 CAD
<b>Daily Maximum</b>	\$65 CAD	\$65 USD	\$85 CAD

- Per diems are permitted regardless of the funding sources unless specifically disallowed by a granting agency, or a supervisor
2. The actual meal costs supported by **original itemized receipts** up to the maximum allowable Treasury Board meal rates <https://www.njc-cnm.gc.ca/directive/d10/v238/s659/sv15/en>

**Note that where original, itemized meal receipts (incl. proof of payment) are lost or otherwise unavailable, meal allowance will be reimbursed.**

Please note meal reimbursements are not eligible for any meals that are included in the cost of the accommodation charge, conference fee, transportation fare, or other associated fees. For example, if your hotel receipt includes restaurant charges, please deduct the amount from the accommodation claim. You need to claim the restaurant charges as a meal claim in a separate line. If you claim the actual cost of the restaurant charges, please submit the receipt from the restaurant for the meal claim.

## Expense Type options for groceries

1. Meal (TB Rate) – Groceries for the individual claimant when traveling OR for a group of travelers as long as the individuals covered by the groceries are listed in the expense line
2. Misc- Reception/ entertainment – You may also use this when purchasing groceries for a group of UWO employees/ students and list who are covered in the Attendees link on the expense line.
3. Misc- Hospitality- Use this when grocery items are being purchased for non-UWO employees for hospitality purposes – please list the attendees in the Attendees link on the expense line

## Note

- The default setting of reimbursement is by direct deposit according to the claimant's My HR information. If the claimant doesn't have this set up in My HR, then it will be sent by cheque to the address in My HR.