Travel Manual
A Guide to Mason Travel Policies and Procedures

Prepared by the Fiscal Services Training Department

January 2017
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George Mason University

Travel Policies and Procedures

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Introduction

This guide has been prepared as a resource for individuals traveling on official business at George Mason University. Travelers should refer to the Travel Office page on the Fiscal Services web site at http://fiscal.gmu.edu before making any travel plans. The web site contains the most up to date information. The Commonwealth Accounting Policies and Procedures (CAPP) manual provides definitive guidance related to Commonwealth of Virginia regulations. Business travel expenses must be reasonable and necessary. The use of State funds to accommodate personal comfort, convenience or taste is not permitted. Travelers may contact the Travel Administrator at (703) 993-2623 or email travel@gmu.edu with questions.

Note: Policies, procedures and reimbursable amounts reflect Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University policies. Each unit, at the discretion of management, may require additional approvals and/or limit reimbursable amounts. These additional provisions must be applied uniformly to a class of employee (e.g., all employees or all faculty). For example, a unit may limit mileage reimbursement to overnight travel, limit meal reimbursement to actual expenses (up to the guideline amounts) or not reimburse passport issuance and renewal fees.

Travel Policy

University Policy Number 2101, “Travel Authorization and Reimbursement Policies,” provides for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while traveling on university business. The full text of the policy is included as Appendix A of this manual, and is also available at the Fiscal Services web site: http://fiscal.gmu.edu. The following procedures have been developed to provide guidance to travelers when applying the policy to particular travel events.

Travel Request System (TRS)

All Travel Authorizations and Reimbursements (except for team travel) must be processed through Mason’s electronic travel resource, the Travel Request System (TRS) https://travel.gmu.edu/. The TRS must be accessed on the VPN network if using an off campus computer. Mileage, per diem rates and lodging maximums are embedded in the system, and calculations are performed based on travel dates and location(s) entered. The TRS design includes a delegate feature in which a traveler, department chair or supervisor may designate a Mason staff member to complete electronic travel authorizations and reimbursements on behalf of others. Additional information is available in Appendix F and at Getting Started. The TRS is independent of Banner Finance. Travel authorization and reimbursement requests require electronic approvals completed in Banner Workflow. All approvers must have a valid Mason Net ID to approve documents. An Approver Quick Guide, TRS Quick Guide and
additional information on electronic travel approvals may be found on the TRS Resources webpage on page 25 of this manual.

Pre-trip Planning and Cost Estimates

The following items should be considered when planning a trip:

- Reason for travel
- Dates of travel
- Destination(s)
- Transportation method(s)
- Lodging requirements
- Registration fees
- Meals
- Other anticipated requirements and expenses

All travel costs must be estimated before the proposed trip is made. These estimates should include expenses to be billed directly to the university as well as expenses to be reimbursed to the traveler.

Please Note: All travel requires advance approval.

All overnight travel
- that exceeds $500
  OR
- travel, at any dollar amount (more than, less than or equal to $500) that includes lodging costs above the basic rate

must be approved electronically, in advance, by the traveler’s first line supervisor. If the traveler or his/her supervisor does not have signature authority for the fund/organization being charged, a fiscal officer with signature authority for that fund/organization must also approve the travel.

Specific international travel requires additional approval.
International travel must be approved electronically, in advance, by the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) when travel is:
- To a comprehensively embargoed country (e.g., Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria).
  OR
- To a militarily embargoed country such as China or Afghanistan (complete list of these countries available at: http://pmddtc.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.html) for a traveler who works with International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) data.

Travelers are required to utilize the **George Mason University Travel Request System (TRS)** at https://travel.gmu.edu to generate a “Request and Authorization to Travel”. This form will include all cost estimates and must be sent electronically through Banner Workflow to the required approvers.

**Form and Level of Approval Required**

All travel must be approved in advance. The form and level of approval required vary with the nature and estimated cost of the trip, as specified below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determining Factors</th>
<th>Form of Approval</th>
<th>Level of Approval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total cost less than $500 AND Lodging at basic rate</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>First line supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost $500 or more OR Lodging above basic rate*</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>First line supervisor AND Fund/Organization Approving Official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a comprehensively embargoed country (e.g., Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria) OR To a militarily embargoed country such as China or Afghanistan* for a traveler who works with data controlled by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>Traveler’s first line supervisor AND a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged AND Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveler is a nonimmigrant VISA holder</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>Traveler’s first line supervisor AND a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For travel requiring electronic pre-approval, the “Request and Authorization to Travel” (Travel Authorization) form must be approved electronically prior to the travel date, by the traveler’s first line supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/org being charged.

Other Advance Approvals

Some travel may require additional advance approval. A traveler requesting lodging exceptions up to 50% above the basic or standard rate must submit a Travel Authorization signed by his/her supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged if the traveler or supervisor does not have signature authority for that fund/organization in advance of the travel. An explanation of the justification for the higher rate must be attached.

Travelers requesting lodging at rates in excess of 150% of the basic or standard rates must obtain advance approval. Only the Comptroller of the Commonwealth or his/her designee (Assistant State Comptroller) may grant exceptions for expenses exceeding 50% over the guidelines.

Travel to destinations in the 48 contiguous United States involving more than three employees from the university traveling to the same event/conference requires advance written approval from a supervisor. Each traveler must submit a justification statement that is signed/approved by his/her supervisor explaining the circumstances. The signed justification statement should be submitted with the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

Travel to an international destination as well as any destination outside the 48 contiguous United States including Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. Territories, involving more than three Mason employees (not applicable to students, including graduate research assistants and graduate teaching assistants) traveling to a single destination requires written approval in advance by Mason’s Agency Head or designee who will only consider requests that are processed through the Travel Office. The more than three employee limitation is applicable to the university not an individual department or college. Requests for an exception should be submitted well in advance of the planned travel.
Departments intending to invite residents of foreign countries to travel at the university’s expense must arrange with the International Tax Office (inttax@gmu.edu) before inviting the individual to travel or making any travel preparations on the visitor’s behalf.

Dollar Limitations on Certain Travel Costs

The Commonwealth of Virginia has established dollar limitations on certain categories of travel expenses, as indicated in this section. Travelers will not be reimbursed for amounts in excess of these limitations.

Lodging: Basic Rates

Lodging may be reimbursed when an individual is traveling overnight on official business. Lodging expense reimbursement varies with the travel destination, but all expenditures must be necessary and reasonable. Lodging rates are governed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The listed rates assume single occupancy and exclude applicable taxes. Lodging taxes are reimbursable.

The lodging, meals and incidental expenses that are allowable for travel reimbursement in the 48 contiguous states are available at http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/learn-about-meals-per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates/.

Additional information about the GSA rates is available at http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/142071

Lodging: More Than Basic Rates

When circumstances warrant and lodging is expected to cost up to 150% of the established basic rate, a traveler’s supervisor and the appropriate fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged, may provide approval of the higher lodging rate. Justification for the higher cost lodging must be entered on the Travel Authorization and approved electronically prior to travel in all cases, including those when the traveler is staying at the site of the conference he or she is attending.

Example: The listing includes a basic rate of $101.00 per night for Columbia, South Carolina. Any per night hotel cost between $101.01 and $151.50 ($101 x 1.5), must be approved by the supervisor prior to travel. An explanation of the circumstances justifying the lodging exception must be provided in the “Justification” field on the Travel Authorization Voucher.

When traveling to areas where higher than standard rates are applicable, travelers are reminded to carefully check the actual location/address of the selected lodging before confirming the reservation. The Mason Travel Office is authorized to reimburse travelers for lodging costs based on the actual location of the lodging and not a nearby city. For example, travelers to the Boston area will be reimbursed at Boston rates only when the lodging is
physically located in Boston, the city of Cambridge or Suffolk County. Reimbursement for lodging in nearby Brookline, located in Norfolk County, is at the standard lodging rate. In the San Francisco area, the higher lodging rate is in effect for San Francisco and San Francisco County only. Many hotels near the airport, such as the San Francisco Airport Marriott, are actually located in San Mateo County where lodging is reimbursed at a lower rate. The following link may be useful to travelers to determine if a zip code is located in a county with higher lodging rates: http://explorer.naco.org/index.html?zipSearch. Travelers should check, request and confirm government rates both at the time reservations are made and during check-in.

International rates

The university uses federal government rates for international lodging and per diem rates for locations outside the 48 contiguous United States.

Rates for Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. Territories are available at http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm

Rates for international destinations are available at https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp

Reimbursement requests for international lodging, meals and incidental expenses must be accompanied by documentation of the maximum allowable rates during the period of travel for the applicable international location(s). The documentation may be in the form of a printout of the applicable page(s) from the online rate tables.

Exceptions to Maximum Rates

Occasionally, prevailing hotel rates exceed the maximum allowable reimbursement rates, despite reasonable efforts to locate alternatively priced accommodations. In these situations, only the Comptroller of the Commonwealth or his designee (Deputy State Comptroller) may grant exceptions to the established reimbursement rates for in-state, out-of-state, and foreign travel. The Comptroller will only consider requests submitted in advance of travel. Exception requests should document the circumstances of the request, and must be accompanied by a Travel Authorization signed by the traveler’s first line supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged. Exception requests and the accompanying approved Travel Authorizations must be submitted to the Travel Office at least 14 days prior to the trip. The documentation should be in the form of a single page memo that explains the circumstances and lists the rates and complete name and address including zip code for three hotels in the vicinity of the requested lodging. Hotel data printed
from the internet should be attached, but the three hotels’ rate and location information must be summarized in the body of the exception request documentation memo.

**Room Sharing**

Vouchers must be annotated to explain more than one person in a room. When two or more people are traveling on official state business and staying in the same hotel room, the allowable lodging rate will be the lodging rate allowed in the area they are staying, plus the cost charged by the hotel for any additional persons in the room. Documentation from the hotel listing additional hotel charges for each additional person, per room must be provided. If the additional traveler is not a business traveler, only the single room rate may be claimed.

For non-luxury, conference hotels, lodging rates that are less than the standard rate lodging guidelines applicable to the travel destination multiplied by the number of official business travelers in the room may be authorized with advanced approval through the Travel Office.

**Internet Charges**

Travelers are permitted to incur charges for use of the internet at hotels provided that internet access is necessary for business activity. To be reimbursed for internet charges, travelers must provide an explanation of the internet usage, such as checking and responding to email. The explanation may be written on the itemized hotel bill.

Internet charges to sponsored funds are allowable only when directly related to the specific grant or contract. As such, checking email could only be charged to a grant if email activity was limited to, and directly related to, a specific project. Internet-based research directly related to a sponsored project is allowable.

**Hotel Bills**

An original itemized hotel bill must support lodging reimbursement requests. For hotel rooms obtained through internet providers, the traveler must submit the entire hardcopy receipt from the internet site showing total cost and confirmed services. No lodging reimbursement is authorized for informal lodging arrangements such as staying with friends, colleagues or relatives.

**Per Diem Rates**

As with lodging, the Commonwealth of Virginia utilizes per diem rates for meals and incidental expenses that are governed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and listed in the last column of the rate table at http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/learn-about-meals-per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates/. The meals and incidental expenses (IE) breakdown for the 48 contiguous United States is available at www.gsa.gov/mie and summarized below:
Per Diem rates include:
- meals, including taxes and tips
- transportation to where meals are taken
- personal telephone calls
- laundry expenses
- tips to baggage handlers

Because the per diem rate is intended to cover these items, they will not be reimbursed separately. Travelers are advised to budget their travel expenses accordingly.

International Per Diem Rates
The university uses federal government travel ceilings for international lodging and per diem rates.


Rates for international destinations are available at [https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp](https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp)

Reimbursement requests for international lodging, meals and incidental expenses must be accompanied by documentation of the maximum allowable rates during the period of travel for the applicable international location(s). The documentation may be in the form of a printout of the applicable page(s) from the online rate tables.

Travel Departure and Return Days
On travel departure and return days, travelers receive 75% of the per diem allowance, regardless of the time of departure or return. The return day allowance is based on the rate at
the location where the traveler spent the night prior to returning. The rates for the 48 contiguous United States are available at www.gsa.gov/mie and summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total M&amp;IE</th>
<th>Travel Departure and Return Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$51</td>
<td>$38.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$54</td>
<td>$40.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$59</td>
<td>$44.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$64</td>
<td>$48.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$69</td>
<td>$51.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$74</td>
<td>$55.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“No-cost” meals
The per diem rate claimed must be reduced for all "no-cost" meals the traveler receives. “No cost” meals are those included in event registration fees. If a continental breakfast or reception is offered as part of the travel event and the food/timing is sufficient to serve as a meal, the traveler must deduct the per diem by the appropriate allowance amount. If a meal is offered as part of a conference and the traveler has medical restrictions, the traveler should make every effort to have the conference facilitate his/her need by the deadline specified by the conference. If the conference does not honor the request, the traveler is not required to deduct the applicable meal allowance for the per diem. However, the traveler must include a note or other documentation with the Travel Reimbursement Voucher documenting this information. This note may be entered in the comments section in the TRS. Individual meal components are provided in the per diem rate tables and embedded in the TRS to assist travelers in calculating the deduction for these no-cost meals.

Transportation

Commercial air and rail carriers

The travel policy provides for payment of commercial airfare or rail travel when traveling on university business. Generally, airline and rail travel cannot exceed the rates charged for tourist or coach class accommodations. Reimbursement for Acela service on Amtrak is prohibited. Some airlines have created a higher level of coach class services that charges a premium for certain preferable seats, priority boarding, advance seat selection and/or other amenities. Examples of non-reimbursable seats are: United Economy Plus, Delta Comfort, Southwest Business Select and American Premium Economy. Such upgrades in the
coach seating area are considered enhancements to the coach fare and are not reimbursable including situations when the upgraded seats are the only ones available on a desired flight.

The traveler’s supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged may grant permission for business class air or rail travel under the following circumstances:

**Air**

(1) The business class fare does not cost more than the lowest available tourist/coach fare (comparison must be attached to the Travel Reimbursement), (2) The travel is to western Europe and the business meeting is conducted within three hours of landing, (3) The travel is for transoceanic, intercontinental trips of more than eight hours, or (4) The traveler pays the difference.

**Rail**

(1) The business class fare does not cost more than the lowest available tourist/coach fare (comparison must be attached to travel voucher), (2) Reserved coach seats are not offered on the route, or (3) the traveler pays the difference.

All tickets or receipts must indicate coach class fares unless appropriate documentation is obtained. **Reimbursement for first class travel is prohibited.**

Travelers may use the following options when making air travel arrangements.

**Airline Fees**

Some airlines charge additional fees for services, such as checked baggage. When planning a trip, travelers should be aware of these fees and associated limitations, and consider the total cost when selecting the most appropriate carrier. These fees are reimbursable with a receipt when limits must be exceeded for legitimate business purposes. For example, checked baggage with the hockey team’s equipment will generally exceed limitations. Written justification must be provided when requesting reimbursement for two or more checked bags.

**Fly America Act**

When federal funds are used, provisions of the Fly America Act are applicable and international travel is restricted to a U.S. air carrier unless extenuating circumstances apply and are approved in advance by the Office of Sponsored Programs. Additional information is available at [Fly America Act](#).

**Covington Travel**
Travelers may contact Covington Travel in Richmond at 804-747-7077 or 888-747-7077 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. for airline reservations. Covington Travel provides the option to conduct bookings through an online travel portal. The traveler will provide payment to Covington Travel. Options include the Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card), the Travel Charge Card or a personal credit card. Covington Travel can direct bill airfare in excess of $2,000 to a centralized Mason Travel Card. A fee will be added to the cost of each airline ticket purchased. Covington Travel may also be contacted for domestic and international lodging and rental car reservations.

**Uniglobe Ulti-Max Travel**
Travelers may contact Uniglobe Ulti-Max Travel in Herndon at 703-707-0200 or 866-629-8728 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for airline reservations. The traveler will provide payment to Uniglobe Ulti-Max Travel. Options include the Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card), the Travel Charge Card or a personal credit card. A fee will be added to the cost of each airline ticket purchased. Uniglobe Ulti-Max Travel may also be contacted for lodging and rental car reservations.

**Other Travel Providers**
Travelers are permitted to make travel arrangements using any travel agency, ticket provider or online service. When procuring services via the Internet, the traveler must submit documentation that validates cost as well as the mode and class of travel. The confirmation document (all pages) generated at the end of the reservation process showing total cost and class of service should be printed and attached to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher. When a paper ticket is issued, the passenger receipt (ticket stub) should be submitted.

**Payment Methods**
The following payment options are available for purchasing airline and rail tickets:

**Use of the Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card)**
An authorized P-Card holder may purchase common carrier (air and rail) tickets for the cardholder or other individuals within his/her department who are authorized to travel. The cardholder must retain the original purchase receipt and a copy of the Travel Authorization approved by the traveler’s supervisor and fiscal officer (if required). Mason will be billed directly for all P-Card charges. Contact Purchasing at extension 3-2580 for information about obtaining and using this card.

**NOTE:** The state’s “Electronic Commerce Policy” imposes certain security requirements that must be met before using the P-Card over the Internet. The “Security Requirements” are included at Appendix B of this manual.
Use of the Travel Charge Card

The traveler must submit an original ticket receipt and evidence of payment with the travel voucher when the Travel Charge Card is used. Note that each cardholder is responsible for payment of charges made on this card. Please use this option carefully; traveler will only be reimbursed after the trip, regardless of how far in advance the airline tickets are purchased. Contact the Travel Office at extension 3-2623 for information about the Travel Charge Card.

Use of a Personal Credit Card

The traveler must submit an original ticket receipt and evidence of payment with the travel voucher when a personal credit card is used. Please use this option carefully; traveler will only be reimbursed after his/her trip, regardless of how far in advance the airline tickets are purchased.

**NOTE:** If the trip is canceled after airline tickets have been purchased, the traveler may be reimbursed with his/her supervisor's approval. The approval must include a statement by the supervisor that he/she agrees to monitor future use of the ticket.

Motor Pool vehicles

A traveler may also utilize a Facility Services Motor Pool vehicle for approved university activities. A **Motor Vehicle Report** request form and driver awareness training must be completed before an employee can utilize the Motor Pool. Additional information on driver awareness training may be found at [http://risk.gmu.edu/training/driver-training/](http://risk.gmu.edu/training/driver-training/). A Motor Pool Vehicle Request form must be submitted at least three days in advance of the proposed travel date and is available at **Motor Pool Request Form**. These vehicles come with a fuel card. Costs for the vehicle and fuel will be charged directly to the user’s fund or organization.

Enterprise Rental vehicles

The Virginia Office of Fleet Management Services has partnered with Enterprise Rent-A-Car to provide short term rental cars for state agencies. All vehicle reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the anticipated pick-up of the vehicle. Travelers are required to access the Enterprise Trip Calculator at **Trip Calculator** when planning a trip that involves traveling more than 200 miles per day. In most cases a traveler will be reimbursed for the cost of an Enterprise rental vehicle and gas OR mileage at the fleet rate. An Enterprise Guide provides details and is available in Appendix D and at [Enterprise Guide](http://risk.gmu.edu/training/driver-training/). Mason travelers paying for rental vehicles with a personal credit card will be required to pay all taxes at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. The taxes paid by the renter will be fully reimbursable with appropriate receipt documentation.
## Reimbursement When Mileage Exceeds 200 Miles Per Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Driven</th>
<th>Trip Calculator: Enterprise Lower Cost*</th>
<th>Enterprise Vehicle Available</th>
<th>Reimbursement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Rental and gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mileage @ fleet rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No**</td>
<td>Mileage @ personal rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Mileage @ personal rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>Calculator not attached</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Mileage @ fleet rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Pool</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$0 (recharge to Dept.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*At least 24 hours before a trip, the Enterprise Trip Calculator should be accessed at [Trip Calculator](#). Cost Comparison page must be printed and attached to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

**Page indicating vehicle not available on specific date(s) must be printed and attached to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

The number of days to be entered in the calculator will be the number of 24-hour car rental days necessary for the trip. For example, if the Enterprise location is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., it may be necessary to pick up or return a car a day before and/or after the trip.

The Enterprise agreement also offers a 10% discount on airport rentals and a 5% discount on non-airport rentals outside of Virginia when traveling on university business. Reservations should be completed at Enterprise’s George Mason link [Enterprise Reservations](#) by selecting “Business Use – All Locations.”

### Adjustments to Enterprise Calculator

Since the Enterprise calculator, an Excel document is “protected” at the state level, Mason users are not permitted to make electronic changes to rates or calculations. Thus in some circumstances, it may be necessary to make written changes to the amounts generated by the calculator for purposes of determining the lowest cost transportation.
In the following situations, the Enterprise calculator should be printed and an adjustment should be written on the Lowest Cost Transportation line of the calculator page.

- A minivan is required. In some situations the number of travelers or equipment being transported dictates the use of a minivan. In those cases, after printing the Enterprise calculator, the amount displayed in the Enterprise Vehicle box should be doubled and that doubled amount written on the Lowest Cost Transportation line with the notation “minivan required” and the reason for using the minivan.

- The proposed driver is younger than age 21. The Enterprise contract requires that the driver be 21 years of age or older. If the traveler is under 21, write “driver is younger than age 21” on the Lowest Cost Transportation line. Reimbursement will be at the personal mileage rate.

- A trip originates where state contract rates are not available. If a traveler will begin a trip in a location other than Virginia, Maryland or the District of Columbia where state contract rates are available, the amount displayed in the Enterprise Vehicle box should be crossed out and replaced with the Total Estimated Charges for a compact or intermediate car at the rental location. The Enterprise page displaying that rental
information (please see example below) should be printed and attached to the calculator.

### Personal Vehicle
Travelers may be reimbursed for use of a personal vehicle while traveling on university business. Since the state requires that travel be conducted in the most economical manner, total reimbursement for vehicle use, lodging, and meals and incidental expenses may not exceed the alternative cost of travel by the most economical air routing.

### Mileage Rates
An employee will normally be reimbursed at the fleet rate, currently $0.246 per mile, when he/she drives a personal vehicle more than 200 miles per day for business related travel.

Travelers may be reimbursed at the personal mileage rate, currently $0.535 per mile, in the following situations:

- The mileage does not exceed 200 miles per day.
- The mileage per day is more than 200 miles, but the cost of a personal vehicle is less than the cost of an Enterprise vehicle. The traveler must attach the Enterprise Trip Calculator Form to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.
- An Enterprise rental vehicle is not available. The traveler must print a copy of the Enterprise page indicating vehicle is sold out for the day(s) requested and attach it to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.
- The proposed driver is younger than 21 years of age.
- As an additional option, George Mason University motor pool vehicles may be obtained from the Motor Pool Dispatcher. Mileage great than 300 miles round trip, must be approved in advance by the Office of Risk Management. The cost of using a motor pool...
vehicle and fuel will be charged directly to the department. Additional information may be found online at http://facilities.gmu.edu/PhysicalPlant/Motorpool/.

**Commuting mileage**
Round-trip mileage traveled routinely and directly by an employee between his residence and work place incurred on a workday is considered commuting mileage. Commuting mileage and other commuting costs incurred on workdays are considered personal expenses and are not reimbursable.

**Other Rental Vehicles**
Reimbursement may be made for rental of an economy or mid-size class vehicle when circumstances warrant. Luxury vehicle rentals will not be reimbursed. No reimbursement is authorized for vehicle rentals from non-traditional sources or for informal vehicle rentals from friends, colleagues or relatives.

**Insurance on rental vehicles**
*Employees:* The Commonwealth provides a statewide self-insured plan for employees. Therefore, employees will not be reimbursed for rental car insurance for locations within the United States, and employees should **decline** liability damage waiver (LDW) and collision damage waiver (CDW) insurance for travel within the United States. Other forms of insurance such as personal accident insurance (PAI) are also not reimbursable.

*Non-employees:* A traveler who is not a state employee should determine whether his/her personal automobile insurance provides coverage on rental vehicles. Reimbursement for insurance charges will only be made for those individuals without such coverage.

*International Travel:* All travelers in international countries must purchase appropriate insurance and will be reimbursed for all reasonable, necessary and actual insurance premiums.

**Gasoline charges**
Reimbursement for fuel is limited to prices at customary, competitive outlets. In no instance should the traveler enter into a “Fuel Agreement” or pay for fuel in advance when renting a vehicle. No instance includes situations where the fuel agreement per gallon fuel cost is less than prevailing per gallon rates.

**Parking Fees and Toll Charges**
Reimbursement is provided for parking fees and toll charges incurred. Parking at airports is limited to the most economical rate. Parking at any Mason campus will not be
reimbursed to current employees. Travelers should work with Parking Services to acquire a departmental parking pass when traveling between campuses for university business.

**Taxi and shuttle van fare**

Reimbursement is provided for taxi and shuttle van fares between airports or other transportation terminals and hotels or other lodging facilities. Receipts are required when the reimbursement claim exceeds $75 per instance. A maximum tip of 15% of the taxi cab or shuttle service fare is reimbursable as a transportation cost separate from Meals and Incidental Expenses. The amount of the tip should be separated from the fare on the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

**Sponsored Projects**

The dollar limitations described above also apply to travel conducted in support of grants and contracts sponsored by outside agencies unless the underlying grant or contract specifically provides different reimbursement policies or rates. Authorizations and vouchers applying this exception must contain a statement to this effect signed by the Principal Investigator and the Associate Vice President of Research Operations. Principal Investigators (PIs) and unit administrators should review award budgets and travel restrictions to ensure travel costs charged to sponsored funding are allowable.

Additionally, when federal funds are used, provisions of the Fly America Act are applicable and foreign travel is restricted to a U.S. air carrier unless extenuating circumstances apply and are approved in advance by the Office of Sponsored Programs. Exceptions may be made when using a U.S. air carrier rather than a foreign carrier would: 1) increase the number of aircraft changes made en route by two or more, 2) extend the travel time by six hours or more, or 3) require a connecting time of four hours or more at an overseas interchange point. Cost is not considered a reason for exception under this federal regulation, and travelers will not be reimbursed for any transportation cost when there is improper use of a foreign air carrier. Travelers are required to indicate the name of the air carrier for international travel when federal funds are charged.

Questions regarding travel to be charged to sponsored projects should be directed to the Office of Sponsored Programs at ext. 3-4806.

**Other Reimbursable Expenses**

Other expenses that may be reimbursed include:

1. Business telephone calls
2. Facsimiles
3. Data transmission charges
4. Passport and visa expenses, vaccination fees, airport fees
5. Registration fees
6. Internet charges

Business phone calls, facsimiles and data transmission charges must be supported by documentation that includes the date, points and parties involved, the business purpose of the call, and the charges incurred. Travelers are permitted to incur charges for use of the internet at hotels, airports or other locations provided that internet access is necessary for business activity. To be reimbursed for internet charges, travelers must provide an explanation of the internet usage, such as reading and responding to email. The explanation may be written on the itemized hotel bill or internet provider receipt. Internet charges to sponsored funds are allowable only when directly related to the specific grant or contract. As such, checking email could only be charged to a grant if email activity was limited to, and directly related to, a specific project. Internet-based research directly related to a sponsored project is allowable.

Unallowable Expenses

The following is a list of common expenses that are not reimbursable. *The list is not all-inclusive.*

1. Lost or stolen articles
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Excessive meal and lodging charges
4. Personal telephone calls *
5. Personal laundry expenses *
6. Damage to personal vehicles, clothing or other items
7. Expenses related to personal negligence of the traveler, such as fines
8. Services to gain entry to locked vehicles
9. Towing charges
10. Insurance associated with rental cars in the United States
11. Luxury vehicle rentals
12. Excessive parking and gasoline charges
13. Mason parking fees
14. Movies charged to hotel/motel bills
15. Expenses for children, spouses and other non-business companions
16. Local commuting expenses
17. Service fees and tips (e.g., to baggage handlers) *
18. Travel between lodging and places where meals may be taken
19. Travel insurance (personal injury or loss, trip interruption/cancellation, etc.)
* These expenses are covered by the incidental portion of the per diem payment.

**Travel Advances**

Mason employees traveling on university business for group travel or to international destinations, as described below, may request a travel advance. The advance may be used to pay out-of-pocket travel expenses that are un-allowable on a Mason P-card or are unable to be directly billed to Accounts Payable. The incurred expense(s) must be considered reimbursable under the Travel Policy. Instruction for completing a travel advance may be found online at [Travel Advance Instructions](#) and [Travel Advance Request Form](#).

- **Group Travel:** Faculty and staff members who are supervising groups of students on university-sponsored activities; such as forensics, athletics, music, etc.
- **Faculty and staff members** traveling to an international destination(s) where credit cards may not be accepted.

**Mason does not issue travel advances for individual travel.** Instead, individuals traveling two or more times per year may apply for a Travel Charge Card. Cardholders are responsible for payment of monthly statements. Travel expenses charged to the Travel Charge Card will not be reimbursed until after the trip has taken place. Contact the [Travel Office](#) for additional information about the Travel Charge Card.

**Conference Registration Fees**

Many organizations accept the P-Card to pay conference registration fees. Travelers may also request prepayment of registration fees directly to the sponsoring organization by submitting a [Payment Request](#) form to Accounts Payable. Travelers may also be reimbursed for registration fees they pay using personal funds. State rules prohibit payments made more than 90 days prior to the event.

**Candidates**

A department hosting a candidate to be interviewed for a Mason position is encouraged to arrange for the candidate’s transportation and lodging to be billed directly to the university. Direct billing for transportation is available by using the P-Card or by using Covington Travel or Uniglobe Ulti-Max Travel's reservation and ticketing service by phone.

Direct billing for the candidate’s lodging is also available. The Purchasing Department has negotiated contracts with several hotels in the local area. Sponsoring departments are encouraged to make guest lodging arrangements with one of these hotels to obtain favorable rates and direct billing to the university. An updated list of hotel accommodations is available.
on the *Fiscal Services* web site at [Lodging in the Local Area](http://fiscal.gmu.edu). Additional information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 3-2580.

Candidates may also make their own transportation and lodging arrangements. Instructions and information for candidates and their hosting departments is available on Travel Office web page at [Candidate Information](http://fiscal.gmu.edu). Reimbursement will be made after the trip has occurred. Candidates should be informed that receipts for transportation expenses over $75 are required for reimbursement. When a candidate purchases airline tickets via the internet, he/she must submit the confirmation document generated at the end of the on-line reservation process that confirms the cost of the flight as well as the class of service.

**Contractors**

Guest lecturers, consultants, vendors and other contractors are not normally reimbursed for their travel expenses. Instead, their travel costs should be included in their contracts or honoraria. In situations that require separate payment of a contractor’s travel expenses, all requirements and limitations of the travel policy apply. Departments should be aware that direct reimbursement of travel expenses is one of the factors leading to classification of an individual as an employee rather than a contractor. All payments to contractors must be supported by an “Employee/Independent Contractor Evaluation Form” and a substitute W-9 form. Both forms are available from the Accounts Payable Department and from the Fiscal Services web site at [http://fiscal.gmu.edu](http://fiscal.gmu.edu).

**Business Meals**

Business meals occurring in the local area or during overnight travel may be reimbursed if the conditions for business meals established in University Policy Number 2102, “Food and Beverages Expenditures” are satisfied. Non-Mason guests must be present at the meal and bona fide business discussions must take place. Reimbursement for business meals occurring during overnight travel will be limited to the cost of the guest’s meal only; the traveler/host will receive the normal per diem payment for the trip location.

Reimbursement for food and beverages purchased during business meals requires a “Food and Beverages Authorization” form. For the full text of the Policy on Food and Beverages Expenditures, and the Food and Beverages Authorization forms, go to the *Fiscal Services* web site at [http://fiscal.gmu.edu](http://fiscal.gmu.edu).

Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by an original itemized receipt. If an itemized receipt is not available, the request must include a certification that no alcoholic beverages were consumed at the meal. State rules prohibit use of state funds for alcoholic beverages.
State and local governmental entities may now use their respective exemption certificate (Form ST-12) to purchase prepared foods, catering and related services provided in connection with the sale of food exempt of the sales and use tax if the university meets the following criteria. For more information regarding sales tax on business meals please visit http://fiscal.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SalesTaxPreparedFood.pdf.

**Local Area Travel Expenses**

Non-commuting travel expenses may be reimbursed when individuals must travel in the local area on official business. This includes trips between Mason campuses or to other locations in the vicinity to attend meetings or training classes, to deliver paperwork, etc. Travel may be by personal vehicle or local common carrier (e.g., metro, bus, etc.) For travel between Mason campuses by personal vehicle, a table of mileage distances and reimbursement amounts to be claimed is available at the Travel Office page at the Fiscal Services web site at http://fiscal.gmu.edu. Commercial parking fees and toll charges may also be reimbursed. Charges to park on Mason property (i.e., Mason decals, passes and parking meters) are not reimbursable. Normal commuting mileage is not reimbursable; only the net additional mileage may be claimed.

**Example:** An employee, whose normal work location is the Fairfax campus, has a normal round trip commute of 20 miles. On a scheduled workday she travels 30 miles from her residence to the Science and Technology campus to conduct training. The training concludes at 10:00 a.m., when the employee travels 20 miles from the Science and Technology campus to her office in Fairfax. The employee travels six miles round trip for lunch and returns to work. In the afternoon she travels 15 miles to the Arlington campus for a meeting, after which she travels 12 miles to her residence. The total distance traveled is 83 miles (30+20+6+15+12). The total reimbursable mileage is 57 miles (83-26) to exclude normal commuting (20 miles) and personal (6 miles) mileage.

**Lodging in the Local Area**

An employee may not be reimbursed for lodging within 25 miles of his/her work place, office or home. In addition, local area lodging may be paid for guests of the university such as candidates or speakers. The Purchasing Office has negotiated contracts with several hotels in the local area. Sponsoring departments are encouraged to make guest lodging arrangements with one of these hotels to obtain favorable rates and direct billing to the university. The list of hotels in the local area is available online on the Fiscal Services web site at [Local Area Lodging]. Additional information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 3-2580.
Meals in the Local Area

Generally, meal expenses must involve an overnight stay to qualify for reimbursement. An individual who is not in a travel status may be eligible for meal reimbursement if he/she participates in a business meal. Please see Business Meals above.

Receipts

Travelers are required to obtain original receipts for all expenses in excess of $75, except for meals and incidental expenses reimbursed on a per diem basis. Lodging reimbursement requests must be supported by an original itemized hotel bill. Hotel ledger receipts may be used to annotate business telephone calls, facsimiles, and data transmission charges. The annotation should include points and parties involved.

Other receipts that may be required include the following:

1. Airline ticket receipts and credit card statements
2. Airline checked baggage receipts
3. Public transportation receipts—taxi, limo, etc.
4. Rental car, including gasoline receipts
5. Parking and toll charges
6. Business meals with outside parties
7. Registration fees paid by traveler
8. Internet access receipts

Reimbursement Vouchers

Travelers are required to utilize the George Mason University Travel Request System at https://travel.gmu.edu/ to process all Travel Reimbursement Vouchers. For previously authorized trips, the traveler will enter actual amounts to replace cost estimates where appropriate. Travelers may also initiate reimbursement requests in the TRS for standard overnight trips costing less than $500 or trips that include mileage or transportation only.

Travelers are responsible for presenting legitimate and complete vouchers to the Travel Office. Required receipts must be attached to the voucher to support reimbursement claims. Employees must submit the travel reimbursement document electronically within five days of their return. Travelers who make multiple short trips may consolidate them into one monthly voucher. Supervisors should review and electronically approve travel vouchers in three business days. Once approved, the travel vouchers are electronically routed to the Travel Office. Receipts should be reviewed by the approver and then sent to the Travel Office with a paper copy of the Travel Reimbursement Voucher. A copy of the travel reimbursement voucher and all required receipts must be forwarded to the Travel Office for payment.
Direct Deposit of Travel Reimbursements

Employees are encouraged to receive direct deposits of travel reimbursements. To establish a direct deposit bank account (Accounts Payable Deposit) in Banner Self-Service (Patriot Web) for receipt of travel and other reimbursement payments:

1. Log into Patriot Web with Mason Net ID and password
2. Select Employee Services
3. Select Pay Information
4. Select Direct Deposit Allocation
5. Select Update Direct Deposit Allocation (bottom of page)
6. Please read the Accounts Payable Deposit instructions under the heading “Travel and Other Reimbursements…”
7. In the Add Allocation section, provide bank information including routing number and account number to be used for Accounts Payable reimbursements. This may be the same bank account as the Payroll Allocation account or a different bank account
8. Select Accounts Payable Deposit check box
9. Do NOT check the Payroll Deposit box
10. Email confirmation of direct deposit change will be sent to employee.

Note: An employee may have only one Accounts Payable Deposit bank account. To change an existing Accounts Payable Deposit, you must first inactivate the existing account and then follow the steps above to enter the new bank information.

An employee will be notified via email when a reimbursement is scheduled to post to his/her bank account. An employee may also access the Payment Inquiry Portal to check reimbursement status. Travelers not participating in direct deposit will receive reimbursement checks by mail at their home address on record.

Internet Usage

Procurement of travel services through the Internet is permitted. Travelers should use caution and prudent judgment when choosing an online travel service site. Hidden fees, significant prepayments or nonrefundable advances may apply that may not be reimbursable. When paying for services online the following methods may be used:

- Travel Credit Card—may be used for all types of purchases (i.e., hotel, transportation)
- Small Purchase Credit Card—may be used for common carrier transportation tickets only
- Personal Credit Card

When travel services are procured online, the following supplemental documents must be submitted with the Travel Expense Reimbursement Voucher:
• All pages of the confirmation document generated when internet reservation is complete showing total cost and class of service (e.g. coach, business class) for electronic tickets.
• Passenger receipt (ticket stub) when paper ticket is issued.

International Visitors

Departments are encouraged to contact the International Tax Office in Fiscal Services when foreign nationals (non-US citizens) visit the university. The visitor’s nonimmigrant visa type will determine if the traveler is eligible for travel reimbursement. If possible, the visitor should schedule an in-person meeting with the International Tax Office so the Tax Coordinator can analyze the visitor’s tax status and prepare the appropriate tax documents. For more information, see International Tax Office.
Travel Request System (TRS) User Guide

Travel authorizations and reimbursements will be processed using the Travel Request System (https://travel.gmu.edu). Approval for travel authorizations and reimbursements will be completed through Banner Workflow. This will eliminate the need for travelers and delegates to obtain manual signatures on travel documents. The process will also streamline approvals from other groups including the Office of Research Integrity & Assurance. Requirements outlined in University Policy 2101, Travel Authorization and Reimbursement, remain applicable.

Delegate Instructions

To enter travel information for a Mason employee/Mason student, candidate or other non-Mason traveler it is necessary to complete the “Optional” information before logging into the Travel Request system. The individual must have a Mason “G” number in order to process travel documents. To receive a “G” number, the traveler must complete the Substitute W-9 (U.S. Citizen) or the W-8BEN (Certificate of Foreign Status) and fax the document to Accounts Payable at 703-993-2589. The most current version of these forms may be found on the Fiscal Services website.

1. Enter the Email address for the individual traveler
2. Select the traveler’s Mason affiliation from the drop-down then select “Login”
3. Login using your NetID and password
4. When asked if the traveler has a “G” number, select “Yes” to confirm. If traveler does not have a “G” number, cancel and logout of the system. See instruction above for “G” number request.
5. Complete the “Personal Information” for the traveler then select “Submit”
6. Verify information is correct and select “Enter Travel”
7. Select type of travel and enter Trip Information
8. For candidates or non-Mason travelers the delegate must provide a Supervisor’s NetID (for Mason employees, the Supervisor’s NetID will populate based on the travelers profile). The supervisor may be the search committee chair or the fund/org approver for the department. Delegates should defer to department policy to determine the approver and then enter the individual NetID into the Supervisor’s NetID field.
9. Select the department who will incur the travel charges, provide the primary fund/org and select an approver from the drop down list. (Users may add more than more fund/org)
10. If there are additional approvers who must approve the travel document, enter the NetID in the Optional Approvers field. This will prompt an approval request email to be sent to the optional approver. This is not a required field.
11. Continue to add travel information as needed
12. Once all travel expenses have been entered users may select “email document” from the bottom menu. This will prompt an email to the traveler. Delegates should complete this step when processing a travel document for a non-Mason individual. Verify that all information is correct and then click “Send” to send the email.

13. You will receive a message that an email has been sent. Do not click the “Main Menu” option. Instead, click on the browser’s “back” button twice, to return to the travel summary.
14. Select “submit for approval,” review the document and then select “Continue”
15. Mason affiliated travelers will receive a Banner Workflow request to approve the travel.
16. Non-Mason individuals will not receive an electronic approval request.
17. Please note that non-Mason travelers must sign or otherwise acknowledge receipt of the Travel Reimbursement voucher. Departments may accept an email approval from the non-Mason traveler or a physical signature on the Travel Reimbursement.

Traveler Instructions
1. Go to https://travel.gmu.edu and select “Login.” Access from off campus and other remote locations requires VPN. If working as a delegate, complete the “optional” information before logging into the system.
2. Verify that personal information and supervisor information is current and correct. To update, select “Edit User Info.”
3. Select “Enter Travel” to continue. Choose an option from the Main Menu and select continue:
   a. Initiate Authorization – To begin an authorization when overnight travel costs exceed $500 or the trip includes lodging over the basic rate
   b. Initiate Reimbursement – To begin a reimbursement for transportation only, a one-day trip, standard overnight trip (under $500)
   c. View/Edit Trip – To view a submitted authorization or reimbursement and to initiate a reimbursement after a completed trip when an authorization was previously approved
   d. View Document Status – To view the approval status of a document and/or the document history
   e. Print authorization/reimbursement – To print an authorization or reimbursement
   f. Edit user Information – To update personal or supervisor information for traveler

Initiate Authorization
To begin a travel authorization select “Initiate Authorization” and then continue. Identify if the trip will be within the 48 contiguous United States or an International trip outside the 48 contiguous United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories) and then select continue.

Note: International destinations require additional information to be entered into the TRS authorization. For International trips please see section entitled International Destination Authorization on page 9 of this guide. Users will follow the same steps for reimbursement with domestic and international travel.

1. The Trip name is a combination of the traveler’s NetID (pre-populated), month of travel, year of travel and the travel destination, use destination city, not conference name (Example: hstrange-June-2016-Sarasota)
2. Complete remaining items for Trip Information and verify that the “Supervisor’s NetID” field is correct. If you plan to host a business meal place a checkmark in the corresponding box.

3. Next, complete the fund/org Information. Select a department from the dropdown menu and enter the primary fund/org for the travel expenses. Once you enter a fund/org, a list of approvers will be available in the Approver field. Choose the appropriate approver from the dropdown list. If 100% funding is not available, make the appropriate notation to the right of the Department field – either a % or a $ amount. Repeat entries for other funds/orgs that may be charged for the travel.
4. If there are additional approvers who must approve the travel document, enter the approver NetID in the fields provided. This will prompt an approval request email to be sent to the optional approver. *This is not a required field.*

5. Enter information related to Primary Transportation charges and select continue. Primary transportation is the mode of transit taken to the destination. *(Transportation in the local destination area or to/from the airport/train station are considered Secondary Transportation and will be entered later)* Select Continue.

6. Enter Secondary Transportation, such as vans, taxis, etc. in the next section and estimate costs. Select Continue.

7. Select a location from the drop down list. If the location is not listed, choose the “Other location NOT listed above” field and enter the city and state. Enter arrival and departure dates, if not automatically populated, and select Continue.
8. Basic and conference lodging rates for the location will be displayed. These rates do NOT include tax. All lodging information must be entered. If lodging rate is more than the basic rate, but less than the conference rate, put a check next to the conference lodging rate and provide a justification. If sharing a room, complete the Room Sharing fields.

9. Enter a description for the event including any registration fee or meals that will be provided during the conference. A link to the conference agenda may be provided in the
Comments Section (Step 13 below) for approver’s review. A conference agenda that shows meals provided must be submitted with the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

10. Complete the Car Rental section if a car rental is planned and click Continue.
11. Enter any miscellaneous expenses (e.g. tolls, taxi, luggage) into the Estimated Misc. Expenses field. Ensure that a total amount is entered in the “Total estimated misc. expense” field. If no expenses are expected leave the fields blank and click continue.
12. Review the authorization summary and make any corrections necessary by clicking “Edit Info” in the appropriate field.
13. The traveler may enter comments. Please use this field to provide details or explanations of unusual expenses. A link to the conference agenda may be provided for the approver’s review.
14. Once reviewed, click the “Submit for approval” button at the bottom of the summary. The traveler will again review the information and then select “Continue.” When prompted to enter comments, the traveler may choose to enter additional comments or leave the space blank.
15. If no additional edits are necessary, select “Yes” to submit the document and begin the Banner Workflow for approvals.
16. Traveler should see the following message:

17. The authorization may not be edited/changed when it is in the approval process.
18. Click Main Menu to return to the TRS main menu. Users will receive an email stating that the document has been submitted for approval. Once all approvals have been recorded, users will receive an email stating that the document has completed the approval process.

View Document Status
A traveler may wish to view document status. This allows traveler to verify that Authorization and/or Reimbursement has been approved. Users may also View travel documents and approval history.

1. Select “View Document Status” from the Main Menu and click continue.
2. All trips that have been processed in TRS will display. The Approval Status column will display “Approved” or “Pending.”

3. To view a document or check on “Pending” status click on “View Document/History”
4. In the example above, the traveler “hstrange” has initiated and submitted a document. The document has been approved by the supervisor “mstrauch” and the fund/org approver “lkemp.”

5. To view the document click “View Document”

6. To return to the Document Status page click the “back” button.

7. To return to the Main Menu, click the “Main Menu” button.

Initiate Reimbursement

1. Open a Firefox internet browser (VPN required for remote use). Go to https://travel.gmu.edu and select “Login.”

2. Verify that personal information and supervisor information is current and correct. To update, select “Edit User Info.” Select “Enter Travel” to continue.

3. Choose “View/Edit Trip” and locate the trip name. Click “Initiate Reimbursement” to begin.

View/Edit Trip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorizations</th>
<th>Trip Type</th>
<th>Trip Name</th>
<th>Depart Date</th>
<th>Return Date</th>
<th>Reimbursements</th>
<th>Delete Trip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hstrange</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>hstrange-</td>
<td>05/01/2016</td>
<td>05/05/2016</td>
<td>InitiateReimbursement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. This trip, the authorization cannot be edited. To start the reimbursement, select
“continue”. Otherwise, select “back” to review the authorization or “main menu” to view/edit the authorization.

5. Select Continue to begin the reimbursement.

6. Update all estimated expenses to reflect the actual amount to be reimbursed based on available receipts. Select “edit info” under the appropriate section heading to edit that section. Once edits are complete, select continue to return to the summary page.

7. Once all edits are recorded, select “Submit for approval” located at the bottom of the summary page.

8. The traveler will again review the information and then select “Continue.” When prompted to enter comments, the traveler may choose to enter additional comments or leave the space blank.

9. If no additional edits are necessary, select “Yes” to submit the document to Banner Workflow for approvals. The following pop-up will appear for additional user reference.
10. Click OK in the pop-up window. Traveler should then see the following message:

![Document has been submitted for approval]

11. Click Main Menu to return to the TRS main menu. Users will receive an email stating that the document has been submitted for approval. Once all approvals have been recorded, users will receive an email stating that the document has completed the approval process.

International Destination Authorization

When entering an authorization for international travel, the following message will be displayed. Users should be aware of international travel policies and requirements for advanced approval. Users must read the information carefully and then click OK to continue entering travel information.

![IMPORTANT MESSAGE]

When more than three employees from George Mason University travel to the same international destination, including Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. Territories, for a conference or other university business, written approval by the State Cabinet Secretary is required in advance of the trip. The traveler should allow at least 30 days for the approval to be processed.

Failure to obtain the advance approval will result in the reimbursement request being denied.

If you are aware that your trip includes more than three Mason employees, please contact the Travel Office at 3-2623 or travel@gmu.edu immediately.

It is the delegate’s responsibility to notify the traveler of this requirement by copying or pasting this message in an email to the traveler.

![OK]
1. The Trip name is a combination of the travelers NetID (pre-populated), month of travel, year of travel and the travel destination, not conference name (Example: hstrange-May-2016-Bermuda)

2. Complete remaining items for Trip Information and verify that the “Supervisor’s NetID” field is correct. If you plan to host a business meal, place a checkmark in the corresponding box.

   Note: The Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) must approve travel authorization in advance for all travelers to a comprehensively embargoed country/region and for ITAR travelers to a militarily embargoed country/region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trip name:</strong> hstrange-May-2016-Bermuda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class of trip:</strong> Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose of trip:</strong> Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit to the university:</strong> Conduct Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departure Date:</strong> 05/01/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departure Time:</strong> 7:30AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Please check all that apply:</strong> On the departure date, a ☐ free breakfast, a ☐ free lunch, a ☐ free dinner will be provided by the seminar/conference attended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Return Date:</strong> 05/02/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Return Time:</strong> 10:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Please check all that apply:</strong> On the return date, a ☐ free breakfast, a ☐ free lunch, a ☐ free dinner will be provided by the seminar/conference attended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiscal Year:</strong> 2016 (yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervisor’s NetID:</strong> outreach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Note: The Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) must approve in advance when travel is:

   - To a comprehensively embargoed country or region (the Crimea Region of Ukraine, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria).
   OR
   - To a militarily embargoed country (complete list of these countries available at [http://pDONE.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.htm](http://pDONE.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.htm) for a traveler who works with International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) data).

3. Complete the Emergency Contact Information and U.S. Department of State Registry section.
4. Next, complete the Fund/Org Information. Select a department from the dropdown menu and enter the primary fund/org for the travel expenses. Once a fund/org is entered, a list of approvers will be available in the Approver field. Choose the appropriate approver from the dropdown list. If 100% funding will not be available, make the appropriate notation to the right of the Department field – either a % or a $ amount. To charge more than one fund/org, complete another entry and adjust the percent (%) appropriated to each fund/org. Select a Senior Approving Official from the drop down menu.

5. If additional approvers must sign off on the travel document, enter the approver NetID into the fields provided. This will prompt a Banner Workflow to be sent to the optional approver. This is not a required field.
6. Enter information related to Primary Transportation charges and select continue. Primary transportation is the mode of transit taken to the destination. *(Transportation in the local destination area or to/from the airport is considered Secondary Transportation and will be entered later).* When federal funds will be charged, provisions of the Fly America Act are applicable. Enter the name of the air carrier into the Airline field if federal funds are allocated for the travel.

   Note: For more information on DOD funded travel, the Fly America Act and Open Skies agreement with EU, Japan, Switzerland, and Australia; please access: http://osp.gmu.edu/financial-compliance/#FAA

7. Click Continue and enter Secondary Transportation information. Secondary Transportation is transportation to/from the airport and/or transportation in the destination location. Complete fields as necessary and select Continue.
8. Enter location information by typing a city name and choosing a country from the drop down menu. Next, view the lodging maximums and meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) rates by selecting “click here” after the appropriate description. Once you select “click here” a new browser will open to the U.S. Department of State website. Select the country and city from the drop down menu and record the maximum lodging and M&IE rates on the TRS form. To view the M&IE rate allocation, select “click here” to open the rate breakdown. Find the M&IE rate for the travel location and record the breakfast, lunch, dinner and incidental amounts on the TRS form.
9. For Lodging, the basic rate and the conference rate will be listed. These rates are NOT inclusive of taxes and lodging surcharges. All lodging information must be entered before continuing to the next option. If the lodging rate is more than the basic rate listed but less than the conference rate, the traveler must put a check next to the conference lodging rate and provide a justification. If sharing a room, the traveler must complete the Room Sharing fields.
10. Enter a description for the event including any registration fee or meals that will be provided during the conference. A link to the conference agenda may be provided in the Comments Section (Step 14 below) for approver’s review. Traveler must attach a conference agenda to his/her reimbursement request to verify included meals.

11. Complete the Car Rental section if a car rental is planned and then click continue.

12. Enter any miscellaneous expenses (e.g. tolls, taxi, luggage) in the Estimated Misc. Expenses field. Ensure that a total amount is entered in the “Total estimated misc. expense” field. If no expenses are expected, leave the fields blank and click continue.

13. Review the authorization summary and make any corrections necessary by clicking “Edit Info” in the appropriate field.

14. The traveler may enter comments as necessary. Please use this field to provide details or explanations of unusual expenses. A link to the conference agenda may be provided for the approver’s review.

15. Once reviewed, click the “Submit for approval” button at the bottom of the summary. The traveler will again review the information and then select “Continue.” When
prompted to enter comments, the traveler may choose to enter additional comments or leave the space blank.

16. If no additional edits are necessary, select “Yes” to submit the document to Banner Workflow for approvals.

17. Traveler should see the following message:

![TRAVEL REQUEST
George Mason University

Document has been submitted for approval.]

18. The traveler may not edit the authorization document while it is in the approval process.

19. Click Main Menu to return to the TRS main menu.

For additional information on University Policy 2101, please refer to the University Policy page: [http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/responsible-office/fiscal-services/](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/responsible-office/fiscal-services/). The Travel Manual and quick guides may be accessed through the Fiscal Services webpage: [http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/](http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/).
**Approver Instructions**

Supervisors and fiscal officers with signature authority for a university fund or organization have the responsibility to review and monitor all travel expenses they approve. Their approvals certify that the travel and expenses were necessary and incurred while on official Mason business.

1. Approver (supervisors and/or fiscal officers) will receive an email from Banner Workflow after a traveler has submitted a document (Authorization or Reimbursement) that requires approval.

   Please click here to login into Banner Workflow with your Net ID and password to review/approve a travel document for trip: Hstrmge-June-Maryland.

   After reviewing the travel document including any previous approvals you may:

   1. Approve the document as submitted by selecting Approve this document and Complete to save your approval and send the document to the next approver.

   OR

   2. Not approve the document as submitted by selecting Return to submitter with comments and Complete to return to this document to the submitter. You will use this option to completely disapprove the travel authorization/reimbursement or to request corrections/adjustments to the travel document. Whenever this option is selected, you must use the Reason box to explain why you are returning the travel document. Examples include, "travel not approved, inadequate budget" or "this authorization not approved, please charge org xxxxxx instead of org yyyyyy!", or other appropriate comment.

2. Approver will click on the Workflow link in the body of the email, which will open the Workflow application and prompt the user to enter his/her username (NetID) and password.

3. Approver will select the document and review all of the travel information and related expenses.

4. Once reviewed, the approver will select one of the two options located in the “Action” box:
   a. Approve this document – to approve the document as submitted
   b. Return to submitter with comments – to return the document to the traveler for corrections. Comments must be entered in the “Reason” box to inform the traveler of requested changes. Approver will use this option to deny the traveler’s request in its entirety by entering “Trip request is denied” in the “Reason” box.

5. Next, approver must choose from the three options at the bottom of the page:
   a. Complete – to save your select and move the document to the next approver
   b. Save & Close – to save your work and retain the document in your Workflow folder. The document will not move to the next approver or be processed further.
   c. Cancel – to exit the document without making changes, saving or approving the document and return to the worklist

6. Once completed or returned, the traveler will receive an email notification of the document status.
7. If a trip is returned, the traveler will be able to review the comments, make requested changes and resubmit. If the traveler resubmits the document, the approval process will begin again.

8. All electronic approvals/returns related to the original document will be date/time stamped at the end of document.

**ELECTRONIC APPROVAL HISTORY**

Geraghty Nickle (gnickle), Supervisor - Approved, 02-MAY-2016, 14:54:00 PM
Cliff Shore (cshore), Fund/Org Apprvr - Approved, 02-MAY-2016, 12:36:07 PM
Peggy Agouris (pagouris), Sr Apprv Official - Approved, 02-MAY-2016, 12:37:33 PM
Trvl Office Intl - Notified, 02-MAY-2016, 12:38:12 PM
Travel Contacts and Web Sites

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PH: 888-747-7077</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Tax Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:inttax@gmu.edu">inttax@gmu.edu</a></td>
<td>3-2969</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Sponsored Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4806</td>
<td>MS 4C6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Charge Card</td>
<td><a href="mailto:papadmin@gmu.edu">papadmin@gmu.edu</a></td>
<td>3-2580</td>
<td>MS 3C5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Hstrange@gmu.edu">Hstrange@gmu.edu</a></td>
<td>3-2089</td>
<td>MS 4B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:travel@gmu.edu">travel@gmu.edu</a></td>
<td>3-2580</td>
<td>MS 3G6</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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Travel-related Websites

- Fiscal Services Travel Office: [http://fiscal.gmu.edu/](http://fiscal.gmu.edu/)
- International Destinations: [https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp](https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp)
- Travel Request System: [https://travel.gmu.edu](https://travel.gmu.edu)
- U.S. State Department Travel Warnings: [https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html)
Travel Authorization and Reimbursement

University Policy Number 2101

Categorized: Financial

Responsible Office: Fiscal Services

Policy Procedure:

- Detailed procedures for University Travel are available on the Fiscal Services website.

Related Law & Policy:

- Policy 2102: Food and Beverage Expenditures

I. Scope

The policies provided herein apply to all George Mason University organizations, faculty, staff, students and all other organizations and individuals that intend to travel at University expense.

II. Policy Statement

This administrative policy implements the Commonwealth of Virginia’s travel regulations. To be reimbursable, the Commonwealth requires that the travel be performed in the most economical manner consistent with mission requirements; that all expenses be incurred while in a travel status; that the expenses be reasonable, necessary and (except for meal and incidental expense per diem) actual; and that they not exceed the limitations imposed by the Commonwealth or the University. Travel expenditures are open to public review. Individuals are expected to exercise prudent judgment in performing travel. Travelers are required to present receipts for all expenses in excess of $20, except for meals and incidental expenses reimbursed on a per diem basis.

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III. Responsibilities

Travelers have the responsibility to perform their travel duties in conformity with the provisions of this policy, and to present vouchers that are legitimate and complete to support their travel reimbursement claims. Principal Investigators (PIs) and Unit Administrators have the responsibility to review award budgets and travel restrictions when sponsored research funds are charged to ensure travel costs charged to sponsored funding are allowable. Supervisors and fiscal officers with signature authority for a university fund or organization have the responsibility to review and monitor all travel expenses that they approve. Such approval will certify that the travel was necessary and the expenses were incurred while on official business of the University.

The Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) has the responsibility to review and approve in advance international travel:

- To a comprehensively embargoed country (e.g., Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria).
- To a militarily embargoed country (list of these countries available at: http://pmddtc.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.html) for a traveler who works with data controlled by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

The Director of Purchasing and Accounts Payable has the responsibility to administer and oversee the provisions of this policy, and to provide guidance to travelers through the Travel Office.

IV. Pre-trip Planning

A. Cost Estimating and Approval Travel costs must be estimated in writing before the proposed trip is made for 1) overnight travel where costs exceed $500 or 2) travel where lodging costs exceed the basic rates. All travel must be approved in advance. The form and level of approval required depend on the nature and estimated cost of the trip, as described in this section of the policy. The University President’s travel with no requests for exceptions may be approved by the Chief of Staff or the Senior Vice President. Exception requests for the President’s domestic travel may be approved by the Rector of the Board of Visitors. Exception requests for the President’s international travel must be approved by the Secretary of Education. Approval for the travel of non-immigrant visa holders must be obtained prior to the trip from the University’s International Tax Department.

1. Travel Requiring Written Approval

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Travel Policies and Procedures

All overnight travel that exceeds $500 or travel where lodging costs exceed the basic rates (see V.B. below) must be approved in writing in advance by the traveler’s first line supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged if the traveler or supervisor does not have signature authority for that fund/organization. In unusual situations where the proposed lodging costs are more than 50% over the basic rate, an exception that requires an additional approval process may be granted. Only the Comptroller of the Commonwealth or his or her designee (Assistant State Comptroller) may grant exceptions. (see V.D. below).

Officials may neither authorize their own travel nor approve their own reimbursement vouchers.

2. International Travel Requiring Additional Written Approval

International travel must be approved in writing in advance by the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) when travel is:

- To a comprehensively embargoed country (e.g., Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria).
- To a militarily embargoed country (list of these countries available at: [http://pmddtc.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.html](http://pmddtc.state.gov/embargoed_countries/index.html)) for a traveler who works with data controlled by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

3. Travel Requiring Oral Approval

Travel costing less than $500 and travel where lodging does not exceed basic rates (see V. below) may be authorized orally by first line supervisors.

B. Special Accommodations

The University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Travelers requiring special accommodations because of physical or other handicap must be certified by the Affirmative Action/EOO Office prior to making trip arrangements.

C. Travel Charge Card

The University does not make travel advances. Instead, individuals are authorized to obtain a Travel Charge Card. Applications may be obtained from the Travel Office.

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V. Lodging

A. Basic Rates

The State publishes maximum reimbursable lodging rates for specific cities within the U.S. as well as basic rates for Virginia and out-of-state lodging when a particular city is not listed. The rates are updated periodically by the state. Lodging taxes are fully reimbursable. Reimbursement for lodging in excess of the maximum rates will be limited to the maximum amount allowed, and lodging taxes on these excessive rates will be reimbursed on a prorated basis. Current rates may be obtained from the Travel Office link at the Fiscal Services website. The rates listed are single room rates excluding applicable taxes.

B. Approval for Lodging Above the Basic Rates

When circumstances warrant, supervisors may approve, in advance, reimbursement for lodging up to 150% of the established basic rates. Written justification for the excess lodging must be provided, in all cases including those when the traveler is staying at the site of the conference he or she is attending. Example: The state listing includes a basic rate of $102 per night for Richmond (City Limits), Virginia. Any per night hotel cost exceeding $102, up to $153 must be approved in writing by the supervisor prior to travel. An explanation of the circumstances justifying the lodging exception must be attached to the Travel Expense Reimbursement Voucher.

C. International Rates

The University uses federal government travel ceilings for international lodging and per diem rates. See the U.S. Department of State website for rates that apply to international locations. See the GSA web page for rates that apply to locations outside the 48 contiguous United States including Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. Territories such as Puerto Rico only. Reimbursement requests for foreign lodging, meals and incidental expenses must be accompanied by documentation of the maximum allowable rates.

D. Exceptions to Maximum Rates

Occasionally, prevailing hotel rates exceed the maximum allowable reimbursement rates, despite reasonable efforts to locate alternatively priced accommodations. In these situations, the Comptroller of the Commonwealth may grant exceptions to the established reimbursement rates.
rates for in-state, out-of-state, and foreign travel. The Comptroller will only consider requests submitted by the University Controller in advance of travel. Exception requests should document the circumstances of the request and must be accompanied by a travel authorization signed by the traveler’s supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged if the traveler or supervisor does not have signature authority for that fund/organization. Requests must be submitted to the Travel Office at least 14 days prior to the trip.

E. More Than One Person in a Room

Vouchers must be annotated to explain more than one person in a room. When two or more people are traveling on official state business and staying in the same hotel room, the allowable lodging rate will be the lodging rate allowed in the area they are staying, plus the cost charged by the hotel for any additional persons in the room. Documentation from the hotel listing additional hotel charges for each additional person, per room must be provided. If the additional traveler is not a business traveler, only the single room rate may be claimed.

For non-luxury, conference hotels, lodging rates that are less than the standard rate lodging guidelines applicable to the travel destination multiplied by the number of official business travelers in the room may be authorized.

F. Hotel Bills

An original itemized hotel bill must support lodging reimbursement requests.

VI. Meals and Incidental Expenses in Conjunction With an Overnight Trip

A. Per Diem Rates

Generally, travelers are paid on a per diem basis for meals and certain incidental travel expenses rather than being reimbursed for actual expenses. As with lodging, the Commonwealth has established basic and city-specific maximum per diem rates for meals and incidental expenses. Current rates within the U.S. can be obtained from the Travel Office link at the Fiscal Services website. The incidental portion of the per diem is intended to cover such items as transportation to restaurants, personal telephone calls, laundry, and tips to baggage handlers and taxi drivers.

B. Foreign Per Diem Rates

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Travel Policies and Procedures

The University uses federal government travel ceilings for foreign lodging and per diem rates. See the U.S Department of State website for rates that apply to locations outside the United States. Reimbursement requests for foreign lodging, meals and incidental expenses must be accompanied by documentation of the maximum allowable rates during the period of travel for the applicable foreign location(s).

C. Travel Departure and Return Days

On travel departure and return days, travelers receive 75% of the per diem meal allowance and 100% of the per diem incidental allowance, regardless of the time of departure or return. The return day allowance is based on the rate at the location where the traveler spent the night prior to returning to the home base.

D. “No-cost” Meals

The per diem rate claimed must be reduced for all “no-cost” meals the traveler receives. This includes meals included in event registration fees. If a continental breakfast or reception is offered as part of the travel event and the food/timing is sufficient to serve as a meal, the traveler should reduce the per diem by the appropriate allowance. Individual meal components are provided in the per diem rate tables.

VII. Transportation

A. Commercial Air Carrier

Generally, airline travel cannot exceed the lowest rates charged for nonrefundable tourist/coach fare with a reasonable number of stops given the distance traveled. Justification is required for purchase of refundable tickets. Some airlines have created a higher level of coach class services that charges a premium for certain preferable seats, priority boarding, advance seat selection and/or other amenities. Such upgrades in the coach seating area are considered enhancements to the coach fare and are not reimbursable. When federal funds are used, provisions of the Fly America Act are applicable and foreign travel is restricted to a U.S. air carrier unless extenuating circumstances apply and are approved in advance by the Office of Sponsored Programs. See the Compliance section of the Office of Sponsored Programs website. Travelers should use the Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card) to purchase airline and rail tickets. Appropriate documentation must be retained for three years by the cardholder (10 years for charges to a sponsored fund). Alternatively, a traveler may purchase airline tickets using his/her

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Travel Policies and Procedures

Travel Charge Card or a personal credit card; however, reimbursement will not be made until after the travel has taken place. Documentation that validates the mode and class of travel is required for all air and rail reimbursements. When procuring airline tickets or other travel services using the Internet, specific documentation is required. See section XI. Rates for airline tickets typically may not exceed coach class. Supervisors may approve business class travel under the following circumstances:

a. The business class fare does not cost more than the lowest available tourist/coach fare,

b. The travel is to western Europe and the business meeting is conducted within three hours of landing,

c. The travel is for a transoceanic intercontinental trip of more than eight hours, or

d. The traveler pays the difference.

Some airlines charge additional fees for services, such as checked baggage, previously included in the ticket price. These fees are reimbursable with a receipt when limits must be exceeded for legitimate business purposes. Written justification must be provided when requesting reimbursement for two or more checked bags.

B. Personal Vehicle

Travelers may be reimbursed for use of a personal vehicle while on University business. Total reimbursement for vehicle use, lodging, and meals and incidental expenses, however, may not exceed the alternative cost of travel by the most economical air or rail routing.

Rate

The “personal” mileage rate may be used in any of the following situations: (1) The travel distance is 100 miles or less per day, (2) The cost of the personal car does not exceed the cost of an Enterprise vehicle by more than $20 (print a copy of the Enterprise Trip Calculator from the State’s Office of Fleet Management website and attach to travel reimbursement voucher). (3) An Enterprise rental vehicle is not available (print a copy of the page indicating vehicle is sold out and attach to travel reimbursement voucher).

Trips not qualifying for the personal mileage rate are reimbursed at the lower “fleet” rate.

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Round-trip mileage traveled routinely and directly by an employee between his residence and Mason work location on a scheduled workday is considered commuting mileage. Commuting mileage and other commuting costs incurred on a normal workday are considered a personal expense and are not reimbursable. Current mileage rates may be obtained from the Travel Office link at the Fiscal Services website. As an additional option, George Mason University motor pool vehicles may be obtained from the Motor Pool Dispatcher. The cost of using a motor pool vehicle will be recharged to the user department.

C. Rental Vehicles

Reimbursement may be made for car rental expense. The traveler must select the most economical contractor and type of vehicle available and acquire any commercial rate or government discount available when the vehicle is rented. The State maintains a contract with Enterprise Leasing to provide vehicles for short-term travel by State employees, which may be accessed at the State’s Office of Fleet Management Services website.

1. Insurance

The Commonwealth provides a statewide self-insurance plan for employees. Therefore, employees will not be reimbursed for rental car insurance for locations within the United States. Individuals traveling outside the territorial United States (including Canada, Puerto Rico) are required to purchase and will be reimbursed for liability damage waiver and collision damage waiver insurance.

2. Gasoline Charges

Travelers must refuel rental vehicles before returning to the rental contractor. Reimbursement will be based on receipts provided for fuel used. In no instance should the traveler enter into a “Fuel Agreement” or pay for fuel in advance when renting a vehicle.

D. Parking Fees and Toll Charges

Reimbursement is provided for parking fees and toll charges incurred. A receipt is required where an individual claim exceeds $20.
E. Taxi and Shuttle Van Fares

Reimbursement is provided for taxi and shuttle van fares between airports and hotels. A receipt is required where an individual claim exceeds $20.

F. Local Area Public Transportation

Reimbursement is provided for metro, bus or other public transportation fares in the local area.

VIII. Other Requirements and Limitations

A. Other Reimbursable Expenses

1. Business telephone calls
2. Facsimiles
3. Data transmission charges
4. Internet charges necessary for business activity
5. Country specific expenses such as visas, vaccinations and airport fees
6. Registration fees (no more than 90 days in advance)

B. Unallowable Expenses.

1. Lost or stolen articles
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Damage to personal vehicles, clothing, or other items
4. Services to gain entry to a locked vehicle
5. Movies charged to hotel bills
6. All expenses related to the personal negligence of the traveler, such as fines
7. Entertainment expenses
8. Towing charges
9. Expenses for children, spouses, and companions while on travel status The above list is not all-inclusive. Travelers should use prudent judgment and remember that all travel expense accounts are open to the public and must be able to sustain the test of public review.

C. Business Meals

Business meals occurring in the local area or during overnight travel may be reimbursed if the conditions for business meals established in University Policy Number 2102, “Food and Beverages Expenditures” are satisfied. Reimbursement requests for business meals must be accompanied by an original itemized receipt. See University Policy Number 2102 at the Fiscal Services website.
APPENDIX A

Travel Policies and Procedures

D. Grants and Contracts

The dollar limitations described above also apply to travel conducted in support of grants and contracts sponsored by outside agencies unless the underlying grant or contract specifically provides different reimbursement policies or rates. Authorizations and vouchers applying this exception must contain a statement to this effect signed by the Principal Investigator and the Associate VP for Research Operations.

E. More Than Three Employees

Travel to destinations in the 48 contiguous United States involving more than three employees from the University traveling to the same event requires advance written approval from a supervisor.

Travel to an international destination as well as any destination outside the 48 contiguous United States including Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. Territories, involving more than three employees from the University traveling to a single destination requires written approval in advance by the Cabinet Secretary.

F. EDI Reimbursements

Employees who expect to travel more than two times per year are required to participate in the Commonwealth’s Travel EDI program. Enrollment forms are available from the Travel Office or from the Fiscal Services website.

G. Internet Charges Necessary for Business Activity

Travelers are permitted to incur charges to use the internet at hotels, airports or other locations provided that internet access is necessary for business activity. To be reimbursed for internet charges, travelers must provide an explanation of the internet usage, such as checking and responding to email or conducting internet-based research. The explanation may be written on the itemized hotel bill or internet provider receipt. Internet charges to sponsored funds are allowable only when directly related to the specific grant or contract.

IX. Local Area Travel Expenses

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Travel Policies and Procedures

A. Transportation in the Local Area

Non-commuting travel expenses may be reimbursed when individuals must travel in the local area on official business. This includes trips between University campuses or to other locations in the vicinity to attend meetings or training classes, to deliver paperwork, etc. Travel may be by personal vehicle or local common carrier (e.g., metro, bus, etc.). Commercial parking fees and toll charges may also be reimbursed. Charges to park on University property (i.e., University decals, passes and parking meters) are not reimbursable. Normal commuting mileage is not reimbursable; only the net additional mileage may be claimed.

B. Lodging in the Local Area

Normally, employees may not be reimbursed for lodging within 25 miles of their normal work place.

Local area lodging paid for guests of the University (e.g., employment candidates) are considered travel expenses and should be included with the estimated cost of the trip if the trip is expected to exceed $500. Sponsoring departments should work through the Purchasing department to arrange for guest lodging and for the University to be billed directly by the vendor. Contracts with local area hotels are listed on the Travel page at the Fiscal Services website. Visitors are limited to the appropriate local contracted hotel/motel rate when, in special situations, they obtain their own lodging.

X. Methods of Payment

The following methods of payment may be used: 1) Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card) – may be used for transportation tickets and conference registration fees. 2) Travel Charge Card – may be used for all travel purchases (e.g., hotel, transportation). Travelers will not be reimbursed until after the travel has taken place. 3) Personal Credit Card.

XI. Using The Internet To Purchase Travel Services
When travel services are purchased using the Internet, the following supplemental documents must be submitted with the Travel Expense Reimbursement Voucher: 1) All pages of the confirmation document generated when the reservation is complete showing total cost and class of service (e.g. coach, business class) for electronic tickets. 2) Passenger receipt (ticket stub) when paper ticket is issued.

**XII. Effective Date and Approval**

The policies herein are effective September 21, 2004, and were revised May 4, 2007, July 30, 2008 and December 10, 2008. This administrative policy shall be reviewed and revised annually to become effective at the beginning of the University’s fiscal year.

Approved:

/S
Maurice W. Scherrens
Senior Vice President

/S
Peter N. Stearns
Provost

Date approved: October 11, 2004

Revisions approved: May 24, 2007 and August 13, 2008

Revised: May 23, 2012

Revised: February 11, 2013

Revisions approved: June 24, 2014
Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of General Services
Division of Purchases and Supplies

Electronic Commerce Policy

Security Requirements - In order to procure goods or services through the Internet, the vendor must have a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Version 2.0 or greater. It is the agency’s responsibility to ensure the vendor meets the SSL 2.0 requirement before placing an order and using the SPCC as a method of payment. To ensure the vendor has a SSL, the Address Window must start with https://. This may not occur until the payment information is requested. For information about the vendor’s security certification, check under Help on your browser’s tool bar. Buying through the Internet might subject an agency or institution to the vendor’s terms and conditions if no MOU exists. Agencies are encouraged to establish a MOU with vendors whom they conduct business with on a regular basis. See DGS/DPS website for sample MOUs. (at a future date)
Enterprise Trip Calculator instructions:

- At least one day before the trip, open the Enterprise Trip Calculator at [http://www.dgs.state.va.us/OfficeofFleetManagementServices/TravelPlanning/tabid/170/Default.aspx](http://www.dgs.state.va.us/OfficeofFleetManagementServices/TravelPlanning/tabid/170/Default.aspx). The link is near the bottom of the page on the left (Macros should be enabled).

- Enter the five items of information requested for the trip
  - traveler’s name
  - Mason _________ (department)
  - Destination
  - Number of miles for the trip
  - Number of days for the trip*  
  *days are 24 hour days, for example 10 a.m. Monday-10 a.m. Tuesday is one day.

- select Go to Enterprise
- select “G”
- select George Mason University
- select banner to the right of campus location to reserve at that location; OR
- select the banner to the right of Other Locations-Business to reserve at another location
- enter trip dates and times
- select View Rates
- select a vehicle included in the agreement at the state contract rate
- provide the renter’s name, phone number, email
- select continue
- select book now to complete the reservation
- call the telephone number above “we’ll pick you up” to arrange for a pick up. Cars are provided with a partially full or full tank of gas and must be returned with at least the same amount. If you prefer a full tank, specify this when you call.

Note: The cost of an Enterprise vehicle at the contract rate as well as gas expense related to the trip is fully reimbursable. Sales tax charged by Enterprise to travelers who pay with a personal credit card are reimbursable.
Getting Started and Establishing a Delegate with the Travel Request System (TRS)

The Travel Request System (TRS) is an online system available to faculty, staff, students, candidates, guest speakers and others who travel at Mason’s expense. Since it is a stand-alone application that is independent of Banner, each user will enter and then update as necessary his/her department information, home address, etc. The TRS design includes a delegate feature in which a traveler may designate another Mason staff member, who is registered in the TRS, to prepare electronic travel authorizations and reimbursements on his/her behalf.

First time users: Register and establish a delegate

1. Open a Firefox browser and enter travel.gmu.edu. NOTE: If you are using a computer outside of the Mason network (e.g., a home computer or laptop) you will need to connect to the VPN before accessing the TRS. (Click here for information about VPN access)
2. Enter your Mason Username (aka NETID) and password, the same used to log-in to Mason email and Patriot Web
3. Complete personal, department and supervisor information and select Submit
4. To establish a delegate, select Delegate Info at the bottom of the screen
5. Follow the prompts in the Add Delegate section to select and add one or more delegates
6. If you would like to add a delegate whose name does not appear in the dropdown, select other and enter his/her G#
7. Select Save changes at the bottom of the page

The selected delegate(s) will be able to log in to the TRS, and complete travel authorizations and reimbursements by entering your email address in the “I am acting as a delegate for” section of the TRS home page.

Previous users: Update information and establish/change a delegate

1. Open a Firefox browser and enter travel.gmu.edu. NOTE: If you are using a computer outside of the Mason network (e.g., a home computer or laptop) you will need to connect to the VPN before accessing the TRS. (Click here for information about VPN access)
2. Enter your Mason Username (aka NETID) and password, the same used to log-in to Mason email and Patriot Web.
3. Select login
4. Select Edit User Info to review and update personal information. If department information is no
Travel Policies and Procedures

1. "Who receives financial compensation for themselves" is no longer current, use the drop down to select the appropriate department. Select Save changes at the bottom of the page.

2. Select Delegate Info at the bottom of the screen to review delegates. Follow the prompts to remove or add delegates.

3. If you would like to add a delegate whose name does not appear in the dropdown, select other and

4. Enter his/her G#

5. Select Save changes at the bottom of the page

The selected delegate(s) will be able to log in to the TRS, and complete travel authorizations and reimbursements by entering your email address in the “I am acting as a delegate for” section of the TRS home page.
April 01, 2014

Dear Faculty Candidate:

We are delighted you will be visiting George Mason University and would like to quickly reimburse you for eligible travel expenses. As a state university, we are required to obtain receipts and other documentation for most travel expenditures that are reimbursed on an actual basis. Receipts are not required for meals that are reimbursed on a per diem basis or transportation expenditures less than $75. General information is provided below.

**Traveler’s Social Security Number** The traveler’s social security number is required in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Debt Offset Program. Procedures are in place to protect this sensitive data.

**Advanced Approval** When the trip cost is expected to exceed $500 the Request and Authorization to Travel form is to be completed by the hosting department and electronically approved by the traveler’s first line supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged prior to travel. The approved Authorization form should be retained by the department.

**Common Carrier Transportation** Hosting department is encouraged to purchase the airline/train ticket with Mason Purchase Card (P-Card) for direct billing to Mason. For the candidate to be reimbursed for the actual cost of coach class tickets purchased by the traveler, please provide the ticket receipt. If ticket was purchased via the internet, please also print and attach all pages of the confirmation that includes total cost and class of service.

**Lodging** Hosting department is encouraged to book accommodations at a local area hotel that has a contract with George Mason University and will direct bill for room and tax. A current list is located at [http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/use-lodging/lodging-in-the-local-area/](http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/use-lodging/lodging-in-the-local-area/)

**Meals** Receipts are not required for meals that will be reimbursed on a per diem basis.

**Miscellaneous Expenses** Original receipts (not faxed or other copies) are required to reimburse miscellaneous expenses including shuttle or taxi service between the airport and hotel or parking charges in excess of $75.

**Foreign Nationals** Travel reimbursement requests should be sent first to the Fiscal Services International Tax Office, Mail Stop 4B2.

Additional information and forms are available on the Travel Office website at [http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/](http://fiscal.gmu.edu/travel/). You are also welcome to call Penny Smith at 703-993-2623 with questions.

George Mason University Travel Office
January 2017
April 01, 2014

To Departments Hosting Faculty Candidates:

We very much appreciate your efforts and assistance in processing faculty candidates’ travel reimbursement vouchers. We have prepared the attached document for you to provide to a faculty candidate before a campus visit so that he/she will be aware of George Mason University’s travel reimbursement procedures and receipt requirements in advance of the trip.

The requirements to reimburse faculty candidates are identical to the requirements related to routine George Mason University travel.

The Request and Authorization to Travel form is to be completed and signed by the traveler’s first line supervisor and a fiscal officer with signature authority for the fund/organization being charged in advance of the travel whenever:

- Total cost is $500 or more OR
- Lodging above the basic rate

The approved authorization form should be retained until after the trip has taken place.

The candidate’s social security number is required in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia Debt Offset Program. Procedures are in place to protect this sensitive data.

The hosting department is encouraged to use the Purchasing Charge Card (P-Card/Visa) to purchase air or train tickets for the candidate. The department should maintain the ticket receipt with the P-Card log.

In order to quickly process the reimbursement requests, please be certain that original (not faxed or copied) receipts are provided for all reimbursement requests, as well as a copy of the Reimbursement Voucher. You are welcome to call Penny Smith, 3-2623 with questions.

Travel Office

August 2016

What is the Travel Request System (TRS)?

The TRS is an online system that generates Request and Authorization to Travel and Travel Expense Reimbursement forms. TRS document approvals are completed electronically through Banner Workflow.

What are the types of travel and levels of approval?

1. **Extended Trip to 48 contiguous U.S.** – overnight travel costs exceeding $500 and/or trip includes lodging over the basic rate. **Required Approval** – Supervisor and Fiscal Officer
2. **International Trip (including Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories)** at any dollar amount. **Required Approval** – Supervisor, Fiscal Officer and Senior Approving Official/(designee)
3. **International Trip (Embargoed Country)** **Required Approval** – Supervisor, Fiscal Officer, Senior Approving Official/designee, Office of Research Integrity and Assurance
4. **Transportation only** – request for transportation reimbursement only. **Required Approval** – Supervisor and Fiscal Officer
5. **One day trip** – less than $500 with no overnight accommodations or per diem. **Required Approval** – Supervisor and Fiscal Officer
6. **Standard overnight** – less than $500 AND lodging at or below basic rate. **Required Approval** – Supervisor and Fiscal Officer

What is a department delegate?

A department delegate is a user who may enter authorizations and reimbursements for all travelers in his/her department. A department may have as many department delegates as they require.

Becoming a department delegate

A department delegate may be selected by the department head. The department head must send an email indicating the names of the staff who are to be the department’s delegates to: travel@gmu.edu. A traveler may also select a delegate individually by entering Delegate Info at the bottom of the page immediately after the log-in page and following the prompts.

Initial access to the TRS system

1. Open a Firefox internet browser (VPN required for remote use)
2. Go to travel.gmu.edu
3. Select “login”
4. Enter your NetID and Password
5. Complete User Profile - Personal Information and Supervisor Information
6. Select Save
7. Click “Enter Travel” to initiate a travel document

Main Menu Options (Enter Travel)

- Initiate Authorization – Create a written authorization; required when overnight travel exceeds $500 or lodging costs exceed the basic rates.
- Initiate Reimbursement – When selected will prompt for trip type (e.g. standard, extended, international, etc.) then will display all trips of selected type where reimbursement not initiated. Note: Once a reimbursement has been initiated, the authorization cannot be edited.
- View/Edit Trip – View or edit an authorization or reimbursement. When selected will display all trips, regardless of type or status.
- View Document Status – View document history and approval status
- Print Authorization/Reimbursement – Select a trip to print the authorization or reimbursement.
- Edit User Information – Edit your personal information or supervisor information.

To report TRS problems

Go to travel.gmu.edu and select “Click here to report problems with the Travel Request System” before logging into the system

Whom to Call for Help

Penny Smith, Travel Supervisor 3-2623
Regina Carter, Sr. Travel Tech 3-2652
Christopher Wagaman, Sr. Travel Tech 3-3464
Heather Strange, Training Manager 3-2089
ITS Support Center for VPN Access 3-8870

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Travel Policies and Procedures

Completing a Travel Authorization

1. Open a Firefox internet browser (VPN required for remote use)
2. Go to https://travel.gmu.edu and login (Delegate enters traveler email/status)
3. Select Enter Travel
4. Select Initiate Authorization and select continue
5. Select Trip Type (Extended or International) and select continue
6. Enter Trip Information
   • Trip Name = Traveler’s NetID - Month of Trip - Year - Destination
   • Select the class of trip, enter the purpose of the trip and benefit for international
   • Enter Departure Date/Time: Departure time is the time you anticipate leaving your home/office to begin travel.
   • Enter Return Date/Time: Return time is the time you expect to return to your home/office.
   • Indicate any free meals on departure and return days.
   • Enter the fiscal year (FY runs 7/1-6/30)
   • Supervisor’s NetID should populate
   • Check the box if you plan to host a business meal.
   • Enter Emergency Contact for international
7. Enter Fund/Org Information - select department from the drop-down list; enter the fund or org to be charged. If charging multiple funds/orgs, indicate either the dollar amount or percentage to be charged to each fund/org.
8. Choose appropriate approver from drop down menu. Additional approvers may be added by entering the approver’s NetID in the “Optional Approvers” field.
9. If trip is to an international destination, select the appropriate Senior Approving Official/designee from the drop down.
10. Enter Primary Transportation. Enter the air carrier when traveling internationally charging Federal funds.
11. Enter Secondary Transportation for Origin City and Destination facility. Enter a description when choosing Other.
12. Enter Location by selecting from drop-down list; if not included in the drop-down select other location NOT listed above, type in city and select state.
13. Enter Lodging – rates will be displayed based on the location. If you are choosing the conference lodging rate, provide an explanation, e.g. conference hotel. For international locations/rates, follow links.
14. If room sharing, enter additional traveler name and identify if individual is a Mason employee.
15. Enter Event name or description. Enter meals provided, except for travel days
16. Enter Car Rental if applicable
17. Enter Estimated Miscellaneous Expenses
18. Review information, select Edit Info to edit any section. Edits may be made to the authorization any time prior to submitting for approval; you may exit the system and then log back in to make edits.
19. Use Comments section to provide clarification or additional information.
20. Select Submit for Approval to begin the Workflow approval process.
21. Select Continue and then Yes.
22. Note: Traveler/delegate will receive an email stating that the approval process has begun. Another email will be sent once the document has received all required approvals.
23. Travel is not authorized until all required approvals have been received.

Completing a Travel Reimbursement

1. Open an internet browser
2. Go to https://travel.gmu.edu and login
3. Select Enter Travel
4. Select View/Edit Trip
   • All trips will be displayed.
   • Select Initiate Reimbursement to begin new (note warning above) or View/Edit Reimbursement to continue an existing reimbursement
5. Edit section(s) based on actual travel costs by selecting blue Edit Info links. Enter new and/or revised information and select continue
6. After edits completed, scroll down and select Submit for Approval
7. Print a copy of the Reimbursement
8. Select Continue and then select Yes

Submitting Travel Expense Reimbursement Voucher

1. Supervisor and/or fiscal officer should verify traveler receipts before approving document in Workflow
2. Once all approvals are received attach receipts to a separate sheet of paper (with scotch tape preferred) and submit to the Travel Office along with a printed copy of Reimbursement
3. Mail original forms and original receipts to the Travel Office, MS 3G6 (do not fax)
Electronic Approvals in the Travel Request System (TRS)

Supervisors, fiscal officers with signature authority for a Mason fund or organization and Senior Approving Officials/designees (international travel only) must review and monitor all travel authorization and reimbursement documents they approve. Their approvals certify that travel and expenses were necessary and incurred while on official Mason business.

1. Approver will receive an email from travel@gmu.edu when a travel document is submitted.

2. Approver will click on the Workflow link in the body of the email, which will open the Banner Workflow application and prompt the user to enter his/her username (NetID) and password.

3. Approver will select the document and review the travel information and related expenses.

4. Once reviewed, the approver will select one of the two options located in the “Action” box:
   a. Approve to approve the document as submitted
   b. Return to submitter with comments – to return the document to the traveler for corrections. Comments must be entered in the “Reason” box to inform the traveler of requested changes. Approver will use this option to deny the traveler’s request in its entirety by entering “Trip request is denied” in the “Reason” box.

5. Next, approver must choose from the three options at the bottom of the page:
   a. Complete – to save your selection and move document to next approver
   b. Save & Close – to save your work and retain the document in your Workflow folder. The document will not move to the next approver or be processed further.
   c. Cancel – to exit the document without making changes, saving or approving the document and return to the worklist.

6. Once completed or returned, the traveler receives an email notification of the document status.

7. If a trip is returned, the traveler will be able to review the comments, make requested changes and resubmit. If the traveler resubmits the document, the approval process will begin again.

8. All electronic approvals/returns related to the original document will be date/time stamped at the end of document.

January 2017

**ELECTRONIC APPROVAL HISTORY:**
- Geraldene Nickle (gnickle), Supervisor - Approved, 02-MAY-2016, 12:34:06 PM
- Cliff Shore (cshore), Fund Org Appvr - Approved, 02-MAY-2016, 12:36:07 PM
- Trvl Offc-Intl - Notified, 02-MAY-2016, 12:38:12 PM