University Travel

The purpose of this brochure is to provide a general overview of PM-13, University Travel Regulations, and to educate employees who travel on University business. Employees are encouraged to visit the Accounting & Administrative Services website at http://www.lsu.edu/administration/ofa/oas/#, click Department then click Accounts Payable (AP) & Travel, Travel, Policies and Procedures to obtain the most current version of PM-13 to review the complete set of travel rules and regulations as well as any other forms or policies related to travel. Failure to comply with regulations can result in non-reimbursement of travel expenses.

University policies mandate that all airfare is purchased through the state-contracted travel agency, Christopherson Business Travel.

Lowest logical fares must be purchased from the state-contracted travel agency unless approval has been granted prior to travel to purchase the airfare from an alternate agency, resulting in a 10% cost savings amounting to at least $100, not including the service fee. Requests for an exception to use an alternate travel agency or to purchase airfare from a web vendor should be sent to the person who has been delegated this authority on your campus (see PM-13, Appendix B) for consideration prior to purchasing any airfare. All pertinent documentation should be attached to the request. A written response via e-mail granting or denying the exception request will be provided.

Lowest logical fares are penalty tickets that can have restrictions and cancellations are also the responsibility of the employee.

LaCarte Program

Employees who travel on University business are encouraged to participate in the LaCarte Program since the program allows for payment of business travel expenses. However, meals and personal incidental expenses are not allowed on LaCarte. The single purchase limit for travel is $5,000 (monthly limit of $40,000). When LaCarte is used for payment of business travel expenses, all original itemized receipts must be submitted. Meal per diem will be reimbursed upon completion of the trip once the traveler submits the Expense Report. For information regarding enrollment in the LaCarte Program, please contact Accounts Payable at 578-1550.

Christopherson Business Travel

Effective January 1, 2021, Christopherson Business Travel (CBT) is the new contracted travel agency. The contact information for CBT is as follows:

Phone: 800-961-0720
Email: Statelauny@CBTravel.com

Summary of pertinent information:

1. Christopherson Business Travel’s normal business hours are 7 am to 7 pm CST Monday - Friday.
2. The agent-assisted transaction fee is $24.00 for Domestic and $31 for International.
3. Christopherson Business Travel should be used for University business travel only.
4. Any calls made between 7pm and 7am CST will roll over to the After Hours Service Provider. After-hours services should be limited to true emergencies. Airfare bookings should be made during normal business hours.

AP & Travel is working diligently with Christopherson to implement their online booking system, Concur, and it will be made available once all testing is completed. The online booking fee is $7.00. An HR integration was created to provide Christopherson with basic demographic information for active LSU employees, including employed graduate students, to create profiles. Profiles will be created in the CBT Concur Online Booking System as employee HR records are approved and in an active status.

Travel Reimbursement Rates

Meals & Lodging: No receipts required for Per Diem Meals. Receipts are required for lodging approved at U.S. Department of State rates. Any meals included in the registration fee for a conference/convention must be excluded from the daily meal allowance. See Meals & Routine Lodging Reimbursement Schedules on the back of this brochure for reimbursement rates.

Eligibility for Reimbursement of Meals & Lodging:

A. Single Day Travel - Meals are not eligible for reimbursement on single day travel. However, the Department Head/designee will be allowed to authorize single day meal reimbursements on a case-by-case basis. Any such reimbursements must be considered taxable income to the employee. The traveler must be in a travel status for a minimum of 12 hours. The maximum allowance for meal reimbursement for single day travel is $43.

1. Breakfast & Lunch: $24 - Travel must begin at/after 6 am
   2. Lunch: $14
   3. Lunch & Dinner: $43 - Travel must end at/after 8 pm

B. Travel with Overnight Stay

1. Breakfast (B): $16 - If breakfast begins at/after 6 am on the 1st day of travel and extends to/or beyond 9 am on the last day of travel, and for any intervening days.
2. Lunch (L) - When travel begins at/or before 10 am on the 1st day of travel and extends to/or beyond 2 pm on the last day of travel, and for any intervening days.
3. Dinner (D) - When travel begins at/or before 4 pm on the 1st day of travel and extends to/or beyond 8 pm on the last day of travel, and for any intervening days.

C. Alcohol - Reimbursement for alcohol is prohibited.

Travelers may be reimbursed for conference lodging at actual rates in accordance with PM-13. Travelers must provide documentation designating the official conference hotel and nightly rate.

Hotel State Sales Tax Exemption

Employees are encouraged to seek hotel sales tax exemption by use of the R-1376 "Governmental Employees Hotel Lodging Sales/Use Tax" exemption form located on the AP & Travel website at http://www.lsu.edu/administration/ofa/oas/acctpay/ when traveling in-state on official university business.

For all hotel lodging, including Airbnb, only the first nights lodging can be prepaid to secure the order. Lodging should not be prepaid in total, payment should be made at checkout.

Mileage

Effective January 1, 2021, the mileage rate is $.056 per mile. The Mileage rate for June 1 2020 through December 31, 2020 is $.057 per mile. Refer to PM-13 for mileage reimbursement information.

In-State Vehicle Rentals

The State has contracted with Enterprise for all in-state vehicle rentals. Usage of this contract is mandatory. See In-State Contract Vehicle Rental Rates (State Motor Pool Rental Contract for Business Travel) on the Accounts Payable and Travel website. The Enterprise Rental Reservation form is available on the AP & Travel website. Employees should select their respective campus when making reservations. Only the rental of a compact or intermediate model is reimbursable unless non-availability is documented or the vehicle is used to transport more than two individuals. Refer to PM-13 for more information on rates and to determine the insurance coverage that is reimbursable.

Out-of-State Vehicle Rentals

The State has contracted rental vehicles for out-of-state travel, excluding Louisiana and International travel, utilizing the State of Louisiana’s Out-of-State Contracts, which use is mandatory for University employees. The participating vendors include Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Hertz Car Rental Cooperation. It is the traveler’s discretion which rental company is utilized. All University employees are required to use these contracts due to exceptional pricing which includes CDW / Collision Damage Waiver and one million dollar ($1 million) liability insurance. All nonemployee students, University guests, and contractors are encouraged to utilize the out-of-state contracts which include one million dollar ($1 million) liability insurance. However, if the out-of-state contracts are not used by non-employee students, University guests, and contractors are encouraged to purchase insurance when they are renting a vehicle. See Out-of-State Contract Vehicle Rental Rates on the Accounts Payable and Travel website. The corporate account number will be required.

Receipt Requirements

Original itemized receipts are required for all travel expenses except for the following:

1. Buses, subway and streetcar/trolley fares $15 or less daily.
2. Non-local parking, fares and tolls $5 or less per transaction. B.R. airport parking is $4.50/day (receipt required) and N.O. airport parking at USPark’s uncovered lot is preferred (receipt required).

If
parking at another facility, for uncovered parking, reimbursement is actual (receipt required); 
3. Tips for baggage handling up to $5 upon hotel check-in/check-out; 
4. Tips for airport up to $5 for outbound/inbound departure trips (maximum total for entire trip is not to exceed $10); 
5. Meal Per Diem within State-allowed rates. 
6. A driver’s tip for shuttle/limousines and taxis may be given and must not exceed 20% of the total charge.

Luggage Charges
Luggage charges from airlines may be reimbursed, with a receipt, for the 1st/2nd checked bag for a business trip of 5 days or less and for a 2nd/3rd bag for a 6-10 day business trip and/or additional baggage which is business related and required by the department. The traveler must present a receipt to substantiate the luggage charges. Travelers will be reimbursed for excess baggage charges (overweight baggage) only in the following circumstances:
1. When traveling with heavy or bulky materials or equipment necessary for business. 
2. The excess baggage consists of organization records or property.

Prior Written Approval Requirements
Prior written approvals are required for certain travel expenses, please refer to PM-13, University Travel Regulations, as well as, Appendix B for the specific approval authority.

Meals Reimbursement Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Lodging Area</th>
<th>Routine Prior to 10/1</th>
<th>Routine Effective 10/1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>In-state cities (except as listed)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandria/Leesville/Natchitoches</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baton Rouge – EBR</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Baton Rouge – Lod Cook only</td>
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<td>Covington/Slidell - St. Tammany</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lafayette</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lake Charles - Calcasieu</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Orleans - Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes (Jul – Sept)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Orleans - Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes (Jan – May)</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Orleans – Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes (June)</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Out-of-state (except cities listed in Tiers III &amp; IV)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Atlanta, Austin, Cleveland, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, FL, Lauderdale, Hartford, Houston, Kansas City, MO, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Nashville, Oakland, CA, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, OR, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, Sedona, St. Louis, Wilmington, DE, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, all of Alaska and Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and Saipan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baltimore, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
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<td>Alexandria &amp; Arlington, VA, New York City, Washington, DC</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>225</td>
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International Rates: Applicable to all destinations EXCEPT travel within the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and Saipan. Expenses will be reimbursed at $200 per night exclusive of tax for lodging and Tier IV rates for meals unless U.S. Department of State rates are requested and approved.