

Instructions for Completing Form 700-U

CALIFORNIA
FORM 700-U

Who Files Form 700-U?

This form must be filed by all persons employed by UC or CSU who have principal responsibility for a research project if the project is to be funded or supported, in whole or in part, by a contract or grant (or other funds earmarked by the donor for a specific research project or for a specific researcher) from a nongovernmental entity.

Reporting requirements are outlined in Regulation 18755. This regulation provides that research funding by certain nonprofit entities will not trigger disclosure. This regulation is available on the FPPC website.

What is the Reporting Period?

For "initial" statements, before the final acceptance of the contract, grant, or gift, the filer must report investments in and business positions with the sponsor as of the date that the award is made, and income and gifts received from the sponsor within the 12 months prior to the date that the award is made.

For "interim" statements, the filer must submit a statement within 30 days after the contract, grant, or gift is renewed that discloses reportable investments, income and business positions that the filer held or received during the period between the date the initial statement was filed and the date the project contract, grant, or gift was renewed.

What is an Investment?

"Investment" means any financial interest in a business entity in which you, your spouse or registered domestic partner, or your dependent children have a direct, indirect, or beneficial interest totaling \$2,000 or more. Reportable investments include stocks, bonds, warrants, and options, including those held in margin or brokerage accounts. (See Gov. Code Section 82034 and Regulation 18237.)

What is Income?

"Income" means a payment received, including but not limited to any salary, wage, advance, dividend, interest, rent, proceeds from any sale, gift, including any gift of food or beverage, loan forgiveness or payment of indebtedness received by the filer, reimbursement for expenses, per diem, or contribution to an insurance or pension program paid by any person other than an employer, and any community property interest in income of a spouse or registered domestic partner. Income also includes an outstanding loan. Income of an individual also includes a pro rata share of any income of any business entity or trust in which the individual, spouse, or registered domestic partner owns directly, indirectly, or beneficially, a 10% interest or greater. Income includes your gross income and your community property interest in your spouse's or registered domestic partner's gross income totaling \$500 or more. Gross income is the total amount of income before deducting expenses, losses, or taxes. (See Gov. Code Section 82030.)

What is a Loan?

Loans received or outstanding are reportable if they total \$500 or more from a single lender. Your community property interest in loans received by your spouse or registered domestic partner also must be reported. Loans from commercial lending institutions made in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to your official status are not reportable. (See Gov. Code Section 82030(a).)

What is a Gift?

A gift is anything of value for which you have not provided equal or greater consideration to the donor. A gift is reportable if its fair market value is \$50 or more. In addition, multiple gifts totaling \$50 or more received from a reportable source must be reported.

It is the acceptance of a gift, not the ultimate use to which it is put, that imposes your reporting obligation. Therefore you must report a gift even if you never used it or if you gave it away to another person.

If the exact amount of a gift is not known, you must make a good faith estimate of the item's fair market value. Listing the value of a gift as "over \$50" or "value unknown" is not adequate disclosure.

Commonly reportable gifts include:

- Tickets/passes to sporting or entertainment events
- Tickets/passes to amusement parks
- Parking passes
- Food, beverages, and accommodations, including those provided in direct connection with your attendance at a convention, conference, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering
- Rebates/discounts not made in the regular course of business to members of the public without regard to official status
- Wedding gifts
- An honorarium received prior to filing an "initial" statement. You may report an honorarium as income rather than as a gift if you provided services of equal or greater value than the payment received.
- Transportation and lodging
- Forgiveness of a loan received by you

(See Gov. Code Section 82028.)

Instructions for Completing Form 700-U (continued)

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What is a Travel Payment?

Travel payments include advances and reimbursements for travel and related expenses, including lodging and meals.

- Travel payments are **gifts** if you did not provide services which were equal to or greater in value than the payments received. You must disclose gifts totaling \$50 or more from a single source during the period covered by the statement. Gifts of travel are reportable without regard to where the donor is located.

When reporting travel payments which are gifts, you must provide a description of the gift and the date(s) received. In addition, the travel destination must be disclosed.

- Travel payments are **income** if you provided services which were equal to or greater in value than the payments received. You must disclose income totaling \$500 or more from a single source during the period covered by the statement. The filer has the burden of proving the payments are income rather than gifts.

When reporting travel payments as income, you must describe the services you provided in exchange for the payment. You are not required to disclose the date(s) for travel payments which are income.

Gifts of travel may be subject to a \$470 gift limit in 2018. (The gift limit has increased to \$500 in 2019 and 2020). In addition, certain travel payments are reportable gifts, but are not subject to the gift limit. See the FPPC fact sheet entitled "Limitations and Restrictions on Gifts, Honoraria, Travel, and Loans," which can be obtained from the FPPC at www.fppc.ca.gov.

You are not required to disclose:

- Travel payments received from any state, local, or federal government agency for which you provided services equal or greater in value than the payments received, such as reimbursement for travel on agency business from your government agency employer.
- Travel payments received from your employer in the normal course of your employment.

- A travel payment that was received from a non-profit entity exempt from taxation under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3) for which you provided equal or greater consideration, such as reimbursement for travel on business for a 501(c)(3) organization for which you are a board member.

Check the box to indicate if the payment was a gift or income, report the amount, and disclose the date(s) if applicable.

Violations

Failure to file the required Statement of Economic Interests or failure to report a financial interest may subject a principal investigator to civil liability, including fines, as well as University discipline. (See Gov. Code Sections 81000-91014.)

Privacy Information Notice

Information requested on all FPPC forms is used by the FPPC to administer and enforce the Political Reform Act (Gov. Code Sections 81000-91014 and Regulations 18110-18997). All information required by these forms is mandated by the Political Reform Act. Failure to provide all of the information required by the Act is a violation subject to administrative, criminal or civil prosecution. All reports and statements provided are public records open for public inspection and reproduction.

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice or how to access your personal information, please contact the FPPC at:

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