**University of California San Diego Business Travel Policy Highlights**

**Concur is the official booking site for all UC Business Travel**

- **Coach and Economy** class airfare to be used. Higher-cost services are typically ineligible for reimbursement (see Blink for specific exceptions). Package deals or trip-insurance fees are generally non-reimbursable.

- **Most economical train fare to be used. Business train travel makes business sense!**

- **Rent a car** when it’s more cost effective to the University than other means, such as a taxi. Limit is intermediate size. Car bookings made through Concur Travel (UC's travel booking tool) include discount UC pricing and insurance coverage.

- **Private Vehicle:** Use your personal vehicle if less expensive than renting a car, taking a taxi, or using alternative transportation, or if it saves time. **Mileage** reimbursement rate published in Blink covers the overall cost for fuel/gas, lubrication, towing, repair, replacements, tires, depreciation, insurance, etc.

- **Surface Transport in Lieu of Air:** If advance approval was obtained, you may use surface transportation for personal reasons even though the lowest available airfare is most economical. Total reimbursement cannot exceed the equivalent of lowest airfare plus local transport to and from terminals.

- **Hotel:** UC maximum lodging rate for reimbursement is $275 before taxes and mandatory hotel fees. Reserve using Concur Travel and use your Travel & Entertainment Card as payment (employees). Non-employees may request lodging to be prepaid by the University. Upgrades are typically ineligible for reimbursement. When an employee attends a local conference, they are not on travel status (no lodging or meal expense is eligible for reimbursement).

- **May I stay with a friend/family member?** Yes, but you may not pay them. A non-cash gift such as flowers, groceries or a restaurant meal is allowed but may not exceed $75 (a receipt is required for any gift $25+). Limit is 1 gift per stay (not 1 gift per night).

- **May I be reimbursed for renting a room from an individual instead of a hotel?** Yes, but the individual must first be set up as a vendor (W-9 required) with the University via Payment Compass, even if the reimbursement will be made to you. Any lease must be between you and the lessor.

- **Meal and Incidental Expenses** (M&IE) refers to meals + service tips during trips of 24 hours - 29 days in the continental U.S. Claim the **actual amount spent** up to a maximum ($79 after July 1, 2022 or $62 before July 1, 2022). Meals are not reimbursed for local events or when lodging is not included.

- **Per diem** applies to travel to Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Possessions, and foreign locations and any trips 30 days+ within the continental U.S. Per diem is based on a published rate for a specific location for meals, lodging, and service tips. Travelers should be reimbursed for their actual expenses up to the per diem rate. Travelers must claim actual expenses for lodging.

**Miscellaneous:**
- UC San Diego travel policy, as published in Blink, is decisive. It has been adapted to UC San Diego's business procedures. The source for UC San Diego travel policy is UC Travel Policy and Regulations (G-28).
- Completed and approved expense reports must be submitted via Concur to UCSD Travel within 45 days of the end of travel. If late, they may be treated as taxable income and reported on the employee’s W-2.
- You may share a room, shuttles, and cab rides with another traveler. Don’t pay for another person’s travel, including airfare, lodging, registration, meals, etc.
- Employees should be enrolled in **UC Travel Insurance** for each trip. With the exception of Southwest Air, enrollment is automatic if airfare was booked in Concur Travel.
- Documentation supporting the business purpose may be required (conference brochure, invite, agenda, etc.)
- Working with your department travel preparer will help insur e any additional departmental requirements are met, including fund restrictions, required receipts, and a speedy reimbursement.

Effective Jan. 12, 2021