

# Employee Travel and Expenses Policy and Procedure

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This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with changes in financial regulations, HMRC guidelines, employment law and equality and diversity legislation. In the event that this policy or procedure is not compliant, the relevant legislation shall prevail.

**Changes to this policy will be subject to consultation with the University's recognised Trade Unions before implementation**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the procedure to be followed when organising business travel to ensure that travellers are safe, their wellbeing is considered and that the travel arrangements made represent value for money for the University.

This policy also provides guidance to employees when claiming expenses that have been incurred when undertaking activities on behalf of the University. It includes details of the types of expenses that can be claimed.

Expenses are claimed through CHIME<sup>1</sup> and further explanation regarding this process can be found on the IntraBrunel CHIME pages: <https://intra.brunel.ac.uk/s/CHIME/Pages/CHIME-Training-Staff-Expenses-.aspx>

As a core principle, **all expenses incurred must be wholly, necessarily, and exclusively incurred during University business** and reimbursed to employees on a nil-gain nil-loss basis.

Adhering to this policy will ensure:

- compliance with the University's responsibility of duty of care for employees;
- value for money: the value for money will be measured in terms of the total cost of the travel, employee time, reasonable adjustments and opportunity costs, which include the likelihood of travel arrangements changing that may impact on the ticket type purchased;
- compliance with HMRC rules and requirements for tax
- compliance with the University's Financial Regulations;
- fairness, transparency and equity of treatment of all employees.

Provided the procedures set out herein are followed, employees will be covered by the University's Travel Insurance Policy and no additional tax or National Insurance contribution liability will arise. Employees will not need to report details within their tax return.

This policy works in conjunction with other Finance policies including policies governing the use of Caxton Cash Cards and Barclaycard Procurement Cards. For further information in respect of these please review the relevant Procurement policy: [BUL Procurement Card \(PCARD\) Policy final \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)

It is brought to the attention of all traveling employees that failure to follow the policy may result in not being covered by the Travel Insurance Policy and, where the policy has been deliberately circumvented, disciplinary action may be taken by the University if warranted. **The University reserves the right to refuse reimbursement of any claim which is deemed to not adhere to this Policy.**

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<sup>1</sup> The University's central business system or ERP.

## 1.2 Guiding Principles

Employees and Authorisers (i.e. **Subproject owner / Financial Approver**) have the following responsibilities:

- to exercise sensible judgement in determining the most cost-efficient means of carrying out the University's business including choosing the most cost-effective form of transportation and staying within HMRC approved subsistence rates;
- to question if travel is essential, employees are encouraged to use conference calls and video conferencing facilities to avoid unnecessary travel where appropriate;
- to ensure that the number of people travelling is kept to the minimum required to undertake the required work while meeting health and safety requirements.
- to ensure that all travel and accommodation is booked through Diversity Travel or Clarity, the University approved suppliers; any bookings not made through the supplier may be rejected for reimbursement with payment to be settled by the employee;
- to ensure that all travel is arranged and undertaken with due concern for the safety of the employee/s and any students;
- where claimants have individual needs relating to a disability that require adjustments to be made, discussions should be held with the individual to agree the most practical mode of transportation suitable for them. HR and Occupational Health should be involved in these discussions and the HR Employment Services Team advised in writing of what has been agreed so they are fully aware. Staff who are pregnant must also be considered if any adjustments are required for their travel arrangements;
- to ensure that all required approvals are in place, and to retain all receipts to ensure expenses are not rejected and that there is a correct audit trail; and,
- to remain in contact with the University/line manager whilst engaged on any work off campus on a regular basis.

## 1.3 Scope

This policy applies only to the following group of people:

- all University employees excluding Hourly Paid Lecturers, GTAs and Demonstrators;
- student workers (Job Shop).

The HR Directorate's Employment Services Team will pay all reasonable expenses incurred by employees and student workers (not students) whilst they carry out their duties that comply with this policy.

The policy does not apply to:

- individuals who are self-employed or work as contractors or consultants for the University<sup>2</sup>;
- employees who may undertake private work for other organisations. In these cases, the responsibility for repayment lies with the organisation for which the private work has been undertaken; and,
- students of the University, unless employed via Job Shop.

**External Funding (Research Grants)** - Please note that this Policy applies to funds administered by the University as well as those secured through 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as research grants and contracts. Where grant funding rules are less strict than this Policy, then this **Policy** (*which has been drafted in accordance with HMRC guidance*) **will prevail**.

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<sup>2</sup> Contracts for services should expressly state that expenses claimed by contractors or consultants should be in line with the policy for employees.

Where a research grant has less strict rules than this policy then certain expenses, which are incurred as a result of direct participation in specific activities related to research grants such as visits, meetings, conferences and overseas travel will be agreed on an exceptional basis by the Senior Payroll and Reward Manager. The expense type will need to be named in the grant and evidenced accordingly. Any exceptional expenses agreed and paid outside of HMRC regulations will be made subject to PAYE deductions.

Where an employee becomes aware of such a conflict they should raise it with the Research Support & Development Office and/or Finance at the earliest opportunity so that it may be addressed either through an amendment or via financial management of the grant.

#### **1.4 Roles and Responsibilities in Processing Expenses**

This document forms part of the University's Financial Regulations. It is the responsibility of the Provost, Vice-Provosts and Deans, Directors/Heads of Departments and Line Managers responsible for budgetary control to ensure all employees and authorisers are fully aware of the contents of this policy.

In processing expenses claims, the employee, their Line Manager, the relevant Financial Approver based on the Department, as well as HR – Employment Services have the following responsibilities:

##### **Claimant**

The employee is responsible for ensuring that:

- authoriser approval for travel has been obtained **prior** to the expenditure being incurred;
- overseas travel has been authorised by the line manager following completion of the Travel Request Form in CHIME (applies to employees but not for Job Shop students);
- all relevant safety policies and procedures have been adhered to
- any expense incurred will be wholly, necessarily, and exclusively in respect of business carried out on behalf of the University;
- the claim fully complies with all the requirements set out in this policy document;
- the expenses claim is supported with original detailed receipts or, in the exceptional cases where such receipts could not reasonably be obtained, a full explanation has been provided; and,
- expenses are submitted online through CHIME in a timely manner, and **within three months of the expense being incurred.**

##### **Authoriser (Subproject Owner/ Financial Approver)**

In authorising payment of claims, the Authoriser has responsibility to ensure that:

- the expense claimed was wholly, necessarily, and exclusively in respect of business carried out on behalf of the University;
- the expenses claimed are supported with original detailed receipts or, in the exceptional cases where such receipts could not reasonably be obtained, other proofs can be accepted such as use of contactless payments or a full explanation has to be provided;
- the claim fully complies with all the requirements set out in this policy;
- the expenses input are correct and valid Financial codes entered;
- the expenses are processed **within three months of the claim being incurred.**

##### **Brunel University London Payroll Team (Employment Services)**

The University's HR Directorate is responsible for ensuring that:

- only authorised expenses are processed;
- the expenses claims are supported with original detailed receipts or, in the exceptional cases where such receipts could not reasonably be obtained, a full explanation has been provided to the Payroll team on why a receipt is not included with the claim;
- the claims fully comply with all the requirements set out in this policy;

- the items and amounts claimed are authorised in line with allowable expenses listed in this document and are free of tax;
- where an expense has been submitted which may have tax implications, **this will not be processed** and will be referred to the Senior Reward Manager who will liaise with the authoriser before any reimbursement is made.

## 1.5 Relocation Expenses

The University operates a discretionary Relocation Scheme that may be available to new employees, depending upon circumstances, eligibility, and the availability of funding from the department/grant provider. The University Relocation policy / Relocation Expenses fall outside the scope of this policy document. This is covered separately in the HR Relocation policy document found at: [Relocation policy - 2018.pdf \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)

## 2. EXPENSES

### 2.1 Expenses Type

The University has two types of expenses:

- employee expenses
- non-employee expenses

### 2.2 Employee Expenses

This document details the processes regards payment of employee expenses.

### 2.3 Non-Employee Expenses

Non-employee expenses are subject to the same principles and terms outlined in this policy. Non-employee expenses include:

- third party individuals who incur costs as a direct result of involvement with the University;
- interview expenses where appropriate;
- students who come for interview or Head Start Days and incur travel expenses that can be reimbursed.

There are two options to pay expenses to individuals who are not employed by the University:

1. If the claimant wishes to submit an expenses claim themselves, the host department should send them the [non-staff expense claim form](#) for completion. Once complete the form should be checked and coded by the host department and emailed to the Accounts Payable Team at [payments@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:payments@brunel.ac.uk) who register the form into CHIME for approval by budget holder and financial approval. Payment will be made once full approval is received.
2. Reimbursement may be via an invoice sent to the host department, which would need to be arranged with the Accounts Payable team as a one off "request for payment". If the payment does not meet the criteria for a one-off payment a supplier and Purchase Order would need to be raised.

Employees who engage with individuals overseas to help with their research who are not employees of the University, e.g. translation services, must ensure that any expense payments follow the University's policy with regards to the engagement of individuals overseas. Advice can be sought in advance of engaging these services from the Human Resources Directorate.

Non-employee expenses are processed by the Accounts Payable (AP) Finance Team. Administration of this is outside of the scope of this policy. Please contact: [payments@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:payments@brunel.ac.uk)

## 2.4 Authority Levels

Expenses cannot be self-authorized and will not be paid until they are authorised in accordance with the University's Scheme of Delegation, within the CHIME system.

The authoriser (Subproject Owner / Financial approver) has a duty to exercise control over costing and to ensure that only legitimate expenses are authorised. Where the employee is incurring costs on behalf of another subproject owner, the authoriser should seek assurance from the employee that the subproject owner has approved such expenditure.

This enables staff to work flexibly across functions where their role requires it yet retains the Authoriser approval to ensure that departmental accountability is in place.

In the case of expenses incurred by the Vice-Chancellor and President, these must be authorised by the Chair of Council or Deputy Chair of Council.

## 2.5 Entertaining Expenses

Whilst entertaining is accepted as part of normal business relationship building, the University and its employees have a responsibility to avoid situations where giving or receiving hospitality can be deemed to have influenced a business decision to ensure compliance with the University's Procurement guidelines.

It is not the policy of the University to give gifts to host or external organisations or individuals as the University wants to avoid any possible allegations of bribery (under the Bribery Act 2010). Please refer to the University's [Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy](#).

It is expected that wherever possible entertainment should be on the University's premises.

Where entertaining on campus, please ensure bookings are co-ordinated through local administration colleagues. Expenses relating to entertaining **on campus** will not be reimbursed via Staff Expenses claims as these need to be organised through the University's catering Department.

The following rules apply when offering **business** hospitality & claiming back expenditure for entertaining **off campus**:

- the cost of business entertainment must be reasonable and not be considered extravagant;
- there should be more guests / visitors than employees at such events. The ratio is a critical factor if challenged by HMRC. If HMRC deem that there were more employees than visitors, they could determine that event was purely social and thus a benefit in kind and therefore taxable;
- the purpose of the entertainment should be articulated in the CHIME Expenses form;
- refreshments purchased on campus for hospitality purposes, for example in retail and hotel outlets, should be purchased by providing a subproject code and it should be recorded that the expenses are business related. **Non-business related expenses cannot be claimed.**
- the University will meet reasonable costs for provision of alcohol (such as wine or beer but not spirits) however excessive quantities are not permissible;
- reasonable amount(s) will be allowed for gratuities only when shown on the receipt. Normally not more than 10% of the bill.

## 2.6 Receipts

To comply with HMRC requirements, expenses reimbursement will only be made where items on an expense claim are supported by a valid receipt (uploaded to CHIME - electronic copies acceptable). A valid receipt where possible should include:

- company / vendor name and address;
- date of transaction;
- breakdown of items;
- total amount due.

### **Claims that are not supported by receipts may have to be treated as taxable payments or be refused.**

Where a vendor cannot provide a printed receipt, the employee should ask the vendor to provide a hand-written receipt and this should be stamped clearly stating supplier details, date of transaction and a list of details of items purchased.

Credit and debit card transaction receipts are not considered valid receipts and will not be accepted. Evidence of purchases such as bank statements are also not acceptable.

Printouts/emails of online bookings with full details and costs of items purchased can be accepted.

Where expenses are shared, e.g. in the case of meals, and where receipts or copy receipts are unavailable, reimbursement may be made if the nature and circumstances of the expense incurred are clearly stated.

### **2.7 Claims Deadline**

Employees are required to complete their expense claims through CHIME promptly to ensure financial information is up to date and to avoid delay in settlement.

Claims authorised after the published Payroll deadline, which is typically the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, will be paid the following month. The University **will not raise advances** for any late claims. It is therefore both the employee and their Authoriser's responsibility to present claims in a timely manner.

Claims should be submitted within 3 months from the end of the month in which the expense is incurred. Any claims made after 3 months will not be reimbursed and will need to be referred to University's Senior Reward Manager for additional authorisation before payment will be made.

### **2.8 Rejected Claims**

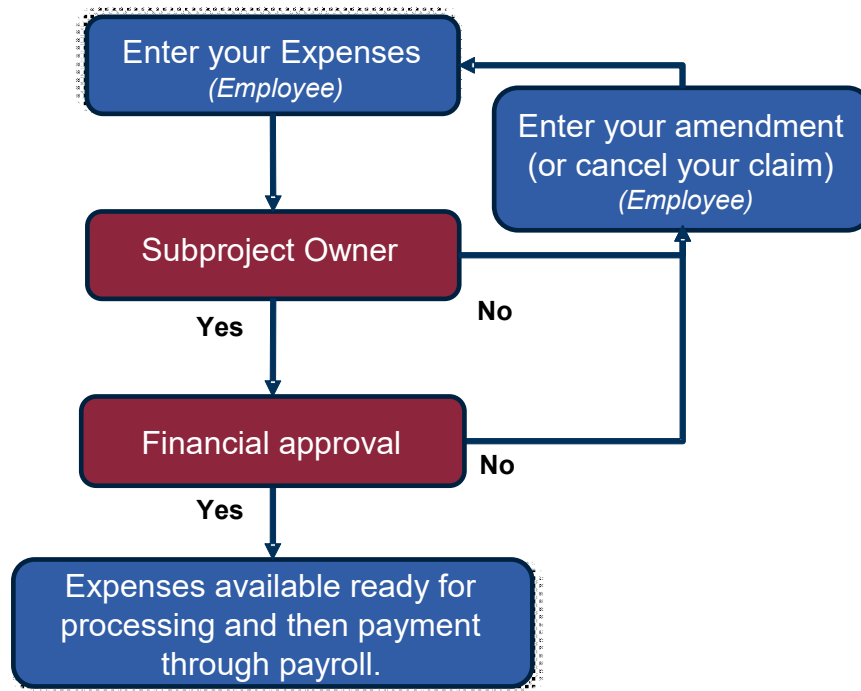
Claims that do not comply fully with this Policy, or where there is missing information or receipts, may be rejected and returned unpaid to the employee by the authorising officer, or rejected by the Payroll Team following communication with the claimant / authoriser.

### **2.9 Foreign Currency Payments**

Where an employee has incurred expenditure in foreign currency, the employee will be responsible for claiming the expense at a conversion rate they can justify. CHIME will automatically use the University's agreed exchange rate as on the date of the expense to convert foreign currency amounts into GBP. This rate can be overwritten by the employee at time of entry with an appropriate alternative rate in force at the time that the expense was incurred. This new rate must be supported by an attached credit card statement or Bureau de Change receipt showing the rate used to convert the currency to GBP. An original receipt must also be attached to support the actual expense being claimed.



## 2.10 Employee Expenses Payment Flow Diagram



If you are the claimant and the subproject owner, the claim will not be directed to you but will go directly to the financial approver. If you are all three parties, the claim will be re-directed to another party within the Financial Approval Group.

## 3. BUSINESS TRAVEL

### 3.1 Definition

Business travel is defined as travel primarily for a necessary business purpose which does not include normal daily commute (*as defined in the Contract of Employment*) for which a claim is not permitted.

### 3.2 Travel Policy

As a general principle, both the employee and their authoriser must always consider whether travel is necessary, whether business can be conducted using alternative means (e.g. Teams) and must also take into account the following before making any travel arrangements:

- administrative staff will book on behalf of all Academics and College staff where required.
- consider if the journey is necessary, can the meeting take place via video conferencing / telephone?
- where a journey is necessary, consider the most cost-effective mode of transportation;
- Air travel within the mainland UK, to Paris or Brussels is **not** allowable. Line Managers may approve requests for air travel to these destinations **only** where there is a strong justification (which may be related to EDI or opportunity costs).
- If travelling to other parts of Europe, consider whether Eurostar is a viable option for travel;
- cars should only be used where it is more cost effective than other modes of transportation (*i.e. where several employees are going to same meeting can car/taxi share*);
- ensure that the selected mode of transport is safe, paying particular attention to risks associated with lone travellers;

- to use the University's preferred travel suppliers (Diversity via [Diversity Travel - Client Login](#) or via Clarity via [Go2Book](#)) in all cases;
- Staff booking a hotel which exceeds the rate caps indicated in the tab at the end of this document will need to seek approval from the Procurement Department by emailing [travel@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:travel@brunel.ac.uk);
- wherever possible try to make travel reservations early to take advantage of cheaper fares and accommodation; and,
- ensure that appropriate health and safety risk assessments are in place.

### 3.3 Approved Methods of Booking Travel

When booking travel, employees together with their authoriser have a responsibility to ensure that the method of transport chosen offers the best value for money but at the same time considers expediency, personal safety as well as the environment.

This approach has been taken to protect the University from inappropriate expenditure and ensures that funds are used efficiently and effectively.

### 3.4 Use of Approved Supplier

The University's preferred travel service suppliers are Diversity Travel via ([Diversity Travel - Client Login](#)) and [Clarity](#) via [Go2Book](#), whose contract ends 31st March 2023. All travel and accommodation must be arranged through the preferred supplier and only in exceptional circumstances will a reimbursement be made to an employee for travel costs accrued.

Any queries in this regard should be discussed with the Payroll Team (Employment Services) **in advance** of any costs being incurred to ensure approval is in place to process a reimbursement. The preferred supplier will endeavour to source the most economical options, and provide a Price Match guarantee<sup>3</sup> which is further detailed on the [Booking platform](#).

### 3.5 Pre-Trip Approval

Before a travel booking can be made for you as a traveller, and for the University's travel insurance to cover you, you need to make sure that you have:

- Permission from your line manager and of the sub project owner of the budget paying for the travel.

'How to book travel' page: [Booking travel \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)

The University has a legal and moral duty of care to do what is reasonably practical to protect the health and safety of its employees, both in the workplace and when they are travelling on business.

This is even more important where employee(s) travel abroad for work. A full Health, Safety and Risk Assessment must be carried out by the line manager/appropriate personnel and the employee before travel can be authorised.

### 3.6 Health and Safety

The University Travel Safety Policy must be adhered to. Advice on health and safety issues can be obtained from the Health Safety and Environment Team ([healthandsafety@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:healthandsafety@brunel.ac.uk)).

### 3.6.1 Risk Management

All overseas activities carried out by staff and students require a risk assessment prior to travel. The Risk Assessment Checklist, and other advice can be found under [Activities outside the UK and off campus](#).

Further guidance on risk assessments can be found here: [Risk Assessment \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)

If you require further information or guidance please contact [heathandsafety@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:heathandsafety@brunel.ac.uk)

### 3.8 Travel Insurance

Appropriate university travel insurance MUST be arranged at the time of booking any overseas travel. Further information and contact details can be found here: [Travel insurance \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#).

If travelling within the UK and pre-booked air or rail travel is used and where personal or University property of significant value is being carried, it is recommended that University travel insurance is arranged. University travel insurance covers medical treatment overseas, but not for any UK travel.

Brunel has blanket travel insurance in place. Employees can apply for this on-line on the Brunel Intranet [here](#) and complete the on-line form (*which covers both UK and Overseas travel*). Once the form is completed the Head of Department will receive notification and the staff member will automatically receive details of their travel policy cover electronically. Additionally, if travel is booked using the University's online travel provider, Diversity Travel or Clarity/Go2Book, there is a link on the website to access the cover note and emergency contact details.

Additional information regarding travel insurance can be found under the **Frequently Asked Questions** section (Appendix 2) of this document.

## 4. TRAVEL BY CAR / RENTAL / TAXI

When employee(s) use their own car for University business, they will be personally liable for any incident or accident, not the University. **Drivers must ensure that their own private motor insurance policy is comprehensive and permits the use of their car for University business.** Mileage rates will apply.

Where a rental vehicle is arranged, (Enterprise should be used in the UK while outside the UK, a vehicle may be booked by contacting Diversity Travel's Oak Team at: [oak@diversitytravel.com](mailto:oak@diversitytravel.com)), the employee retains reasonable responsibility for the vehicle in their care. Whilst it is assumed the insurance will be arranged with the rental hire company (Enterprise), the employee will remain responsible for all costs incurred that are not covered by the insurance, as well as costs for any fines or parking tickets received.

The use of Taxis (via Diversity Travel or Clarity's booking portal) is by exception, further details on when reimbursements will be made are provided in Appendix 1.

### 4.1 Difference between Ordinary Commuting & Temporary Place of Work

- **Ordinary Place of Work** – Claims for travel between home and the normal or permanent place of work, are not allowable.  
The place of work is defined as an employee's permanent workplace if they attend it regularly for the performance of their employment duties.
- **Temporary Place of Work** – Claims for travel to a temporary place of work may be tax allowable. The work place is considered temporary if an employee attends only to perform a task for a limited period or for a temporary purpose. HMRC consider a period not exceeding 24 months as temporary. A temporary workplace can also be in a location significantly removed from the employee's normal place of work for it to be considered under these rules. Please see [here](#)

## 4.2 Employees who are contracted to Work from Home

Whether or not an employee's home is their workplace does not affect the availability of tax relief for travel expenses. So even though it may have been accepted that the employee's home is a workplace, it does not necessarily follow that they will be entitled to tax relief for the cost of travel between their home and a permanent workplace. This is because the place where an employee lives will ordinarily be down to their personal choice. The expense of travelling from their home to any other place is a consequence of that personal choice; not an objective requirement of the job. Please see [here](#).

## 4.3 Employees with more than one workplace at same time

An employee who is required to make regular attendance at more than one workplace may have more than one permanent workplace during the same period. Please see [here](#).

The indicators of a workplace being a second permanent workplace includes:

- the employee regularly performs a significant part of their duties there;
- people would expect to be able to contact the employee at the second location;
- the employee has an office, or desk, and support services at the second workplace which he or she regularly uses;
- the employee performs similar tasks at each workplace; and
- the employee does not attend the workplace solely to do specific tasks such as attendance at a specially arranged meeting.

For Employee's based at Granta Park, Cambridge any travel to Uxbridge would not be classed as a business journey as HMRC would view Uxbridge as a secondary workplace. Travel expenses only can however be claimed on a nil-gain nil-loss basis. Employees are therefore entitled to claim any mileage excess over and above their normal commute to Granta Park.

## 4.4 Emergency Call Out / Stand By

Travel from home to work to attend an emergency call-out, even outside normal working hours, is regarded by HMRC as ordinary commuting and therefore cannot be claimed, except as outlined in 4.5 below.

## 4.5 Out of Hours Working

Where an employee is required to work exceptionally late they can be reimbursed a taxi fare home. This is allowable if:

- it has been authorised in advance;
- the employee is required to work later than usual (e.g. at least 9:00pm);
- this occurs irregularly. (If taxi fares are regular or frequent, *e.g. every Friday or appears to form an informal work pattern*, then this may become subject to incurring a tax liability);
- where it is considered safer to travel by taxi than public transport at night.

## 5. TRAVELLING WITH A COMPANION

A companion (*i.e. spouse, partner, or friend*) may travel with a University employee on a business trip if the partner does not travel at the University's expense.

The partner's travel costs must be invoiced and paid for privately. This can be arranged by contacting the University's approved supplier who can book the entire trip but ensuring that the University is only invoiced for the employee's travel costs.

Travel insurance will be for the responsibility of the companion and will not be covered by the University's business travel insurance.

Where additional expenses are incurred during the trip and receipts include both employee and partner costs, the employee can only claim back the proportion of the cost that relates to their business expense.

## **6. COMBINING BUSINESS AND PERSONAL TRIPS**

Combining business and personal travel is acceptable ONLY where the employee meets all the costs related to the "personal" element of their trip and travel has been preapproved by the authorising manager.

Where travelling overseas for business, the University will reimburse the return flight home provided that the cost of such is no more than it would have been had the employee returned home immediately following conference/business meeting. Private travel insurance must be taken out for the portion of the trip that is personal.

### **6.1 Loyalty Programmes**

When setting up a profile with the approved supplier in advance of booking travel or accommodation, an employee has the option to provide their loyalty programme details; for example, in respect of membership to air miles. Please be aware that by entering your loyalty programmes into your profile and bookings there may be a tax liability which would be the employee's responsibility to report to HMRC.

## Appendix 1

Table of Allowable / Non- Allowable Travel Expenditure

CATEGORY	UNIVERSITY POLICY	ALLOWABLE /NON ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT REQUIRED OR ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	COMMENTS
<b>AIR TRAVEL</b>				
<b>UK AIR TRAVEL</b>	<p><i>This should only be considered if cheaper than rail travel equivalent or mileage travel by car.</i></p> <p>University Approved supplier must be used to book flight(s).</p> <p>Air travel within the mainland UK, is <b>not</b> allowable. Line Managers may approve requests for air travel to these destinations <b>only</b> where there is a strong justification (which may be related to EDI or opportunity costs).</p> <p>Economy class only</p> <p>Air miles will be redeemable by Brunel University London and not individual<sup>4</sup>.</p>	ALLOWABLE		<p>All Air Travel must be booked through the approved suppliers, Diversity Travel or Clarity.</p> <p>All travel must be cost effective and suitable air fares must be chosen irrespective of any personal loyalty schemes / air miles or personal choice.</p>
<b>OVERSEAS AIR TRAVEL</b>	All overseas travel must have prior authorisation by Authoriser before any booking is made.	ALLOWABLE		All Air Travel must be booked through the approved suppliers, Diversity Travel or Clarity.

<sup>4</sup>An employee may include their own loyalty programme details on their profile with the Travel Provider, however attention is drawn to 6.1 of the Travel and Expenses policy in respect of any possible tax liability resulting.

	<p>University Approved supplier must be used to book flight(s).</p> <p>Air travel to Paris or Brussels, is <b>not</b> allowable. Line Managers may approve requests for air travel to these destinations <b>only</b> where there is a strong justification (which may be related to EDI or opportunity costs).</p> <p>Economy class only (up to 5 hours duration) Air miles will be redeemable by Brunel University London and not an individual<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Premium Economy (above 5 hours duration) Air miles will be redeemable by Brunel University London and not an individual<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Business class will only be considered in exceptional circumstances (i.e. disability or where flight is longer than 5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval from Authoriser must be obtained before booking;</li> <li>• Purchased through the approved supplier's office team (Diversity Travel or Clarity).</li> </ul>	<p>ALLOWABLE</p> <p>ALLOWABLE</p>		<p>All travel must be cost effective and suitable air fares must be chosen irrespective of any personal loyalty schemes / air miles or personal choice.</p> <p>All travel must be cost effective and suitable air fares must be chosen irrespective of any personal loyalty schemes / air miles or personal choice.</p> <p>Must be supported by a report from Occupational Health where relates to a medical reason or disability.</p>
<b>FLIGHT UPGRADES</b>	<p>Flight upgrades are not allowed at the University's expense.</p>	<p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p>		<p>If a staff member wishes to upgrade flights this must be done at their own expense.</p>
<b>EXCESS BAGGAGE CHARGES</b>	<p>This will only be allowable if it relates to research or teaching equipment or materials (e.g. marketing brochures) required for University purposes and must be booked in</p>	<p>ALLOWABLE</p>		<p>Staff member(s) must ensure they are fully aware of airline weight allowances before check-in.</p>

	advance of travel or alternatively if it is required related to any disability.  Excess baggage at check-in will not be reimbursed, except where required for university business and approved in advance (e.g. recruitment materials; research equipment)	NON-ALLOWABLE		
<b>SEAT RESERVATION FEES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		
<b>LOST LUGGAGE</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		The University will not reimburse as this will be deemed to be covered by any subsequent insurance claim.
<b>AIRPORT LOUNGE</b>	This will only be allowable where travel is overnight, or a stopover between flights is more than 3 hours; and is to the maximum of the allowance under subsistence.	ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	This does not include membership of an Airport Lounge, or a subscription fee – which is not allowable.
<b>RAIL TRAVEL</b>				
<b>UK RAIL TRAVEL</b>	Standard or economy class is the expected standard of travel.  Be aware that some train tickets are retained at the end of the journey by automatic barriers, so a receipt should be requested at point of purchase.	ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	It is expected this will be booked in advance through the preferred supplier, Clarity. Reimbursements will only be made in exceptional circumstances, as noted in 3.4  Receipt(s) must be provided if University approved supplier is used.  Approval for travel other than standard or economy must be obtained in advance from authoriser (e.g. In case of disability or medical advice).



<b>UK RAIL TRAVEL (Including Tube)</b>	Underground Tickets (which includes Oyster Card, travel card)	ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	
	Contactless Payment	ALLOWABLE	STATEMENT	Submit a print out of relevant journey history from an online TFL account which can be accessed online at <a href="https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster">https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster</a> . To connect a contactless payment card to an online TfL account visit: <a href="https://contactless.tfl.gov.uk/DashBoard">https://contactless.tfl.gov.uk/DashBoard</a> or please use the relevant extract from your Bank Statement.
	Season Ticket	NON-ALLOWABLE		The only time any reimbursement will be made is where travel takes place outside the Season Ticket's travel zone
<b>OVERSEAS RAIL TRAVEL</b>	Standard or economy class is the expected standard of travel.  1 <sup>st</sup> Class rail travel be allowed in certain situations ( <i>in these cases a Risk Assessment must have been carried out</i> ).	ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	It is expected this will be booked in advance through the preferred suppliers, Diversity Travel or Clarity. Reimbursements will only be made in exceptional circumstances, as noted in 3.4. Approval for travel other than standard or economy must be obtained in advance from authoriser (e.g. In case of disability).
<b>BUSINESS MILEAGE</b>			<b>RATE</b>	
<b>MILEAGE RATES</b>	Car Mileage (all engine sizes and fuel types)	ALLOWABLE	45p per mile	For the first 10,000 miles of the tax year (6 <sup>th</sup> April to 5 <sup>th</sup> April of the following year).
		ALLOWABLE	25p per mile	After 10,000 miles the rate will drop to the lower statutory rate.
	Fuel Cost	NON-ALLOWABLE		Individual receipts for fuel cost will not be reimbursed as this is covered by use of above mileage rates.

	Passenger Supplement	ALLOWABLE	5p per mile, per passenger	When transporting colleagues for a business event, an employee using their own car can claim a passenger allowance - including the names of the colleague(s).
	Motor Cycle	ALLOWABLE	24p per mile	
	Pedal Cycle	ALLOWABLE	20p per mile	
<b>FUEL</b>	Using own car	NON-ALLOWABLE		Above rates apply.
<b>HIRE CARE (UK &amp; Overseas)</b>				
<b>HIRE CAR</b>	<p>Peugeot 208, Fiat 500, Vauxhall/Opel Corsa, Renault Clio or similar can be booked. Up to 2 people, the car rented should be 3-doors (if no 3-doors available, please book the cheapest 5-doors available). Above 2 people, the car rented can be 5-doors.</p> <p>Specialist vehicles might be required occasionally for transporting large equipment or accessing remote locations.</p> <p><b>Before Commencement</b> The driver is requested to check the vehicle for damages (<i>scratches, dents etc.</i>) or any other abnormalities. Any existing damage should already be identified on the Rental Vehicle Conditions Report supplied with the vehicle.</p> <p>If new damage is found, the driver must contact the car hire firm and complete their incident report form. This is necessary so that the University is not held liable for the cost of repair of any damage for which it is not responsible.</p>	ALLOWABLE		<p>It is requested that the use of public transport (<i>bus, tube, rail</i>) or private car is considered before using a hire car.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that there will be circumstances where hire car may be appropriate e.g. where hire of a car may be more cost effective than using private car and claiming mileage.</p> <p>The University has access to national vehicle hire contracts as well as a few local providers.</p> <p>In the UK, all cars must be booked via Enterprise (preferred Supplier), outside the UK, employees must book via Diversity Travels Oak Team or Clarity's offline team.</p> <p>Any damage to the vehicle, or costs incurred, not covered by the Insurance obtained through the rental company will be for the Employee to settle with the rental company</p>



				Receipt must be obtained from taxi driver and staff must state clearly on the expenses claim form the reason for use of taxi
<b>OTHER FORMS OF TRAVEL</b>				
<b>BUS / TRAM / COACH TRAVEL</b>	UK and Overseas	ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	Where practical please use approved supplier otherwise submit claim form with receipt attached.
<b>FERRIES / HYDROFOILS / Water Taxis</b>	UK and Overseas	ALLOWABLE		Where practical please use approved supplier otherwise submit claim form with receipt attached.
<b>OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>				
<b>CAR PARKING &amp; TOLL CHARGES</b>		ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	Reasonable parking expenses & charges for tolls will be reimbursed. Receipts must be attached with claim form.
<b>PARKING FINES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		The University will not reimburse employee parking fines.
<b>ULEZ FEES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE unless there is a business reason		
<b>SPEEDING FINES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		The University will not reimburse employee speeding fines.
<b>VISA/VACCINATION</b>		ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	Claims will be reimbursed where the visa / vaccination is required specifically for an approved business trip. Receipt will need to

<b>PASSPORT FEES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		be included with Expenses claim. Vaccinations should be arranged through NHS.  University will be able to reimburse an employee's passport fees for a second passport if this is needed for business reasons.
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**Table of Allowable / Non- Allowable Subsistence & Accommodation**

CATEGORY	UNIVERSITY POLICY	ALLOWABLE /NON ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT REQUIRED OR ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	COMMENTS
<b>SUBSISTENCE (UK and Overseas)</b>				
<b>DAY SUBSISTENCE (UK)</b>	Up to a maximum rate of £15.00 per day (for full working day only)	ALLOWABLE	Receipt	Receipt required to cover extra cost for nights away for evening meal ( <i>does not include alcohol</i> ). Expenses over £30 will not be covered.  Does not include alcohol.  Subsistence (day or overnight) can only be claimed once in the same 24-hour period.
<b>OVERNIGHT SUBSISTENCE (UK)</b>	Up to a maximum rate of £30.00	ALLOWABLE	Receipt	
	To a maximum rate of £45.00 per day	ALLOWABLE	Receipt	
<b>OVERNIGHT SUBSISTENCE (OVERSEAS)</b>	For the maximum rate of pay per day please review the information for the specific country you are visiting: <a href="http://www.gov.uk">Expenses rates for employees travelling outside the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>			
<b>ACCOMMODATION (UK and Overseas)</b>				
<b>HOTEL &amp; ACCOMMODATION RATES</b>	These must be booked through the University's approved suppliers Diversity Travel or Clarity.  Appropriate accommodation is defined as a three-star hotel in the UK and the equivalent overseas. Serviced apartments available via the approved supplier are also considered acceptable. Occasionally four star or higher might offer a lower price than a typical	ALLOWABLE	As per agreed arrangements through Procurement with the approved supplier.	Booking will include breakfast as much as possible; in which event the day subsistence would not apply. If breakfast is purchased outside the hotel this should have equivalent or lower value and a receipt will be required.

	<p>acceptable three-star hotel, due to special price promotions etc. or due to the location of the Conference/Event being attended. Where the traveller can demonstrate that a hotel outside the normal three-star policy is more appropriate for the arrangements, then a justification can be forwarded for approval in advance of the booking being made. Approval is through the line manager/ budget holder, and provided to the Payroll Team (Employment Services) and Travel Procurement Team (<a href="mailto:Clarity@brunel.ac.uk">Clarity@brunel.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>It is strongly advised, when booking an accommodation outside of the UK and Europe (in particular if the hotel is located in America, Africa and Asia) to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Book with Diversity Travel or</li> <li>▪ Choose one of Clarity's PRE-PAY room rates; or</li> <li>▪ Download the 'Conferma' application on your phone which you can show at the Hotel to prove the room has been pre-paid.</li> </ul>			<p>The University does not approve the use of Airbnb or similar services, as the University cannot guarantee meeting its duty of care requirements, and will not reimburse any claims.</p>
<b>ROOM UPGRADE</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		Claim will not be reimbursed.
<b>MINIBAR</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		Claim will not be reimbursed.
<b>HOTEL TELEPHONE CALLS – BUSINESS</b>		ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	Business calls can be reclaimed. Receipt required with actual expenditure incurred. Expense claim form must state reason for business call.

<b>HOTEL LAUNDRY</b>		ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	Reasonable laundry expenses can be claimed; usually only applicable for longer (>5 days) trips
<b>GYM / SPA</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		Claim will not be reimbursed.
<b>CABLE TV / PAY AS YOU GO MOVIES</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		Claim will not be reimbursed.
<b>TIPS / SERVICE CHARGE</b>	Where gratuity is included in bill, then it will be reimbursed however where tips are as discretion of diner, this is non-allowable	NON-ALLOWABLE		Claim will not be reimbursed.
<b>STAYING WITH FRIENDS / RELATIVES</b>	This is in lieu of hotel expenses and limited to £25 per day		RECEIPT	Claimants staying overnight with friends/ family but must provide receipt which is signed by the party and provides confirmation of dates, location and amount paid.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY POLICY</b>	<b>ALLOWABLE /NON ALLOWABLE</b>	<b>RECEIPT REQUIRED OR ALLOWANCE PAYMENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
<b>PROFESSIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS</b>	Professional fees and subscriptions may be claimable by employee's in roles graded up to and including Grade 3 and only where the organisation is recognised and approved by HMRC. For full eligibility criteria, please see the Universities Professional subscriptions and memberships policy.	ALLOWABLE SUBJECT TO CRITERIA		Information on the University's Professional Subscriptions policy can be found at: <a href="https://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/documents/pdf/Professional-Subscriptions-Policy-Brunel-University-London.pdf">https://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/documents/pdf/Professional-Subscriptions-Policy-Brunel-University-London.pdf</a>



<p><b>BOOKS</b></p>		<p>ALLOWABLE</p>	<p>RECEIPT</p>	<p>Subscriptions that are associated with the role rather than an individual will be paid through the Procurement process and should not be claimed by individuals on expense claim forms.</p> <p>Where possible these should be purchased through procurement.</p>
<p><b>COURSES &amp; CONFERENCES</b></p>	<p>If an employee must attend a course or conference, this will need to be pre-approved by their Authoriser before the course is booked.</p> <p>Employees who travel to 'work-related' training are entitled to claim for the cost of their journey.</p>	<p>ALLOWABLE</p>	<p>RECEIPT</p>	<p>Course should be booked through the University by obtaining a PO number.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, an employee may seek approval from Payroll in advance to book directly, in which event a receipt will be required.</p> <p>Travel to the conference and back must be booked via Diversity Travel or Clarity (Offline Team).</p>
<p><b>PHONE RENTAL</b></p> <p><b>MOBILE PHONE HAND SET OR PAY</b></p>		<p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p> <p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p>		<p>Claim will not be reimbursed.</p> <p>Claim will not be reimbursed.</p>

AS YOU GO HANDSET		ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT	
PAY AS YOU GO SIM CARD OR TOP UP				In line with the Mobile Phone policy for overseas trips where the costs. It is advisable not to use your own personal mobile data as it can be expensive. A local sim card or the use of WIFI is advised. Appropriate costs will be reimbursed with the right evidence.
PERSONAL DESKTOP		NON-ALLOWABLE		Such items should only be purchased by the University and follow appropriate Procurement process and authorised by Authoriser.
COMPUTER PERIPHERALS		NON-ALLOWABLE		Such items should only be purchased by the University and follow appropriate Procurement process.
LAPTOP		NON-ALLOWABLE		Such items should only be purchased by the University and follow appropriate Procurement process.
MOBILE DEVICES		NON-ALLOWABLE		Claimant must not purchase equipment and then reclaim through expenses.  This can only be done through procurement using approved suppliers or through use of the University's Purchasing card.

<b>OTHER EQUIPMENT</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		Only if it relates to business and follow appropriate Procurement process and authorised by Authoriser.
<b>GIFTS</b>	<p>Gifts for employees (e.g. flowers or other gifts)</p> <p>Gift cards /Vouchers for employees</p> <p>It is not the policy of the University to give gifts to host or external organisations or individuals as the University wants to avoid any possible allegations of bribery (under the Bribery Act 2010). Please refer to the University's <a href="#">Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy</a>.</p> <p>Only by exception will small gift giving be allowed, where there is a customary expectation to provide gift to host when overseas in which case it will need to be pre-approved by authoriser and should be a token gift.</p>	<p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p> <p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p> <p>NON-ALLOWABLE</p>	<p>RECEIPT</p>	<p>Gifts to other members of staff should always be personal gestures and expense claims will be rejected.</p> <p>Vouchers count as earnings and therefore become subject to PAYE.</p> <p>Gift should not include food, drink, tobacco or vouchers exchangeable for goods.</p> <p>Gifts should be promotional Brunel merchandise.</p> <p>Gift should not exceed £30 per person per year to ensure no tax liability arises.</p>

### Table of Allowable / Non- Allowable Entertainment Expenses

Entertaining is defined as the provision of food, drink, or other hospitality. This can occur either on or off University premises and covers both staff events and entertaining visitors/guests (i.e. non-staff members)

CATEGORY	UNIVERSITY POLICY	ALLOWABLE /NON ALLOWABLE	RECEIPT REQUIRED OR ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	COMMENTS
<b>Staff Events on Campus – Will need to go through Commercial</b>				
<b>PROVISION OF REFRESHMENTS DURING MEETING</b>	Light refreshments include tea, coffee, biscuits etc. provided either before or during meeting	NON-ALLOWABLE		Use internal catering – and liaise with Department Administrators for booking.
<b>WORKING LUNCHES ELSEWHERE</b>	There must be a genuine reason why it has been held off-site and allowed only in exceptional circumstances. It must be pre-authorized by Authoriser.  Other conditions include meal forming integral part of meeting; meeting includes 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties ( <i>such as lecturers, business associates or clients</i> ) & is supported by formal agenda & minutes of meeting ( <i>including attendees</i> ).	NON-ALLOWABLE		Receipt would be paid by Accounts Payable or arranged through Procurement if a supplier.
<b>STAFF LEAVING FUNCTION</b>		NON-ALLOWABLE		This would be deemed as taxable benefit and would need to be recorded on either employee P11D or on a PSA.
<b>SPOUSES &amp; PARTNERS</b>	At social events	NON-ALLOWABLE		Unless by express invitation, e.g. Formal Ceremonies.

## Appendix 2

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### General

**QUESTION** What are the applicable rate caps for hotel bookings?

**ANSWER** –

- London £170 per night
- UK (excluding London) £120 per night
- EU £120 per night
- Rest of the world £170 per night.

**QUESTION** Can I use my personal credit or debit card to book my travel and claim this back on expenses?

**ANSWER** No, you must use either the University's preferred supplier to make travel bookings. The only exception will be where it is not possible to book through preferred supplier and this must be arranged in advance of travel.

**QUESTION** Can I take my partner/ spouse on overseas business trip?

**ANSWER** Yes, you can but the University will only reimburse your travel, subsistence, and accommodation costs. You will need to pay for your partner/spouse's costs separately

**QUESTION** My partner is accompanying me and I am staying in a double room at no extra cost to the University. Is there a liability?

**ANSWER** No, as there is no additional cost there is no tax liability

**QUESTION** I live far from work, closer to a different airport to that which is near the University. Must I travel from the closest airport to the University?

**ANSWER** No, you may travel from an airport closer to your home, should this be the most appropriate option in respect of costs, convenience and personal safety. This should be discussed with the Approver in advance of making arrangements with the Travel provider.

**QUESTION** I would like to request a stop-over as a personal choice – how can I do this?

**ANSWER** This can be discussed with Diversity Travel or Clarity, who will explore the options and discuss the associated costs with you.

**QUESTION** The conference I am attending has arrangements with a particular hotel. Can I book it directly and request reimbursement?

**ANSWER** No. If the conference has arrangements in place with a reference, please provide the reference to the travel provider who will make the booking. Alternatively, this can be booked with the Department Purchasing Card. Reimbursements for hotel accommodation will not be made through payroll.

**QUESTION** I am travelling for research purposes across a number of places within a country. How do I make a last-minute booking?

**ANSWER** You are able to contact the travel provider at any time, and they will make arrangements for you.

**QUESTION** Does Brunel Travel insurance cover both UK as well as overseas travel?

**ANSWER** Yes. If you are travelling within the UK using pre-book air or rail travel, are staying overnight, or taking personal or university property of significant value with you consider taking out travel insurance.

**QUESTION** What is the Business Travel policy on participating in hazardous activities? Is this covered?

**ANSWER** The University has a duty of care for all its staff and advises against any participation in hazardous activities. The risk assessment should cover this.

**QUESTION** What if I have a pre-existing health condition?

**ANSWER** The insurance requirement is not to travel against medical advice. There is no requirement from the insurers for GP approval.

**QUESTION** How often should I be in contact with my line manager whilst traveling abroad for the University?

**ANSWER** You should keep in contact with your line manager / the University on a regular basis during your travels. This may mean on a daily basis depending on your location and the nature of your travel. You **MUST** provide emergency contact details to your line manager and at least one other member of staff (Department administrator; PA; etc)

## Health and Safety

**QUESTION** May I travel to areas against Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) advice?

**ANSWER** The University will not support or authorise any travel to areas that are against FCDO advice.

**QUESTION** What happens if FCDO advice against travel to an area comes out after I have made my booking?

**ANSWER** Provided that you booked your travel insurance before this news came out, University insurance should cover any cancellation.

**QUESTION** Does the University recommend I apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card in addition to applying for Business travel insurance when I go to an EU country for University business?

**ANSWER** The traveller is advised to have a UK Global Health Insurance Card if you are eligible for one.

## Claims

**QUESTION** How long should I retain my receipts after a claim has been reimbursed?

**ANSWER** Once the claim has been submitted with the receipts electronically, and reimbursed, you are not required to retain your receipts.

**QUESTION** When does payroll close for claims to be paid within the month?

**ANSWER** Payroll typically closes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for Expense Claims, they must be received and approved through CHIME in time to be able to be processed.

**QUESTION** When can I use a receipt book?

**ANSWER** In exceptional circumstances, it can be arranged with Payroll and Finance for a receipt book. This is to be able to pay for expenses when, for example, in a location that would be unable to process card transactions. Sufficient notice of at least a month is required to consider such a request.