

Policy Title: Travel

Policy Owner: Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Business Services Centre

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1. INTENT

1.1 This document outlines the University's policy in relation to all Authorised University Travel, and should be read in conjunction with the [Travel Guidelines](#).

1.2 The intent of this policy is to:

- Govern the circumstances in which travel is arranged and undertaken by University Travellers; and
- Ensure that the University is able to discharge its duty of care obligations to persons undertaking Authorised University Travel.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

- All ECU staff;
- Council Members, Committees and Boards;
- External members of University Committees; and
- Other Individuals for whom the University is paying for intrastate, interstate or overseas travel.

3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Authorised University Travel	Travel undertaken on behalf of the University for purposes directly associated with the functions of, and approved by, the University including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study tours;• Overseas teaching;• Conference and meeting attendance;• Visiting Fellows;• Approved consultancies; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved research activities.
Board	A Board established under the ECU Act or Statutes (except the Academic Board). This includes (but is not limited to): the South West Campus (Bunbury) Advisory Board; the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Board; and the ECU Foundation Board.
Council Committee	A committee established by resolution of Council which reports to Council and which consists principally, but not exclusively of, members of Council.
Delegated Authority	The delegation that an individual holds as a result of the position they occupy at the University, conferred upon the individual for a specific purpose.
Dual Purpose Travel	Where private travel is not merely incidental, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) classifies the travel as having a dual purpose (i.e. private and business) and would be subject to Fringe Benefits Tax.
External Member	A member of a Committee who is not an employee of the University.
High Risk Countries	Countries with a travel advice rating from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Level 2 “Exercise a high degree of caution”, Level 3 “Reconsider your need to travel” and Level 4 “Do not travel”.
Incidental Travel	Where the existence of private travel is purely incidental to the main purpose and does not affect the characterisation of the business related expenses.
Other Individuals	Individuals for whom the University has agreed to fund travel. This includes (but is not limited to) Students, Visiting Fellows, Consultants and Job Applicants.
Per Diem	A daily allowance paid to employees to cover all meals and minor incidentals while on international Authorised University Travel that is research related.
University Committee	A committee of the University, other than a Council Committee, or a committee established pursuant to the Act, Statutes, by-laws, or rules of the University.
University Travel Agent	An agent that has been chosen through a market competitive process to deliver the best value travel services to the University.
University Traveller	Anyone who is travelling on University business arranged by the University.

4. POLICY CONTENT

- 4.1 This policy applies to anyone who undertakes Authorised University Travel, irrespective of whether the travel is fully or partially funded by the University.
- 4.2 Subject to paragraph 4.5 below, it is expected that staff who undertake Authorised University Travel will utilise a University credit card to pay for travel related expenses. Where no University credit card is available, only bona fide claims for travel-related expenses from staff and students will be reimbursed.

- 4.3 Flights for Authorised University Travel Agent should be arranged through the designated University Travel Agent and paid for using a University credit card. Bookings for car hire and accommodation through the University Travel Agent are encouraged.
- 4.4 Where available, Cabcharge FAST eTICKETS may be used for domestic taxi expenses for University related business if the traveller does not hold a University credit card (refer to [Travel Guidelines](#)).

Employees responsible for issuing Cabcharge FAST eTICKETS to University Travellers are governed by the conditions outlined in the [Travel Guidelines](#).

- 4.5 Expenses incurred in connection with Authorised University Travel must be reasonable. Reference should be made to current ATO guidelines to determine reasonable expenses for accommodation, sustenance meals and incidentals expenditure (refer to [Travel Guidelines](#)). For the entertainment of guests whilst travelling on University business, refer to the University's [Entertainment and Catering Expenditure Policy](#).

For Research related travel, a per diem allowance can be claimed for international Authorised University Travel: if requested prior to undertaking the travel; the duration of the travel is between 21 and 90 days; and is approved by the relevant financial delegate. The per diem rates will be calculated at the rates specified in the lowest salary banding, in the applicable ATO Guidelines (refer to [Travel Guidelines](#)).

Where Research trips are more than 90 days, and where the sources of funding permit, FBSC may arrange a Living Away from Home Allowance, aligned with the ATO's limits, which will remove the need to acquit sustenance expenses. The Living Away from Home Allowance can only be offered if it satisfies the conditions to be exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). The ATO set these conditions and FBSC will advise, on a case-by-case basis, if the conditions can be satisfied.

The University reserves the right to withdraw the option of a per diem allowance.

- 4.6 If the Authorised University Travel undertaken by staff members includes private travel which exceeds the University's determination of Incidental Travel, the travel will be considered as Dual Purpose Travel. Where the travel is deemed to have a dual purpose, the University will bear the cost of 50% of the return airfare to the business destination, or the actual cost of a one-way fare to the business destination (whichever is lower). All staff members will be required to reimburse any additional cost incurred to ECU prior to the travel being undertaken (refer to [Travel Guidelines](#)).
- 4.7 Unless the terms and conditions of their employment provide otherwise, it is expected that employees undertaking Authorised University Travel which is fully or partly paid for using University funds will travel in Economy Class.

In some special circumstances, travel in Premium Economy or Business Class may be more appropriate (e.g. domestic flights in some developing nations or international travel involving "long haul" flights, e.g. eight hours flying time or longer). Such travel may be booked in Premium Economy or Business Class subject to approval by their Dean/Director.

[Note: The above exceptions are strictly subject to the availability of funds.]

- 4.8 Approval to undertake Authorised University Travel and travel-related expenditure must be obtained in advance from the Delegated Authority, as specified in the table below.

[Note: This approval hierarchy may be modified by exception only with the express approval of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Destination	Schools	Centres
Domestic & International (excluding High Risk Countries)	Dean*	Director
International (High Risk Countries)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Dual Purpose Travel	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

*Note: The Dean may delegate approval of domestic travel to Associate Deans.

- 4.9 Travel by the Vice-Chancellor will be approved by the Vice-President (Corporate Services) for domestic travel or the Chancellor for international travel.
- 4.10 For members of Council and Council Committees and Boards, all forms of travel will be approved by the Council Secretary.
- 4.11 For External Members of University Committees and Other Individuals, travel will be approved by the Dean/Director with overall budgetary responsibility for the activity which necessitates the travel.
- 4.12 Requests for approval to travel are to be obtained in the following manner:
- Staff – via the [Travel Approval System](#) (TAS);
 - Non-staff (excluding students) – via the [Travel Approval Non Staff](#) form;
 - Students – via the [Travel Approval Student](#) form.
- 4.13 In extenuating circumstances, employees may apply for an exemption to requirements contained in this Travel Policy. All exemptions must detail justifications, be endorsed by the relevant Dean/Director and the Manager of Strategic Procurement and Business Services (FBSC) and approved by the Chief Financial Officer (refer to the [Request for Exemption from Policies](#) form). Please note that exemptions must be sought well in advance of anticipated travel and prior to expenditure.

5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following:

Chief Financial Officer

The Policy Owner has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

University Travellers

Staff are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- 6.1 The policy is supported by the following Guidelines:

- [Travel Guidelines](#)

6.2 Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this policy are as follows:

- [University Credit Card Policy](#);
- [University Credit Card Procedure](#); and
- [Entertainment and Catering Expenditure Policy](#).

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document, please contact:

Policy Owner	Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Business Services Centre
All Enquiries Contact:	Travel Administrator
Telephone:	08 6304 2546
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8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Vice-Chancellor
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