

Travel Spending Guidelines for Academic Year 2025-2026

BUDGET: Maximum of **\$48,816** to be spent on both faculty and student travel

▶ If you wish to apply for travel support, submit your RTF before the following **deadlines**:

- **Jan 28, 2026**
- **Feb 18, 2026**
- **March 11, 2026**
- **April 1, 2026**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

- *Jan 21, 2026*
 - *travel will not be considered*
- **Feb 4, 2026**
- **Feb 25, 2026**
- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**
- *April 29, 2026*
 - *travel will not be considered*

▶ Fill out the following forms: **Request for Travel Funds (RTF)**, and **VPAA-150**. You can also find these in the Resources tab on the English website, under “Forms.”

▶ **Faculty & undergrad students:** submit your forms to Lainey Griffith

▶ **Grad students:** submit to Amber Tyler

****Anyone who misses a deadline will have to wait until the next EC meeting for approval.****

▶ **All overnight travel through our University, no matter the source of funding (EC approved or other departmental travel, etc.) *MUST* follow the Travel Process laid out on Pages 2-3.** If the trip does not need EC approval, then you will skip step 3 in the Travel Process.

TRAVEL PROCESS (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY):

1 Please review UNT's Travel Policy documents, linked below.

- 1) **UNT's Travel Guidelines** - this includes all policies and procedures regarding travel on university-related business.
- 2) **CLASS Faculty Travel Guide** - this is a walk-through guide on important procedures regarding travel as a full-time faculty member.

2 Submit RTF to Travel Coordinator

Faculty and **undergraduate students**, please submit your **Request for Travel Funds (RTF)** form to **Lainey Griffith**. **Graduate students**, please submit your form to **Amber Tyler**.

If your trip **does not need EC approval** (this is rare), please submit your RTF:

- **Domestic: At least one week in advance** of the first date of travel
- **International: At least four weeks in advance** of the first date of travel

3 Wait for EC Approval

Following the meeting of the EC, Lainey or Amber will reach out to you via email and notify you of your approved funding.

****Note that you may not be approved for travel funds or for the full amount you requested.***

3a INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS!

Before they travel, international travelers are required to register their trip **three weeks in advance** of the first day of travel and are responsible for complying with UNT's Export Control Policy. For more information about registering, click [here](#).

4 Complete the VPAA-150 Form

The **VPAA-150** is the Faculty Application for Approval of Leave form. It is required for any travel on university-related business, even during the summer. This form notifies the Chair of your upcoming travel and how your assigned work in fall/spring will be covered. After your trip is approved by the EC, submit this form to **Pamela Flores** for approval from the Dean.

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TRAVEL PROCESS CONTINUED



5 Review Preapproval Form (Travel Request) in Coupa

As your travel dates approach, your Travel Coordinator will file your expected expenses (which you provided in your RTF) in a Coupa Preapproval form (also known as a Travel Request).

Your Travel Coordinator might reach out and ask you to review the Preapproval form in **Coupa**, prior to leaving for your trip. They will submit it on your behalf.

Now, you are all set to travel!

6 Turn in all travel receipts for reimbursement

After returning from your trip, turn in all receipts to your Travel Coordinator. Your receipts will be compiled into an expense report for reimbursement.

Your Travel Coordinator might reach out and ask you to review the Expense Report in **Coupa**. If everything looks good, they will submit it on your behalf.

****IMPORTANT NOTE ON RECEIPTS: Please ensure you are submitting your receipts within 60 days of the transaction date. You may submit a travel receipt prior to your trip start date if you will hit the 60 day mark during or at the end of the trip. This is a strict UNT policy. If you submit a receipt after 60 days, it will become taxable income.***

****Note that if you do not have a receipt for something, you cannot be reimbursed for that expense.***

****Please allow 1-2 weeks for your reimbursement to hit your bank account after the report is submitted.***





GUIDELINES FOR TENURE-SYSTEM FACULTY

- ▶ No more than \$2,500 will be spent on any individual faculty member during FY25 unless they make an approved trip to a location outside North America. In that case the spending cap will increase to \$3,300 total for the year.
- ▶ No more than \$3,300 will be spent on any single trip to a location outside North America.
- ▶ No more than \$2,000 will be spent on any single trip to a North American location outside of Texas.

GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL FACULTY

- ▶ No more than \$1,500 will be spent on any individual faculty member.
- ▶ Consideration will be given to conference participation that has a direct bearing on the faculty member's pedagogical development including but not limited to curriculum and course design, mentoring other professional faculty, and improving teaching effectiveness.
- ▶ Professional faculty may seek departmental funding for a maximum of one trip per year.
- ▶ Total travel for professional faculty is **capped at \$7,500** (a maximum of \$4,000 to be distributed during the fall semester and \$3,000 reserved for distribution during the spring).



GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

- ▶ **Grad students must apply for support** from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (**CLASS Travel Grant**), and the Toulouse Graduate School (**Faculty Evaluation for Travel Grant Applicants**). The TGS travel grants require a \$100-\$500 departmental match authorized by the department chair, and this amount will be applied toward the total departmental award. In cases where supplemental funding is awarded, departmental reimbursement will cover the difference between the supplemental award and the cost of travel expenditures up to the amounts specified below.
- ▶ Students may receive up to \$350 if presenting at a **regional** conference or traveling to an archive or other research facility within 300 miles of UNT. This total will be increased to \$500 if the student travels in conjunction with a faculty member to the same conference or archive.
- ▶ Students will receive up to \$600 if presenting at a **national** conference or traveling to an archive or other research facility more than 300 miles from UNT. This total will be increased to \$750 if the student travels in conjunction with a faculty member to the same conference or archive.
- ▶ Preference will be given to **PhD students**. Students may normally seek departmental funding for one trip per year. In exceptional circumstances, a student may apply for additional travel funding.
- ▶ Travel for graduate students is **capped at \$5,000** (a maximum of \$3,500 to be distributed during the fall semester and \$1,500 reserved for distribution during the spring).

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- ▶ **Undergrad students must apply for travel support** from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (**Raupe Travel Grant**), in addition to their RTF.
- ▶ Total departmental travel support for all undergraduates will **not exceed \$1,000** (a maximum of \$500 to be distributed during the fall semester and \$500 reserved for distribution during the spring). If \$500 is not awarded in the fall, the remainder of those funds will roll over to the spring.
- ▶ Students may receive up to \$250 if presenting at a **regional** conference or traveling to an archive or other research facility within 300 miles of UNT. This total will be increased to \$300 if the student travels in conjunction with a faculty member to the same conference or archive.
- ▶ Students may receive up to \$400 if presenting at a **national** conference or traveling to an archive or other research facility more than 300 miles from UNT. This total will be increased to \$500 if the student travels in conjunction with a faculty member to the same conference or archive.

TRAVEL FAQs:

Who do I give my RTF to?

- ▶ If you are a full-time faculty member or undergraduate student, email your RTF to **Lainey Griffith**.
- ▶ If you are a graduate student, email your RTF to **Amber Tyler**.

TRAVEL FAQs (CONT):

What is Coupa? How do I log in?

- ▶ Coupa is the system we use to process travel and reimbursements. All UNT employees have their own accounts. Lainey or Amber will have access to work within your account to process your Requests and Expense reports. The easiest way to log in is through the UNT Portal linked [here](#).

What if my travel does not need to be EC approved? Does my trip need to follow the Travel Process?

- ▶ YES! All travel within our University, no matter the source of funding, **MUST** follow the Travel Process laid out on **Pages 2-3**. If you do not need EC approval, you will skip step 3 only.
- ▶ If, however, you have travel supported by an outside entity, and that party is paying for the trip, then you do NOT need to follow UNT's Travel Process. You are still responsible for your course delivery.

If my trip has already been approved, then what is the Preapproval in Coupa for?

- ▶ **UNT's Travel Guidelines** state that a Coupa Preapproval form is required for "approval to travel, budget authority to use UNT System funds for travel related expenses, and timely reimbursement. Coupa Request is not required for non-travel expenses or travel without an overnight stay."
- ▶ If your Preapproval is not submitted and fully approved before you travel, you will not have access to funds to pay for your travel. This will delay the reimbursement process when you return and put you at risk of not completing the process within the 30-day period for reimbursements.



TRAVEL FAQs (CONT):

Can I be reimbursed for my travel expenses *before* my trip starts?

- ▶ Yes! You may turn in receipts for travel prior to taking your trip if the transaction date on your receipts will hit 60 days during or at the end of the trip.
- ▶ UNT has a strict 60-day reimbursement policy: if out-of-pocket reimbursements hit 60 days without processing, the reimbursement is then considered taxable income.

If I have my receipts ready before Lainey or Amber reach out and ask me for them, should I start creating my expense report?

- ▶ No... faculty and students *must* wait for the Travel Coordinators to initiate the expense report for reimbursement. If you have your receipts ready before you are contacted, feel free to attach them to an email and send them to your respective Travel Coordinator.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBMISSIONS, EC MEETING DATES, OR OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lainey Griffith - lainey.griffith@unt.edu - Travel Coordinator for Tenure-System, Professional faculty, and undergraduate students

Amber Tyler - amber.tyler@unt.edu - Travel Coordinator for graduate students only



PLEASE NOTE:

- ▶ If, at one or more of the EC meetings, the total requests exceed the amount set aside, the committee will **rank the requests in priority** order and **approve as many as the available funds permit**. Any meritorious but unfunded trip will roll forward for reconsideration at the next meeting.
- ▶ In ranking the requests, the committee will consider (and actively investigate, if necessary) the reputation of the conference. Generally speaking, national and international conferences sponsored by major academic organizations will be considered more important than regional meetings or conferences unaffiliated with major academic organizations.
- ▶ The committee reserves the right to decide that it will neither fund a request nor reconsider it at a subsequent meeting. This is most likely to happen if the applicant is not reading a paper or presenting creative work at an academic conference. **Requests to attend a conference without presenting work may be funded if the rationale is very strong, but such approvals will be few and far between.**