### ILR NYC TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

As part of a LEAN: Continuous Process Improvement initiative, the New York City office of ILR has revised a series of travel procedures.





# The Project

As an outcome of the NYC Administrative Review project, faculty and staff identified some areas to review for process improvement. One area identified was travel reimbursement processing.

To identify more efficient procedures, we used the Lean Process Improvement method, which has been adopted by many departments at Cornell and in other large organizations. This is a participative approach which allows a team of staff involved in the processing, as well as customers of the process, to review the existing methods and cooperatively identify potential improvements.

Although we started with a review of the travel reimbursement process, our goal was to test the Lean Process method, to develop a familiarity and competency with it, and then, hopefully, to apply it to other areas identified for potential improvement.

We believe the method has worked quite well for this project, that it can be effective in other areas, and look forward to using it in the future.





# Why Lean?

Remove waste from the process Increase value for customers and CU Focus on activity that adds value





### What is the Lean Process?

How do we guarantee performance?
Validate and verify improvements.
Process controls

**Control** 

Identify the key issue, key problem, key process.

**Define** 

What's important?

What needs to be done? Eliminate waste. Identify actions.

**Improve** 

**Analyze** 

What's wrong?
Analyze root causes.
Look at process efficiency.

Measure What are we doing?

Measure key parameters.

Map service flow / information flow.





# How is it implemented at Cornell?

# Pre-Lean preparation

Information: Facilitators send out premeeting Q&As , a role-definition document, and this document to help the team understand the Lean process.

Meeting: Facilitators meet with the team leader and team lead (1.5 hours), to offer an orientation to Lean, discuss the launch agenda, and to answer questions.

Pre-work: The team leader and lead complete the attached pre-meeting launch scope, which defines the problem and the goals of the Lean launch.

Scheduling: The lead schedules the Leanlaunch time, date, location, and food and schedules the weekly meeting to occur on the Monday or Tuesday after the launch.

Communication: The team lead sends the facilitator(s) the launch scope and metrics that show time, cost, or other measurable variables of the current process.

# Lean Launch

Orientation: Facilitators welcome the team and provide a Lean orientation.

Mapping: The team maps the current process and generates ideas to improve that process.

Brainstorming: The team defines an ideal future process and creates a future-state map.

Mapping: The team identifies the areas to focus on so that it can make the future state into a reality.

Measuring: The team determines what metrics to gather so that it can show the impact and success of their improvements.

Communicating: Facilitators outline roles and discuss next steps.

# Post-launch activities

Daily check-in meeting (after VB and metrics are in place): discuss metrics (how is the team doing), share ideas, implement "just-do-it" ideas.

Weekly: team meets with its Lean advisor to discuss progress, look at metrics, reevaluate kaizens, and plan for the coming week.

Periodically: Kaizen (i.e., improvement) teams meet, as needed, to work toward the ideal future process.

Periodically: team leads meet or communicate with Lean advisor to share challenges and learn how to manage their Kaizen groups.

30-60-90 days: meet to update all stakeholders on what progress the teams have made, what barriers they need to overcome, and what the impact of Lean is.

Organizational Development for Faculty & Staff, Cornell University





### **NYC LEAN Team Goals**

- 1. Improve turnaround time of travel reimbursements
- 2. Improve compliance and consistent enforcement of travel policies
- 3. Simplify and consolidate travel reimbursement process
- 4. Reduce workload for program support staff
- 5. Empower staff to provide feedback to customers
- 6. Improve communication between process partners and customers
- 7. Develop familiarity with Lean Process Improvement





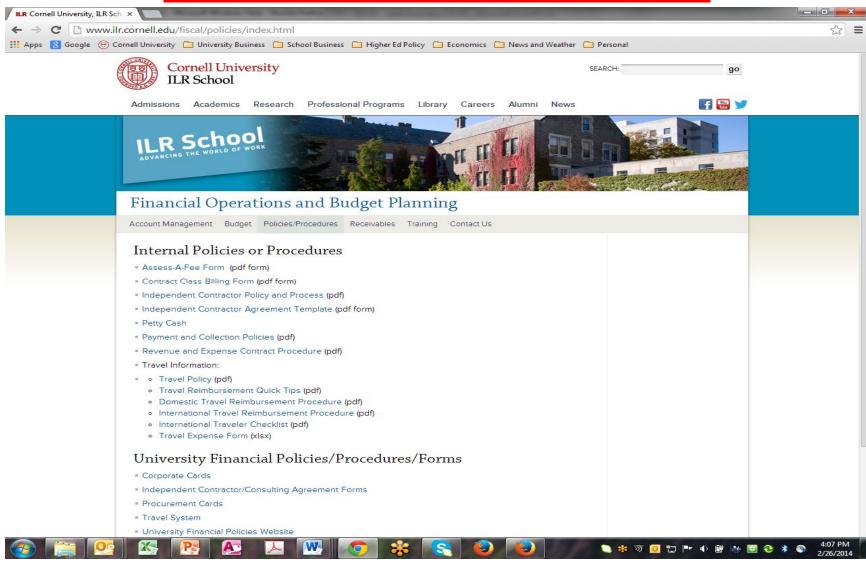
# What has happened as a result of the Lean Process?

- ✓ Improved clarity for travel reimbursement requirements and general travel policies
- ✓ Updated travel reimbursement form that will now be used across NYC departments
- ✓ Created written procedures for reimbursement process that can be used for internal reference and new hire training
- ✓ Developed Quick Tips, FAQ's and Traveler Checklists that can be used by Travelers and Administrators
- ✓ Uploaded all new forms and procedures onto ILR Finance Website





### Where to Find the Results







### Domestic Travel Reimbursement Procedure



#### Domestic Travel Reimbursement Procedure

The following information is provided to process requests for reimbursement of expenses incurred while traveling on official university business. Reimbursement will take place after the trip has occurred.

#### DEPARTMENT SUPPORT STAFF:

- Collect original receipts (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) for all travel related expenses from the
  traveler. Cornell reimburses traveler's meals using the receipt method or <u>per diem</u> method. One method
  must apply for the entire trip.
  - a. The <u>per dism</u> method requires an overnight stay. For the day of departure and day of return, reduce the <u>per dism</u> amount to 75 percent of the daily rate. The meal <u>per dism</u> rate includes meals, beverages, tips, and taxes.
  - b. If using the receipt method, an original ITEMIZED receipt that lists what was purchased, including beverages must be included. Examples of acceptable meal receipts are itemized credit card slips, itemized cash register receipts, or for meals under \$75.00 only, a non-itemized credit card slip or cash register receipt, or a room receipt to which a meal has been charged. Original receipts are required for all expenses including one day travel.
- 2. Organize and tape receipts by date on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper.
- 3. Complete the Travel Expense Reimbursement Form and include any other supporting documents. Enter all receipts and other documentation onto the form. If travel advance was requested, please indicate the dollar amount on the first line of the form under "cost," which should be negative. Reimbursement requests with a travel advance must be submitted within 30 DAYS after completion of the trip.
- When the form is finished print and scan along with all original receipts and submit to NYC Finance Team as a PDF via email; hand deliver originals.

### FINANCE TEAM:

- NYC Finance Team will review request and supporting documents. If questions, team will request corrections from support staff. Once corrections are made, NYC Finance Team enters the information onto the <u>Travel Reimbursement System</u>. An automated message requests approval from the traveler.
- 6. Once approved by the traveler, the NYC Finance Team is notified via email that it's been approved.
- NYC Finance Team creates cover sheet that includes Trip ID number and account numbers and sends to Lya Simonet (NYC Finance Manager) for final review and approval.
- Once signed and approved, NYC Finance Team saves copy of the travel reimbursement as a PDF in the Finance Shared Drive.
- 9. Original travel related documents are sent to FTC for final review.
- 10. FTC (Wei Liu) will notify NYC Finance Team of any questions/corrections. If there are corrections, the request will be rejected and queued back to the preparer (NYC Finance Team). If changes are needed, it will be queued back to the traveler for resubmission and re-approval from NYC Finance Team.
- 11. If everything is approved, the traveler will be paid within 2 to 3 weeks.

#### Additional Resources:

University Policy 3.2, University Travel University Policy 3.14, Business Expenses

Originally Issued: January 2014 Last Updated: December 18, 2013





# Travel Expense Reimbursement Form

		TRAVEL EXPE	NSE RE	MBU	RSE	MEN	T FOR	M	
N	ame of Traveler:								
l	Purpose of Trip:								
	Dates for Trip:								
	nal Destination:								
Accoun	t to be charged:								
		Expense			MEALS				
DATE		Description	Expense		(if per diem enter PD)			Comments	
MM/DD/YY	CITY, STATE	Include Vendor Name	COST(\$)	MILES	BRKFST	LUNCH	DINNER		
Totals			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
					Due:			\$0.00	
		_							
**Last Upo	lated: Dec. 18, 2013								





### International Travel Reimbursement Procedure



### International Travel Reimbursement Procedure

The following information is provided to process requests for reimbursement of expenses incurred while traveling on official university business. Reimbursement will take place after the trip has occurred.

#### DEPARTMENT SUPPORT STAFF:

- 1. Seek Invitation Letter from sponsor, if visa is needed. (3-5 months prior to trip)
- 2. Request Business Letter from Ed
- 3. Submit passport, one 2x2 passport photo, and visa application form to expediter
- 4. Request travel advance (2 weeks prior to trip)
- Collect original receipts (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) for all travel related expenses from the traveler. Cornell reimburses traveler's meals using the receipt method or per diem method. One method must apply for the entire trip.
  - a. Foreign per diem is established by the federal government for travel outside the continental U.S. Foreign per diem rates are used for Hawaii and Alaska.
  - b. If using the receipt method, an original ITEMIZED receipt that lists what was purchased, including beverages must be included.
  - c. If receipts are in foreign currency, please include the U.S. dollar amount on each receipt. A simple way to convert all foreign currency to U.S. dollars (and provide backup for the conversion) is to use the OANDA currency converter.
- 6. Organize and tape receipts by date on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper.
- 7. Complete the Travel Expense Reimbursement Form and include any other supporting documents. Enter all receipts and other documentation onto the form. If travel advance was requested, please indicate the dollar amount on the first line of the form under "cost," which should be negative. Reimbursement requests with a travel advance must be submitted within 30 DAYS after completion of the trip.
- When the form is finished print and scan along with all original receipts and submit to NYC Finance Team as a PDF via email; hand deliver originals.

### FINANCE TEAM:

- NYC Finance Team will review request and supporting documents. If questions, team will request
  corrections from support staff. Once corrections are made, NYC Finance Team enters the information
  onto the Travel Reimbursement System. An automated message requests approval from the traveler.
- 10. Once approved by the traveler, the NYC Finance Team is notified via email that it's been approved.
- 11. NYC Finance Team creates cover sheet that includes Trip ID number and account numbers and sends to Lya Simonet (NYC Finance Manager) for final review and approval.
- 12. Once signed and approved, NYC Finance Team saves copy of the travel reimbursement as a PDF in the Finance Shared Drive.
- 13. Original travel related documents are sent to FTC for final review.
- 14. FTC (Wei Liu) will notify NYC Finance Team of any questions/corrections. If there are corrections, the request will be rejected and queued back to the preparer (NYC Finance Team). If changes are needed, it will be queued back to the traveler for resubmission and re-approval from NYC Finance Team.
- 15. If everything is approved, the traveler will be paid within 2 to 3 weeks.

Additional Resources:

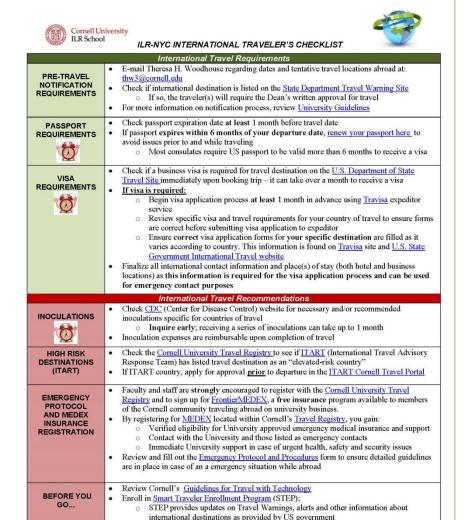
University Policy 3.2, University Travel
University Policy 3.14, Business Expenses

Originally Issued: January 2014 Last Updated: December 18, 2013





### International Travel Checklist



Updated: 2/19/2014



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## Travel Reimbursement - Quick Tips

Travel Reimbursement - Quick Tips
Business purpose should include: Where, What, When and Why.
(Tape all receipts by date on 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper)

### Transportation

- □ Alfrare/Train: Alfrare Reservation litheraries booked online <u>must be</u> submitted with your ticket receipt. When booking through an approved travel agency, the Price Summany Total Collected by the Alfrare agency must also be submitted. For both, tickets receipts <u>must</u> include the cardholder's name and the last 4 digits of the credit card number. Non-Reimburssible: In-fight Releptione charges; first class and business class flights <u>unless</u> prior approval by the Dean, Associate Dean, or Otirector of Finance has been received.
- Multiple Destinations: Provide the business purpose for each destination associated with the trip. First and business class flights may be allowable in certain cases for international travel with prior approval only.
- □ Rental Car and Fuel: Need rental receipt, gas and other related receipts. Non-Reimbursable: For PAI, — Personal Accident Insurance (Employees who are covered by Workers Compensation). PEC — Personal Effects Coverage; LIS — Liability Insurance Supplement; New York State sales tax.
- Auto Mileage: Only auto mileage is reimbursable when traveling in personal vehicle. IRS 2014 Mileage Rates: 56 cents per mileas of January 14\*, 2014.
  Non-Reimbursable: Combined gas and auto mileage when traveling in personal vehicle.
- Tollis: EZ pass statement. If less than \$75, traveler can submit total toll \$ amount along with a detailed explanation of trip purpose instead of the receipt if desired.
- ☐ Parking/Taxls: Submit all receipts including tip.
- ☐ Transportation provided: Traveler needs to explain reason (e.g., paid for by another organization)

#### Lodging

- ☐ Hotel: Detailed Itemized receipts required; must submit a receipt.
- Hotel Provided: Traveler needs to explain reason (e.g., paid for by another organization).

#### Meal / Hosted meal (s)

- One Trip: Original receipts must be submitted with a zero balance. Not required to process in the trip system
- □ Per Diem: Can only be used for a trip that is more than one day (overnight). (20% breakfast, 20% lunch,60% dinner). Domestic per diem rates: <a href="http://www.qsa.gov/portal/content/104877">http://www.qsa.gov/portal/content/104877</a>. Foreign per diem rates: <a href="http://www.qsa.gov/portal/content/104877">http://www.qsa.gov/portal/content/104877</a>.
- Receipt: Original Itemized receipts from the restaurant; must include the cardholder's name and a zero balance.
   Non-Reimbursable; Combination of per diem and receipt method for the same trip.
- ☐ Alcohol: Purchase must be clearly identified on the restaurant receipt so appropriate account coding can be used.
- Hosted Meal (s): All requests for reimbursements for meals host by traveler with clients/colleagues must include an itemized receipt indicating all alcohol expenses, explanation of business purpose, and a list of attendees.
- ☐ Meal Provided: Traveler needs to explain reason (e.g., paid for by another organization).

#### Misplaced Receipt

■ Misplaced Receipt: Need to show proof of payment record such as credit card statement; bank statement <u>must</u> have traveler's cardiolder name and/or other supporting documents. For object code use: 6780 Travel - Federal Unallowable for missing receipt on on-Hemized receipt for meals.
Restricted Grant Acquiret Man. Recoverable for other code use 6780 Travel - Federal Lingitowable for missing.

Restricted Grant Account: Non-Recoverable for object code use 6780 Travel - Federal Unallowable for missing receipt or non-itemized receipt for meals; 6160 Fees - Membership & Subscriptions.

Please include all information - this will help us to expedite your reimbursement Updated 2/19/2014 © 2014 Cornell University/NYC-ILR Finance Outreach Travel Reimbursement - Quick Tips
Business purpose should include: Where, What, When and Why.
(Tape all receipts by date on 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper)

#### Other Requirements

- ☐ Convert all foreign currency to U.S dollars: http://www.canda.com/currency/converter/
- Non-Cornell Employee: Travelers who do not have authorization to use the system or those who need to process moving and relocation retinuousements, must use the following form: <a href="http://www.dta.cornell.edu/dta/payments/sesentlais/travel/travel/relimitoform.cfm">http://www.dta.cornell.edu/dta/payments/sesentlais/travel/travel/relimitoform.cfm</a>.
- □ Alrfare Discount: Utilize one of Cornell's travel agents or an online booking tool (such as Travelocity, Kayak, or Expedia) to get the best price for alrfare. Cornell University has negotiated 2%-5% discounts with the airlines listed below. In order to secure the discounts, you must book travel through one of Cornell's contracted travel agents PanAm Inc. or AAA Travel. Payment Method: Corporate/personal credit card or direct billing. Visit Cornell Online booking tools at: <a href="https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/travel/airlines/index.ctm">https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/travel/airlines/index.ctm</a>
- Buelinese clase air travel is appropriate for international flights in excess of 6 hours as long as the international travel is outside of Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. If traveling to a time zone with at least a 6 hour difference (e.g., Europe and the Mideast), one daylright of recovery before engaging in ILR work will be allowed.
- □ ILR employee's traveling internationally: must notify the Dear's Office (Theresa Woodhouse thw3@cornell.edu) in advance. For additional information on destination, wisit: The State Department travel warning site
- □ Free Abroad Emergency Insurance (MEDEX) is available through the University Office of International Affairs. Register at: http://www.international.comeil.edu/fopic/travellemergencies.asp
- ☐ Rental Car Discount Rates for university business travelers are available at: Hertz, National Car Rental, Enterprise, Avis, and Budget. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/travel/ground/index.ctm">https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/travel/ground/index.ctm</a>
- ☐ Travel Advance Request and submissions to Financial Transaction Center: If a receipt doesn't indicate proof of payment, you can attach your credit card statement. If a trip is more than a month away and will incur substantial costs, a travel advance can be requested. It will take two weeks for traveler to receive the check deposit. Upon completion of trip, if advance is requested, please indicate the dollar amount on the first line of the form under "cost," which should be negative on the relimbursement form. Travel advance reconciliation must be submitted.
- ☐ Tax Exempt Certificate: If a NY\$ tax exempt certificate is needed, must request it from FTC (Wel Liu wi236@cornell.adu) each time. Wel will supply the blank form for one time use only. The department will then fill it out and submit it to the vendor. Keeping a blank form in our files is against Cornell Policy. To check other states Cornell University has sales tax exemptions for, visit: <a href="http://www.dta.cornell.edu/tax/sales.andus.elex.emption.cfm">http://www.dta.cornell.edu/tax/sales.andus.elex.emption.cfm</a>
- □ OTHER LINKS: POLICIES! Travel Guidelines / online booking/ ACH direct deposit form / Travel Advance Form http://www.lir.comeil.adu/fileosiplotiloleupload/Travel Cuidelines | Final September-19-2013.pdf ILR Policy University Policy 32, University Travel University Travel Policy University Folicy 3.14, Business Expenses University Spainess Expense Policy https://www.dta.comeil.adu/travel/ Cornell Travel Portal Accounts Pavable ACH Authorization Form Direct Deposit

http://www.dts.comeil.edu/cms/payments/essentialis/advances/up/load/cui pay traveladvance.pdf - Advance Form http://www.krs.go/up/loadrs-pdf/w80ea.pdf - Infernational ongling New Traveler needs to fit out W80en form http://www.krs.go/up/loadrs-pdf/w9.pdf - Domestic new ongoing traveler needs to fit out W80em to http://www.krs.go/up/loadrs-pdf/w9.pdf - Domestic new ongoing traveler needs to fit out W80em

#### ☐ CONTACT US FOR ANY INFORMATION:

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theac office —FTO —Tife Approver

William Ricci Courner (Approver)

NYOLIA Rincand Representative

Please Include all Information - this will help us to expedite your relimbursement. Updated: 2/19/2014 © 2014 Cornell University/NYC-ILR Finance Outreach





### FAQ's



### TRAVEL/MISC. REIMBURSEMENT FAQ

### Traveling Domestically

### Q: Do I need to submit receipts that are Direct Billed in my reimbursement?

A: Direct Billed expenses are generally NOT required when submitting a standard reimbursement.

EXCEPTION: if the reimbursement is related to a contracted on-site program where the client will reimburse the university, Direct Billed receipts MUST be saved and submitted with the reimbursement.

### Q: What requires an original receipt?

A: Original receipts are required for ALL expenses EXCEPT for the following: Meals associated with overnight travel claimed under the per diem method, personal auto mileage reimbursed at the current IRS rate, miscellaneous expenses that are less than \$75

### Q: What's considered a miscellaneous expense?

A: Miscellaneous expenses are travel-related expenses such as local transportation, mail, fax, phone, internet hotel charges, entrance fees, etc. Lodging, meals (when using the receipt method) and transportation to and from your destination (air, train, rental car) are NOT miscellaneous expenses.

Q:

Δ.

Q:

A

### Traveling Internationally

### Q: When should I seek an invitation letter from Sponsor?

A: An Invitation Letter should be sought from sponsor, if visa is needed, 3-5 months prior to trip. A letter of invitation on company letterhead from sponsor (either host company or individual) explaining the relationship to the applicant and the purpose of travel. In addition, the letter must indicate the length of stay, place of stay, and contact information. The invitation should also confirm the validity of visa applied for (1 Year, 5 Year or 10 Year), as well as places and organizations to be visited.





# Additional Expense Related Updates

- Direct Deposit: We encourage you to sign up to receive non-payroll reimbursements through direct deposit by completing the following form: <a href="http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/payments/processing/reimbursements/ach.cfm">http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/payments/processing/reimbursements/ach.cfm</a>
- **Use of Object Codes:** It is no longer necessary for department administrative staff to assign object codes to expenses reimbursement requests. FTC and the Finance Team will assign these on behalf of each Department.
- **Direct Billing Receipts:** It is no longer necessary for department administrative staff to submit a copy of a receipt for direct billings (Statler Hotel, C2C Bus) with the travel reimbursement form. It is only necessary to identify charges as direct billing.
- Tax Exempt Certificate: If we need a tax exempt certificate, we must now request it from FTC (Wei Liu) for each individual request. Keeping a blank form in our files is against Cornell Policy. Previously we contacted Patti Giordano in the Tax Compliance to request a tax exempt certificate. This practice is no longer applicable.
- **IRS 2014 Mileage Rates:** The IRS mileage rates for 2014 have decreased. Business miles reimbursement is now 56 cents per mile, down from 56.5 cents in 2013.

Cornell University

ILR School



### **Future Goals**

- Introduce a travel portal on the ILR Finance website
- Convert existing forms to web forms to further automate the workflow
- Consider other areas where the Lean process can help remove waste and add value at ILR-NYC

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/fiscal/policies/index.html

For more information about this revised travel process contact your department administrative staff, Lya Simonet or Wil Stringer





## ILR Lean Team for Travel Reimbursement Process





