

Non-staff Representatives Traveling on HLC Business

HLC reimburses its representatives for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while transacting HLC business. This document defines HLC's expectations for trustees, peer reviewers, speakers, presenters and facilitators when traveling to institutions or HLC-sponsored events.

HLC's current fee structure requires an institution that hosts an evaluation visit to directly reimburse HLC for the actual expenses (lodging, meals and travel) incurred by peer reviewers. Most educational institutions have reimbursement guidelines for their faculty and administrators when they travel; while HLC prefers not to choose one standard due to the great variety of visits and locales, travelers are asked to be conscientious about the expenses that they incur

General

1. HLC uses a Travel Expense Reimbursement Form (TERF) in making reimbursements to persons traveling on HLC business. Generally, it is sent to the individual in advance with other materials related to the projected travel. The form is also available at hlcommission.org/team-resources. A completed TERF must be submitted to HLC's office for reimbursement to be made.
2. As HLC does not invoice institutions until all visit related expenses have been submitted, please send the TERF to HLC within 30 calendar days after the end of the travel-related event. Expense reports submitted after 90 calendar days could be rejected unless approved for late payment by the chief financial officer (CFO).
3. The IRS requires that receipts for individual travel-related expenses in excess of \$25 be submitted with the Travel Expense Reimbursement Form.
4. Peer reviewers are encouraged to use Concur Expense for submitting receipts for reimbursement.
5. Travelers are urged to use the most economical mode of transportation. However, please strike the best balance between the use of personal time and the related cost.
6. Neither airfare nor lodging costs should be directly paid by a member institution.
7. Expenses will only be reimbursed for costs incurred from the night prior to the visit/event up to its completion unless approved in advance by the CFO or HLC vice president responsible for the event.
8. Individuals traveling on HLC business are permitted to retain bonus miles or points that are provided by airlines, hotels and car rental agencies. However, HLC strongly discourages the selection of a vendor based solely on their incentive program. If travel services through another vendor are less expensive and as equally convenient, the traveler is expected to use the most economical option.
9. If prior HLC approval has been sought for special travel arrangements, this should be noted on the TERF.

Air and Train Travel

1. Whenever possible, reservations should be made sufficiently in advance to ensure the lowest possible fare.
2. HLC will only reimburse travelers for the cost of an economy fare for domestic travel.
3. Individuals traveling on overnight flights, or to international locations, may elect to fly business class.
4. Travel on non-commercial aircraft requires advance approval from an HLC vice president or the CFO.

Automobile, Taxi and Car Rental

1. Personal Automobile: Travelers using their personal automobile will be reimbursed at the current per mile IRS authorized rate. Mileage will be reimbursed for both driving to an institution/event as well as traveling to an airport or train station.
2. Taxi or Shuttle Service: HLC will reimburse the actual cost of necessary taxi or shuttle service, including tip.
3. Car rentals will only be reimbursed with advance approval of the Director of Peer Corps Relations and Services, Director of Accreditation Processes, Vice President of Systems and Accreditation Services, or CFO.
4. When a rental car has been determined to be necessary and approved, travelers should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - i. HLC requires travelers to use Enterprise and National for car rentals, where available. For a negotiated rental rate and full insurance coverage, use HLC's account number, XZ15H23.
 - ii. If Enterprise and National are not located at the destination, travelers are free to use another agency. As HLC's general insurance policy does not cover rental car liability for non-HLC staff, all trustees and peer reviewers must accept optional insurance coverage.

- iii. If traveling in a group, other team members may be added as authorized drivers.
 - iv. No one other than an authorized driver should be allowed to drive the car.
 - v. Refuel the car prior to returning. HLC will reimburse the cost of gas used.
 - vi. Reimbursement will not be made for any moving violations or parking tickets incurred during the rental period.
 - vii. Reimbursement for mileage should not be added to the cost of the rental car.
5. Reimbursement will be made for tolls and parking for both personal and rented cars.

Lodging and Meals

1. Reimbursement for lodging will only be made to an individual traveler. **When traveling for a visit to an institution, please ensure the charges are not being billed to the institution.**
2. An attempt should be made to keep the cost of domestic sleeping rooms under \$300 per night.
3. Total housekeeping and porter gratuities should not total more than \$5 per day.
4. Meal costs will naturally vary according to geographic location, but we ask that you think about general educational institutional guidelines for meal expenses. Please include detailed and summary meal receipts for meals over \$25.

Meeting Space

1. Should after-hours meeting space be required for teams visiting an institution, the team chair may book a hotel suite or meeting room for the length of the visit.
2. If a meeting room is booked, please be conscious of internet, phone and refreshment costs.
3. Reimbursement for a hotel meeting room should be made to the traveler and not be paid by the institution.

Phone/Internet Usage

1. Reimbursement will be made for reasonable telephone expenses to/from a traveler's home or cellular phone.
2. Necessary internet connection charges incurred while traveling will be reimbursed by HLC.

Incidental Expenses

1. Incidental expenses such as copying, fax, etc., incurred while traveling will be reimbursed by HLC.

Non-reimbursable Expenses

1. Airline and hotel travel insurance
2. Childcare
3. Hotel movies
4. Valet service
5. Expenses of a spouse or companion unless pre-approved by HLC's CFO, chief operating officer or president.
6. Pet care.