

CEPR CONFERENCE TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

In an effort to continue to offer the maximum number of conferences and to include as many participants as possible with limited funding for travel, CEPR is updating its travel reimbursement policy. Participants are advised to review the following carefully, prior to making their travel plans, so as to ensure the maximum reimbursement for their claim.

1. Travel to/from the conference

Air Travel

With the advent of budget airlines in Europe, it is now possible to obtain very inexpensive fares without staying over a Saturday night. For conferences in locations well served by cheap routes, participants will be expected to return home on evening that the conference concludes (For example, for a conference which finishes on a Saturday afternoon, participants will be expected to return home that evening where possible). These meetings will be clearly signalled in the CEPR meeting description. In these cases, CEPR will only consider paying for an extra night in a hotel if the savings incurred (airfare plus hotel costs) are substantial. For these meetings, an extra night's hotel stay must be approved by CEPR's Meetings Team in advance of travel.

For conferences less well served by air routes, a Saturday night stay may still be required. Again, this will be signalled in the meeting description. Participants choosing to leave earlier will be reimbursed to the level of the equivalent lowest fare with Saturday night stay.

In all cases, only economy airfares will be reimbursed except in very special circumstances and only with prior approval. First class, business class and premium economy tickets will be reimbursed at the level of the economy fare.

Tickets bought 21 days ahead of travel are usually substantially cheaper than closer to departure. Participants who make their reservations less than 21 days ahead of time will be reimbursed at the level of the discounted fare with 21 days of advance notice, unless the CEPR Meetings Team grants prior approval. Note that for budget carriers, such advance booking may not have much effect, but this is particularly important for travellers from the US and Canada.

Travel Fare Limits

The following table represents the maximum amount of reimbursement for travel to conferences in Europe. **Please note, the amount below also includes any travel made during the conference. (It is no longer a separate amount).** The CEPR Meetings Team must approve any exceptions in advance. Where participants exceed this limit without authorisation, CEPR will reimburse participants to the limit below.

Travelling from	Fare limit
Within Europe	€ 450
Israel	\$ 760
U.S./Canada East Coast	\$ 760 (Chicago, DC, NY, Boston, Toronto, Montreal etc.)
U.S./Canada West Coast	\$ 960 (Vancouver, Seattle, SF, LA, Arizona, Colorado etc.)

ECONOMIC POLICY

Other points of departure – please consult the CEPR Meetings Team.

Rail Travel

Participants electing to travel by train must take advantage of early booking fares, where this is cheaper than purchasing tickets near to departure. Reimbursement is made for second-class travel only.

Car Travel

CEPR does not reimburse car rental. Participants choosing to travel to a CEPR conference in their own car may claim mileage reimbursement at £0.23 per mile for the roundtrip, up to the price of a second-class advance railfare from their home to the conference.

Local Ground Transportation

This has now been incorporated into the above travel allowance. We do not specify how the allowance must be spent.

Any excess costs incurred are the responsibility of the participant and will not be reimbursed.

Internet Travel Websites

There are hundreds of travel websites on the Internet which can enable you to obtain cheap fares, but there does seem to be a difference between the level of information each site can provide, whether the company is subject to the rules of a travel regulator/s, how 'user-friendly' the site is and how easy it is to actually make a booking. In addition, some aggregating travel sites do not quote fares for budget airlines. Please consult the budget airline's own website directly to see if they serve your local airport. CEPR has conducted limited research into travel sites available (although the landscape changes daily!). Please see the appendix at the end of this document for a brief guide to Internet travel sites.

2. Accommodation

The CEPR Meetings Team and local organizers negotiate discounted rates with hotels used for conference participants. Frequently, these are paid for directly by the organizer for the minimum number of nights required to attend the meeting (this will be made clear in the Local information guide for the meeting). Where this is not the case, participants should pay for their hotel room and include this in their expense claim. Additional nights at the hotel beyond the number specified for the meeting, or additional costs incurred for bringing a partner will not be reimbursed.

On checkout, participants must pay for their room for any incidental charges - room service, movies, phone charges, etc. - and additional nights. These charges will not be reimbursed.

3. Meals

Refreshments and meals will usually be provided during the meeting. For meetings lasting 2 days, if lunch or dinner is not provided by the organizers, participants may claim up to a maximum of €15 per lunch and €30 per dinner for the 2 days, provided the claim is supported by receipts.

3. Miscellaneous – Visas/Missed Flights

Any participant requiring a VISA to travel, must notify CEPR in advance of fees involved and must allow sufficient time to apply to the relevant Embassy. CEPR will not reimburse “express” service fees without prior agreement.

Please note that it is a participant’s own responsibility to obtain any appropriate visa/s that may be required for certain countries. CEPR will not be responsible for the costs incurred by any participant who fails to investigate visa requirements and as a result is unable to travel.

Participants who fail to catch their flight, through no fault of the airline, and consequently miss the meeting, will not be reimbursed for any travel expenses incurred.

4. Submitting a Claim/Payment

You will receive an **Expense Claim Form** prior to, or at, the meeting to reclaim expenses incurred from your participation. Please complete the form as soon as possible and return it to CEPR with ticket stubs and other receipts. We need to submit final accounts to our funders and sponsors, who typically impose strict deadlines. We need your help in meeting these deadlines and ask that you **submit your claim within three months of the meeting** (or by the deadline indicated in the conference material if this is different). After this time, we will normally be unable to reimburse you.

CEPR Payment Methods and Bank Charges

CEPR holds accounts within the UK and USA clearing house systems. We are able to make the following payments and an indication of our bank charges that will be passed on to you is given. (Sterling and dollar payments are available only to residents of the UK and US respectively)

Transaction type	Our bank fees
Sterling cheque (UK residents only)	No known fees
Sterling bank transfer to UK sterling account (UK residents only)	No known fees
Sterling bank transfer to any other account (UK residents only)	Minimum fee £10
Euro cheque	Approximate fee €21
Euro bank transfer to any account	Minimum fee €17
US dollar cheque (US residents only)	No known fees

Bank fees are deducted from your claim. Note that your receiving bank may add additional charges.

We regularly review our banking arrangements and seek to keep any charges as low as possible.

It would be helpful if you are able to provide a paying in slip for your bank account.

Any non-UK accounts should have IBAN and IBIC numbers. Please note that banking fees are lower if these are provided.

Changes to default payment of expense reimbursement

ECONOMIC POLICY

Due to changes in the way CEPR is paid by the European Commission and others, we now incur substantial Foreign Currency exchange fees when making payments in currencies other than Euro. In order to minimise these, we are now implementing a policy of paying reimbursements in the currency of your country of residence. We hope that this does not inconvenience you and ask that you understand our commitment to minimising costs so that our expenditure maximises economic research and its dissemination.

6. Contact

If you have any questions relating to the submission of your claim, please contact the Meetings Assistant, Nadine Clarke, at CEPR on:

Tel: 00 44 20 7878 2908

Email: nclarke@cepr.org

If you follow these procedures you will help us to reimburse you promptly. You will also help us to budget accurately for future conferences and workshops.

Appendix 1

Internet Travel Websites

It is obviously important for you to exercise some degree of caution when booking and paying for travel over the internet. CEPR does not accept liability for the booking and purchasing of tickets.

UK

www.expedia.co.uk

This is a UK based website but has versions for the USA, Canada, Australia and Germany. The site includes all of the usual features such as reservation and purchase of airline tickets and reservation of hotels and rental cars. There are 200 city maps available to view and destination research facilities. The site is informative, easy to use and there are customer support agents available 24 hours a day.

www.travelocity.co.uk

This is a UK based website but tickets can be purchased from within other countries. E-ticketing is available on some flights and there is an option to have your tickets processed by your local Sabre travel agency, although this may incur extra costs. Once registered, the site is extremely easy to use. Hotels and cars can also be booked from this site.

www.ebookers.com

This has sites for the UK, France, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands and Spain and offers flights to various worldwide locations.

There are also various airlines that offer inexpensive flights:

www.ryanair.com

This airline offers some of the lowest prices in Europe and the site also offers some useful links and destination information.

www.easyjet.com

Again this offers competitive prices on flights throughout Europe as well as informative city guides.

www.flybmi.com

Low cost flights across Europe and in particular to Ireland.

Participants from countries other than the UK may have difficulties purchasing tickets from the above sites. The sites below are country specific and have been recommended to CEPR. Should you know of any sites you feel could be added to this list we would be very pleased to hear from you.

ITALY

www.alitalia.it

SWEDEN

www.nymans.se

www.travellink.se

SWITZERLAND

www.reisemaus.ch

www.travel.ch

www.ferien.ch

www.kuoni.ch

www.traveldocs.com

ECONOMIC POLICY

GERMANY

www.expedia.de

FRANCE

www.vols.degriftour.net

USA

www.onetravel.com

This site is very simple and easy to use and there is no need to register. If you choose to buy a flight your tickets can be delivered to you by local courier within the US or E-Tickets are available which means you simply present the confirmation number when checking in at the airport. Hotels and car rentals can also be booked through this site.

www.trip.com

Once registered on this site it is possible to search a highly detailed database on almost anything travel related. The flight booking system is a little complicated but comprehensive. Flight details can be obtained for every major world destination. There is also an online travel guide including maps, airport guides, currency guides, travel destination guides and a world clock.

www.priceline.com

This website allows you to state your own price for a ticket. The more flexible with dates and times you are the more likely it is that you will find a ticket at your price. You must give your credit card details before you see the flight details. If a ticket is found within your restrictions and at your price it will be bought and your credit card charged so you must be sure you can travel within the times you specify. It should take about 15 minutes.