

Travel policy

Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)¹
– adopted by the board 6/12/2018

The travel guidelines will apply to all staff and guests associated with, and visiting LUCSUS, with an eye to creating a working and learning environment in which environmental sustainability is prioritized. They can also be used to inform LUCSUS teaching and inspire students to take corresponding steps of their own.

LUCSUS recognizes that travel, particularly from flying, constitutes the single largest source of work-related greenhouse gas emissions within academia. Because academics fly significantly more and thus contribute more to aviation emissions and climate change, we have a greater responsibility to reduce our individual and total emissions. As sustainability scientists, reducing our emissions is an imperative that follows from our ambition to lead in research, teaching and fostering the necessary changes towards a more sustainable future. It is also a sound outreach strategy, in that “walking the talk” on sustainable transformation can help inspire wider efforts by private and institutional actors to decrease their own emissions.

From January 2019, we are initiating a first, 1-year commitment period in which we commit to make serious and significant efforts to reduce work-related emissions. Starting from everyone’s own capacity and opportunities, we expect all staff members to challenge themselves, and to set concrete, personal reduction targets that go substantially beyond what each individual would otherwise have done. LUCSUS will track and collect our carbon emissions during this time.

As a tool for staff to keep track of emissions and as an awareness-raising tool, LUCSUS will gather emission data and make them available collectively, in anonymous format, and also create a personal report directly to each individual at the end of each year.

After the first commitment period, LUCSUS will re-evaluate the travel policy with the goal to increase the ambition and set more concrete reduction targets in the future.

1. <https://www.lucus.lu.se/>

Concretely, LUCSUS hereby commits to:

1. Pursue a **long-term strategy** to reduce emissions from academic travel, and facilitate staff needs in choosing low-carbon travel.
2. Investigate opportunities for an **internal fund**, from which to finance potentially increased costs of international low-carbon travel, or other ways to facilitate (and push for) a reduction in academic travel emissions.
3. Systematically **collect travel-related emissions** via the university's travel agency and through an individual carbon tracker.
4. Utilize emissions data **as an awareness-raising tool**, to evaluate progress, and gradually **increase the ambition** towards a low-carbon teaching and research environment.
5. Actively **give voice to the academic flying issue** in fora within and outside the university, as a way to raise awareness of the problem.
6. Help to address **institutional barriers to change**, and to advocate for, and develop structural solutions.

As part of a common commitment to reduce travel-related emissions, LUCSUS staff agrees to²:

1. Follow the **decision tree** included below before making a travel decision.
2. **Monitor** individual, work-related emissions, and set progressively ambitious objectives to reduce them.
3. Prioritize, wherever possible, travel-free **meetings and telephone/video conferences** over physical travel, and collective ground (**train, boat or bus**) **travel over air travel**.
4. **Prioritize ground travel** for all trips **within Sweden**.
5. Prioritize ground travel for all **international destinations within 12 hours from Lund**, and seriously consider this for all trips within Europe. **Always** ask Agencia to provide a non-flight alternative for any travel booking within Europe.
6. **Justify** (for oneself) any travel made, taking into account: the location and purpose of the event, benefit to LUCSUS of participating, benefit to individual career, own level of seniority and responsibility, and the alternative options available.
7. **Prioritize low-carbon opportunities** for any **activities and events** that are organized. This means: fewer participants travelling long distances by air and ensuring key roles for those that do travel; giving high priority to locations that can be reached with low-carbon travel options; encouraging and facilitating train travel for event participants; and encouraging, incorporating and technically supporting online speakers and webcasts.

2. Adapted from the Tyndall Centre's Travel Strategy, 2014:
https://tyndall.ac.uk/sites/default/files/tyndall_travel_strategy_updated.pdf

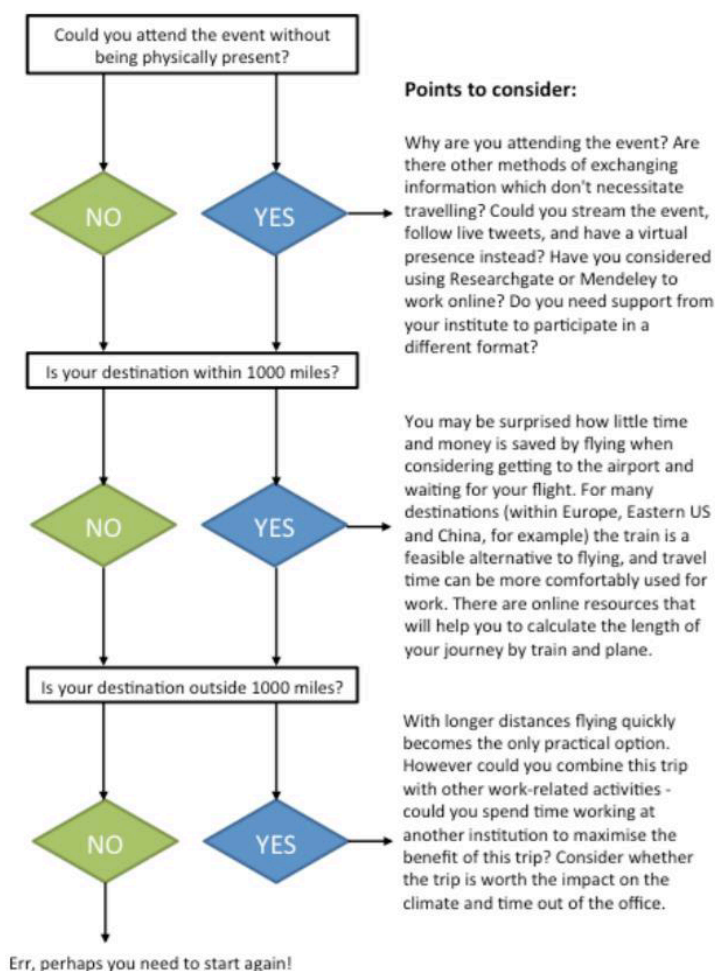
8. Encourage and stimulate a low-carbon working culture at LUCSUS and within the wider academic community, by: resisting our own Fear of Missing Out from not attending everything, valuing the health and productivity benefits that can be gained by reducing travel, supporting each other in making conscious travel decisions, and working towards sensitizing others to the need of the research community to *walk the talk* on climate change.

9. Working with colleagues, institutional actors and funders to value alternative metrics of success and encourage the promotion of low-carbon research as a viable alternative to a high-carbon research career.

Appendix 1: Decision tree for academic travel³

II – Decision tree:

The decision tree aims to help you identify low-carbon travel alternatives, and help you maximize the benefits of your travel emissions.



3. Adapted from the Tyndall Centre's Travel Strategy, 2014: https://tyndall.ac.uk/sites/default/files/tyndall_travel_strategy_updated.pdf