



Bulletin on ecologically sustainable travel planning for GRC Travel Grant applications

15 September 2022

Survey of travel planning

The [UZH Sustainability Team](#) is registering all business trips of UZH members and the CO₂ emissions they cause. To this purpose, as of the Fall 2020 funding period, travel supported by a GRC Travel Grant will also be surveyed. You are thus asked to specify the planned means of travel when submitting your application. Together with the final report, you will then submit the details of the trip undertaken.

Rationale for the intended travel plan

With the aim of raising awareness for aspects of ecologically sustainable travel, we are also asking you to take the subject into consideration. This question does not only refer to the choice of travel means, but also to the arrangement of the travel program and the efficient use of your time at the destination.

Choosing the means of travel

While for some travel destinations flying is the only reasonable method of travel, many destinations within Europe can be easily reached by train or bus. Also in many other cases, train and bus are reasonable alternatives.

If, however, the longer travel times imply unacceptable situations, for example with regard to the combination of work and family life or due to individual limitations that make long journeys by public transport difficult, this and thus the recourse to flying can also be reasoned in the form.

Travel organization

Particularly for destinations that can only be reached by plane in a reasonable time, the question of efficient travelling is therefore becoming increasingly important. If, for example, it is reasonably possible to combine two or more stays or destinations into one trip (or round trip), this increases the efficiency and improves the sustainability of a long journey. In principle, for long journeys such as intercontinental trips, an extended and sensibly used stay can justify the longer journey. Furthermore, direct flights cause less CO₂ emissions than flights with stopovers and transfers.



Travel program

Longer stays can also be used to combine several purposes. For example, participation at a summer school can be combined with a guest stay at a close institute or department, or archive research can be supplemented by contacting local research networks and exchanging with fellow researchers in the area. In this way, well-planned programs increase the efficiency of the trip.

Ecological footprint of the travel plans

Flights will only be funded in well-justified cases. For all trips involving less than 10 hours of travel, it is mandatory that train or bus travel be used. If transatlantic travel is indispensable for an activity, it must be well-justified in the application. The key factor in making a positive funding decision is whether the activity itself or in conjunction with other activities offsets the increased resource use by maximizing academic benefits. Carbon offsetting cannot be used to enhance an activity's ecological footprint.

Social aspects of sustainability

UZH promotes a culture of appreciation and recognition of diversity and takes into account relevant experiences* of social exclusion and discrimination that can shape everyday academic and non-academic life in the context of research trips. Particular attention shall be paid to establishing sustainable collaborations on an equal footing as far as possible in the cooperation with research groups and academic and non-academic institutions abroad as well as in field research, and to avoiding asymmetries in the appropriation and evaluation of the data and research results obtained.

Factsheets of the Sustainability Team

We are also happy to refer to the [factsheets of the Sustainability Team](#). For example the two factsheets on «[Business Travel](#)» and «[Sustainability during Your Exchange](#)».

Contact

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* Relevant experiences may include: racialization through socially ascribed stereotyping; the interaction of individual physical or mental impairments and disability through societal frameworks; gender as a socially ascribed gender characteristic and role based on biological sex; socioeconomic status (education, income, wealth) of the junior researcher or their social backgrounds.