

Getting from the airport to the University of Washington

[Seattle-Tacoma International Airport](#) (Sea-Tac) is located approximately 20 miles south of the University of Washington and 15 miles south of Downtown Seattle. It is approximately 30 minutes by bus, shuttle, taxi, or car. Visitors have several options for ground transportation from the airport to the University of Washington which is located in the University District (U-district) area. Suggested transportation options are listed below, and this [airport map](#) may help locate the various services.

Shuttle Express

[Shuttle Express](#) offers 24 hour service between the airport and any Seattle destination. It is the suggested method for transportation from the airport as it will drop you off in front of your dormitory or hotel and is convenient if you are traveling with luggage. The shuttle takes up to 10 passengers in a small van at a one-way trip fare of \$24.75/single or less depending on the number of passengers traveling with you (\$30.75/two people traveling together, \$37.75/three people, etc.). Cash, traveler's checks, and major credit cards are accepted, and it is customary to provide the driver with a 15% gratuity or tip. Reservations are not required prior to arrival into Sea-Tac Airport, but advance reservations are required for a return trip from your dormitory or hotel to the airport (Call 425-981-7000 or 1-800-487-7433, or make reservations online at <http://www.shuttleexpress.com/webpages/reservations.html>).

To locate Shuttle Express at Sea-Tac airport after baggage claim, follow the signs to ground transportation located on the 3rd floor of the parking garage. The 3rd floor where Shuttle Express is located is on the same level as baggage claim, but is on the opposite side. Therefore, to get across the lower drive from the baggage claim area, you must proceed up one floor via escalator or elevator and walk across the sky bridge. Once in the garage, take an escalator or elevator back down one floor to floor three, then proceed to the Shuttle Express booth and provide them with your dormitory or hotel address. The wait for a shuttle is usually 10-20 minutes and the ride to the University is approximately 30 minutes depending on the time of day and the number of passengers in the shared van.

Seattle Downtown Airporter

The [Seattle Downtown Airporter](#) is operated by the Gray Line of Seattle. It departs the airport every 30 minutes between 5:30 am and 11:00 pm and the rate is \$10.25/person one way - \$17/person roundtrip. Tickets are available at the Gray Line of Seattle desk located at the south end of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport main terminal. Follow the signs for Scheduled Airporter Services at Door 00 (zero-zero). You may also call 206-626-6088 to make your reservations or 206-624-5077, 1-800-426-7532 for recorded schedule information. Note that the Downtown Airporter only offers scheduled service between the airport and major hotels in downtown Seattle and *does not extend to the University District*. Therefore, once you are dropped off at a Seattle hotel downtown, you would need to take a taxi or transfer to Metro buses #71, 72, or 73 to the University District. The taxi fare from downtown would be approximately \$15, and public bus will cost \$1.25 or \$1.50 depending on the time of day. See the sections on Public Bus and Taxi that follows for more information.

Public Bus (METRO)

This is the most economical option but is not recommended if you are arriving with a lot of luggage. The cost will be \$1.25 - \$1.50 depending on the time of the day, and exact change is required. Two routes, #194 and #174 offer direct access downtown, but the #194 express service is recommended as the #174 is a local route with a lot of stops. The bus stop at the airport is on the street at the far south end of the baggage claim area (turn right as you exit the airport and walk 50 meters past the end of the building). Look for the sign on the curb that says 174/Seattle, 194/Seattle, which is located at Bus Terminal Bay 2, and make sure that when you board the bus, the bus has signs which read "downtown". Ask the bus driver for a two-zone transfer, as you need to change buses downtown. The trip to downtown will be approximately 30 minutes.

Once downtown, exit the bus at 4th Ave and Pike Street, and head one block west (towards the water) to 3rd Avenue. At any stop on 3rd Ave, transfer to the University District on the #71, 72, and 73 buses. Departure times are displayed at the bus stop and buses usually come once every ten minutes for most times of day. Remember to present your two-zone transfer ticket to the bus driver to avoid paying the bus fare again. The bus ride usually takes 20 minutes to the University district area, in which you would exit the bus at the NE Campus Parkway and Brooklyn Avenue NE stop. You are now one block from the main campus.

For more schedule and route information call 206-553-3000, or see METRO's Riderlink online at <http://transit.metrokc.gov/>. Also, when in doubt, please ask the driver – Seattle bus drivers are very helpful!

Taxi

Transportation by taxi is probably the simplest method but also most costly. Taxi service from the airport is operated by only one company, STITA, and is available 24 hours a day. They depart from the street at the baggage claim level, and if you don't see a cab, then use one of the curbside phones on the baggage claim level, or call 206-246-9999 to arrange pick-up. The average fare to the University district from the airport is \$40 - \$50 depending on the traffic and time of the day. It is customary to give the driver a gratuity or tip of 15% in addition to the fare.

Other reliable taxi services that serve the Seattle area are for example, Far West (206-622-1717), Orange Cab (206-522-8800), Yellow Cab (206-622-6500), and Graytop Cab (206-282-8222). All Seattle taxi cabs operate at the same rate set by King County: \$2.50 meter drop, \$2/mile, \$.50/minute waiting time, \$.50/ extra passenger over two excluding minors, etc.

Rental Car

Renting a car is not recommended unless you are planning trips out of town. Most everything you need should be within walking distance from your dormitory or hotel, and parking near the University of Washington or downtown can be difficult. Also, the Metro bus system is convenient for sight-seeing purposes in Seattle.

However, should you rent a car from the airport, there are three types of rental agencies available:

- 1) On-site counter and cars; Alamo: 1-800-462-5266, Avis: 1-800-331-1212, Budget: 1-800-435-1880, Hertz: 1-800-654-3131, and National: 1-800-328-4567.
- 2) On-site counter, off-site cars; Advantage: 1-800-777-5500, Dollar: (206) 433-5825, Enterprise: (206) 248-9013, and Thrifty: (206) 246-7565.
- 3) Off-site counter and cars; Ace Extra Car Rentals: (206) 248-3452, Century/Rent Rite: (206) 246-5039, and U Save: (206) 242-9778.

On-site airport agencies have booths near baggage claim and are more expensive than ones that are off-site. Off-site agencies may also be reached by the car-rental phone booths located in the baggage claim area, in which they will provide you further information on how to reach them by shuttle.

After you have rented a car, the company will provide you with a map and directions to the university. In brief, directions are: take the I-5 north from the airport and exit at the NE 45th Street exit (exit #169). Turn right onto NE 45th Street and continue east in the right lane for about one quarter mile until you get to 17th Avenue. Make a right on 17th Ave NE/ Memorial Way to the main gatehouse. Here you will find limited visitor parking on campus. Alternatively, you can turn right on 15th Ave NE and head south on 15th Avenue three blocks to NE 41st Street. Turn left at Gate #1 into the Central Plaza Garage. Stop at the gatehouse inside the garage for directions and a daily parking permit available for \$10 per day, payable at the entrance gates. Saturday and evening parking permits are available for \$4 (evenings begin at 4 p.m.). You cannot purchase 24 hour parking permits. Other daily parking options include:

- Parking Lot E1, the large lot on the East side of Montlake Blvd NE for \$2.75 per day. There is no overnight parking in E1.
- Pay Parking Lots E3, E4, & E5 farther east past Lot E1 for \$1.50 per day (quarters only). More [parking information](#) is available from the UW parking division.