

# CONNEXXUS TRAVEL

Top news for University travel.

Summer 2017



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## NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL TRAVEL OFFICE

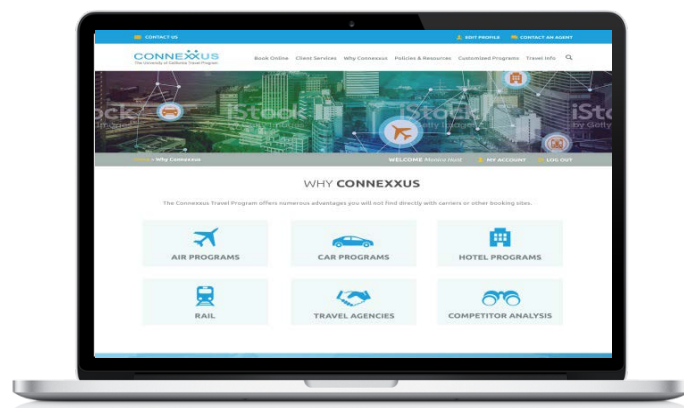
In this newsletter you will find important information regarding the systemwide travel program.

We are excited to announce a new agreement with Peninsula Visa, a renewed agreement with Southwest and information about our upcoming webinar schedule.

The Central Travel Office is continuously striving to build a network of UC-preferred partners to make your travel more efficient, cost effective and safe. We've negotiated rates and amenities on 13+ global airlines and several car rental and hotel brands.

The systemwide travel program rates and benefits are available to all UC faculty and staff, for both business and personal travel.

As always, we appreciate the feedback and suggestions shared by UC travelers and arrangers. Your suggestions have provided us an opportunity to drive major travel portal design decisions. Stay tuned for more information on the new Connexus portal redesign!



We look forward to working together with you in the upcoming school year.

Safe travels!



Central Travel  
Management

## **PENINSULA VISA**

University of California has signed a systemwide agreement with Peninsula Visa for visa and/or passport services, when required. [Peninsula Visa](#) has a user-friendly site, with a very useful live chat functionality, that will walk you through the necessary information to expedite a visa or US passport.

When placing an order online, **you must use your UC email address in order to trigger UC's discount.**

It's important to initiate your request as soon as possible due to the time it takes to obtain a visa or passport. Please allow for up to four weeks to apply and receive your travel document(s) under normal timelines. Expedited services can be obtained but secured at an incremental cost. If you require further assistance, please contact (800) 665-8472, email [support@peninsulavisa.com](mailto:support@peninsulavisa.com) or live chat via their website.

## **RENEWED SOUTHWEST AGREEMENT**

Southwest is once again offering UC phenomenal discounts available through both SWABIZ and the agencies (for campus paid airfare opportunities). All details can be found in the Connexus [portal](#) under Why Connexus, Air.

## **CONNEXXUS WEBINARS**

The success of our popular webinars has prompted the Central Travel Office to re-run several of them and we are working closely with special guests to repeat webinars on Traveler Insurance and Per Diems. Click on the title to register for any of these upcoming webinars this fall and [more will be scheduled](#) in the coming weeks. Additionally, we post full recordings and FAQs of previously run webinars in the Video and Resources sections of the [portal](#).

### **Myth or Truth: Connexus Fares are More Expensive – September 7 at 11AM (30 minutes)**

Airfare inventory is deliberately complex and airlines achieve maximum sales by managing every seat on every flight. Join us to learn more about the various types of economy airfare and how Connexus agencies have access to all fares.

### **Hazards of Booking Highly Restrictive Airfare – September 7 at Noon (30 minutes)**

How do you make sure that the airfare you choose is right for you, your traveler, and your budget? Recognize the various types of economy fares and how airlines charge ancillary fees after the fact to make up for low fares.

### **Introduction to Connexus – September 8 at 9AM (1 (one) hour session)**

New to UC? New to Connexus? Join us and explore how to get the most out of the Connexus portal, including quick tips for beginners on how to book travel online with BCD/Balboa Travel.

### **Travel Perks, Beyond Discounts – September 14 at 11AM (30 minutes)**

Airlines, hotels and car rental companies offer UC travelers plenty of value-added benefits such as: priority boarding or preferred standby; accessible seat maps before they open to the public; upgraded status or status match opportunities; and much more.

### **Found it Cheaper Elsewhere? Can UC Match it? – September 14 at Noon (30 minutes)**

Discover an independent method of booking travel that allows you to start where you like and still receive UC rates and benefits. This option is outside of the Connexus portal, which makes it perfect for those who do not have access to Connexus.

### **Car Rental and Insurance Coverage – September 15 at 9AM (1 (one) hour session)**

UC's system wide car rental program with Enterprise, Hertz, National, Dollar and Thrifty, offers business travelers economical pricing that usually includes comprehensive insurance coverage. Join us for tips on how to book UC rates easily and what coverage is included.

### **Fly America Act – October 20 at 9AM (1 (one) hour session)**

This policy generally provides that foreign air travel funded by Federal Government money may only be conducted on United States (U.S.) air carriers. We will explore the many nuances of what this means with special guest Jeff Pennington (Executive Director - Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley).

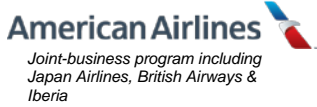
If you have suggestions for new webinars (or requests for repeat performance on previous ones), please [let us know](#).

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## UC PREFERRED TRAVEL PARTNERS

The Central Travel Office has developed strong relationships with preferred suppliers and provides UC travelers with the tools and know-how to travel safely and smoothly. Preferred partners are indicated as "Preferred" in our online booking tools and offered by agents. The more we book preferred, the greater the benefits for UC travelers.

### AIR



### CAR



### HOTEL



### OTHER



Check out the Connexus [portal](#) for more information and booking links.

## TRAVEL NEWS

### DELTA BONUS MILES

The Central Travel Office works closely with all our preferred suppliers to provide added benefits whenever possible, such as this one from Delta.

UC travelers have the potential to earn a bonus of 2,500 miles for each one-way flight (up to 5,000 miles for a round-trip flight) on any Delta-operated and marketed flight worldwide, excluding Basic Economy (booking class E) for a total bonus of up to 15,000 miles!

Travelers must be Delta SkyMiles® Members and must register for this promo using [this link](#) by August 22, 2017.

Not a SkyMiles® Member? [Join now!](#)

To qualify for this UC promotion, airfare must be purchased through UC's preferred travel agencies (BCD Travel, Balboa Travel, UCLA Travel Services, or Short's Travel) and be completed within 6 months of enrollment, but no later than February 22, 2018.

Other Delta Perks offered to UC exclusively through our preferred travel agencies:

- Zone 1 Priority Boarding (except for Basic Economy tickets)
- Priority Standby (except for Basic Economy tickets)
- New Delta discount agreement with AeroMexico, opening new markets in Mexico
- Upcoming Delta agreement with Korean Airlines, opening more Asian markets (2018)

If you're a frequent flyer with another airline and wish to match your status to Delta's SkyMiles program you may qualify for comparable status with Delta, please [submit your request](#) today.

### BASIC ECONOMY, HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE AIRFARE

In the last year, [United](#), [American](#) and [Delta](#) all introduced their versions of a no-frills, highly restrictive airfare they call "Basic Economy." These fares are meant to compete directly with discount airlines such as Spirit Air and Allegiant, but come with some serious restrictions that may not be for everyone. The average savings on Basic Economy are usually just under \$20 and since these fares are now available in all domestic U.S. markets, travelers should consider the restrictions carefully before booking anything. Some Basic Economy restrictions include:

- ✘ NO option to pick a seat, even for a fee – seats will be assigned at check-in;
- ✘ NO boarding priority, regardless of airline status or UC perks – "Basic Economy" travelers board last;
- ✘ NO carry-on bags allowed AND a possible fee of \$25 if bag is too big to fit under the seat;
- ✘ NO flexibility to change or cancel the flight

In order to protect UC's travelers, Connexus agencies have blocked the sale of United-N Class, American-B Class and Delta-E Class from the online booking tools. If you wish to purchase these specific class of tickets, please contact the travel agency and a full-service agent will assist you. We will run a 30-minute webinar on the [Hazards of Booking Highly Restrictive Airfare](#) on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon - where we hope to answer any questions or concerns about these fares.



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