

Getting from the airport to the University of Washington

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SeaTac) 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, car or Link light-rail. 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:

Link Light-Rail

University of Washington (UW / Husky Stadium Link Station) - SeaTac Airport: One way fares are distance based. One-way fare from SeaTac Airport to The University of Washington is \$3.25. Tickets must be purchased prior to boarding. Fares are distance based. Round trip day passes from SeaTac Airport to the University of Washington are \$6.50 and are valid for the date and all stations printed on the ticket.



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 \$32.00/single. A five (5) person share ride is \$160.00. If an SUV is scheduled that seats five (5) ahead of time, the fee is \$95.00. 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 SeaTac 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.

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: \$2.60/meter drop, \$2.70/mile, \$0.50/minute waiting time, \$0.50/ extra passenger over two excluding minors, etc.

Besides regular taxis, ride share-services UBER and Lyft are available in seattle area.

UBER rates from Sea-Tac to the University of Washington start at \$38. Detailed information on how to use the service can be found at (<https://www.uber.com/airports/sea-tac/>).

Lyft has the following estimates from SeaTac Airport to the University of Washington are as follows and details can be found at (<https://www.lyft.com/airports/sea>):

Line (1-2 seats, shared) < \$44
Lyft (4 seats) \$44
Plus (6 seats) \$76
Premier (4 seats, high-end) \$77
Lux (4 seats, black car) \$102
Lux SUV (6 seats, black car) \$120.00

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.

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). NE and head south on 15th Avenue three blocks to NE 41st Street. Turn

left at Gate #1 into the Central Plaza Garage. Between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays, gatehouse permits are sold at a rate of \$3.00 per hour (\$2.00 for the first 30 minutes) and a maximum of \$15.00 per day. Beginning at 4 p.m., permits are sold at a flat rate of \$5.00 for night parking. A flat weekend rate of \$5.00 is charged for parking on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to noon. 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.
- Please note: The Central Plaza Garage charges a non-refundable \$10.00 event rate every evening from 4 p.m until 9 p.m. and on Saturdays from 7 a.m. until noon.