

5. Issuance of Foreign Official Travel Authority

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Travel Authority (TA) refers to an Order in writing issued by the approving authority allowing an official or employee to proceed to a specific place or location (the regular place of work and where the official/employee is expected to stay most of the time as required by the nature, duties and responsibilities of the position) outside of their permanent official station for a specific period of time to perform a given assignment or accomplish a personal purpose.

Based on the *Omnibus Travel Guidelines for All Personnel of the Department of Education* (DepEd Orders No. 043 and 046, s. 2022) DepEd officials or employees may request TA for either of the following:

- Official Travel – trips pursuant to a legitimate function or interest. These may either be official business (where transportation, miscellaneous, and daily travel expenses aside from salaries and benefits, are incurred and funded by the Department) or official time (where no government expenses are incurred/spent aside from the payment of salaries/benefits).
- Personal Travel – private trips for personal purpose and undertaken without cost to the government.

Official or Personal Travel may be further categorized into **foreign** (trips outside the Philippines) or local (trips outside the permanent official station).

The minimum conditions for a trip to be considered official travel are the following:

- a. Highly relevant to basic education; for foreign official travel, must be in compliance with an international commitment/contractual obligation.
- b. Essential to the effective performance of official/employee mandate of functions.
- c. Projected expenses involve minimum expenditure or are not excessive.
- d. Presence is critical to the outcome of the activity to be undertaken.
- e. Absence from the permanent official station will not hamper the operational efficiency of the office.
- f. Expenses to be incurred is included on the approved Work and Financial Plan of the office/unit concerned.

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DepEd officials and employees may apply for travel authority for the these foreign official travels:

- a. International conferences/meetings to which the Philippine government has commitments or to undertake official missions/assignments which cannot be assigned to government officials posted abroad;
- b. Scholarships, fellowships, trainings, and studies abroad which are grant-funded or undertaken at minimal cost; and
- c. Invitations for speaking engagements or receiving of awards from foreign governments/ institutions or international agencies/organizations as defined under international law, whether fully or partially funded by the government, upon endorsement to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Note that travel authority shall not be issued for the following officials and employees:

- With pending administrative case;
- Will retire within one year from the date of the foreign official travel;
- Whose previous travel has not been liquidated and cleared;

- Who has not yet complied with reporting requirement/s for any previous travel.

Office or Division:	Office of the Schools Division Superintendent (OSDS)	
Classification:	Simple	
Type of Transaction:	Government to Government (G2G)	
Who may avail:	<p>DepEd officials and employees meeting the conditions for foreign personal travel as stated on DOs 043 and 046, s. 2022, specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests from schools as recommended by the School Head • School Heads • Requests from Division Chiefs and below, including Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDS), in Schools Division • Offices (SDOs) 	
CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS		WHERE TO SECURE
1. One (1) original copy of filled out Travel Authority for Official Travel Form with supporting documents (see below)	Annex A, DO 043, s. 2022 https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DO_s2022_043-corrected-copy.pdf	
2. One (1) original copy of the signed invitation addressed to the requesting party	Inviting foreign government/institution or international agency/organization	
3. One (1) original copy of Itinerary of Travel		
4. One (1) original copy of Written justification, addressed to the Approving Authority, to be noted by the Recommending Authority ⁸ , explaining the minimum conditions for authorized official travel stated above and why alternatives to travel such as all forms of communication, (e.g. teleconferencing/ videoconferencing, submission of briefs/ position papers) are insufficient for the purpose.	Client	
5. One (1) original Certificate of No Pending Case	Legal unit with jurisdiction over the client	
6. One (1) copy of approved Completed Staff Work (CSW)	International Cooperation Office / Client	
7. One (1) copy of Estimated Travel Cost		
8. One (1) copy of Work and Financial Plan	Client's office	
Optional requirements: - If applying for Cash Advance (CA): Original certification that previous CA has been liquidated	Accounting unit with jurisdiction over the client	

⁸ Refer to the Table of Recommending and Approving Authorities for Foreign Travel based on DO 046, s. 2022.

- For Teachers in the Exchange Visitor Program of the US Government: a. TA signed by the Secretary b. Clearance Certificate c. Copy of the Registration Sticker	Office of the Secretary Regional Office Commission on Filipino Overseas			
- For Division Chiefs and higher, a draft Office Order (SO) designating an OIC, if applicable, so as not to hamper the day-to-day operations of the office	Signing authority for OO designated by the Secretary			
CLIENT STEPS	AGENCY ACTION	FEES TO BE PAID	PROCESSING TIME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

1. Submit complete requirements to the SDO	1.1 Check the documents received, process for release to the Personnel Unit	None	10 minutes	Records Unit
	1.2 Receive documents and prepare TA for signature	None	5 minutes	Personnel Unit
	1.3 Check documents for completeness and accuracy	None	3 hours	Personnel Unit
	1.4 Countersign Form and TA and forward documents	None	15 minutes	Personnel Unit
	1.5 Review and sign the Form and TA	None	4 hours	SDS
	1.5 Return the documents to the Records Unit	None	10 minutes	OSDS
	1.5 Receive signed TA and other documents, forward to the Central Office	None	1 day	Records Unit
	1.6 Receive and process request; return documents to OSDS	None	5 days	Central Office
2. Receive requested document/s from the Records Section	2.1 Check documents received and process for release; release document/s to intended recipient.	None	20 minutes	Records Unit
3. Submit post-travel report addressed to the Office of the Secretary ⁹	3.1 Receive the post-travel report.	None	(One calendar month after returning to the permanent official station)	Records Unit
TOTAL		None	7 days	