



Proposal Submission



Award and Account Establishment



After Research Commences



Closeout

What is the Fly America Act?

International travel funded by a sponsored project must comply with the Fly America Act: <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/travel-management-policy/fly-america-act>.

All air travel and cargo transportation services funded by the federal government are required to use a "U.S. flag" air carrier service. This requirement applies to USC faculty, staff and students whose travel is paid for or reimbursed by a federal grant.

Are there exceptions to the Fly America Act?

Yes, when there are circumstances where it's not reasonable to use a U.S. flag air carrier. These circumstances are:

- When a U.S. air carrier is not available.
- When using a U.S. carrier service would extend the travel time by 24 hours or more.
- When a U.S. carrier does not offer a nonstop or direct flight between origin and destination, and using a U.S. carrier:
 - Increases the number of aircraft changes outside the United States by two or more;
 - Extends travel time by six hours or more; or
 - Requires a connecting time of four hours or more at an overseas interchange point.
- When the flight time from origin to destination is less than three hours and using a U.S. flag carrier doubles the flight time.
- When there is an applicable [Open Skies Agreement](#) in effect that meets the requirements of the Fly America Act.

Note: Ticket cost and convenience are NOT exceptions to the Fly America Act. ALL EXCEPTIONS MUST BE DOCUMENTED BEFORE TRAVEL IS CHARGED TO OR REIMBURSED BY A GRANT ACCOUNT.

Are there federal sponsors that don't allow for the exceptions to the Fly America Act?

Yes, exceptions do not apply if your transportation is funded by the Department of Defense (DOD).

What are "Open Skies Agreements" and how do they impact the Fly America Act?

These are agreements between the U.S. Government and the governments of foreign countries that allow travelers to use foreign air carriers from these countries for government-funded international travel.

The four that apply to the Fly America Act are:

- European Union (EU) countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, including Iceland and Norway)
- Australia
- Switzerland
- Japan

Can I cross into a foreign country and then use a foreign air carrier?

No, you cannot cross the U.S. border to use a foreign airline to avoid being subject to the Fly America Act. If your travel does not comply with the Fly America Act, the Federal Sponsor will not reimburse your airline ticket.

