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Work related expenses

How to complete myTax if you have work-related expenses.

Work-related car expenses

How to complete the work-related car expenses section of your return using myTax.

Work-related travel expenses

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Work-related clothing and laundry expenses

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Work-related self-education expenses

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How to complete the other work-related expenses section of your return using myTax.

QC 101616

myTax 2024 Work-related car expenses

How to complete the work-related car expenses section of your return using myTax.

Published 3 June 2024

Things to know

Complete this section if you incurred car expenses as an employee for a car you owned, leased, or hired under a hire-purchase agreement.

To claim a deduction for a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

You can only claim a deduction for the work-related portion of an expense. You can't claim a deduction for any part of an expense that is not directly related to earning your income or that is private.

If your total claim for all work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence to prove your claims.

You must choose to use either the cents per kilometre method or logbook method to work out your [car expense](#) deduction.

You can claim

You can claim the cost of trips you undertake in the course of performing your work duties. This may also include [trips between your home and your workplace](#) if:

- you used your car because you had to carry bulky tools or equipment that are essential to perform your employment duties

and could not leave at your workplace because there was no secure storage (for example, an extension ladder or cello)

- your home was a base of employment (that is, undertaking work in 2 locations is necessary due to the nature of your duties and you were required to start your work duties at home and travel to your workplace to complete those particular work duties)
- you had shifting places of employment (that is, you regularly worked at more than one site each day before returning home).

Work-related car expenses also include the cost of trips:

- between 2 separate places of employment when you have a second job, providing one of those places is not your home
- from your normal workplace or your home to an alternative workplace that is not a regular workplace (for example, a client's premises) while you are on duty
- from an alternative workplace that is not a regular workplace back to your normal workplace or directly home.

If the travel was partly private, you can claim only the work-related part.

Claim at this section any work-related car expenses incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*.

If you received an [award transport payment](#) from your employer, you can claim a deduction for work-related car expenses these payments cover.

If you [no longer own or use your car](#) and you previously claimed a deduction for its decline in value, you may need to make a balancing adjustment.

If you use [someone else's car](#) for work purposes, you can't claim a deduction for expenses using the cents per kilometre method or the logbook method. However, you can claim a deduction for actual costs you incur that relate to your work use of someone else's car at [Work-related travel expenses](#).

For more information, see

- [Taxation Ruling TR 2021/1](#) *Income tax: when are deductions allowed for employee's transport expenses?*

- [Taxation Ruling TR 95/34](#) *Income tax: employees carrying out itinerant work - deductions, allowances and reimbursements for transport expenses*
- [Law Administration Practice Statement PS LA 1999/2](#) *Calculating joint car expense deductions.*

Related pages

[Claiming deductions](#)

How to claim deductions in your return using myTax.

[Records you need to keep](#)

Records you need to show a payment or expense, the format to keep your records in, and how long to keep them.

You can't claim

You can't claim normal trips between your home and your workplace, even if:

- you did minor work-related tasks at home or between home and your workplace
- you travelled between your home and workplace more than once a day
- you were on call
- there was no public transport near work
- you worked outside normal business hours
- your home was a place where you ran your own business and you travelled directly to a place of employment where you worked for somebody else.

You can't claim a deduction for car expenses that:

- you pay for under a salary sacrifice or novated lease arrangement
- your employer reimburses you for.

Cars you use under a salary sacrifice or novated lease arrangement are usually on lease by your employer from a financing company. As you don't own or lease the car yourself under these arrangements, you will not be entitled to claim any deductions for using the car.

Don't show at this section

Don't show the following at this section:

- Expenses relating to motorcycles and vehicles with a carrying capacity of one tonne or more, or 9 or more passengers, such as utility trucks and panel vans, go to [Work-related travel expenses](#).
- Expenses you incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income **not** shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*, go to [Foreign employment](#).
- For any balancing adjustment, show your
 - losses at [Other work-related expenses](#)
 - profits at [Other income](#).

Any balancing adjustment amounts calculated in the Depreciation and capital allowance tool will show automatically.

Calculation methods

There are 2 methods you can use to work out your car expenses deduction:

- [cents per kilometre method](#)
- [logbook method](#)

You can use the one that gives you the largest deduction or is most convenient.

Both methods require you to know or estimate your work-related kilometres. Work-related kilometres are the kilometres you travelled in the car in the course of earning assessable income (includes work-related activities).

Cents per kilometre method

- Your claim is based on a set rate for each work-related kilometre.
- You can claim a maximum of 5,000 work-related kilometres per car, per year.
- The rate is 85 cents per work-related kilometre.

- You don't need written evidence, but you need to be able to show how you worked out your work-related kilometres.

The cents per kilometre rate incorporates all expenses you incur for:

- decline in value
- registration
- insurance
- maintenance
- repairs
- fuel costs.

You can't add these expenses on top of the rate when calculating your deduction using the cents per kilometre method.

Logbook method

- Your claim is based on the work-related use percentage of the expenses for the car.
- Your work-related use percentage is worked out by:
 - dividing the kilometres you travelled in the car for work during the year by the total kilometres travelled by the car during the year
 - then multiplying by 100.
- There is no limit on the work-related kilometres per car per year that can be claimed under this method
- You need a logbook and the odometer readings.
- Expenses include running costs and decline in value but not **capital costs**.
 - You can claim fuel and oil costs based on either:
 - your actual receipts
 - an estimate of the expenses based on odometer records that show readings from the start and the end of the period you had the car during the year.
 - You need written evidence for all other expenses for the car.

Capital costs include the purchase price of your car, the principal amount borrowed to buy it and any improvement costs.

For more information about the logbook method, including what to record in your logbook and the logbook timeframe, see [Logbook method](#).

Deductions for decline in value (depreciation)

You can claim a deduction for the decline in value of the car only if:

- you use the logbook method
- you owned or leased the car or hired it under a hire-purchase agreement.

If you leased a luxury car, see [Leased luxury cars](#).

Remember:

- the car starts to decline in value from the day you first use it, even if you don't begin using it for work until a later time
- you can claim a deduction only for the period in the year in which you used the car for work
- you must apportion your deduction to reflect the
 - period you owned the car
 - percentage that the asset was used for work purposes.
- you must have directly incurred the cost of the asset and it was not reimbursed.

For more information, see [Guide to depreciating assets](#).

Completing this section

You may need:

- written evidence for your car expenses (receipts or invoices)
- your car logbook and odometer records.

We pre-fill your tax return with work-related car expense information you uploaded from myDeductions. Check them and add any work-related car expenses that have not pre-filled.

To claim work-related car expenses, you must first show income from [salary and wages](#) or [foreign employment income](#) in the Income statements and payment summaries section.

To personalise your return to show work-related car expenses, at **Personalise return** select:

- You had deductions you want to claim
- Work-related expenses

To claim your work-related car expenses, at **Prepare return** select 'Add/Edit' at the Deductions banner.

At the **Work-related car expenses** banner:


1. For each work-related car that has not been pre-filled, select **Add**.
2. Enter the description of the car (for example, registration, make or model).
3. Select the **Calculation method** you wish to use.
If you qualify to use both methods, you can use the method that gives you the largest deduction or is most convenient. You can enter each in myTax to work this out. If you do, remember to delete the one you don't want to use.
4. If you select the 'Cents per kilometre' method, enter the number of work-related kilometres you travelled. Go to step 6.
5. If you select the 'Logbook' method enter the information into the corresponding fields. MyTax will calculate the total expenses.
 - If you have calculated the decline in value of your car, enter the amount without any reduction for personal use. MyTax will multiply the decline in value you enter by the percentage of work-related use.
 - The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value deduction. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a depreciating asset. Access this tool when you add your work-related car expenses and select the 'Logbook' method.
If you used this tool, the calculated decline in value amount will automatically exclude the personal use percentage. To display results from the tool you must select the logbook method.
Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any

adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select the 'Use the depreciation and capital allowances tool' link.

6. Select **Save**.

7. Select **Save and continue** when you have completed the **Deductions** section.

Watch: The following video shows you how to use the Depreciation and capital allowances tool.

Media: How to use the Depreciation and capital allowance tool
<http://tv.ato.gov.au/ato-tv/media?v=bd1bdiuboi7hki>  (Duration: 3:56)

You need to [keep records](#) for 5 years (in most cases) from the date you lodge your tax return.

Our [myDeductions](#) tool is free to use and is available through the ATO app. The tool makes it easier and more convenient to keep records of your expenses and income in one place, including photos of your receipts and invoices.

Leased luxury cars

If you leased a luxury car and wish to claim a deduction at this section, this information about luxury cars will help you.

A leased luxury car is a leased car that at the time the lease began had a market value of more than the 'car limit' that applied in the relevant income year.

You can claim a deduction for the decline in value of a leased luxury car (but not for other leased cars). The car can be new or second-hand. You must use the logbook method.

When claiming a deduction for decline in value, the initial value that you use for the car is the limit that applied in the income year in which the lease began. For more information, see [car limit](#).

myTax 2024 Work-related travel expenses

How to complete the work-related travel expenses section of your return using myTax.

Published 3 June 2024

Things to know

Complete this section if you incurred travel expenses in performing your work as an employee.

To claim a deduction for a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

You can only claim a deduction for the work-related portion of an expense. You can't claim a deduction for any part of an expense that is not directly related to earning your income or that is private.

If your total claim for work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence to prove your claims.

Work-related travel expenses include:

- public transport, air travel and taxi fares
- short-term car hire
- [accommodation, meal and incidental expenses](#) you incur while away overnight for work
- actual expenses such as petrol, repair and maintenance costs, that you incur to travel in a car that is owned or leased by someone else
- bridge and road tolls, and parking fees for
 - cars (don't claim these at 'Work-related car expenses')
 - motorcycles and vehicles with a carrying capacity of one tonne or more, or 9 or more passengers

- expenses for motorcycles and vehicles with a carrying capacity of one tonne or more, or 9 or more passengers, such as utility trucks and panel vans.

You can claim

You can claim the cost of trips you undertake in the course of performing your work duties. This may also include [trips between your home and your workplace](#) if:

- you used the vehicle because you had to carry bulky tools or equipment that are essential to perform your employment duties and could not leave at your workplace because there was no secure storage (for example, an extension ladder or cello)
- your home was a base of employment (that is, undertaking work in 2 locations is necessary due to the nature of your duties and you were required to start your work duties at home and travel to your workplace to complete those particular work duties)
- you had shifting places of employment (that is, you regularly worked at more than one site each day before returning home).

Work-related travel expenses also include the cost of trips:

- between 2 separate places of employment when you have a second job, providing one of those places is not your home
- from your normal workplace or your home to an alternative workplace that is not a regular workplace (for example, a client's premises) while you are on duty
- from an alternative workplace that is not a regular workplace back to your normal workplace or directly home.

If the travel was partly private, you can claim only the work-related part.

Claim at this section any work-related travel expenses incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*.

If you received an [award transport payment](#) from your employer, you can claim a deduction for work-related transport expenses these payments cover.

If your employer provided a car for you or your relatives' exclusive use (including under a salary sacrifice arrangement) and you or your relatives were entitled to use it for non-work purposes:

- you can't claim a deduction for work-related expenses for operating the car even if the expenses relate directly to your work, such as
 - petrol
 - repairs
 - other maintenance
- you can claim expenses for a work-related use of the car, such as
 - parking
 - bridge and road tolls.

Parking at or travelling to a regular workplace is not ordinarily considered to be a work-related use of the car.

If you [no longer own or use an item costing over \\$300](#) (such as a ute or van with a carrying capacity of a tonne or more) and you previously claimed a deduction for its decline in value, you may need to make a balancing adjustment.

Accommodation, meal and incidental expenses

To claim accommodation, meal and incidental expenses, you must have incurred the expenses when you travelled and stayed away from your home overnight in the course of performing your work duties. You must also have paid the expenses yourself and not been reimbursed.

You can't claim accommodation, meal and incidental expenses if the expenses were incurred because:

- you lived a long way from where you worked because of your personal circumstances
- there was a change to your regular place of work and you lived away from your usual residence to be closer to your new regular place of work (living away from home)
- you chose to sleep at or near your workplace rather than returning to your home between shifts.

[Overnight travel expenses](#) includes information about records and evidence you need if you want to claim accommodation, meal and

incidental expenses you incurred when you travelled away overnight for work.

Your employer may have paid you a [travel allowance](#) to cover travel allowance expenses you incurred when you travelled away from home to perform your employment duties.

Receiving a travel allowance from your employer doesn't automatically mean you can claim a deduction. You can only claim a deduction for the deductible travel allowance expenses that you actually incurred.

If you receive a travel allowance, you may be eligible for a record keeping exception if your deductible travel allowance expenses are within the [reasonable amounts](#).

The reasonable amounts are not amounts that you can automatically claim as a deduction.

For information on:

- travel deductions for employees, see
 - [Taxation Ruling TR 2021/1](#) *Income tax: when are deductions allowed for employees' transport expenses?*
 - [Taxation Ruling TR 2021/4](#) *Income tax and fringe benefits tax: employees: accommodation and food and drink expenses, travel allowances, and living-away-from-home allowances*
- shifting places of employment, see [Taxation Ruling TR 95/34](#) *Income tax: employees carrying out itinerant work – deductions, allowances and reimbursements for transport expenses.*
- substantiation exceptions, see
 - [Taxation Determination TD 2023/3](#) *Income tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2023–24 income year?*
 - [Taxation Ruling TR 2004/6](#) *Income tax: substantiation exception for reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expenses.*

Related page

[Claiming deductions](#)

How to claim deductions in your return using myTax.

You can't claim

You can't claim normal trips between your home and your workplace, even if:

- you did minor work-related tasks at home or between home and your workplace
- you travelled between your home and workplace more than once a day
- you were on call
- there was no public transport near work
- you worked outside normal business hours
- your home was a place where you ran your own business and you travelled directly to a place of employment where you worked for somebody else.

Do not show at this section

Don't show the following at this section:

- Expenses (apart from bridge and road tolls, and parking fees) relating to a car you owned, leased or hired under a hire purchase agreement where the expense is **not** related to motorcycles and vehicles with a carrying capacity of one tonne or more, or 9 or more passengers, such as utility trucks and panel vans, go to [Work-related car expenses](#)
- Expenses you incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income **not** shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*, go to [Foreign employment](#)
- For any balancing adjustment, show your
 - losses at [Other work-related expenses](#)
 - profits at [Other income](#).

Any balancing adjustment amounts calculated in the Depreciation and capital allowance tool will show automatically.

Completing this section

You must have written evidence for the whole of your claim.

We pre-fill your tax return with work-related travel expense information you uploaded from myDeductions. Check them and add any work-related travel expenses that have not pre-filled.

To claim work-related travel expenses, you must first show income from [salary and wages](#) or [foreign employment income](#) in the Income statements and payment summaries section.

To personalise your return to show work-related travel expenses, at **Personalise return** select:

- You had deductions you want to claim
- Work-related expenses.

To claim your work-related travel expenses, at **Prepare return** select 'Add/Edit' at the Deductions banner.

At the **Work-related travel expenses** banner:

1. For each work-related travel expense not pre-filled in your tax return, select **Add** and
 - enter **Your description**. To assist in record keeping, add a short description of your expense.
 - enter the **Amount**.
The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value deduction. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a depreciating asset. Access this tool in the **Deductions** section. Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select the 'Use the depreciation and capital allowances tool' link.
2. Select **Save**.
3. Select **Save and continue** when you have completed the **Deductions** section.

You need to [keep records](#) for 5 years (in most cases) from the date you lodge your tax return.

Our [myDeductions](#) tool is free to use and is available through the ATO app. The tool makes it easier and more convenient to keep records of your expenses and income in one place, including photos of your receipts and invoices.

QC 101618

myTax 2024 Work-related clothing and laundry expenses

How to complete the work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses section of your return using myTax.

Published 3 June 2024

Things to know

Complete this section if you incurred work-related clothing expenses such as:

- protective clothing and footwear
- uniforms
- occupation-specific clothing
- laundering and dry-cleaning of this clothing.

To claim a deduction for a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

You can only claim a deduction for the work-related portion of an expense. You can't claim a deduction for any part of an expense that is not directly related to earning your income or that is private.

If your total claim for all work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence to prove your claims.

You can claim

Work-related clothing expenses are the costs you incurred for clothing that is:

- **protective clothing and footwear** that you wear while working to protect you from the risk of illness or injury or prevent damage to your ordinary clothes caused by your work or work environment. Items may include
 - fire-resistant clothing
 - sun protection clothing
 - safety-coloured vests
 - non-slip nurse's shoes
 - steel-capped boots
 - gloves
 - overalls
 - aprons
 - heavy duty shirts and trousers (but not jeans).
- a **non-compulsory uniform** that your employer has registered on the Register of Approved Occupational Clothing (check with your employer if you are not sure) and you wear the uniform to work.
- a **compulsory uniform** that is a set of clothing or a single item that is distinctive (such as one that has your employer's logo permanently attached to it) and identifies you as an employee of an organisation
 - there must be a strictly enforced policy making it compulsory to wear that clothing at work
 - items may include shoes, stockings, socks and jumpers where they are an essential part of a distinctive compulsory uniform and the colour, style and type are specified in your employer's policy.
- **occupation-specific clothing** which allows people to easily recognise that occupation (such as a chequered pants a chef wears when working) and which are not for everyday use. If the clothing may be worn by several professions, it is not considered occupation-specific

Work-related clothing expenses also include the costs you incurred to launder and dry-clean work-related clothing from the categories listed above.

You can also claim the cost of renting and repairing any of the above work-related clothing.

Claim at this section any work-related clothing expenses incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*.

If you [no longer own or use an item costing over \\$300](#) (such as chemical protective clothing or biological hazard clothing) and you previously claimed a deduction for its decline in value, you may need to make a balancing adjustment.

Related pages

[Claiming deductions](#)

How to claim deductions in your return using myTax.

[Clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses](#)

Deductions when you buy, repair or launder occupation-specific or protective clothing, or distinctive uniforms.

You can't claim

You can't claim a deduction if your employer:

- buys, repairs, replaces or cleans your work clothing
- reimburses you for expenses you incur on or for work clothing.

You can't claim a deduction for the cost of buying, hiring, repairing or cleaning conventional clothing you bought to wear for work such as black trousers and a white shirt or suit, even if your employer says this is compulsory or you only wear it when you are at work.

'Conventional clothing' is everyday clothing worn by people regardless of their occupation – for example, business attire worn by office workers or jeans or drill shirts worn by tradespeople.

Don't show at this section

Don't show the following at this section:

- The cost of protective equipment, such as hard hats and safety glasses, go to [Other work-related expenses](#).
- Expenses you incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income **not** shown on an income statement/*PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*, go to [Foreign employment](#).

- For any balancing adjustment, show your
 - losses at [Other work-related expenses](#)
 - profits at [Other income](#).

Any balancing adjustment amounts calculated in the Depreciation and capital allowance tool will show automatically.

Completing this section

In all circumstances, you need to keep evidence such as diary records that show how you calculated your claim.

Where you claim a deduction for:

- buying, dry-cleaning or repairing work-related clothing and footwear and your total work-related expenses claim is
 - more than \$300, you need to keep written evidence (such as receipts or invoices)
 - \$300 or less, you can claim the amount you spent without written evidence
- laundry expenses (excluding dry-cleaning expenses) and your total laundry claim is
 - more than \$150, you must have written evidence (such as receipts or invoices)
 - \$150 or less, you can claim a deduction without written evidence.

If your total claim for work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence for all of your work-related expenses. However, you can claim for laundry expenses up to \$150 without written evidence. This doesn't increase the \$300 work-related expenses limit to \$450.

If you launder, dry or iron your work-related clothing, you can use a reasonable basis to calculate the amount, that is:

- \$1 per load for work-related clothing
- 50 cents per load if you mix personal items of clothing with work clothing from one of the categories above.

We pre-fill your tax return with work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expense information you uploaded from myDeductions. Check them and add any work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses that have not pre-filled.

To claim work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses, you must first show income from [salary and wages](#) or [foreign employment income](#) in the Income statements and payment summaries section.

To personalise your return to show work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses, at **Personalise return** select:

- You had deductions you want to claim
- Work-related expenses

To claim your work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses, at **Prepare return** select 'Add/Edit' at the Deductions banner.

At the **Work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses** banner:

1. For each work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expense not pre-filled in your tax return, select **Add**.
2. Select the **Clothing type** and enter the amount.
The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value deduction. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a depreciating asset. Access this tool in the **Deductions** section. Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select the 'Use the depreciation and capital allowances tool' link.
3. Select **Save**.
4. Select **Save and continue** when you have completed the **Deductions** section.

You need to [keep records](#) for 5 years (in most cases) from the date you lodge your tax return.

Our [myDeductions](#) tool is free to use and is available through the ATO app. The tool makes it easier and more convenient to keep records of your expenses and income in one place, including photos of your receipts and invoices.

QC 101619

myTax 2024 Work-related self-education expenses

How to complete the self-education expenses section of your return using myTax.

Last updated 3 June 2024

Things to know

Work-related self-education expenses are costs that you incur to:

- undertake a course at an educational institution (whether they lead to a formal qualification or not)
- undertake a course by a professional or industry organisation
- attend a work-related conference or seminar
- complete self-paced learning and study tours (whether within Australia or overseas).

To claim a deduction for a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

You can only claim a deduction for the work-related portion of an expense. You can't claim a deduction for any part of an expense that is not directly related to earning your income or that is private.

If your total claim for work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence to prove your claims.

You can claim

To claim a deduction for self-education expenses, you must be able to show there is a close connection between the course and your work

activities at the time you incurred the expenses.

You **can** claim a deduction if either:

- the course maintained or improved a skill or specific knowledge required for your then current work activities
- you could show that the course was leading to, or was likely to lead to, increased income from your then current work activities.

You **can't** claim a deduction if either:

- the course relates only in a general way to your current employment or profession
- the course will enable you to get new employment.

What you can claim

If at the time you incurred any of the following expenses, there was a close connection between your course and your work activities, you can claim them as a deduction:

- your expenses such as
 - textbooks
 - stationery
 - student union fees
 - student services and amenities fees
 - course fees
 - the decline in value of your computer (apportioned depending on private use and use for self-education)
- accommodation and meals (where course requirements require you to be away from home overnight)
- your tuition fees payable under
 - [FEE-HELP](#)
 - [VET Student Loans](#)
- self-education expenses you paid with your [OS-HELP](#) loan
- expenses for your travel in either direction between
 - your home and your place of education

- your workplace and place of education.

Note: Only the first leg of the trip is deductible – if you went from home to your place of education and then to work, or the other way around.

Claim at this section any work-related self-education expenses incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*.

If you [no longer own or use an item costing over \\$300](#), and you previously claimed a deduction for its decline in value, you may need to make a balancing adjustment.

For more information on:

- deductions for decline in value, balancing adjustments and immediate deductions for certain depreciating assets, see [Guide to depreciating assets](#)
- deductibility of self-education expenses included by an employee, see [Taxation Ruling TR 2024/3 – Income tax: deductibility of self-education expenses incurred by an individual](#).

Related page

[Claiming deductions](#)

How to claim deductions in your return using myTax.

What you can't claim

- Any deductions against government assistance payments, including Austudy, ABSTUDY and youth allowance.
- Course fees contributions or repayments you, or the Australian Government, make under:
 - HECS-HELP
 - the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)
 - the Vocational Education and Training Student Loan (VSL)
 - the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS)
 - the Student Startup Loan (SSL) or

- the Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan (AASL) Program – formerly known as Trade Support Loans (TSL).

Don't show at this section

Don't show the following at this section:

- Expenses you incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income that is **not** shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*, go to [Foreign employment](#)
- For any balancing adjustment, show your
 - losses at [Other work-related expenses](#)
 - profits at [Other income](#).

Any balancing adjustment amounts calculated in the Depreciation and capital allowance tool will show automatically.

Completing this section

To complete this section, you will need [written evidence](#) to support your claims.

We pre-fill your tax return with work-related self-education expense information you uploaded from myDeductions. Check them and add any work-related self-education expenses that have not pre-filled.

To claim work-related self-education expenses, you must first show income from [salary and wages](#) or [foreign employment income](#) in the Income statements and payment summaries section.

To personalise your return to show work-related self-education expenses, at **Personalise return** select:

- You had deductions you want to claim
- Work-related expenses

To claim your work-related self-education expenses, at **Prepare return** select 'Add/Edit' at the Deductions banner.

At the **Work-related self-education expenses** banner:

1. For each work-related self-education expense that has not been pre-filled in your tax return, select **Add**.

2. Select the **Self-education type** that best describes your reason for incurring self-education expenses.

3. From the [four categories](#), select the **Category type**, and

- enter **Your description**. To assist in record keeping, add a short description of your expense.
- for **General expenses** and **Repair expenses** enter your **Amount**.
- for **Decline in value** enter your **Decline in value** or use the **Depreciation and capital allowances tool**.

The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a depreciating asset. Access this tool when you add your work-related self-education expenses and select 'Decline in value'.

Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select the 'Use the depreciating and capital allowances tool' link.

- for **Car expenses** select the **Calculation method** you wish to use.

If you qualify to use both methods, you can use whichever method gives you the largest deduction or is most convenient. You can enter each in myTax to work this out. If you do, remember to delete the one you don't want to use.

For more information on car expenses calculation methods, see [Work-related car expenses](#).

- If you select the 'Cents per kilometre' method, enter the number of work-related kilometres you travelled.
- If you select the 'Logbook' method, enter the information into the corresponding fields. MyTax will calculate the total car expenses.

If you have calculated the decline in value of your car, enter the amount without any reduction for personal use. MyTax will multiply the decline in value you enter by the percentage of work-related use.

The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value deduction. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a

depreciating asset. Access this tool when you add your work-related self-education expenses and select the 'Logbook' method.


If you used the Depreciation and capital allowances tool to work out the decline in value, the calculated amount will automatically exclude the personal use percentage. To display results from the tool you must select the logbook method.

Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select the 'Use the depreciation and capital allowances tool' link.

4. Select **Save** – myTax will work out the total amount you can claim.

5. Select **Save and continue** when you have completed the **Deductions** section.

Watch: This video shows how to use the Depreciation and capital allowances tool.

Media: How to use the Depreciation and capital allowance tool
<http://tv.ato.gov.au/ato-tv/media?v=bd1bdiuboi7hki>  (Duration: 3:56)

You need to [keep records](#) for 5 years (in most cases) from the date you lodge your tax return.

Our [myDeductions](#) tool is free to use and is available through the ATO app. The tool makes it easier and more convenient to keep records of your expenses and income in one place, including photos of your receipts and invoices.

Further information

Four categories

The following table show 4 categories of expenses, the **Category type** from myTax and the types of self-education expenses to include in each.

Self-education expense categories

Row	Category type	Category description
-----	---------------	----------------------

<p>A</p>	<p>General expenses and Car expenses (Logbook method)</p>	<p>Deductible general expenses including textbooks, stationery, student union fees, student services and amenities fees, course fees and public transport fares. (Don't include contributions you made under HECS-HELP or repayments under HELP, VSL, SFSS, SSL or AASL.)</p> <p>Includes car expenses (other than decline in value of a car) worked out under the 'Logbook' method related to your self-education.</p>
<p>B</p>	<p>Decline in value and Car expenses decline in value (Logbook method)</p>	<p>Deductions for the decline in value of depreciating assets used for self-education, including computers.</p> <p>Includes 'Decline in value' amounts for car expenses worked out under the Logbook method related to your self-education.</p>
<p>C</p>	<p>Repair expenses</p>	<p>Expenses for repairs to items of equipment used for self-education.</p>
<p>D</p>	<p>Car expenses where Calculation method is 'Cents per kilometre'</p>	<p>Car expenses related to your self-education for which you are claiming deductions under the 'Cents per kilometre' method.</p> <p>If you have included deductions for the decline in value of or repairs to your car under Category type 'Decline in value' or 'Repair expenses', you can't claim car expenses under this category.</p>

Glossary

FEE-HELP provides assistance to eligible fee-paying students, who are not supported by the Commonwealth, to pay tuition fees.

VET Student Loans provide assistance to eligible full-fee paying students doing vocational education and training (VET) accredited courses with an approved VET provider.

OS-HELP is a loan to cover expenses for eligible Commonwealth supported students who wish to study overseas towards their Australian higher education award.

QC 101620

myTax 2024 Other work-related expenses

How to complete the other work-related expenses section of your return using myTax.

Published 3 June 2024

Things to know

Complete this section if you incurred any other work-related expenses as an employee and have not already claimed anywhere else on your tax return.

To claim a deduction for a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

You can only claim a deduction for the **work-related portion** of an expense. You can't claim a deduction for any part of an expense that is not directly related to earning your income or that is private.

Where items you use for work cost:

- More than \$300 or is part of a set that together cost more than \$300 – claim a deduction for the cost over the life of the item (decline in value). See [Guide to depreciating assets](#).

- \$300 or less – claim an immediate deduction for the whole cost.

If your total claim for work-related expenses is more than \$300, you must have written evidence to prove your claims.

You can claim

Other work-related expenses include:

- union fees and subscriptions to trade, business or professional associations
- overtime meal expenses, if you received an [overtime meal allowance](#) from your employer that was paid under an industrial law, award or agreement, and you have:
 - purchased and consumed the meal during your overtime
 - included the amount of the meal allowance as income at [Salary, wages, allowances, tips, bonuses](#), and
 - written evidence, such as receipts, if your claim was more than \$35.65 per meal.
- reference books, technical journals and trade magazines
- the work-related portion of tools and equipment, such as a computer or office furniture and professional libraries; you may be able to claim
 - an immediate deduction for the cost of depreciating assets costing \$300 or less
 - a deduction for the decline in value of an item that cost more than \$300 over its effective life (however, if you no longer own or use an item and you previously claimed a deduction for its decline in value, you may need to make a balancing adjustment – see [Guide to depreciating assets](#)).
- the work-related portion of items that protect you from the risk of injury or illness posed by your work or your work environment, such as
 - hard hats, safety glasses, sunscreens and other [protective items](#)
 - but **not** protective clothing and footwear, which you claim at [Work-related clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses](#)

- the work-related portion of the following costs
 - interest on money borrowed to buy tools and equipment
 - repair costs for the tools and equipment
 - phone or internet usage (if you haven't already claimed working from home expenses using the fixed rate method)
 - phone rental, if you can show you were on call or were regularly required to phone your employer or clients while away from your workplace
 - [additional running expenses](#) you incurred as a result of working from home
 - [COVID-19 test expenses](#).

Claim at this section any work-related expenses incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment* provided you have not already claimed the expense at another section.

Working from home expenses


There are 2 methods you can choose to calculate your deduction for [working from home expenses](#) as long as you meet the working criteria and record keeping requirements:

Fixed rate method

- [Fixed rate method](#) – 67 cents per hour worked from home
 - This rate covers the additional running expenses that you incur as a result of working from home for energy expenses (electricity and/or gas), internet and data expenses, mobile and/or home phone usage expenses, stationery and computer consumables.
 - You don't need a separate home office or dedicated work area to use this method.
 - The fixed rate method doesn't cover the decline in value of depreciating assets used for work.
 - You must have a record of the actual number of hours you worked from home during the entire income year. This could be a timesheet, roster, a diary or any other document provided it is

kept contemporaneously and records the hours you worked from home.

- You must have at least one record for each of the expenses you incurred that the rate per hour includes, for example, if you incurred electricity and internet expenses, keep one bill for each expense.

To work out your claim, visit [calculate your deduction](#) which includes our [home office expenses calculator](#) .

Actual cost method

Use the [actual cost method](#) to claim the actual work-related portion of all your running expenses, which you need to calculate on a reasonable basis.

For more information, see

- [Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2023/1](#) *Claiming a deduction for additional running expenses incurred while working from home – ATO compliance approach*
- [Taxation Ruling TR 93/30](#) *Income tax: deductions for home office expenses*
- [Taxation Ruling TR 2003/16](#) *Income tax: deductibility of protective items*
- [Taxation Ruling TR 2004/6](#) *Income tax: substantiation exception for reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expenses*
- [Taxation Determination TD 2023/3](#) *Income tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2023–24 income year?*
- [Law Administration Practice Statement PS LA 2001/6](#) *Verification approaches for electronic device usage expenses*
- [Law Administration Practice Statement PS LA 2005/7](#) *Substantiating an individual's work-related expenses.*

Related page

[Claiming deductions](#)

How to claim deductions in your return using myTax.

You can't claim

You can't claim a deduction for:

- the cost of entertainment, fines and penalties
- private expenses, such as childcare expenses and fees paid to social clubs
- coffee, tea, milk and other general household items your employer may otherwise have provided you with at work
- costs related to children and their education including buying equipment such as iPads and desks
- the decline in value of items primarily for use in your employment if the item was provided to you by your employer, or some or all of the cost of the item was paid or reimbursed by your employer, and the benefit was exempt from fringe benefits tax. Items include laptops, portable printers, personal digital assistants, calculators, mobile phones, computer software, protective clothing, briefcases and tools of trade.

Generally, you can't claim a deduction for [occupancy expenses](#) such as rent, rates, mortgage interest and insurance.

Don't show at this section

Don't show the following at this section:

- Expenses you incurred in earning assessable foreign employment income **not** shown on an income statement or *PAYG payment summary – foreign employment*, go to [Foreign employment](#).
- Any balancing adjustment profit, go to [Other income](#). Any balancing adjustment profit calculated in the Depreciation and capital allowances tool shows automatically at Other income.
- Expenses you incurred for protective clothing and footwear, go to [Work-related uniform, occupation specific or protective clothing](#).

Completing this section

You may need:

- receipts, invoices or written evidence from your supplier or association
- other written evidence.

We:

- pre-fill your tax return with other work-related expense information you uploaded from myDeductions
- show your union and professional fees from the **Income statements and payment summaries** section.

Check them and add any other work-related expenses that have not pre-filled.

To claim other work-related expenses, you must first show income from [salary and wages](#) or [foreign employment income](#) in the Income statements and payment summaries section.

To personalise your return to show other work-related expenses, at **Personalise return** select:

- You have deductions you want to claim
- Work-related expenses.

To show your other work-related expenses, at **Prepare return** select 'Add/Edit' at the Deductions banner.


At the **Other work-related expenses** banner:

1. For each other work-related expense not pre-filled in your tax return, select **Add**, and
 - Enter **Your description**. To assist in record keeping, add a short description of your expense.
If you're claiming a deduction for working from home expenses, in your description include the method you used to calculate the deduction (either '**Fixed rate**' or '**Actual cost**').
 - Enter the **Amount**.
If you're using the fixed rate method to claim a deduction for working from home expenses, include the dollar amount (not the number of hours you are claiming for).
The **Depreciation and capital allowances tool** can help you to work out any decline in value. It can also work out any deductible balancing adjustment when you stop holding a depreciating asset. Access this tool when you add your other work-related expenses.
Fields from this tool can't be adjusted in myTax. To make any adjustments, or to add new assets to the tool, select 'Use the depreciation and capital allowances tool' link.

2. Select **Save**.

3. Select **Save and continue** when you have completed the **Deductions** section.

Watch: The following video shows you how to use the Depreciation and capital allowances tool.

Media: How to use the Depreciation and capital allowance tool
<http://tv.ato.gov.au/ato-tv/media?v=bd1bdiuboi7hki>  (**Duration:** 3:56)

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QC 101621

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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