

Travel decision tree for USI

?

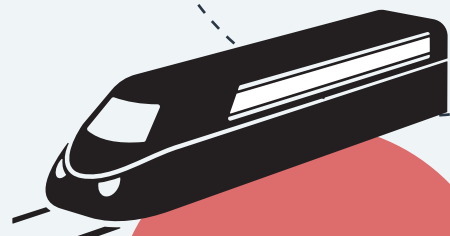
Do I want to participate?

Yes

- Do I have time to participate?
- What would I miss by not attending?
- How important is this event for my career?
- Is the event a one-off or recurring?
- How long does the journey take?
- Is our group already well represented?

Do I need to book a train?

Yes if below 8 hours



What are the benefits of taking a train?

Centrality

no additional transport needed to the city center

Work

on the paper that is long overdue

Feel good

having a smaller impact on the planet

Share

your train story with us

Bring

all the luggage you need

Think

- of the impact of your academic travel with the help of USI interactive map. With one click know your impact
- if you can travel at least partially of the route by train

Check

the list of mandatory destinations reachable by train

- According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA, 2026), business and first class can cause 1.5–5 times more emissions per passenger than economy class

Take

economy class which produces far less emissions

Opt
for a direct flight

- Direct flights emit less. For example: Philadelphia to Miami flight (Debbage et al., 2019):
Direct: 270kg CO₂ / passenger
With stopovers: 487kg CO₂ / passenger
Emissions reduced by ~45%.

Think

if you can combine the trip with other activities: research visit, vacation?

CO₂

Prefer CO₂ efficient airlines

- Selecting a more efficient aircraft type can reduce emissions by about 28% (Gössling et al., 2026).

?

Do I have other options to participate online?

No

- Is informal network at this conference important?
- Can travel time be used productively?

In which cases can I take flight?



Choose to fly? Here are ways to lower your carbon footprint.

Curb

non-essential flights

Sources

IATA: IATA RECOMMENDED PRACTICE -RP 1726, https://www.iata.org/contentassets/139d686fa8f34c4ba7a41f-7ba3e026e7/iata-rp-1726_passenger-co2.pdf, abgerufen am 5.3.2026

Gössling, S., Klöwer, M., Leitão, J.C. et al. Large carbon dioxide emissions avoidance potential in improved commercial air transport efficiency. *Commun Earth Environ* 7, 13 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-03069-4>

Debbage, K., Debbage, N., 2019: Aviation carbon emissions, route choice and tourist destinations: Are non-stop routes a remedy?, *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 79, 2019, 102765, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2019.102765>

