

VAT Refunds



VAT Recovery – a corporate travel savings avenue

Most countries in the world today charge VAT as part of their fiscal policy, some as high as 25%. Every hotel stay or restaurant bill involves VAT. Payment of VAT during a business trip, is inevitable. Consequently, most companies just budget the VAT amounts as part of their Travel and Entertainment (T&E) expenses, and write them off as an expenditure. Many corporates do not realize that these amounts can be recovered. Indeed, VAT recovery can become a relatively substantial savings option on T&E expenditure.

VAT varies from 5% to 25%. The Scandinavian countries charge the highest rates. In some countries, different services or goods, attract different rates of VAT. Some of the countries that refund VAT are: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Not all countries refund to every country. Some apply the rule of reciprocity. In other words, they will only refund to travelers from countries, who refund to their own travelers.

Universal VAT Services offers companies a turnkey solution to recover VAT expenditure. There is nothing you have to do except enter into an agreement, provide copies of some regular documents and hand over the original invoices that are eligible for refund. We will take care of the rest. **There are no up-front fees applicable.**

Recover your VAT

Many companies are unaware that Value Added Tax (VAT) incurred during business travel is recoverable. Millions of dollars that can be refunded each year, are never claimed. It is all about corporate budgets and savings. Are you recovering your VAT?

Standard VAT rates

Country	Tax	Rate	Country	Tax	Rate
Austria	MwST	20%	Italy	IVA	22%
Belgium	MwST	21%	Japan	C. Tax	8%
Canada	GST	13%	Netherlands	BTW	21%
Croatia	PDV	23%	Norway	MVA	25%
Denmark	MOMS	25%	S. Korea	VAT	10%
Finland	ALV	24%	Spain X	IVA	21%
France	TVA	20%	Sweden	MOMS	25%
Germany	MwST	19%	Switzerland	MwST	7.7%
Ireland	VAT	23%	United Kingdom	VAT	20%

Note: Rates may be changed without notice
 X: Spain refunds only on Exhibitions and Trade Fairs, unless reciprocal VAT refund arrangements exist

Mission: To provide maximum VAT recovery and compliance services within the scope of laws with complete transparency and efficiency.



VAT Recovery - FAQs

Some frequently asked questions:

What is VAT? It is Value Added Tax levied on goods and services in many countries — primarily in the European Union. It goes by many names. Some common terms used are: IVA, MwSt, GST, MOMS, MVA, TVA and BTW, among others. It should not be confused with Sales Tax. The rate of VAT applied may be as high as 25.50% and can be different, on different items of expenditure, even within one country.

Who is eligible for VAT Recovery? The facility to recover VAT expenditure is applicable solely to corporate entities. It is applied only to Business Travel.

Why do countries refund VAT? The refund of Value Added Taxes, encourages trade between participating countries. It could often be an extension of bilateral trade agreements. It must be noted that some countries will only refund to another country on a reciprocal basis. Spain is an example of such processes.

Are there deadlines involved? Yes, countries need to have invoices submitted by June 30 for the preceding calendar year. The only exception is the UK. Their deadline is December 31 for the preceding financial year.

What happens to original invoices after the process is over? If you require the originals back, we can arrange to deliver them to you as soon as the recovery process is completed and relevant authorities return them to us.



Some VAT eligible for refund

Expenditure under several categories are eligible for refund. Of course, not all items are refundable in all countries. Here are some of the VAT items that can be refunded: Hotels, Car Rentals, Meals, Banquets, Meetings, Seminars, Conferences, Training, Trade Shows, Legal, Advertising, R&D, and Technical Fees, etc.

In some cases, we are able to go **beyond the scope of just VAT recovery on corporate travel**. There have been instances where VAT has been recovered on corporate purchases as well, that have been paid through Accounts Payable Invoices. Special circumstances require advanced skills with VAT Recovery. We have some of the best talent in the Business.

Professional

We have excellent working relationships with Tax Offices in all the key countries. People who handle your claim submissions are experts — either retired Tax Officers, or taxation professionals.

Efficient

Your invoices are handled in the secure environment of our Processing Centre. Qualified staff vet invoices and prepare submissions to different VAT authorities

Reliable

We provide a reliable service: invoices move from country to country through reputed courier services. These ensure timely submissions to relevant authorities.

Confidential

All submissions to VAT refunding authorities are handled with the highest level of confidence. Your data and information is always safe with us.

Your VAT Recovery specialists

Universal VAT Services (UVS)

With more than 25 years of experience in VAT recovery services, UVS has a proven track record, with a success rate of over 95%. The rate of successful recovery is in keeping with the highest standards in this business

With Offices and representations in all the key VAT recovery markets, UVS is able to deliver a VAT recovery service to clients across the globe, wherever a client is located. There are no political boundaries that limit the scope of the service.

Cost of service

There are **no up-front fees payable to utilize our service**. We work on a contingency fee basis; we only get paid after we have successfully recovered your refundable VAT.



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UVS Offices

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