TRANSPORTATION

For those who arrive in St. Louis by air, there are two primary means of traveling to the campus area. The quickest and most direct way is to use private taxicabs for a 15-20 minute ride, which costs about $25-$30 for a one-way fare to campus. A cab can drop you off at Brookings Hall, which is very close to our offices in Givens Hall.

Another way to arrive on campus from the airport is to use public transportation, which in St. Louis includes the MetroLink light-rail train service (http://www.metrostlouis.org). The original Metrolink line between the airport and downtown St. Louis runs about 3/4 mile from campus. There is another newer line (DeBaliviere to Shrewsbury) that runs right by the campus -- you can join it by transferring from the Airport/Downtown line at the DeBaliviere station. For incidental transportation needs once you are settled here, note that there is also a Metro bus system which has routes that connect to the MetroLink system as well as to an extensive campus shuttle system.

NOTE: Although MetroLink is useful for most travel within the metro area, if you're coming to St. Louis for the first time and arriving by air with lots of luggage, taking a cab to the university could be your best bet. The cost would be $25-$30 for cab fare, and you wouldn’t be troubled with juggling your luggage on a train. If you prefer to use MetroLink, the cost would be about $3.00, but all luggage handling would be your responsibility on and off the train.

New students often want to know whether they will need a car in St. Louis. Most of our graduate students have cars or have friends or roommates with cars -- a few do not. It depends on how far from campus you live and how much traveling you will want to do in the metropolitan area. As noted above, the university area is served by an extensive campus shuttle system, which has proved extremely useful for students living in nearby neighborhoods (go to http://parking.wustl.edu and look at WUSTL Bus Routes and Schedules under Transportation.) Additionally, Washington University students will are eligible to obtain a U-Pass which provides free access to all Wash U Shuttles, Metro Buses and MetroLink trains. Some students would probably tell you that it's preferable to have a car. But if you do not, you will undoubtedly find the campus shuttles, city trains and buses useful, while also getting occasional rides from fellow students who do have cars.