



## **SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL GUIDANCE FOR HIMR-sponsored activities**

At HIMR we seek to be sustainable and socially responsible, balancing mathematical impact with a concern for the environment. This guidance offers advice on making more sustainable choices when considering the need to travel in order to exchange mathematical ideas.

Academic and business travel is an integral part of research activity, but it also has significant impacts, in particular on the levels of carbon emissions driving climate change. Thinking differently about travel can reduce these impacts while maintaining the essential value of the research activity connections.

HIMR-sponsored activities should promote the use of alternatives to travel (including remote access) in planning for events and conferences. Could equivalent outcome be met through virtual attendance (such as dialling in remotely via tele- or videoconferencing)?

### **Video Conferencing**

Video conferencing may not be suitable for every type of meeting but with technology improving all the time, it is becoming easier and more acceptable as a way of working together without travelling. Host organisations for many conferences and other meetings now offer a remote participation option.

### **Costs**

Cost of the travel options is a factor but should not be considered the primary factor when making travel decisions. For example, rail travel is generally more environmentally friendly than flying. However, this can be more expensive both in terms of money and time. HIMR is willing to accept higher costs for travel by more sustainable means.

### **Co-ordinating travel plans**

When some travel is necessary, it may be possible to reduce emissions by cutting the total number of trips. This can be done by coordinating travel plans in advance, for example: avoiding repeat travel to the same destination by planning several trips into one, staying overnight if necessary to schedule multiple meetings. Maximise the value of any given travel episode, for example, by combining opportunities for further research links when attending a conference or meeting. If travelling by car, car-sharing is encouraged.

### **Travel within the UK**

We encourage participants to choose public transport (such as trains or buses) when travel is required.

HIMR's expectation is that:

- a. Travel by train and/or other forms of public transport will be the default option for travel within the UK, with domestic flights only taken where there is reasonable justification, eg, for a person with caring responsibilities or as a reasonable adjustment for people with disabilities.
- b. Participants should be encouraged to take sustainable travel options even when this requires more time and cost. Train travel can offer opportunities for off-line working.

### **International travel**

Despite the availability of cheap air travel, rail remains a viable choice for reaching the UK from many destinations in northern Europe. For originating travel destinations beyond northern Europe, air travel remains the most viable option. If flying is unavoidable, air travellers are encouraged to limit their carbon footprint through their choice of fare class, route and airline and to consider whether more value can be obtained from the visit eg spending a little longer in the UK to meet others/carry out collaborative research