

Teacher



Are you a teacher? You should know what you can claim, as well as what you cannot. Here are all the details you need

Teachers have many deductions they can claim during tax time. It is vital to know about them, so you avoid paying more than you owe. Before claiming, the general rules are:

- ✓ You spent money on items or any expense but did not get reimbursed by the employer
- ✓ The item or expense affects your income directly
- ✓ You have a receipt of the transaction

Car Expenses

Claim a deduction if:

- ✓ You drove from one job to another on the same day – even those that are not for the same employer and industry.
- ✓ You drive to another school as required by the employer on the same day. For instance, you need to supervise exams so you drive from one school to the next.

Home to work and work to home driving are not included in the deductions claims. However, there are exceptions:

- ✓ The employer asked you to haul a bulky piece of equipment or tools.
- ✓ The equipment, however, should directly affect your income.
- ✓ The school has no available storage to store the equipment.

The equipment should weigh at least 20 kg. If not, it should be difficult to transport.

Have a logbook that includes the details of the equipment transport and any related car expenses for proof.

Self-Education Expenses

- ✓ Costs incurred for enrolling in courses relating to your current job as a teacher will be granted deductions. For instance, you enrol in a course that trains you on how to work with children who have special requirements.
- ✗ You cannot claim deductions for general studies or those that will help you get another job. For instance, if you are a teacher's aide, you cannot train to become a teacher.

Home Office Expenses

Working from home allows you to claim deductions for taxes, including those for:

- ✓ Lighting costs
- ✓ Internet charges
- ✓ Phone calls for work
- ✓ Office equipment
- ✓ Power bills for heating and cooling

- ✗ Equipment purchases are included provided that the item costs more than \$300. However, you cannot claim a deduction for mortgage interest and rent. Your home and equipment insurance will not be covered as well.

Clothing Expenses

Claim a deduction for:

- ✓ Buying clothing for work
- ✓ Renting uniforms or any clothing for work
- ✓ Paying for repairing or cleaning services for the work-related clothing

- ✗ Therefore, you cannot claim a deduction if you wear plain clothing to work. The same thing applies to wearing a different type of clothing even if the employer required you to do so, such as during events. The only exception is when you purchase protective clothing, but it should still be required by the employer.

Others

Expenses that relate to work are all claimable, including:

- ✓ First aid courses
- ✓ School trips, camps and excursions
- ✓ Teaching aids
- ✓ Subscription to professional and technical publications
- ✓ Teacher's union and association fees
- ✓ Seminars and conferences
- ✓ Sunhats, sunglasses, and other protective equipment

- ✗ You cannot claim deductions if you purchase gifts for your students, as well as anything personal including paying for a student's lunch.

