

# IT Professional



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

As an IT professional, you can claim a deduction for your expenses, provided that they are related to your job. Some general rules for what you can claim are:

- ✓ You purchase an item, but you did not get reimbursed by your employer.
- ✓ The item affects your income directly.
- ✓ You have receipts that show you did make the purchase.

As long as the item or service is related to work, you can make a claim for it in your tax return.

## Car Expenses

Travelling from your home to work cannot be claimed for tax deductions. However, if you drive from one workplace to another because you have two different jobs, you can declare your expenses and get a deduction. Driving to another workplace under the same employer can also be claimed.

Trips from your house to work are generally excluded from deduction claims. Additionally, you cannot claim a deduction if you work during holidays or outside your usual schedule.

However, there are exceptions to this rule:

- ✓ Carrying bulky equipment from work to your house
- ✓ The equipment is at least 20kg or cannot be transported easily
- ✓ Absence of a secure area for storing the machinery at work
- ✓ Your employer required you to move the equipment
- ✓ The equipment directly affects how you earn your income, such as large monitors and other computer peripherals

## Self-Education Expenses

- ✓ Enrolling in a new course, such as learning new software, entitles you to a deduction.
- ✗ If the course helps you find a new job that is completely unrelated to your current one, you cannot make a claim for it.

## Home Office Expenses

If you work at home, you can claim a percentage of the expenses of your home office, such as:

- ✓ Office equipment purchases
  - ✓ Phone calls
  - ✓ Internet access
  - ✓ Heating and cooling
  - ✓ Lighting
- ✓ You can claim the equipment purchase if it cost you less than \$300. If it is more expensive than this amount, the deduction will be given to you in a set period. It will gradually depreciate over a few years.
- ✗ Even if you work at home, you cannot claim payments made for the mortgage, rent, insurance, and other costs.

## Clothing Expenses

IT professionals who wear a distinctive uniform for work can make a claim when lodging their income tax returns. Expenses that can be listed down for the request are:

- ✓ Cost of buying or renting the uniform
  - ✓ Cost of repairing or mending the work uniform
  - ✓ Cost of cleaning the uniform
- ✗ Uniforms do not include business suits or white shirts. They should have a logo or anything unique to your work.

## Other Expenses

IT professionals can claim a deduction for the following:

- ✓ Any payments made for phone and Internet charges, as long as the activities are connected to work
- ✓ Tools and equipment for work, such as computers, laptops, and modems
- ✓ Professional and union association fees

Expenses that are directly essential to earning your income are all recognised as deductibles.

