

# IMPACT GRANT RESEARCH

## Objective

The **Impact Grant Research** is an initiative designed to promote [Third Mission](#) activities at WU. The grant aims to increase the social and practical benefits of scientific research and to strengthen its transfer to non-academic contexts in a sustainable manner. It is aimed at WU researchers whose work has already been quality-assured—for example, through peer review, presentations at competitive conferences, or publications—and who wish to increase the impact of their research on relevant stakeholders and multipliers through creative and impact-oriented science-to-practice activities.

## Background

As a responsible university, we take on responsibilities that go beyond research and teaching: We are actively committed to making knowledge accessible, promoting social debate, and initiating concrete change. With the Vice-Rector for Research and Third Mission and the associated administrative office, we are creating better conditions for Third Mission activities by researchers at WU.

## Amount

Each project can receive up to €10,000 in funding. Significantly smaller projects are also welcome.

The grant is made possible by the WU Foundation, which offers its supporters the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the further development of WU's diverse activities in research, teaching, and Third Mission, thereby having a positive impact on the economy and society.

## Requirements

We are looking for robust and solid research. A publication is not yet required, but at least a first-round peer review or a presentation at a competitive conference should have taken place. (In areas where peer review procedures are demonstrably uncommon, quality must be confirmed by subject matter experts.) Preference will be given to projects that have already been published in high-ranking journals listed in the [WU Star Journal List](#) or in journals highly ranked by the respective departments, or that are expected to be published soon.

## What can be funded

Depending on the type of activities being funded, material costs (e.g., independent contractor agreements, printing costs, room costs, catering, etc.) and certain well-justified (i.e., essential to the activity) travel expenses may be eligible for funding. Guidance is provided by the [DIR Equipment and Supplies Directive](#), [DIR Directive on Procurement Principles at WU](#), and the [DIR Travel Allowance Directive](#). (Personnel costs for the extension of existing employment contracts may also be considered in individual cases, provided there is a valid reason.)

### Please note:

- Double funding is expressly excluded.
- An employment relationship must exist for the entire funding period.
- Co-financing of start-ups is only possible if there is a proven connection to research and if comprehensible reasons are given as to why the activity cannot be funded by other WU funding or grants (such as [WU Ignite Ventures](#)).

The application must be accompanied by a detailed cost and time schedule justifying the individual cost items (in particular, it must be stated by when the funding amount will be fully used).

## Decision

The submitted applications will be evaluated by a jury that takes into account the perspectives of various stakeholder groups and then ranked according to their eligibility for funding. This is intended to ensure the greatest possible diversity in the decision-making process and increase its social acceptance.

The decisive funding criterion is how the central findings and innovations of the research can be transferred concretely and effectively into practice or society. Well-thought-out, creative, and feasible approaches are sought to enable transfer from the academic context. Criteria that play a role in the evaluation of projects include: relevance & need, degree of innovation, transfer potential, sustainability, implementation & feasibility, cooperation & partnerships.

## Obligations

Each grant requires the submission of a final report that follows the logic of an impact story (this is part of the obligations that come with receiving the grant, so no separate cost item can be listed for the report in the cost plan). A template for the impact story will be provided. High-quality documentation in the form of photo and/or video material must be ensured; this will be used online for communication purposes after the activity

has been completed. The consent of the people depicted, the copyright, and the possibility of permanent use of the material must be guaranteed.

## **Deadline**

The application period starts on September 1, 2026, and ends on October 31, 2026. The selection decision will be announced in the second half of November 2026 at the latest, and the funding amount will be released in December 2026. All activities covered by the grant must be completed by the end of December 2027 at the latest.

## **Examples of eligible activities**

Funding will be provided for measures that go beyond traditional science communication. The connection between the Third Mission activity and WU must be clearly recognizable. The following examples and the impact stories on the WU website are intended to serve as inspiration but are not intended to be restrictive. Creative concepts that are tailored to the respective target or stakeholder group are expressly welcome.

The following are examples of eligible activities:

- ◆ Citizen engagement projects

These include formats in which citizens actively translate research results into innovative projects that support the use of science for the common good and political decision-making.

- ◆ Proof of concept

For example, concrete testing of whether an idea developed in research can be implemented in practice.

- ◆ Continuing education programs & open learning resources (Open Educational Resources)

- For example, training courses for practitioners or citizens in the concrete application of research results in their respective professional contexts or everyday situations.
- For instance, didactically prepared digital learning modules or classes for free use, such as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) or learning modules for the WU's LearnPublic platform.

- ◆ Events that include transfer activities & workshops
  - Among other things, networking meetings or dialogue formats with representatives from practice, politics, or civil society.
  - For example, practical events with stakeholders or target groups to jointly develop concepts for the application of research findings.
- ◆ Target group-oriented media productions

For instance, short explanatory videos or storytelling formats to convey complex content to specific target groups.
- ◆ Cooperation with schools

For example, project days that actively involve students and bring research to life.
- ◆ Scientific exhibitions

For example, in museums, public spaces, or online, for vivid presentations and discussion of research.

### **More information**

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### **Application form**

Online submission only.

The following documents are required:

- Brief description of the project (content, objectives, target group, approach, etc.), based on the above selection criteria; maximum three pages
- Proof that the underlying research has already undergone initial peer review, has been successfully presented at a competitive conference or – in the best case – has already been published; in areas where peer review procedures are demonstrably uncommon, the quality must be confirmed by subject matter experts
- Cost and time schedule; maximum two pages
- CV (only from the project head); maximum two pages

### **Last modified**

May 18, 2026