

Matching Grants

Objectives

Matching Grants support research activities by providing additional funding for successfully applied third-party funding projects in excellent and internationally visible programmes (such as FWF and EU, excluding ERASMUS+).

Through financial support, the Matching Grants improve the conditions for third-party funding applications at WU and are intended to help PI's manage administrative and coordination requirements as well as additional costs. This is intended to support applications in prestigious funding programs and to enter into strategic partnerships, particularly within the framework of EU projects. The combined incentive effect makes Matching Grants an important tool for sustainably promoting third-party funding acquisition and long-term strengthening of WU's research capabilities. The strategic development of WU, focusing on excellence and internationalization (see Strategy Compass), is thus specifically supported.

Funding Conditions and Amount

The prerequisite for a Matching Grant is the approval of a third-party funding project in programs with excellence claims and international visibility (EU or FWF, including doctoral colleges, excluding ERASMUS+).

The Matching Grant can only be claimed once per research project. The amount of a Matching Grant is generally 5% of WU's share of the funding sum, but is capped at € 50,000 per project.

A Matching Grant can be used flexibly for various expenses (personnel and material costs), including funding for administrative and scientific personnel, depending on the needs of the project leader (e.g., support for proposal writing or project management, covering the funding gap, travel costs for networking activities, establishing communication channels). The success of the project and subsequent projects are intended to be supported in this way. Payment in the form of a personal bonus is not possible.

Any funds already pledged by the Rectorate during the application process may be taken into account. (That is, if the Rectorate has already committed to financially supporting the project during the application, the Matching Grant cannot be additionally claimed for the corresponding project.)

A short report on the use of funds and the benefits generated by the Matching Grant for the project must be submitted to the research service center by the end of the project. Additionally, a short report (oral or written) must be submitted to the board of the WU Foundation, which finances the Matching Grants, upon request.

Process

To keep administrative effort low, no separate application is required. However, a project application notification in PURE is mandatory. This will be converted into a PURE award by the research service center after the project approval has been reported by the project leader. At the same time, the research service center will inform the controlling department about the entitlement to payment of a Matching Grant. The amount is determined by the funding provider or funding line (see section on funding amount). The Matching Grant will then be booked by the controlling department to a separate internal account number of the institute for the respective project leader; direct booking to the project internal account number is not possible. From this point on, the Matching Grant will be available. Unused funds from the Matching Grant will be returned to the general pool at the end of the project.

Matching Grants will be awarded for the first time in 2025 for projects that are approved by the funding institution in the calendar year 2025. The approval date of the respective funding agency (published also in the PURE application notification) applies.

Disclaimer: There is no legal entitlement to receive a Matching Grant. This is a service voluntarily granted by WU based on the third-party funds raised, subject to the available distributions of the WU Foundation.