

Call for applications going out for Post-doc Research Contracts

Post-Doc Research Contracts are intended to support WU's outstanding post-doc level researchers in their research efforts. They create research freedom and thus represent a kind of "sabbatical" or semester off.

The goal of these contracts, in the form of a sabbatical or semester-long leave of absence, is to strengthen the grant recipient's academic career by giving them more time for their actual research work and to help researchers create and strengthen international networks. Research Contracts include funding for replacement teaching personnel, travel and living expenses. In most cases, the Research Contract is used to facilitate a research stay at an international research organization.

Funding:

- If granted, Research Contracts provide the recipient with a period of paid leave. The maximum duration of Post-Doc Research Contracts is six months.
- Research Contracts include an implied performance agreement with the Vice-Rector for Research and Third Mission. The focus of a Research Contract lies on successful international networking in the respective academic community. An additional focus can be placed on publishing one or more successful papers during the contract period. After expiration of the contract period, the researcher is subject to reporting obligations under WU's internal performance agreements.
- Through the Post-Doc Research Contracts, funding is provided to hire replacement teaching personnel, travel and living costs.
- Maximum funding: Within the framework of the post-doctoral research contracts, teaching replacement (no post-doc position) as well as travel and accommodation costs are financed. Maximum amount of funding: € 25,000 (of which a maximum of € 15,000 for travel and accommodation costs, the rest for teaching replacement). Travel expenses (round trip) for family members (spouse or partner, minor children) accompanying the WU researcher abroad can be reimbursed as well.

With regard to travel and lodging expenses, the upper limits specified in §§ 12 and 13 of the "Operational Agreement on the requirements, conditions, and amounts for business travel compensation pursuant to §4 item 19" (*Betriebsvereinbarung über die Voraussetzungen und Modalitäten sowie Höhe der Abgeltungen für Dienstreisen, Dienstreisen-BV*) in conjunction with § 62 (3) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for University Staff apply.

Target group and requirements:

- Completed doctorate.
- Current employment at WU with research as part of the job description
- At least 4 hours of teaching load (full-time, part-time aliquot) during the requested period
- In the case of a fixed-term appointment, the end of the Research Contract must be before the end of the employment contract. In the case of third-party-funded academic staff, the approval of the respective project management is also mandatory.
- A new application can be submitted at the earliest 5 years after the end of a Research Contract.
- **ATTENTION:** It is possible to apply for a post doc research contract and a Schaumayer habilitation fellowship at the same time, but if the Schaumayer habilitation fellowship is approved, it is not possible to use the post doc research contract!

Grant management:

- A Research Contract implies a leave of absence.
- If you have caretaking responsibilities or care needs, you can also apply for the Bonus to cover caretaking costs during business travel.

Application:

- Applications must be submitted electronically and in **English** only!
- [Please use the template provided for your proposal.](#)
- Please attach the following documents to your proposal:
 - CV (max. 2 pages)
 - List of publications including up to 20 relevant publications (including 5 high impact publications)
 - Letter of approval by your supervisor
 - A meaningful invitation letter by the host institution (will be forwarded to reviewers and taken into consideration during assessment)
- Electronic application portal: <https://www.wu.ac.at/index.php?id=43404>
- Please calculate your budget carefully.

Deadline:

- Applications for Research Contracts are being accepted until **June 23, 2025, 12 noon.**
- The earliest starting date for the Research Contracts is February 1, 2026.
- Under the terms of a research contract, the contract holder is released from teaching obligations for the semester during which the research contract is in effect. If the research contract spans 2 semesters (the winter semester is defined from October to February, the summer semester from March to September), the contract holder can select one of the 2 semesters to be released from teaching obligations. The full required teaching load then still applies during the other semester.
- [Please also note the WU internal funding conditions after project approval.](#)

Decision:

- The proposal for the replacement of the applicant's teaching activities will be reviewed by the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs. Whether a replacement for the recipient's teaching activities at the unit is reasonable will be decided based on this review and on the letter of approval. Furthermore, the Vice-Rector for Research and Third Mission will review the cost calculation of the proposal.
- After these reviews the submitted proposals will go through a peer-reviewing procedure managed by the WWTF, who will provide funding recommendations. The main criteria for the evaluation are the applicant's scientific potential and his/her possibility to increase this potential through the Research Contract. The Rector's Council makes the final decision on the awarding of Research Contracts based on the WWTF's recommendations **by the end of 2025 at the latest.**

Eligible for funding:

- Stays abroad
- Personnel expenses
- Travel expenses
- WU in-house funding