

Research Contracts for Senior Researchers

Research contracts are intended to support outstanding WU researchers in their research efforts and release them from their teaching obligations. They are a type of sabbatical or research leave. The main objective is to release senior WU faculty members from their teaching responsibilities to allow them more time for their research work. As an added incentive for the academic units, research contracts include funding for replacement personnel for the leave period.

Ideally, the Research Contract should be used to facilitate a research stay at an international and outstanding research organisation.

Research contracts include an implied performance agreement. The focus of a research contract should be on publishing one or more successful papers during the contract period. These should be publications of original research work (i.e. not the editorship of anthologies, textbooks, etc.), which significantly contribute to WU's international scientific reputation.

The maximum duration of research contracts is one year, and the maximum funding is € 72.000,-. If granted, research contracts provide the applicant with a period of paid leave.

After expiration of the contract period, the researcher is subject to reporting obligations under WU's internal performance agreements. One or more successful publications as well as a presentation on the goals achieved are possible outcomes.

Details are specified in the respective research contract.

Funding:

- Funding is provided to hire replacement personnel for the academic unit. Project expenses are not covered, however compensation for the loss of teaching remuneration (based on the average amount earned over the last three semesters) and travel- und subsistence expenses are included in the research contract. Maximum funding: EUR 72.000.

Target group:

- Senior researchers with a valid employment contract at WU who have research as part of their job description are eligible to apply. A new application can be submitted at the earliest three years after the expiration of a Research Contract!
- Applications must be submitted [electronically](#) in **English language** only! Please use our [template](#) for your proposal.
- Apart from the proposal, please send the following documents:
 - [CV Template](#)
 - Letter of approval by your supervisor
 - A meaningful invitation letter by the host institution
- [Electronic application portal](#)

Deadline

- Applications for Research Contracts are being accepted **until 13th of June, 2023**. Earliest beginning dates for the research contracts: February 2024
- In agreement with the relevant units, it is possible to postpone the travel date if this is necessary due to travel restrictions.

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. Based on her/his review and on the letter of approval it will be decided, whether the replacement of the teaching activities at the applicant's unit is reasonable. Furthermore, the Vice-Rector for Research 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 of the evaluation is the contract's contribution to WU's international scientific reputation.

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Eligible for funding:

- Personnel expenses
- travel- und subsistence expenses
- WU in-house funding