

**Press release,  
May 3, 2016**

## **WU awards internship positions to refugees**



**As part of its initiatives in support of refugees, WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) advertised eight academic internship positions for refugees who have been granted asylum in Austria. All of these positions have now been filled with qualified applicants. Last week, a special kick-off event was held to welcome the new interns to WU.**

The new internships are intended for people who have been granted asylum in Austria, especially refugees who before being forced to leave their home countries had begun or completed an education in the fields of economics, business, the social sciences, or other academic disciplines. All of the eight internship positions have now been awarded to suitable applicants: seven men and one woman from Syria, Iraq, Gambia, and Afghanistan. The interns will work on various projects carried out at WU's academic units. "WU is a public university with a strong sense of social responsibility and social engagement. Living up to this role, we want to send a message of solidarity in difficult times. The new internships at WU are intended to help refugees to build on their previous education and gain a foothold in the job market more quickly. At the same time, the internships are also meant to further their integration into Austrian society and to give them better prospects for the future," says WU Rector Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger.

### **Kick-off workshop**

Before starting their work at the respective WU units, the new interns were welcomed to WU at a kick-off workshop held by Michael Lang, Vice-Rector for Human Resources, and WU Professor Josef Aff, who will be acting as a mentor. Contacts at the respective institutes will support the new interns in their work and Professor Aff, as mentor, will be available to provide all the information, support, and assistance they need during their internships.

**Click the following link for more information on the [refugee interns and their work at WU](#)**

Click the following link for information on [WU's initiatives in support of refugees](#) (in German)

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