

## Application guidelines for a Key Field of Expertise (KFE)

Application documents must be sent to [forschungsservice@wu.ac.at](mailto:forschungsservice@wu.ac.at) by **November 30, 2025**, at the latest. Only complete applications using the Word template provided and submitted in time will be considered. Application documents must contain information on the following points:

### Presentation of the fulfillment of formal criteria<sup>1</sup> by the application group

#### Researchers involved

- The group must include at least 5 actively involved researchers at any career level.
- At least 1 researcher (professor or “habilitiert”) per department in a fixed-term employment contract with the WU.
- The group must include researchers from at least 3 departments.
- Departments/researchers can participate in several KFE applications.

#### Publications

- Within the last 5 years at least **5 peer-reviewed (or equivalent) publications** with significant thematic relevance for the proposed topic of the KFE.
- Within the last 5 years at least **1 publication on the Star Journal List (or equivalent)**. In the case of equivalent publications, an explanation of the correspondence with a publication on the Star Journal List is required.
- Additional publications are highly valued and will be recognized as an important strength of your application.

#### Third-party funding

- Within the last 5 years at least **1 acquired research project funded by EU, FWF, FFG, OeNB or CDG** (Wettbewerbsindikator 2a). This demonstrates the relevant third-party expertise among the team. Ideally, the acquired research project(s) is/are closely aligned with the proposed topic of the KFE.
- Further relevant third-party funded projects and/or relevant practice collaborations will be recognized as a strength of your application.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: The following criteria refer to the research group as a whole. Individual applicants are not expected to fulfill every criterion on their own; it is sufficient that the group collectively meets all requirements.

## **Description of the research group**

- Within the last 5 years, the researchers should demonstrate a strong international standing. This may be evidenced, for example, by: citations, co-authorships (incl. international networks), editorships, editorial review board memberships, Field Weighted Citation Impacts (if available), ...
- Within the last 5 years, the researchers should also demonstrate substantial visibility and societal relevance. Evidence may include, for example, media presence, added value for relevant societal target groups, hosting/organizing conferences and panels, conference and panel participation, ...

## **Presentation of the Key Field of Expertise**

- The group is expected to demonstrate clearly defined objectives and the relevance of the proposed KFE for research, practice, and society.
- The proposal needs a forward-looking roadmap incl. task description of the senior scientist's involvement. Research pipeline in the relevant field (e.g., working papers, current projects), and plans to expand international networks.

## **Cohesion and coherence**

- The group should display strong cohesion and coherence across departmental boundaries. The application should show a clear **connection between the researchers in terms of content and a common thematic focus.**

**Please submit your application using the Word template provided.**

## **Evaluation process**

- Decisions will be announced in spring 2026.
- Applications will be **selected by a committee**: The composition of the selection committee is chosen at random and consists of 6 academic members and 1 student member. Members will be drawn from different departments (maximum 1 member per department; 1 member from a law department is mandatory). Committee members will not participate in voting on their own proposals.

**If you have any questions, please contact:** [forschungsservice@wu.ac.at](mailto:forschungsservice@wu.ac.at)