

WU Foundation Research Award for Business

Objective

The WU Foundation Research Award for Business honors exceptional researchers whose work meaningfully advances knowledge that shapes our understanding of or the practice of business in a broad sense. This award recognizes scholars who have developed innovative frameworks, challenged established paradigms, or produced actionable insights that impact theory and practice.

The award celebrates scholarship that combines academic rigor with real-world relevance. By focusing on mid-career researchers, it rewards proven excellence and aims to inspire continued impactful contributions to the field.

The award facilitates independent research by exceptional researchers and elevates WU's international standing as a leading university for business, economics and business law. Aligned with WU's Strategic Compass—focusing on excellence, community, and internationalization—it supports WU's visibility in international rankings and represents a flagship initiative of the WU Foundation and a possibility to invite renowned talents to interact with WU faculty.

Target Group

The award targets mid-career researchers from outside WU who are between five and fifteen years post-PhD. A focus on “Research for Business”, welcoming nominations from scholars across diverse academic disciplines. Candidates are evaluated based on their overall academic body of work, taking into account the breadth, quality, and impact of their research contributions. Particular emphasis is placed on excellence and relevance as demonstrated through scholarly publications.

Conditions and Prize

- Prize money EUR 30,000 upon acceptance of the award
- The recipient may choose to receive the prize money as a direct payment or to allocate it to a dedicated funding budget at WU Vienna.
- The recipient of the award agrees to engage with WU's community on at least three occasions:
 - The receipt of the WU Foundation Award is contingent upon in-person participation in the WU Foundation Event on 28 June 2027, taking place in Vienna, Austria.
 - In addition, a scholarly activity will be agreed upon with the organizational unit most closely related to the recipient's scientific field. Such activity may include a research fellowship, research seminars, a master class, meet-and-greet sessions, mentoring of PhD candidates, a public lecture, a WU Research Encounter, or similar forms of academic engagement.
 - The award recipient becomes a member of the jury for the subsequent award cycle.

Nomination

- Eligible candidates must be nominated by a member of the scientific community who holds a PhD and is affiliated with a higher education institution; self-nominations are not permitted, and each nominator may submit only one nomination. Re-nominations in future award cycles are possible.
- Nominees must have an academic age of between 5 and 15 years post-PhD (taking eligible career interruptions into account). Candidates must not currently be employed by WU and must not have been affiliated with WU during the past 15 years.

- Nominations must be submitted in English and include information on both the nominee and nominator, links to three key publications (including one published within the last three years), and a written justification of the nominee's academic and practical impact.

Nominations can be submitted via the [WU Research Funding Database](#) during the call period.

Submission period

01.11.2026 – 30.11.2026

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Tragbar at researchaward@wu.ac.at